



Wisconsin Conference

CATCH *the* VISION

Volume V Number III

www.wisconsinumw.org

July 2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give

as generously as this? Everything comes from You, and we have given only what comes from Your hand.” (I Chronicles 29:14)

Greetings in the name of our risen Savior, whose generosity is unmatched!

I have been delighted to read about and visit units across our conference who are exhibiting generosity on many levels—support of local food pantries and abuse shelters; providing school supplies; making premie hats or chemo hats or dolls for Haitian children; honoring

their older members; nurturing younger and newer members; and working hard to raise funds to meet our Conference Pledge to Mission. We almost made it last year. With just a little more effort we will achieve it this year.

As the scripture above says, “everything comes from God.” Our job is to pass it on. Here are more suggestions for your generous support:

- School Of Christian Mission: bring canned tuna, boys and girls underwear for ages 3-5, children’s books, Campbell’s labels and school supplies. These are for Northcott Neighborhood House.
- Provide a scholarship to send a woman or teen to School of Christian Mission.
- Hmong House of Good News: become a “sustainable giving donor”—a unit or individual

by Judy Vasby, President

pledges to give a specific amount monthly. The district that signs up the most givers by October 1st will receive a Hmong story hanging. (Registration form is included in this issue.)

- Haiti: watch for ways to give support after we complete the study at School Of Christian Mission.
- Empty your treasury: give extra money to the Pledge to Mission (supports all UM missions), to conference mission sites, and to community outreach programs.

You have been blessed to be a blessing. May you feel joy in sharing!

*Judy Vasby
President*

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READING PROGRAM

by Arlene Trull, Secretary of Program Resources

Keep Reading!

Whenever one of my grandchildren has a birthday, I love giving them a book—one that I think they’ll enjoy reading. Reading expands our thinking and stimulates our brain in so many ways.

Have you been participating in the UMW Reading Program? I’ve placed my order for resources for the School of Christian Mission to be held in August. I hope I’ll see

many of you in the Program Resource Room during SOCM. The mission study books are ordered, too; and will be waiting to be your resource!

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SUMMER SURFING

Are we there yet? Can you hear me now? When is it going to stop raining? Is it really summer?

All really good questions. An even better question, though, is what are you doing this summer to promote Mission Giving and to share your story as a member of United Methodist Women?

Will you be attending Wisconsin's School of Christian Mission, in Stevens Point, the first week of August? This year we have some exciting studies, including the study on Haiti.

I will be there with my camera to take lots of video footage. You might just get into the 5-minute video that we will put together for Drive-in Day. Oh, and Drive-in Day is on Saturday this year. Encourage someone who wouldn't normally attend to join you.

I'll also be doing a couple Choice Time computer classes. Drop by and find out how to navigate our websites. I'll do a quick tour of our new site, too.

This summer I also encourage you to have some fun with United Methodist Women. Yes, that's right. Have some FUN! Don't be shy about it. Organize a picnic for your unit. Maybe get your members together to volunteer at the local food pantry or to throw a barbeque and raise money for missions.

The kids will be out selling lemonade. Why not encourage them to squeeze a few lemons for missions? Or throw a pool party and invite your youth. The kids love swimming. Then share your experiences in United Methodist Women with them. There are so many great ways you can tell your mission story to those around you.

by Stacy Ganzer, Editor and Website Administrator

And don't forget to take lots of pictures! I would love to post them on our website or on our Facebook page.

Speaking of sharing the mission story. Will you be surfing the Word Wide Web this summer? You don't need a surfboard to do a little web surfing. You do, however, need a computer. You can check out a number of resources for United Methodist Women on the main website (www.umw-mission.org).

We also have our own website here in Wisconsin (www.wisconsinumw.org). Check it out!

Are you a district officer? We have space on our site for your district to have its own website for FREE! All your district needs to do is sign up for a URL (website address, like www.wisconsinumw.org) and then have your communications coordinator contact me. I'll fill her in on how to get started. It is much easier than you might think. You don't have to know HTML or CSS or any of that other confusing website jargon.

I will also be sharing the "How To" information at this year's officer training at SOCM. District Communications Coordinators really need to be there. See for yourselves how easy it is for your districts to have a website to share valuable information about what is happening in your district and local units.

And, before I forget, we're also on Facebook. "Like" our page and you'll receive updates from Wisconsin UMW directly on your wall.

God bless you all this summer and see you at SOCM!

Surf's up! Too hip, gotta go!

LOVE MEANS ACTION

by Karen Stimeling
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

We witness **love in action** when we apply our UMW Purpose, when we have fundraisers to accomplish our Mission Giving Pledge, and when we tithe our fundraisers to other community needs.

We are a connectional organization and church. Your unit's action with my unit's action can provide ministry in meeting specific needs.

Luke 6:38... (Jesus speaking)
"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full...pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

I encourage you to read 1 Chronicles 29:14, Malachi 3:10 and 1 Peter 4:10.

We thank you God for your gifts of life, love, salvation and eternity, which are priceless.

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KEEPING THE HISTORY OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

by Velma Hockenberry
Wisconsin Conference UMW Historian

The purpose of a historian is to preserve recordings of UMW history and historical events. Each district president shall appoint a historian who will serve no more than 4 years. Appointed historians shall be members of the Executive Committee without vote.

For permanent documentation of UMW activities in your district, take a few pictures from each event, along with a written summary of what happened and what the pictures illustrate. Pictures can be saved in acid-free photo sleeves and identified on the back in pencil or on the outside of the sleeve.

The following are additional items to save:

- District newsletters.
- District directory, if you have one.
- District Annual Gathering booklet and flyer.
- Evaluation summary.
- Some form of documentation of special events held in your district.

I am currently working with the Conference President and Chair of Nominations to develop further guidelines as to what and when to send to the Conference Commission on Archives and History.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions and I will try to find the answer.



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Catch the Vision

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Or email stacyganzer@charter.net and get a link sent to you **FREE!!!**



CALLING ALL SOCM ATTENDEES!!!

Bring a picture or a short story related to Missions to be part of our "Journey" wall in the Plenary Room at this year's School of Christian Mission.

The picture or short story should fit into an 8.5 x 11 "block" (piece of construction paper) that will be mounted for all to see.

For ideas and/or suggestions, please contact Karen Stimeling: 715-595-6464 or by email at stimeark@centurytel.net.

SOCIAL ACTION CONSIDERATIONS

by *Dodie Smith, Social Action Coordinator*

Where to start? That's the BIG question. Everywhere one looks today there are issues that need our attention.

I encourage you to continue to pray about the political activity in our state and to contact your Senator and Representative to support the positions you feel God is calling you to support.

Also, don't forget to keep abreast of our national issues and to also let your congressional representatives know how you feel about them.

I would like to share a sampling of a paper sent to me by Women's Division—"The 9 billion-people question: A special report on feeding the world"/ February 26th 2011 from The Economist. The article explores several topics related to the situation that will arise as we face feeding 9 billion people in the world by 2050.

The following are only general statements and will give you information where you can order copies if you would like more information.

Some information to contemplate:

- "At the start of 2011 the food industry is in crisis." Political and industrial attention is being focused on the subject of food for the world.
- "The era of cheap food has come to an end." Increasing demand, the shift away from cereal toward meat, veg-

etables and fruit, increasing use of maize(corn) as a fuel and other factors such as the fall of the value of the dollar, have all contributed to the present situation.

- With a current projection of the global population reaching 7 billion in 2011-2012, and the price rises that have plunged millions of people into poverty, it seems to suggest that the world cannot even feed the current population, let alone be able to feed 9 billion by 2050.
- Global warming also has an adverse effect on production



of food.

- There will have to be increased production of soybeans to support in increase production of meat.
- The production of fuel from corn increases the price of corn. It also uses a large percentage of the crop and takes it away from the food market.
- Technology has increased

production in recent years. There has been research to improve plants and seeds that has led to increased production in many countries. Future research may be able to improve production as much as 50% - still a lot, but not as spectacular as the earlier improvements. CIMMYT, the UN's international wheat and maize research organization is one such organization working in this area.

- Water is also a real concern. Irrigation makes it possible to use added land. But the availability of water is questionable in the future.
- In both rich countries and poor, a staggering 30-50% of all food produced rots away uneaten. In poor countries, the loss is due to lack of safe storage or inability to get the crops to market in good condition. In rich countries, studies show that much is thrown away. Reasons are habit, laws, and the fact that people have the money to buy more.

As you can see, this is an issue that will have no easy resolution. However, there are possibilities to explore. As you think about this, think about what you might be able to do to affect the situation positively. Bring your ideas to SOCM.

Reprints of this special report are available for US\$7.00 each, with a minimum order of 5 copies, plus 10% postage in the U.S.

To order contact: Jill Kaletha of Foster Printing Service, Telephone 866-879-9144, ext.168 or email jilk@fosterprinting.com or Economist.com/rights.

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

Annual Gathering

“Our Partnership in God’s Mission”

Friday Evening & Saturday

October 21-22, 2011

Black River Falls United Methodist Church

100 N 4th St

Black River Falls, WI 54615-1230

Are you making plans in advance to attend the Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering? If not, it's time to put the event on your calendar!

We will learn how to partner with God in mission with our keynote speaker, Rev. Robert Harmon, leads us Friday evening and Saturday.

Rev. Harmon is a distinguished leader in the United Methodist Church, having served several congregations in the Northern Illinois Conference. In his early ministry, he marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. and witnessed King's attempts to improve open laws. Global Missions became his focus, and he was appointed to serve as the chief administrative officer for the world mission program of the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries.

He supervised mission workers in 70 countries and a \$21 million dollar budget. Rev. Harmon is a strong advocate for United Methodist Women and will share his vision for the future of missions for our church. He is retired in Danbury, WI and the Edgewater neighborhood in Chicago.

- **The Necessary Business and election of officers** for our organization is another important part of Saturday's program.
- On Saturday afternoon we will have a **Mission Bowl Parade!** Although it won't be quite as spectacular as the Rose Bowl, we will have ideas and inspiration for units, small and large. (Note that there are no workshop choices this year). Be ready for a fun learning time.
- **Spanish translation equipment** is available Saturday. We are able to obtain 35 head-phones to accomplish this service.
- **Scholarships** are available to the first 25 people who indicate a need for one. (See registration blank to apply)
- **Teens** are encouraged to participate. Your special enthusiasm is welcome and appreciated.

Friday night Leadership Development is open to all who wish to attend. District officers are expected to attend. Local members may choose to attend or choose from other opportunities to be announced.

Of course, there are Program Resources to browse and purchase to keep you and your unit current on issues and programs. And there are displays to emphasize UMW mission work in our state and the world.

Registration time: Friday evening: 5:30 p.m. after a light supper.

Friday evening program: 6:30 p.m.

Saturday registration: 8:00-8:45 a.m. Sending forth planned for 3:00 p.m.

Return to www.wisconsinumw.org for a link to the online registration.

GREEN TEAM UPDATE: CONNECTED BY FAITH, FOOD AND FUNDS

by Laura Pfeffer, Women's Division Green Team

We are all part of connected systems. Some systems we are born into and others we choose.

By faith, you are incorporated into the Kingdom of God and enlisted as workers, sent to reap a rich harvest (Luke 10:2). We go in community and work to bring the light of God into dark places of injustice, despair and destruction. To do this work, we must see beyond ourselves and into the wider vision of God's love for the world. "Connected Wisdom: Living Stories About Living Systems" from the United Methodist Women's 2011 reading list explores this wider view into the depth and breadth of our connections.

One of the most basic connections we have is through sharing food. Our food system not only connects us to creation, farmers, agri-business, and food processors, but also to our neighbors near and far. We are part of a global food chain with real connections to our daily lives.

Shining the light of Christ

onto this maze, however, does not show a pretty picture. Too often our food exposes us and workers to pesticides and hormones, toxic additives, cheap calories and sweeteners and systems profiting only large transnational agri-businesses.

This situation is powerfully illustrated in the PBS documentary "Nourish: food + community". DVDs are available from Interfaith Power and Light as part of the Cool Harvest campaign (www.coolharvest.org) along with congregational actions to reduce carbon footprints, a letter campaign on the US farm bill, a handy seafood guide and set of table graces.

We are connected to many who also seek to apply the lens of faith to problems of food insecurity, environmental degradation, exploitive farming practices and food deserts.

Did you know that our social principles speak clearly to this issue? "A prerequisite for meeting

the nutritional needs of the world's population is an agricultural system that uses sustainable methods, respects ecosystems, and promotes a livelihood for people that work the land" (Section III, Q).

We are all invited to the table of abundant life and grace – may we work to make it be a GREEN table.

Finally, we are also connected by funds. Your Pledge to Mission dollars goes to support sustainable and justice-creating mission projects around the world. From seed banks, to fruit trees, sustainable agriculture projects and sand banks, your connection to God's mission is a vital part of reaping the harvest.

For over 140 years, United Methodist Women and their predecessor organizations have worked to bring justice to women, youth and children around the world. It's now our turn to sustain our connection to mission and continue to support the mission work we have grown.

by Bev Maser, Education and Interpretation

HerE am I...

HerE am I – that's the call God wants to hear from YOU! Because we, as United Methodist Women, are the ones to tell the stories of our great missions and the missionaries who serve on our behalf.

Write to a missionary with your same birthday or one who has a birthday close to yours and personally learn what and how

your mission dollars are at work.

Have you noticed the good changes in our new formula for Mission Today? You and your unit CAN DO IT!!!

Plan to come to School of Christian Mission in Stevens Point. It's the best way to learn about missions. Tuesday - Friday, August 2-5 for the Four-day

School. Or you can come on Drive-in Day, which is Saturday, August 6th, this year.

There are rides to and from, scholarships available, and teens are urged to come, so invite some from your church.

Keep the call and say "Yes, Lord, here I am! Use me!"

REMEMBER!!!

BRING YOUR T.U.B.S.S. TO SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTHCOTT NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

T.U.B.S.S. items include cans of Tuna, Underwear for children ages 3-5, newly or gently used children's Books, and School Supplies.

PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2013-2016 NORTHCENTRAL JURISDICTION LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Tremont, Illinois

PURPOSE

The organized united of 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.



2011 DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday-Friday
August 2-5

School of Christian Mission (SOCM)
Ramada Inn, Stevens Point, WI

Saturday, August 6

SOCM Drive-in Day (9:00 - 3:15)

Saturday - Wednesday
August 13-17

National Seminar in Birmingham, Alabama

Friday - Sunday
August 26-28

Conference Meeting @ Pine Lake

Friday - Saturday
October 21-22

Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering
@ Black River Falls UMC

Friday-Saturday
Nov. 11-12

Conference Meeting @ Dells/Delton UMC