

CATCH the VISION



Wisconsin Conference



Volume VIII Number 2

www.wisconsinumw.org

APRIL 2014

President's Message

As I contemplate the topics for Mission u this year, I am very excited. All three topics center on building up and including the whole kingdom of God.

The spiritual study on “How Is It With Your Soul?” speaks to the essential question we should ask ourselves and each other. Not “How was your day?”; “How is your family/job/project?” or “What are you planning for yourself?”, but what are you doing to lay up treasure in heaven (1 Tim. 6:19)?

Our social justice topic is The Church and Persons with Disabilities. This is a topic we should all take seriously. We know that Jesus went out of his way to encounter people others would seek to avoid—lepers, people possessed by demons,

the “unclean”, tax collectors, etc.

Are we avoiding interacting with people with special needs? Are we damaging our fellowship by refusing to accommodate those who are different from ourselves? Perhaps it is time to provide hearing assistance or a microphone, large print or a projector for handouts, perhaps rides need to be offered for those who cannot see well enough to drive or perhaps we need technology or relocating some meetings to bring as many people as possible into fellowship together.

Finally, our mission topic is the Roma of Europe. This is a fascinating study about a marginalized, stigmatized and largely neglected community of people. Gifted with a deeply close-knit community and culture largely associated with music, entertainment and manual labor, you will be amazed at the resilience of this nomadic people who were persecuted during the Holocaust and are still largely unwelcome in most of Europe.

Learn how the Methodist church seeks to minister to the Roma people and develop faith communities which include and celebrate Roma culture.

So, are you excited? Share your excitement with someone else and start planning to invite everyone you know to grow in faith, hope and love this summer at Mission u.

As our church conference has been working on the theme of “Liv-

ing the Fruit of the Spirit”, take some time to consider what fruit you are planting, growing and harvesting. Are you investing your time and energy in praying for the work of mission supported by United Methodist Women? Are you faithfully supporting these mission projects financially through Mission Giving? Are you growing in your understanding of global and local mission? And are you reaching out to others who need a supportive community especially young women and teens?

I am reminded of the story in John 21:1-13 in which the resurrected Jesus tells Peter and other disciples fishing on the sea of Tiberias to throw their nets on the other side of the boat. By changing their approach, empty nets became so full they could not pull the net into the boat! By trusting in the words of Jesus, we too can transform our lives and the lives of others. Pray that opportunities will be given to you and act on those opportunities when they come and God shall be there to bless you abundantly.

Peace of Christ,
Laura Pfeiffer, President
Wisconsin United Methodist Women
pfeiffer.umw@gmail.com



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WHAT'S NEW???

“What’s new?” I know someone who always greets me with that question. How do you answer, what’s new? If you asked me right now, I’d say, “Lots!”

- We have a new membership brochure, “We Are United Methodist Women,” which replaces both the “Join United Methodist Women” and “Membership Joys” brochures. It’s attractive and full of basic information about who we are and what we do. Free for shipping and handling.
- For more in-depth information, check out our new 13-page booklet “United Methodist Women: On a Path for Mission.” It tells the story of United Methodist Women in mission, including our history, work, place in the church, and how we fund mission. You may remember the older green booklet, “United Methodist Women in Mission.” This new booklet replaces it and is free for shipping and handling.
- There are also new updates to the New Unit Starter Kit and the New Member Packet.

All of those resources can be ordered from UMW Mission Resources or are available as free downloads on the United Methodist Women Mission Resources website (www.umwmissionresources.org), also known as the e-store. Click on “Downloads & Order Forms” in the left sidebar.

What else is new?

- Another new membership resource, *Guidelines*

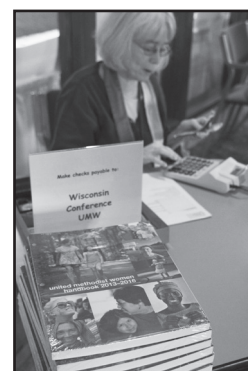
for *Leading Your Congregation 2013-2016 Women’s Ministries* is designed to help implement and guide the work of the ministry area.

- The new mission study, *The Church and People With Disabilities*, and the new study for children, *Welcoming Persons With Disabilities Into Our Lives*, are available.
- And the new spiritual growth study, *How Is It With Your Soul?*, is now available. Just reading the description whets my appetite for Mission u: “This resource brings into balance the inner and outer dimensions of the Christian life. Organized around four verbs—pray, learn, mentor and transform—the book will challenge you to become a more vibrant disciple of Christ.”

Finally, here are some new recommendations from some of the district secretaries of program resources for books to read from the 2014 Reading Program book list. There are many good reads for 2014—here are some to try!

- *A Twist of Faith* (Education for Mission)
- *King Peggy* (Leadership Development)
- *Please Look After Mom* (Nurturing for Community)
- *Up: A Mother and Daughter’s Peakbagging Adventure* (Nurturing for Community)
- *Year of Plenty* (Social Action)
- *An Invisible Thread* (Large Print, Social Action)
- *Wonder* (Youth, Nurturing for Community)—although it’s a youth book, adults would also find it meaningful.

Gloria Carter
Wisconsin United Methodist Women
Secretary of Program Resources
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Catch the Vision

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Wisconsin Conference

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Butte des Morts, WI 54927

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Your name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Or email stacyganzer@new.rr.com and get a link sent to you **FREE!!!**

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TIPS FOR NURTURING MEMBERS

Nurturing members is the key to the growth of United Methodist Women and is a good place for membership recruitment. When you create an environment that nurtures current members, you create an environment that is welcoming to new members, as well.

Here are some tips to enhance your nurturing:

- Prepare name tags for every woman. Name tags will put names to faces and builds community.
- Be a “self-appointed” host at every meeting to create an at-home feeling for all who attend.
- Keep attendance records so no one can drop out without being noticed.
- Check on every absentee with a visit or phone call to find out why she is absent.
- Call on or phone members who stopped attending to invite them back.
- Visit, call and send cards to members who are going through difficult times.
- Do a Talent Survey. Learn each woman’s interests, talents, concerns and favorite activities.
- Express encouragement and appreciation.



Thanks should be done within meetings of the whole group. A smile or, better yet, a Gift to Mission thank you card goes a long way.

- Celebrate member joys.
- Provide challenging programs that will motivate your members and visitors to develop their fullest potential.
- Let it be known why you, personally, love United Methodist Women! Enthusiasm is contagious!



I have received the Local Membership Census Form from two districts. They are due by April 30th (earlier, if possible). 100% of our units reported for 2012! I will not accept anything less for 2013.

Along with my “personal secretary” (Hubby!), we prepared the registration information for Mission Action Day.

We are not called by God for extraordinary things, but to do ordinary things with extraordinary love.

Shirley Carpenter
Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women
Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach
2711 North Biron Drive
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
715-421-0759
shorenuf@wctc.net

ARE YOU READY?

Spring—new beginnings, spring cleaning, resurrection, Easter! Are you ready?

Spiritual Growth retreats and Assembly can help you ready yourself, so don’t forget to share what you learn. Not everyone can take part in everything, so be generous.

Now that we have a great start to spring, what do we do next? Action! Sharing is a start. But you can also put on circuit-wide programs related to the topics at your retreats and things that you learn at Assembly. You can also do a hands-on project based on what you learn. The sky’s the limit!

Wait, we can continue to learn. Mission u is just around the corner. Maybe you can help sponsor someone to attend. You can also invite someone to attend with you. What a great way to spread the

learning experience.

Think what we can accomplish with a little learning and a lot of action.

Most importantly, keep United Methodist Women in your prayers.

Remember, we are Easter people!

Kay Putman
Wisconsin United Methodist Women
Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation
215 Water Street Apt. 205
Lodi, WI 53555
608-592-2294



2014 MISSION ACTION DAY A SUCCESS!!!

On April 5, 2014, 99 individuals gathered for Mission Action Day at Peace Kaukauna United Methodist Church. Pastor Heather Brewer and Lt. Steve Elliott presented a riveting update on Human Trafficking. Pastor Brewer stated, "Ending Human Trafficking begins when communities and individuals stand up and proclaim that everybody is a person of sacred worth, and we will not accept that anyone should live in slavery."

We are called to be sanctuaries for individuals at risk for human trafficking or are being trafficked. Individuals at risk or vulnerable for human trafficking include oppressed or marginalized groups, inhabitants of impoverished or disaster areas. Native American women are particularly at risk in Wisconsin. Also at risk are individuals with drug dependency, runaways and at-risk youth (youth who are couch surfing), migrant workers, temporary foreign workers, and undocumented immigrants.

What we can do to impact Human Trafficking:

- Contact your legislator to support Safe Harbor legislation
- Fight pornography (children are routinely exposed to pornography by 6-7 years of age)
- Join/support advocacy groups [e.g.- exploit no more Milwaukee, Fierce Freedom Eau Claire, Polaris Project, Men Against the Trafficking of Others (MATTOO)]
- Wisconsin Board of Church and Society is in process of setting up a website on Human Trafficking- send information on resources and local activities to Heather Brewer at: umc@bloomer.net before June 30, 2014.
- Heather Brewer is in the process of forming 4 teams throughout the state to do presentations to

local churches. Contact Heather if you would like to become a member of a team.

- Contact your local Entertainment magazines and request that they do not accept advertisements from escort services.

For the Human Trafficking PowerPoint go to: and click on the PowerPoint presentation.

Human Trafficking Resources will be posted on the www.wisconsinumw.org website.

The afternoon session on Elder Abuse was presented by Diane Mandler, Supervisor Crisis Intervention and Adult Protective Services, Outagamie Department of Health and Human Services. Contact your county's Human Services Department for follow-up of elder abuse concerns.

Updates included information on Mission U, Immigration Reform, and the 11x15 WISDOM project.

April 5 was a National Day of Action to Stop Deportations and Expand Administrative Relief from Deportation. The sanctuary at Peace UMC was available for individuals to pray to stop deportations after the Mission Action Day.

Make 2014 an action year.

Blessings in Christ,

Ruby Dow

Mission Coordinator for Social Action

A BIG THANK YOU!!!!!!

To Kaukauna Peace UMW, Mary Trettin and Pastor Lucretia Fehrmann for your radical hospitality for 2014 Mission Action Day.

Thank you!!!!!!

The Conference Mission Team



Westwood Conference Center, Wausau, WI



Mission U

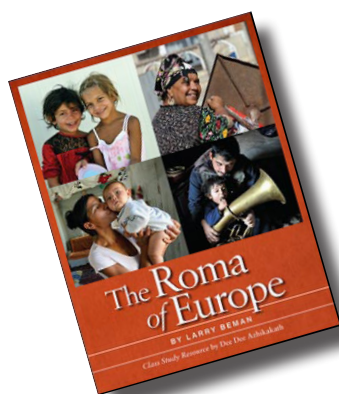
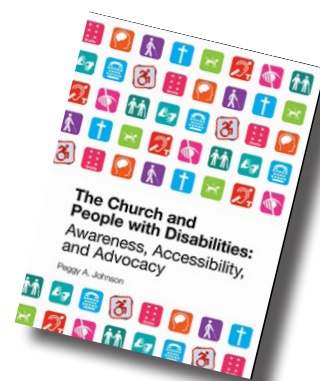
Celebrate All God's Children

Four-Day: Monday-Thursday, July 28th-31st
Overview Day: Friday, August 1st



Spiritual Growth Study: ***How Is It With Your Soul?*** – This resource brings into balance the inner and outer dimensions of the Christian life. Organized around four verbs—pray, learn, mentor and transform—the book will challenge you to become a more vibrant disciple of Christ. (2014)

Issue Study: ***The Church and People With Disabilities*** – Unlike other categories of human experience, disability crosses all lines of gender, orientation, ethnicity, socioeconomic position, age, and culture. People with typical bodies can be thought of as temporarily able-bodied because disabilities can happen at any time to anyone. The intent of these mission studies is to promote awareness, inclusion, accessibility and advocacy for people with disabilities — including youth and children. (2014-2015)



Geographic Study: ***The Roma of Europe*** – This book will introduce you to the Roma, with an emphasis on Eastern Europe. You will discover their history up to and including the twentieth century. You can look into the ways they are treated in contemporary European culture. You will also be able to learn about their lifestyle and spirituality, and investigate ways the church and other organizations are working alongside the Roma. (2013-2014)



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Four-Day Mission u

Monday, July 28th to Thursday, July 31st

Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 28th

Opening Plenary: 10:30 a.m. on Monday, July 28th

Sending Forth: 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 31st

Meals: Four-Day student meals begin with lunch on Monday, July 28th and end with breakfast (at the hotel) on Thursday, July 31st.

Cost: Four-Day student registration (includes meals, hotel room and materials):

– **\$325.00** (\$375.00 if received after June 30th) **double room.**

- King Bed (with walk-in shower)
- King Bed Suite (with pull-out couch and walk-in shower)
- Standard 2 Queen Beds (with bathtub/shower)

– **\$440.00** (\$500.00 if received after June 30th) **single room.**

Registrar will give you your choice of double room on a first come, first serve basis. There will be NO ROOM SWITCHING unless the Registrar gives prior approval.

Commuter registration: \$190.00, includes meals (\$240.00 if received after June 30th).

Advanced registration is REQUIRED. *Transferrable, not refundable.*

No registrations will be accepted after **Monday, July 14th.**

Child/Adult Care: Please contact Registrar for information.

Use the Four-Day side of the stand alone form to register for Four-Day Mission u.

Don't forget to order your study books when registering and pay when you pick them up at Mission u!

Overview Day

Friday, August 1st

Registration: 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary: 9:00 a.m.

Overview of all three mission studies.

Study books and reading materials available for purchase.

Mission Giving offering taken.

Sending Forth: 3:30 p.m.

Cost: Overview Day student **\$42.00** (\$50.00 after June 30th).

Thursday night hotel cost, including registration: **\$136.00.**

Advanced registration is required and is *transferrable, not refundable.*

Use the Overview Day side of the stand alone form to register. Each person must use a separate form—photocopy as needed.

Wisconsin Mission u is for almost everyone: women, men, youth, young adults, laity, clergy—YOU!!!

Mission u is where people of all ages come together to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context through study, fellowship, worship and fun.

Mission u is a wonderful time to learn about one of the precepts of the church: mission. Not only is it educational and fun, but it is a great vacation bargain, too!

Wisconsin Mission u takes place at the **Westwood Conference Center, 1800 Westwood Center Boulevard, Wausau, WI 54401.** Exit I-39/29/51 at Exit 193 (Bridge Street). See the larger map on page 4. Lodging arrangements are at the **Fairfield Inn and Suites**, just a 10 minute drive from the Westwood Conference Center. Transportation to and from the hotel and conference center is included in your Four-Day registration.

2014 Wisconsin Mission u takes place the last week of July/first of August. Four-Day Mission u runs Monday-Thursday, July 28-31st. Overview Day is Friday, August 1st. Yomica Camp runs from Sunday, July 27th, to Friday, August 1st at Pine Lake Camp, Westfield.

Registration forms for Mission u are located on a separate sheet, as well as online at www.wisconsinumw.org. Complete the registration form for either Four-Day Mission u or Overview Day and send it in with your registration fee.

Copy forms as needed.

Questions?

Contact the Registrar:

Arlene Trull

715-359-7756

email: aetrull@gmail.com

Four-Day Mission u



2013 young women and their mentors.

Scholarships (contact Registrar for more info):

- Available for first-time attendees.
- Available for Teen Women.
- Clergy scholarships available for newly ordained pastors.
- Continuing Education Credits available for pastors.
- Layspeaking/Layservant credit available for laity.



2014 Dean, Dee Klawitter, and Assistant Dean, Gail Burgess

Support for Northcott Neighborhood House



This year Northcott Neighborhood House is designated as our Mission u mission project.

We are asking you to collect money from your local organizations and bring it to Mission u to help support the projects and services of Northcott Neighborhood House.

Northcott Neighborhood House, Inc, a multi-purpose community center, was established in 1961 through the initiative of United Methodist Women. It is a National Mission Institution serving as many as 10,000 people per year through its location at 2460 North 6th Street in Milwaukee. In addition to clothing and food distribution, Northcott continues to provide recreational activities for children and youth, summer camp, a computer lab, GED tutoring and Fresh Start home construction and training for young men and women. The Head Start program formerly housed at Northcott was discontinued in 2013.

* * * * *

Additional Information for Four-Day Mission u:

- Air-conditioned meeting rooms, plenary room and hotel rooms.
- Handicap accessible meeting rooms, plenary room and hotel rooms.
- Hotel accommodations are included in your registration for Four-Day Mission u.
- Shuttle service between the Fairfield Inn & Suites and the Westwood Conference Center.
- More information on mission projects, as well as internet access in the Learning Center.
- Choice Time activities throughout the week.

Overview Day

Unable to take four days off of work or out of your busy weekday schedule to attend Four-Day Mission u? Or just can't afford to spend money on one more vacation this year? Join us on Friday, August 1st for Overview Day. This day is jam-packed with information and also includes a fantastic meal served in the dining room at the Westwood Conference Center. Overview Day is just that—an overview of selected bits and pieces of information from the three mission studies offered at Four-Day Mission u. Overview Day takes place in the spacious plenary room with a full-sized projector screen for presentations by the study leaders. There is also worship, singing and fellowship.

YoMiCa - July 27th - August 1st

Yo-mi-ca is a fun, energy-filled, game playing, friend making, God praising, tie dyeing, mission learning, marshmallow roasting, good time had by all camp! Yo-mi-ca stands for Youth Missions Camp and coincides with the United Methodist Women's Mission u. We spend the week living in cabins and learning about different missions all while having fun and making lifelong friends. Starts Sunday at 3:30pm and ends Friday at 2:30pm with a special presentation for family and friends. Leaders: Tim and Kara Finley, and United Methodist Women. See <http://www.wiumcamps.org/elementarycamps.html> for more information.

WESTWOOD CONFERENCE CENTER

1800 Westwood Center Boulevard, Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

(715) 847-9200

Driving from the NORTH on US 51/I-39

Take Exit 193 (Bridge Street).

Turn right at Bridge Street (0.3 mi).

Turn right at Westwood Drive (0.1 mi).

Turn right at Westwood Center Boulevard, follow and take a right off the roundabout to continue onto Westwood Center Blvd. (427 ft.). Visitor parking is located all the way past the main entrance in the back.

Driving from the SOUTH on US 51/I-39

Take Exit 193 (Bridge Street).

Turn left at Bridge Street (0.3 mi).

Turn right at Westwood Drive (0.1 mi).

Turn right at Westwood Center Boulevard, follow and take a right off the roundabout to continue onto Westwood Center Blvd. (427 ft.). Visitor parking is located all the way past the main entrance in the back.

Driving from the EAST or WEST on WI-29

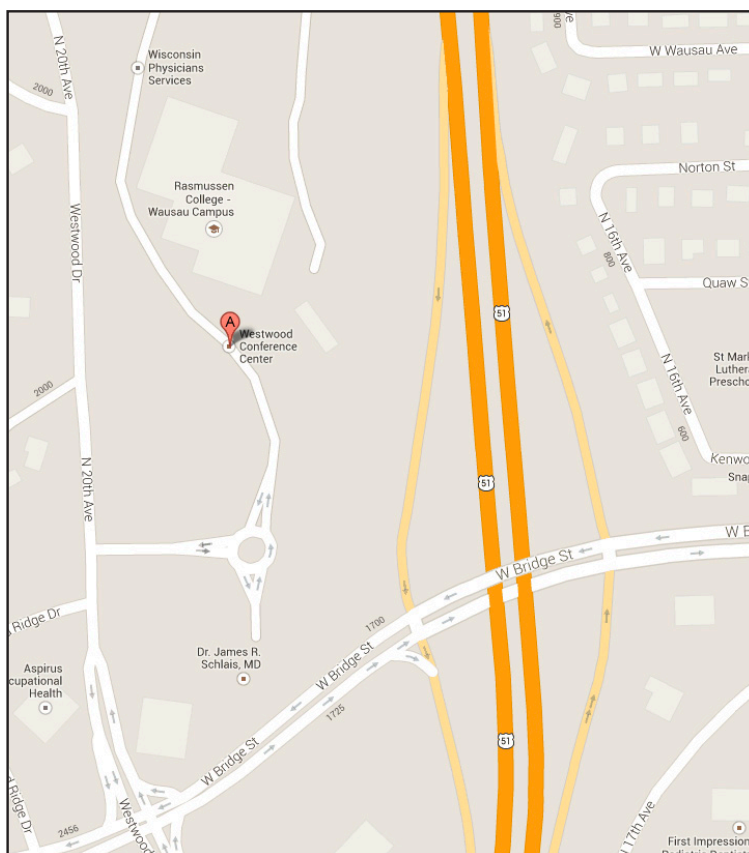
Merge with US 51/I-39 North.

Take Exit 193 (Bridge Street).

Turn left at Bridge Street (0.3 mi).

Turn right at Westwood Drive (0.1 mi).

Turn right at Westwood Center Boulevard, follow and take a right off the roundabout to continue onto Westwood Center Blvd. (427 ft.). Visitor parking is located all the way past the main entrance in the back.



Fairfield Inn & Suites - Weston

7100 Stone Ridge Dr., Weston, WI

Driving from NORTH and SOUTH on US 51/I-39

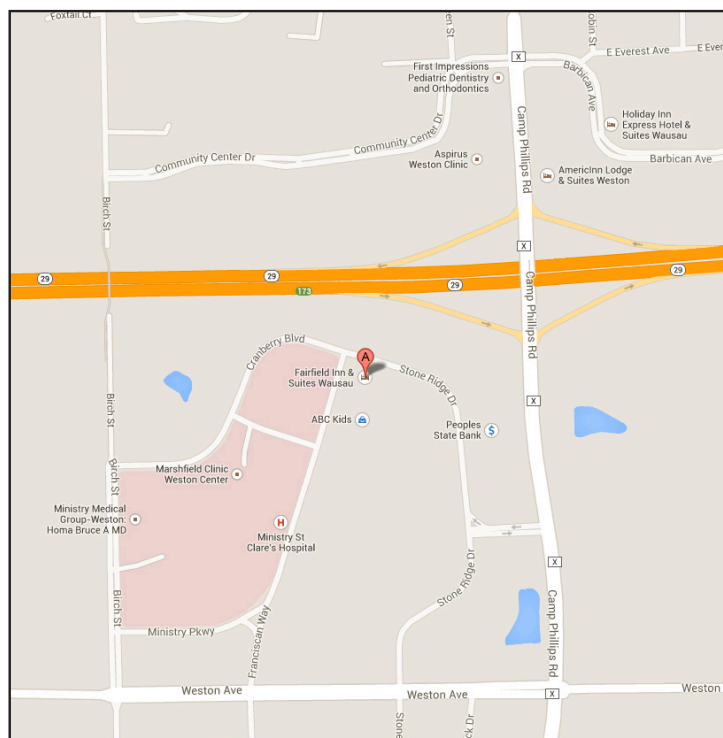
1. Take the WI-29 East interchange toward Green Bay.
2. Take EXIT 173 (County Road X/Camp Phillips Rd.)
3. Turn RIGHT onto Cty Rd. X/Camp Phillips Road.
4. Turn RIGHT onto Westview Blvd.
5. Turn RIGHT onto Stone Ridge Dr.
6. Fairfield Inn & Suites will be on left.

Driving from the EAST on WI-29

1. Take the WI-29 East interchange toward Green Bay.
2. Take EXIT 173 (County Road X/Camp Phillips Rd.)
3. Turn LEFT onto Cty Rd. X/Camp Phillips Road.
4. Follow steps 4-6 above.

Driving from the WEST on WI-29

1. Take the WI-29/US 51/I-39 interchange South.
2. Take the WI-29 East interchange toward Green Bay.
3. Take EXIT 173 (County Road X/Camp Phillips Rd.)
4. Turn RIGHT onto Cty Rd. X/Camp Phillips Road.
5. Follow steps 4-6 above.



2014 Four-Day Mission u Registration Form

(Use one form per person; duplicate as needed. Please print and fill out entire form.)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

District _____ Local Church _____ Roommate _____

Registration type (check only one): ☐ Adult (18-over)

☐ Teen Woman (13-17)

Studies (Adults may choose one or two studies; Teen Women do not choose any studies at this time):

☐ How Is It With Your Soul?

☐ The Church and People With Disabilities

☐ Roma of Europe

Send full payment and registration by June 30th to:

Arlene Trull
305 Becker Street
Rothschild, WI 54474
715-359-7756

aetrull@gmail.com

Check any/all that apply to you:

☐ I am requesting handicap accessibility.

☐ I am requesting a scholarship.

☐ I am a newly ordained pastor requesting a scholarship and have already talked to the Registrar.

☐ I am laity requesting Layspeaking/Layservant credit.

☐ I am clergy requesting Continuing Education Credits (CEU).

☐ I am attending Mission u for the very first time.

☐ I am a commuter (paying the commuter fee noted on page 2 of brochure).

☐ I need all of my meals to be GLUTEN FREE.

☐ I have special dietary and/or other needs (please specify) _____

Make checks payable to **Mission u**

If you need a payment plan,
please contact the Registrar
and make arrangements. We
will gladly work out a schedule
to fit your needs.

Room Options (choose only one and know that the first three double room options are first come, first serve):

☐ King Bed (with walk-in shower)

☐ King Suite (with pull-out couch and walk-in shower)

☐ 2 Queen Beds (with tub/shower)

☐ Single Room (paying the single room rate on page 2 of the brochure)

Additional Lodging Requests (Please contact the Registrar):

☐ I am requesting additional lodging (mark appropriately with an X): _____ Sunday night _____ Thursday night.
(each additional night's stay is at the double room rate of \$94.00, which can be split with a roommate—Contact Registrar)

TOTAL PAYMENT (see **Cost under Four-Day Mission u** on page 2 of the brochure): \$ _____

☐ Please order my study books. (Place number of books requested on the blank; pay at Mission u.).

_____ *How Is It With Your Soul?*

_____ *The Church and People With Disabilities*

_____ *The Roma of Europe*

_____ *Teen Study (Disabilities and Our Response)*

2014 Overview Day Registration Form

(Use one form per person; duplicate as needed. Please print and fill out entire form.)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone (____) _____

City/State _____ Zip Code _____

District _____ Local Church _____

Overview Day includes worship, an overview of all three mission studies, an offering taken for Mission Giving, lunch and closing communion. Lunch is provided in the dining room conveniently located at the Westwood Conference Center. Displays, Program Resources and the Learning Center are also available—morning only.

Registration type (check only one): ☐ Adult (18-over) ☐ Teen (13-17)

Special dietary and/or other needs (please specify): _____

☐ I need a hotel room for Thursday night (see Cost under Overview Day on page 2 of the brochure).

TOTAL PAYMENT (see Cost on page 2 of the brochure): \$ _____

Send full payment and registration by June 30th to:

No refunds given, but substitutions are acceptable. A confirmation of your registration will be mailed or emailed to you.

Arlene Trull

305 Becker Street

Rothschild, WI 54474

715-359-7756 † email: aetrull@gmail.com

Make checks payable to **Mission u**



FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE...IN ACTION!!!

With the beginning of a New Year and some new faces on our Conference Team, we continue to LOOK for the Faith, Love and Hope in ACTION ... by more women willing to give of their time and talents to our GREAT Purpose of United Methodist Women!!

Your Conference Nominations committee is so pleased with our present slate of officers and now wish to add YOU to the committee as we look ahead to the next years of the great work done by this dedicated group of women!!

How about Y O U ?? Here is a great opportunity to keep or get your Faith into ACTION!! Come share ideas, women who want to do more, share more, encourage more women to be in Action for women, children and youth!!!

Contact any one of the following women =
Bev Maser 715-832-7107 or bjmaser@gmail.com;
Bernice Kohlman, 715-675-3165 or Tabatha Yang,
goldengate2paradise@gmail.com.

God is GOOD .. all the time, God is GOOD!
Blessings on each of you for sharing God's Love!!

Bev Maser

Wisconsin United Methodist Women

Chairperson of Nominations

3545 Lever Street

Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-832-7107

bjmaser@gmail.com

HOW THE WALK TO EMMAUS CHANGED MY LIFE

Ten years ago I was in a spiritually low place. I was tired of church. I had been attending a fundamental Christian church and felt so burned out from all of the services, studies and responsibilities, that I found myself going to church less and less often. Eventually I stopped going all together.

I felt like I had failed God and myself. I begged God to help me renew my faith.

God answered my prayer in two powerful ways.

First, God sent a wonderful friend and mentor into my life, Pastor Anita Genrich, from the Merrimac United Methodist Church. She encouraged me to attend her church, where I met new friends. For the first time in my life, I was actually enjoying church. My faith was slowly growing again.

And then Pastor Anita invited me to attend a Walk to Emmaus retreat. This three-day event made my faith grow like it was attached to a rocket ship.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and walked with them. (Luke 24:15)

The Walk to Emmaus is a non-denominational retreat that is supported by the United Methodist Church.

The Upper Room's website describes it like this: "The Walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers."

Walks, as the retreats are called, are held throughout the United States and the world.

I had no idea what this weekend would be like when I arrived in Clintonville, WI on an April evening back in 2008. I was one of 36 pilgrims, as attendees are called.

Over the course of the weekend, I made new friends, had worship time and communion, heard awe-inspiring messages, had creative time to interpret what

I had learned, ate fabulous food, laughed and cried and prayed.

The weekend was a wonderful, emotional time of reconnecting with God. I don't want to tell you too much about it because there are many surprises that happen—some that make you laugh, some that make you cry, some that make you so very grateful to be loved by God—but I can tell you that this weekend changed my life. I came back on fire to serve God and to lead others to this same experience.

After my walk, I was invited to attend a small weekly accountability group, where I continued to grow in my faith. One of the highlights of our meetings was telling about our "God Moments," those moments when we had seen God at work in our lives. Sharing my faith with the group members was a very powerful experience.

How did my walk change my life? My growing faith inspired me to accept leadership roles at church. I became a lay servant, and even though I am afraid of public speaking, I started to give sermons in my church. And my latest leap of faith has been accepting the position of Mission Coordinator of Spiritual Growth for Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women.

Have you been asking God to renew your faith? Consider taking your own Walk to Emmaus. The Women's Walk will be held May 1-4, 2014 in Clintonville, Wisconsin. If you'd like more information, visit the Upper Room's website at <http://emmaus.upperroom.org>. You can also contact me at 608-370-4216 or by email: hoppes@merr.com. Or you can contact Pastor Anita Genrich, the spiritual director, at 608-393-0856 or by email: pastoranita@yahoo.com.

God bless you as you grow in your faith.

Michelle Hopp

Wisconsin United Methodist Women

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth



Walk to
Emmaus
THE UPPER ROOM®

NORTHCOTT ANNUAL DAY SUNDAY, MAY 4, 2014

Gathering - 3PM • Dinner - 4PM

At the Harley Davidson Museum's Garage Hall. Cost is \$50.00 per person. Registration due by Monday, April 21st. Make checks payable to Northcott Neighborhood House. Send your name, address, email address and number attending to Northcott Neighborhood House, 2460 North Sixth Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
P.O. BOX 167, Butte des Morts, WI 54927

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PURPOSE

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose Purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Conf. Team Mtg.	May 10	@ TBD
MISSION U 4-DAY Mission u Overview Day	July 28-31 August 1	@ Wausau, Westwood Conf. Ctr.
Conf. MEGA Meeting	August 22-24	@ Pine Lake Camp
CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING	October 17-18	@ Asbury UMC, Madison
Conf. Team Meeting	November 7-8	@ Shawano