

CATCH the VISION

April 2017 email information to: dgrbmm@gmail.com

President's Message

UMW Sisters,

I know many of you were able to join me in studying Climate Justice at our last Mission u. It was such a joy to facilitate this class! For those of you who missed taking this engaging and timely topic, you will have another opportunity to take this class again this year. I will be returning as a study leader and would love to see all of you in my class. As always the studies from United Methodist Women seem to closely track current events and environmental justice issues have dominated many of my actions this year. Currently I am involved in organizing a Water Summit sponsored by the Commission on Native Americans (CONAM) from the North Central Jurisdiction. "Why Water Matters" will be an opportunity for people of faith to organize around water issues in their conferences. We plan to have representatives from Standing Rock and Flint, Michigan. Availability of water and water pollution and usage issues are becoming hot topics throughout the Midwest. It is time to join with our Native American brothers and sisters as well as others concerned about the future of water resources and make our views heard before another water disaster strikes. I invite you to mark your calendars for November 16-18 and plan to join us in Minneapolis, MN for this event.

I have read the study books for the other Mission u studies and am very envious of those of you who will be able to participate in these studies. I learned an enormous amount of history about our Missionary Conferences. Although I had heard of all of these conferences (Red Bird, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and the Alaska Missionary Conference) I had no idea of their origins and the unique roles and challenges faced by these conferences. Each with unique settings, outreach, purpose and character these special conferences are a window into how conferences can be places of mission. Each has opportunities to meet the specific needs and understand the particular concerns of the people within their conferences in a way that our usual conference structure and rules often discourages or prevents.

The final Mission u study for this year is on Biblical covenants. This study is organized as a study of how covenants have worked throughout the Bible and how they build on each other to provide a single vision of God's continual care and outreach to the world. Beginning with Adam and Eve, continuing with Noah, Abraham, Moses, David and extending through to Jesus with the Last Supper, God can be seen at work in broadening and deepening His covenant to continuously reach out to all of us with love and grace. The covenants do not negate each other, rather they expand in scope (from individuals to groups and nations), in depth (from specific laws to rules written on our hearts) and in grace/forgiveness (from rescue from floods to rescue from death) and so much more. Seeing the connections between these covenants is an enriching and spiritual journey bringing deeper meaning to our most basic understanding of God's work in the world.

Mission u is always a unique and valuable time to enrich faith, engage in mission and be transformed. I invite you to come and bring a friend. You will be glad you came! See you there.

Yours in Christ,

Laura Pfeffer, Wisconsin Conference UMW President

CATCH the Vison

Wisconsin Conference

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Save the date:



Conference Annual Gathering, Oct. 20-21, 2017 at Waukesha First United Methodist Church, 121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha, WI.























Theme - A Call to Community. Confirmed key note speaker for Sat. morning: Barbara Dick "Living as a Covenant Community." Registration information will be available at Mission u.

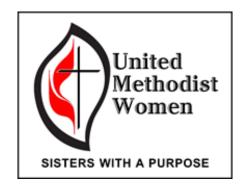
Jnited Methodist Women

Work LOVE IN ACTION

Ruby Dow

Vice-President





New Unit Starter Kit?

Page 20 of the United Methodist Women Mission Resource Catalog 2017 lists a New Unit Starter Kit for \$10. It is interesting to see what is considered important for women to know about United Methodist Women through the resources available. The top of the list is "response" magazine. That is the magazine that gives a true picture of United Methodist Women for members and for people who have questions about our organization. The digital version is also available for 15% off the print price, or free if you are already a subscriber. (Those people, who enjoy their e-reader, tablet, smart phone, or computer, can have response at their fingertips.)

Charter for Racial Justice is next on the list. This document has a solid history with our organization; it has been evaluated again recently, and in Wisconsin we have a committee of knowledgeable women who use the charter as a base to prepare a program each year for use with our local units.

There are 3 pamphlets recommended: We are United Methodist Women; On a Path for Mission; and Remembering UMW in Your Will. Then there are the cards: Prospective Member Referral Cards and Business Reply cards for <u>"response"</u> magazine. If you are a part of something great, something that is meaningful, and something that makes a difference in your life – you want to share it.

The promotional DVD, <u>Mission Giving</u>: <u>United Methodist Women Changing Lives</u> only runs 8 ½ minutes. This DVD is free with shipping and handling and so is <u>United Methodist Women</u>: <u>Faith-Hope-and Love in Action</u>.

If you look at the Reading Program book lists on the site, www.umwmissionresources.org, you will only find the titles that are available to purchase. Remember that anything from the 2012 list and newer will qualify for 2017 reading if you have not read it previously, and the 2012 books are a real bargain. All of the readings help us to be more aware of some persistent life concerns and see the world through the eyes of someone different from ourselves.

The Purpose poster is another important part of our kit. It keeps us grounded and on track to work to fulfill the Purpose; a community of women to know God - to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ – to expand concepts of mission. May God be with you as you go through these days, working to fulfill our purpose.

Nancy Zabel – Mission Resources



God cares about our struggles

We are still in Lent and life is so full for many of us. Most days I feel like I am handling life well, but there are days that are difficult. But even in those difficulties, God does come through for us. This week I had my school field trip all planned. Then I got the email on Monday that a school had to back out. Yikes. I had two days to figure something out. It was not looking good. Testing was going on in Minnesota so some schools said no. It was spring break in Minneapolis so some schools did not answer. My chair wanted to cancel the trip, as money is tight. Wednesday morning came and a decision had to be made that day. I shared with my 8:00 class my problem and told them that I was optimistic that it was going to all work out and I still had that day to figure things out. A Christian student approached me during class about his middle school in Minnesota. I knew that school! I had been there many times until it was closed due to district difficulties. It was back open? I immediately contacted the principal. I didn't hear anything, but I was optimistic. I then heard back at 9:12 that night that the Associate Principal would handle things. Whoo hoo. This was my answer to prayer. Now I know that things don't always work so quickly like that, but God does care about our struggles.

Remember that the Devil is our enemy. When difficult things arise, it is easy to give up. The Devil wants us to feel alone and defeated.

Some Scriptures show us how God answers our prayers. James 1:5 says, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." John 15:7 says, "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you." In the Psalms, King David says he lives surrounded by trouble. But we see in Matthew that Jesus says, "Is there anyone among you who would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or would hand him a snake when he asked for a fish? If you, then, evil as you are, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

God's message is clear. We are not alone and God does care about our struggles. He loves us and wants us to be in relationship with him. When we have difficulties and wonder how things are going to work out, don't give up! Remember that if we only ask, God will answer us and then we will even have the opportunity to tell others how God answered our prayer!

Deb Pattee, Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Giving Makes Mission Possible

"...their joy was so great that they were extremely generous in their giving..."

2 Corinthians 8:2

Do you know anyone who is graduating? Is someone you know celebrating a special occasion?

Gift to mission cards are a good way to honor a special person or let someone know you are thinking of them. Gift to Mission is one of the five channels of giving. These cards are sold for \$5.00 each through your district treasurer, and the proceeds go to support United Methodist Women mission projects.

The available cards are:

Congratulations Thank You Merry Christmas Peace

Special Day Thinking of You Happy Birthday Baby

Linda K Whitelock
Conference Treasurer



MISSION U IS FOR

EN WOMEN, TOO!

MISSION U IS FOR TEEN WOMEN, TOO!

Special opportunities for teen women at the 2017 Mission u include highlights from the youth mission study *In Mission Together* (about the Missionary Conferences of the U.S.) and visits from special guests, such as Anita Henderlight with an update on South Sudan. The teens spend time together...learning, creating crafts, having fun, and enjoying Christian fellowship with one another. They also join the other Mission u participants for morning plenaries, a class, and evening events. See the Mission u brochure for more information and registration. Scholarships are available. Think of a teen woman you know...granddaughter, daughter, other family member, neighbor, friend, someone in the church youth group...and bring them along with you to Mission u this summer.



Mission u: July 24-28 and Friday, July 29, 2017 at The Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids

Mission u 2017 has seven top-notch study leaders lined up to help us learn and absorb all of the information in the three topics for 2017. These include the Spiritual Growth Study: Living as a Covenantal Community, with study leaders Rev. Dan Dick, Barbara Dick and Rev. Linda Vance; the Geographic Study: The Missionary Conferences of the United States, with study leaders "Mission Billie" LaBumbard and Rev. Rob Odum; and the issue study: Climate Justice with study leader Laura Pfeffer. The Teens/Limitless group will be using some of the materials from the Youth Study: In Mission Together, led by Corrine Robson, while also taking an additional class with adults at Mission u.

All seven study leaders will be attending Mission u Training for their class or taking an online refresher course in preparation for Mission u. Three leaders will be in Pittsburgh in May while three others, plus the Dean and Assistant Dean will be in Jacksonville in May. Mission u Trainings and refresher courses are important and they may provide the answer to questions that are sometimes heard regarding the topics and leaders at Mission u.

Question: Who selects the topics for Mission u? Although all members of UMW are invited to offer suggestions for Mission u topics – and we in Wisconsin Conference have sent in a variety of suggestions! – the topics ultimately are chosen by our National UMW staff. These are chosen several years in advance so that the books can be written and published, reading lists compiled and other materials eg dvd's) produced. We already know the topics for 2018 through 2020 include Health and Wholeness, the Gospel of Mark and Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety (Spiritual Growth), UMW History (special anniversary study), Money, and Mass Incarceration (Social Issue).

Question: How are study leaders chosen? Often before the current Mission u has happened, the Dean begins to reflect on who would be the best persons to serve as study leaders, and to invite potential study leaders to consider being a part of the next Mission u. Conference Team and Mission u Committee members are asked to suggest persons they think would be right for the positions, too. National UMW will also provide a list or persons who may be knowledgeable on the various topics. Sometimes these persons are on the national staff while others may be study leaders who have served in another conference and received great evaluations. (For example, this year Laura Pfeffer and Rev. Dan Dick, both who have led studies in Wisconsin previously, will also be study leaders in Minnesota!)

Question: How do they become "certified" to be leaders? Persons who agree to be Study Leaders are given a list of books to read in preparation for the Training and Mission u (and our conference provides an allowance to help cover the costs of these books). Then in April, May or June, study leaders MUST attend and participate in one of the training events that are offered throughout the USA. (The exception is that a person who taught the first year of a geographic or social issue study may take an online refresher course rather than attend another training.) The list of books read (selected from a much longer list supplied by UMW) must be handed in and approved by national staff. If someone who has read all the books becomes ill and does not attend the training, then s/he cannot be a study leader.

Question: What about our meals? This past year we had some concerns expressed about out food (although the average rating for food was a 4 out of 5.) Some really missed dessert, so two of our noon meals will include box lunches (with cookies). And to those concerned about food that is not eaten: we did check, but the Mead cannot give it to a local food bank. Also, please remember to note on the registration form if you have special needs regarding your diet. The Mead has been great about trying to work with those who have special dietary needs, but they need to know about them!

Questions: Where is the Craft Room? Where's my coffee? Because our Craft Room was not highly visible last year, in 2017 a RESOURCE/CRAFT ROOM will combine Program Resources and Crafts in one big room. Both will now be housed in Grand Ballroom B. We will plan to have a pot of coffee on in there most of the time, too. (Note that those staying in the Mead may also use the coffeemaker in their rooms if they need a cup! And, you can always purchase a cup at the restaurant in the hotel.)

Question: Just one registration form? Yes, the four-day and overview day registration forms have been combined. Hopefully this makes it easier, not more complicated! Be sure to indicate whether you are coming for 4 days or just one and to include any special dietary needs. Also check off any of the items in the lower left hand corner that apply to you!

2017 WISCONSIN MISSION U

Join Us for an Inspiring Four Days!

It's time for you to make your plans for attending Mission u this year. If you've gone before, you know how rewarding it is! If you haven't attended previously, come and find out for yourself! If you are looking for training so that you can bring topics back to your church, this is your opportunity to learn and participate. You will get to discuss fascinating up-to-date subjects, worship and sing, learn about and support mission projects, and meet new friends.

Four-Days: Monday-Thursday, July 24th - 27th • Overview Day: Friday, July 28th



Hotel Mead and Conference Center

451 East Grand Avenue, Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin 54494



Mission u is for YOU!

This is what you can expect:

- Air-conditioned meeting rooms, plenary room (and hotel room)
- Handicap accessible meeting rooms, plenary room (and hotel rooms)
- Hotel accommodations are included in your registration for Four-Day Mission u
- More information on mission projects and internet access in the Learning Center
- Personal choice activities throughout the week
- Learning, sharing, growth

Our 2017 Mission Project is United Methodist Children's Services (UMCS). UMCS is an urban inner city ministry with a mission to serve low income and underserved people. It provides low income housing, a food pantry, clothing bank, senior stock box, Growing Tree child care center; and is a member of the Washington Park Partners Association. Needs of UMCS include cash donations, toilet paper, deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, sanitary napkins, and new socks for men, women and children.

Directions

If coming from the north:

- Follow I-39 to Exit #153.
- Exit on Cty. B, turn right toward Plover.
- Go straight on Hwy 54 to Wisconsin Rapids.
- Turn right on Baker Street.
- Turn left on 8th Street.
- Turn right on East Grand St.
 (There is a Shell station on the corner.)
- Soon, you will see Hotel Mead on the right.

If coming from the south:

- Follow I-39 north to Exit 136.
- Turn left of Highway 73 and follow 16 miles to Highway 13.
- Turn right and follow 13/73 approximately 6 miles into Wisconsin Rapids; continue on 8th Street.
- Turn left onto East Grand Street. (There is a Shell station at the corner.)
- Hotel Mead is on the right side of the street in less than half a mile.





Expect Great Things at Mission u!

Four-Day:

Monday, July 24th—Thursday, July 27th

Registration: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Monday

Opening Plenary: 10:00 a.m. Monday
Sending Forth: Noon Thursday

Meals: Four-day student meals begin

with lunch Monday and end with

breakfast Thursday.

Cost: \$350.00 Double Room

\$465.00 Single Room

Four-Day registration includes meals, hotel room and materials other than study books.

Commuter Registration: \$205.00 includes meals

Overview Day: Friday, July 28th

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: \$65 Includes buffet breakfast

and lunch. If you wish to arrive on Thursday night, the cost for a single room is \$115; the cost

for a double is \$70.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY JUNE 30TH. It is transferable, but not refundable.

Use the registration form (on back) to register for Four-Day Mission u.

Don't forget your study books!

You can order from umwmissionresources.org or reserve your books on the form for pickup and payment at Mission u.

Child and Adult Care:

The cost is \$25 per day for up to the first five people who apply. Please contact registrar for information.

Mission u Scholarships and Credits are Available

- First-time attendees
- Teen women
- Clergy who are newly ordained pastors
- Continuing Education Credits for pastors
- Lay Speaking/Lay Servant Credit

Mission u is an Inspirational Experience!

Come together with people of all ages to develop a greater understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context.

- Worship and singing
- Special interest groups
- Audiovisual presentations
- Fellowship events





2017 Mission u Registration Form (Use one form per person; duplicate as needed. Please print and fill out entire form.)

Please send this form and your registration fee – no later than June 30 – to Registrar Nancy Flath, R2170 County Road Q, Ringle, WI 54471. (You may also reach her at njudyflath@gmail.com or 715-446-3252.)

Name	Email						
Address	Phone						
City/State		Zip	ip Code				
District (Circle one.)	North West	North Central	North East	South West	South East		
Registration Type:	Adult Four-Day Adult Overview-Day Teen or Young Woman (During one session, you will meet with other young women and teens to learn about <i>In Mission Together: Missionary Conferences</i> and UMW.)						
Choice:	(Four-Day adults may choose one or two; teens and young women choose only one. Adult Overview-Day attendees will learn about all three mission studies.) Living as a Covenant Community Climate Justice Missionary Conference of the U.S.						
Special Dietary Nee	eds:						
(Includes lur Four-Day Se Four-Day Se Roommate: Additional lo	ssion – Single: \$ ssion – Double: \$ dging Sunday n	er: \$205 Monday, 3 meals of 465 (Same as abo \$350 (Same as about the same as a	on Tuesday and bye, plus lodging ove, plus lodging ove, plus lodging akfast – Single:				
		ight & Monday brea		•	\$		
Additional lo	dging Thursday	night & Friday brea	akfast – Double:	\$70	\$ \$		
		es breakfast & lunc					
I am requesting am requesting am requesting am requesting	a new clergy sch a CEU (for clergy).			TOTAL: \$		
I am attending Mission u for the first time. Please order the following book(s). I will pay for them at Mission U. Living as a Covenant Community					Wisconsin conference UNITED METHODIST CHURC		
Climate Justice Missionary Confi	erence of the II S		www.WisconsinUMC.o © 2017 Wisconsin Conference UM				

Nurture & Outreach



Let's Box 'Em Up and Stack 'Em Up!

Intercept the Traffickers

Milton United Methodist Women join with women across the United States to take a stand during January, Human Trafficking Awareness Month. As we move into the 2017 New Year United Methodist Women (UMW) ask others to join us to 'stack the box' against traffickers who run their game against the vulnerable, to intercept the traffickers' game and to 'box 'em up' for prosecution. United Methodist Women want to take charge of the box that is human trafficking and open it for the vulnerable who have been boxed into a life full of desperation where they feel there are no possibilities for escape. Our UMW wall is built of 'tissue boxes' to blot the tears shed by the vulnerable and those in despair. But tears build strength. When the tears are finally blotted away and the boxes are empty and open, UMW can be the 'hands that lift the trafficked out of the box' they are trapped in into a new life and a new sense of self. God is everywhere, providing walls always to those trafficked. God calls UMW to take 'action as co-laborers', 'committed to helping protect the vulnerable'.



Please review the information you sent for the Conference UMW Yearbook. There is still a little time for corrections to be made so that the Yearbook is as accurate as possible. If you have not sent in material that you know is supposed to be included, please do so immediately. Send everything by email to: umwconfsecy@mail.com

Thanks! Cherrie

Program Advisory Team

Hello Everyone;

Happy Spring. I bring you greetings from Program Advisory Board Team! I am excited in 2018!

THE POWER OF BOLD, Faith, Hope, Love in Action—Assembly 2018, May 18-20, 2018 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Columbus, OH!!!

Start making your plans now to attend. You may ask, why should I attend? I can tell you why my friends.

Assembly 2018 will be a forum for all women Assembly will offer an incredible personal faith journey through community building, training for action and visioning a movement for the future. Worship/Plenaries infused with music and performing arts, quality workshops and riveting Town Hall meetings with important leaders, action opportunities and Experience Hall with educational immersion experiences await you. When women unite, bold and courageous actions happen!

Early registration fee for the 2018 Assembly is \$295.00 with a Nov. 30, 2017 deadline. After that date, the regular registration fee is \$330.00. The fee includes 2 healthy lunches for attendees..

We will be talking more about Assembly in the coming months. See www.UMWAssembly.org 2018 if you would like more information now.

Here to serve you; Mary Lainberger Program Advisory Board mlainberger@charter.net, 608-846-4348 or 608-212-0506.



Calendar 2017

July 21 — Catch the Vision article due date

July 24-27 - Mission U 4-day school

July 28 – Mission U Overview day

August 5-12 - Mission Seminar Experience

August 25-27 – Mission u and Executive Team meeting – Pine Lake Camp

Oct 13 — Catch the Vision article due date

Oct. 20-21 – Annual Gathering – Waukesha: First UMC

Nov. 3-4 – Team Meeting and Mission u – Superior/Harbor House

TBD Leadership Development Days

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP

The Mabel Heil Scholarships are a result of funds from the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a woman from Cuba City, Wisconsin. The first scholarships were granted in 1981. Since then more than 240 women have received help with their education.

Requirements and Instructions

Instructions:

- 1. Be a female member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women.
- 2. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what way do I consider myself a worthy student?"
- 3. Send the completed application form to the contact person by May 1 for the Fall semester or October 1 for the Spring semester.
- 4. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by the president of the local United Methodist Women or the pastor of the church.
- 5. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative.

Rules:

Any member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women working to improve her education may apply.

Please have all letters written (preferably typed) on one side of 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of white paper using black ink.

All applications are photocopied for the committee members.

Scholarships are awarded one semester at a time. To be considered again DURING a one-year period, you must send a letter asking to be considered. AFTER one year, you will need to fill out another form and secure new recommendations.

If in any given year there is an increase of applications, these priorities will be followed: Women responsible for others will be favored. Women preparing to return to the employment field will be favored.

Application and two (2) letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than May 1 and October 1 to be considered.

Schedule:

1st Semester: Apply by May 1; notified by June 1; check sent by August 15.

2nd Semester: Apply by October 1; notified by November 1; check sent by December 1.

Contact Person:

Helen Robinson N2101 Cleghorn Road Waupaca, WI 54981 715-258-0973 email: pottshe@yahoo.com

MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Please Print				
Name		Date		
Address				
Phone Number	Email	Birth Date		
Local Church: Name & City				
Pastor				
Are you a member of U	Inited Methodist Won	nen?		
2. Activities: In United Methodist Wo	omen			
In your local church				
In the community				
3. Education: (Give year of gr	aduation) High Scho	olOther		
School you will be atter	nding			
Have you been accepted Present (post high school Freshman S	ool) status:	sno orSeniorGraduateOther		
Course of study				
4. Family Status				
5. Please answer the followin	g question using an a	additional sheet:		
IN WHAT WAY DO YO	U CONSIDER YOUR	SELF A WORTHY STUDENT?		
Mail to: Helen Robinson N2101 Cleghorn Roa Waupaca, WI 54981	ad	Phone: 715-258-0973 Email: pottshe@yahoo.com		



We invite all faith leaders to attend this time of learning, organizing and celebration. This event will feature workshops, resources and leadership from Native American traditions and practices to:

-Engage with legislators about water sustainability

-Build solidarity with Native nations to help protect vulnerable water sources
-Work for sustainability in local communities
-Train volunteers to help in areas with restricted water access

Speakers:

- Bishop Sally Dyck, Northern Illinois Conference of The UMC
- Bishop Bruce Qugh, Dakotas Conference of The UMC
- Chief Arvol Looking Horse, Lakota nation
- Dr. Randy Woodley, Professor of Faith & Culture, George Fox University Keetoowah Cherokee nation
- Lionel Pinn Little Eagle, Mi'kmaq
- · John Hill, Assistant General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society

Updates, registration info and more at www.facebook.com/WhyWaterMatters

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women 317 W Merrimac Street Dodgeville WI 53533

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 creative, supportive fellowship and

To expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church

Living our Vision

United Methodist Women is turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.