



CATCH

the

VISION

Wisconsin Conference

Volume VIII Number 2 www.wisconsinumw.org April 2015

President's Message

UMW Sisters,

This year's new spiritual study for Mission u asks us to consider how we are "Created for Happiness". The language of happiness is not as prevalent as it once was. It tends to be reduced to an aphorism "Happiness is ...". Happiness is (with apologies to Charles Schultz) much more than a warm puppy. God does, of course, care about our feelings and "works for the good of those who love him" (Rom. 8:28) and yet our idea of happiness tends to be so much smaller than God's. For God is working to redeem all peoples and nations and bring all things into greater wholeness.

When we seek the happiness God intends, it is not just an individual act, but instead part of a greater whole. John Wesley understood this idea. He framed our quest for happiness in terms of holiness. Wesley's practical ideas for living into the happiness of God echo the life of Jesus and challenge us to not only understand and appreciate happiness, but also to use it as a tool for transformation of ourselves and the world.

Our new geographic study this year is on all of Latin America. An enormous area encompassing South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean the diversity of peoples, language and cultures may seem intimidating. Yet, this study pulls out the important commonalities of history, faith and experience and highlights individual stories to provide contemporary witness to the breadth and depth of background, circumstance and views of the peoples of Latin America.

The history of the Christian church and the role of women are important touchstones for focusing our awareness. Vital and life-changby Laura Pfeffer, President

ing mission has been and continues to be done throughout this region. Come and celebrate both the opportunity to work with and to learn from our sisters and brothers to the South.

Mission u is one of our best kept secrets. Many in our congregations do not realize what an extraordinary set of resources these studies truly are. We need those who have attended in the past to be our ambassadors and encouragers. Please consider inviting someone to experience Mission u this year. Perhaps your unit can make an effort to sponsor se new or help with carpooling. If you already have copies of the study books, pass them around to others who are spiritual seekers. Let's spread the word!

Yours in Christ, Laura Pfeffer 608-592-5228 pfeffer.umw@gmail.com

LEGACY Women

As winter winds to an end, we on the LEGACY Women team are looking forward to coming out of hibernation and being in greater fellowship with all of you. If you have young women at your church that you would like to introduce to United Methodist Women but aren't sure how, bring her to a district or conference event! Going to these events is a great way to introduce newcomers to what UMW is all about without the pressure of going to monthly meetings. We'll be at the following events so be sure to say, "Hi!" If you have questions for us on how to get something going with your young women at your church bring them too! While we don't have all the answers, we would love to help explore how your unit can reach out to the younger population

at your church.

Another great introduction to United Methodist Women and its mission is Mission u. Many on the LEGACY Women team got their start by going to the four-day program. Mission u is the perfect place to show that United Methodist Women is not an organization for fuddy duddies. It is an organization for women on fire for mission.

We are currently searching for young women's representatives in the Capital and Coulee districts. If you know anyone that would like to join our team from those districts, let us know!

Events Conference Young Women's Representatives and Mentor will attend this spring:

March 21st: Coulee Spring Retreat in Sinsinawa

1

Julia Mayeshiba

April 11th: Mission Action Day in Kaukauna

April 19th: St. Paul's United Methodist Women's unit meeting in Green Bay. There will be an 11:30am potluck followed by a program about LEGACY Women given by Julia! For more information, contact Carol Holt-Lahey at 920-632-7713 or

<u>carollahey421@gmail.com</u> May 2nd: Capital District Spiritual Growth Retreat at Orfordville-New Horizon UMC

May 2nd: Nicolet/Winnebago Districts Retreat at Fond du Lac

May 16th: Metro North/South Spring Retreat at Central UMC

Julia Mayeshiba Jmayeshiba@yahoo.com

Social Action Ruby Dow

Homelessness

The focus of the 2015 and 2016 Mission Action Days will be homelessness. Included below is information on homelessness from the National Alliance to End Homelessness and from the State of Homelessness Report Wisconsin 2012.

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness website more than 620,042 people experience homelessness on any given night in the US.

- Chronic homelessness is the term given to individuals that experience long-term or repeated times of homelessness. The chronic homeless are often the public face of the homelessness issue; however, they make up only 18% of the entire homeless population according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness.
- About 57,000 or 9% of all homeless persons are veterans.
- About 26% of homeless adults suffered from some form of mental illness.

Causes

- According to estimates from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, a family with a full-time worker making minimum wage could not afford fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment *anywhere* in the US
- The lack of affordable housing is one of the biggest factors behind homelessness.
- Veterans are a specific demographic when it comes to homelessness; veterans often experience homelessness because of disabilities caused by their experience on the battlefield. Physical injuries, post-traumatic stress and mental suffering are just a few of the wartime after effects that drive the population of homeless veterans.

Wisconsin

Key findings in the report, State of Homelessness in Wisconsin 2012, An Annual Report Prepared by the Division of Housing, Department of Administration are:

- 1. The Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program successfully housed thousands of families and individuals.
- 2. The new Rapid Re-housing Program has begun to offer permanent housing to families and individuals throughout the state
- 3. Some rural Continua of Care (CoCs) serve many more homeless clients than might be expected based on their size.
- 4. In 2012, most indicators of homelessness remained stagnant or rose slightly from the previous year.
- 5. There is a statewide increase in homelessness among certain subpopulations (e.g., veterans and chronic clients), which is at odds with national decreases.
- 6. The largest increase of any subpopulation is in the number of clients reporting a history of domestic violence. This report may be found at

http://www.couleecap.org/Downloads/Poverty%20info/State%20of%20Homelessness%202012-Final.pdf

In Wisconsin there has been an increase in homelessness every year since 2008. Nationally there has been a 5.7% decline since 2007. (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) In 2012 there were 23,236 homeless individuals, up from 22,516 in 2011.

Homelessness by race in Wisconsin: 51% are white, 41% African American and 8% other. African Americans comprise only 6.5% of the population.

Single Adults comprise 55% of the homeless population.

In 2012 children represented 27% of the homeless population utilizing shelters and transitional housing programs in Wisconsin.

Rapid Re-housing involves helping individuals or families to avoid the shelter system or minimize their time in shelter by securing an apartment as soon as possible, and helping the clients to remain stably housed there for as long as possible. Research on Rapid Re-Housing conducted by both scholars and policy analysts indicates that Rapid Re-housing can have both immediate and long-term benefits for families experiencing homelessness by providing needed stability and minimizing the crisis of homelessness.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) was initially designed for chronically homeless clients who require

ongoing supportive services to remain in their new homes. However, in practice the programs serve clients from a variety of subpopulations, including single persons, persons in families, those fleeing domestic violence, and veterans. Some of these clients may also be chronically homeless, but not all are.

Communities across the state differ significantly in the number of homeless clients they serve. These differences are largely determined by population size (i.e., large cities serve more clients than small townships), by the number of local residents experiencing homelessness, and by the extent of local homeless services. Communities that offer few or no homeless support services will look as if they have very small numbers of homeless persons locally, even if in reality many people are simply making do without shelters by living on the streets or in cars.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the April 11, 2015 Mission Action Day at Kaukauna Peace United Methodist Church.

Blessings in Christ

Ruby Dow 608-847-2398 remdow@ymail.com

Nominations Bev Maser, Chairman

AT YOUR SERVICE!!!

I believe that is what United Methodist Women is all about...SERVING.

And there are some great opportunities for you to serve our MISSION PURPOSE!!!

The women presently in some Conference offices will complete their tenure this year and will be pleased to assist you in learning to share your talents in these important ways of SERVING IN MISSION... RIGHT HERE IN WISCONSIN!!!

The positions that will be open in 2016 are Secretary, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation, members of the Committee on Nominations, and the Korean Language Coordinator. Contact one of these members of the Nominations Committee to say "YES, I CAN DO THAT!"

Bev Maser 715-832-7107 bjmaser@gmail.com

Shirley Jackson 414-365-3802 (no email)

Bernice Kohlman 715-675-3165 (no email)

Julie Miehe 608-221-3061 julie.miehe9@gmail.com

Our many thanks to Tabatha Yang for her four years of serving on the Nominations Committee. She will be going on to a different position, as do many who find the joy of SERVING in and with United Methodist Women.

We are so very thankful for the seven women from our conference who attended Leadership Development Days in St. Louis in November: Laura Pfeffer, Evie O'Neil, Robin Peterson, Shirley Jackson, Gail Nelson, Ellen Eastman, and Irene Verdegan. Prayers continue for each of them as they continue to serve with women in Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women.

Bev Maser, 715-865-7107 bjmaser@gmail.com

Vice-President Jean Bonney

CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

We are still in the planning stages for the Annual Gathering. However, there are a few items which have been confirmed:

THEME: Welcomed by God–Welcoming All

DATE: Friday evening, October 23 and Saturday, October 24, 2015

TIME: Registration 5:30-6:30pm on Friday and 8:00-8:40am on Saturday

PLACE: Lake Street United Methodist Church, Eau Claire

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Deanna Shimko, Conference Lay Leader and member of United Methodist Women

LOCAL MISSION OUTREACH: Beacon House, Beacon House is one of the homeless shelters in Eau Claire. A representative from Beacon House will give us a brief five- minute report on Saturday about their work. Items needed are cleaning supplies, pillows, and hygiene items. They have enough toothbrushes, hotel-sized toiletries, razors and blankets.

DISTRICT LEADERS' TRAINING: Will be offered Friday evening.

We are still working on the Focus Groups that will be offered and the program for Friday evening for those who are not involved with the training.

Jean Bonney 608-847-9020 r.bonney@mchsi.com

Treasurer Mary Rather

HAPPY SPRING!

Well, it really is not on the calendar, but it sure *feels* like that in Wisconsin this week. By the time this goes to print it *will* be spring in Wisconsin.

Is there a better feeling to us people in the north than when we think of that work "SPRING?" Good things like flowers popping through, birds returning, and snow piles melting.......

And you, United Methodist Women, have been doing good things in your local units and beyond. It is so much fun to read the district newsletters and see the op-

portunities for mission and how women are in mission throughout Wisconsin. Out conference is a creative, supportive community of amazing women.

Wisconsin Conference is in the midst of the campaign for IMAGINE NO MALARIA. This is the incredible effort of the United Methodist Church to raise \$75,000,000 by the end of 2015. Wisconsin has pledged to raise \$1,000,000 of those dollars by June. This has nothing to do with United Methodist Women. If you plan to donate to this project, I would ask that you do this through your local church. Your church will

thank you and will get credit for this offering.

For more than 140 years our focus has been and always will be Mission Giving. Your pledge, Special Mission Recognition, Gifts to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering are the 5 channels to make this happen. Think of all the women in the past to have used these opportunities for the good of our organization. I thank God for them and for all of you who continue this legacy.

Mary Rather 920-393-9638 gmrather@aol.com

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Shirley Carpenter

The Pathway to Membership Growth

In the fall of 2013, the National Office selected local units from all five jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church to test their new resource, "Welcome: United Methodist Women Welcoming Event Toolkit." Crossroads United Methodist Women in Washington, Illinois was chosen from North Central Jurisdiction. After their church was struck by a tornado, Wisconsin Rapids, my church, was chosen as a backup. I was so excited! Then, after a short clean-up time, they were ready to participate.

Each of the units selected gave their presentation at Assembly 2014. Sally Vonner, Assistant General Secretary for Membership and Leadership Development for United Methodist Women, invited me to observe their events. Every unit did a fantastic job!

To learn more about this project, refer to Sally's article in November, 2014 *response* magazine.

On Thursday, March 5th, I had on-line training with Marva Usher-Kerr and Julia Tulloch from the UMW National Office. There will be two more sessions - March 17th and March 25th.

With faith, hope and love, we have been responding to God's call since 1869. It is the reason we exist.

We are connected to each other and to God through our relationship with Jesus Christ. We share a common mission to live as disciples of Jesus and to see the world through compassionate eyes as Jesus teaches us. We are the feet with which Christ goes about doing good, and the hands through which he blesses people around the world. We are stronger when we work together.

I have received the 2014 Membership Census Forms from two districts. I need the rest **no later** than April 30th.

In Christ's Love, Shirley Carpenter, 2711 No. Biron Drive, Wisconsin Rapids WI 54494 715-421-0759 shorenuf35@gmail.com

Historian

I just want to check with you to see how things are progressing. It is a big task but once you are caught up, it will be much easier to stay on top of the historical information.

I know some of you are current and some had more to sort through

than others. I am still available to help in any way or just answer questions. If you need me to visit again, I am willing to do that. Hopefully everyone will be ready for the new structure next year.

Thanks for all the work you all

Velma Hockenberry

have done to keep our mission alive. Peace and love, Velma Hockenberry 608-372-3783 velhoc@centurytel.net

2015 Wisconsin Mission u

United
Methodist
Women
FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION



Plenary meeting at 2014 Mission u in Westwood.
—Photo by Velma Hockenberry

Four-Days:

Monday-Thursday, July 20th - 23rd

Overview Day:

Friday, July 24th

It's almost time for you to plan this year's vacation getaway at Mission u. If you've always wondered what goes on at school, maybe this year is the time for you to try it. We discuss fascinating, up-to-date subjects; worship and sing - a lot; take time to get together for fellowship; support a mission project; and eat good food that we haven't had to cook. If you're looking for training so that you might bring these topics back to your church, this is your chance to learn and participate. Then share all you've learned with your friends in church or with your wider community.

Our New Mission studies this year (you may choose two):

Spiritual Growth -

Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God

Geographic study -

Latin America: People and Faith

Issue study-

The Church and People with Disabilities

Four-Day Mission u

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

Mon., July 20th to Thurs., July 23rd

Registration:

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Monday

Opening Plenary: Sending Forth:

10:30 a.m. Monday 12:30 p.m. Thursday

Meals: Four-Day student meals begin with lunch Monday and end with breakfast (at the hotel) Thursday

Cost: Four-Day student registration

Includes meals, hotel room and materials \$330.00 Double room (with 2 queen size beds)

\$445.00 Single room

Commuter registration: \$195.00 includes meals
Registration is required by June 29th — it is
transferrable, not refundable. No registrations will be
accepted after this date.

CHILD/ADULT CARE: The cost is \$25 per day for up to the first five people who apply. Please contact Registrar for information

Use the Four-Day registration form (page 3) 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!

Mission u offers you all this

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
- ° A great vacation bargain

Wisconsin Mission u takes place at the Westwood Conference Center, 1800 Westwood Center Boulevard, Wausau, WI 54401. (Exit 1-39/29/51 at Exit 193 Bridge Street). See the map on page 6. Lodging arrangements for Mission u 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. Four-Day Mission u runs from Monday through Thursday, July 20th —23rd.

Overview Day

Friday, July 24th

Registration:

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

Opening Plenary: 9: 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 \$46.00

Registration is required by June 29th; it is transferrable but not refundable.

Use the Overview Day registration form (page 4). Each person must use a separate form — you may photocopy as needed. Invite a friend!

Mission u Scholarships are available

- ° First time attendees
- ° Teen women
- Clergy who are newly ordained pastors
- Continuing Education Credits for pastors
- Layspeaking/Layservant credit available for laity
 For more information, contact
 Registrar Arlene Trull, aetrull@gmail.com.

2015 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 Registration type (check only one): Adult (18-over) Teen Woman (13-17 Adults may choose one or If you're over age 18 and wish to take classes with Te |) Young Adult (18-25) two studies. |
| Latin America Created for Happiness The Church and People With Disabilities Young Women I am requesting a scholarship Age I am attending Mission u for the very first time I am clergy requesting Continuing Education Credits (CEU) I am requesting handicap accessibility I am laity reques | |
| I am a newly ordained pastor requesting a scholarship and h I am a commuter (paying the commuter fee noted on page 2 I have special dietary and/or other needs (please specify) Room Options — Choose only one first three double room options are King Bed (with walk-in shower) King Suite (with | e and be aware that the e first come, first serve: |
| 2 Queen Beds (with tub/shower) Single Room (proceeding and an arequesting additional lodging (mark appropriately Sunday night Thursday night (each additional night's stay is at the double room range of the roommate — discuss with Registrar | paying the single room rate per page 2) Far with an X) |
| TOTAL PAYMENT: See Cost under Four-Day Mission u complete Please order my study books. Indicate number of each Pay for your books at Mission u.) Latin AmericaCreated for HappinessThe Church and People With Disable Young Women | PLEASE NOTE — DUE JUNE 29TH ch book requested on the blank. |

2015 Overview Day Registration Form Friday, July 24th

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

Send full payment and registration by June 29th to:

Arlene Trull
305 Becker Street, Rothschild, WI 54474
715-359-7756 aetrull@gmail.com
Make checks payable to Mission u

2014 Mission u registration at Westwood.
—Photo by Velma Hockenberry



due by June 29th



Dean Dee Klawitter, left, and Assistant Dean Gail Burgess. —Photo by Stacy Ganzer.

If you've never attended Mission u at Westwood

This is what you can expect:

- °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 and Suites and the Westwood Conference Center
- ° Choice Time activities throughout the week

While you're at Mission u send the kids to camp

Treat your children to a marshmallow roasting, game playing good time at camp while you attend Mission u. **YO-MI-CA Camp** runs from Sunday, July 19 to Friday, July 24 at Pine Lake Camp in Westfield.

The children will live in cabins and learn about different missions while having fun and making lifelong friends. YO-MI-CA stands for Youth Missions Camp, and as you may note, it cleverly coincides with the UMW Mission u. It begins at 3:30 p..m. Sunday and ends Friday at 2:30 p.m. It might be a good idea to get reservations in early. For fee and more info contact: www.wiumcamps.org/

Children's Services chosen to be Mission u's 2015 Mission Project

Located in the Washington
Park area of Milwaukee, the
United Methodist Children's
Services (UMCS) serves
women, children and families
with affordable housing,
childcare, food, household
items, and neighborhood
organizing.

The affordable housing (both apartments and duplex units), on-site social services, and childcare are facets of a comprehensive program designed to enable low-income, single parent families to become economically self-sufficient.

The Growing Tree Children's Center continues to increase in enrollment, and the emergency food pantry is the largest in Milwaukee County.

Suggested donations (other than cash): \$10 Gift Cards from Walgreens, Target or Pick"n Save; laundry baskets, high efficiency (HE) laundry detergent for front loading washers (for example: HE Tide), kitchen size garbage bags, dishwashing detergent, toilet paper, painting supplies (such as cut-in brushes, roller covers, painting tape).

Westwood Conference Center

1800 Westwood Center Boulevard, Wausau, Wisconsin 54401

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 51/1-39

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 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 or SOUTH on US 51/1-39

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

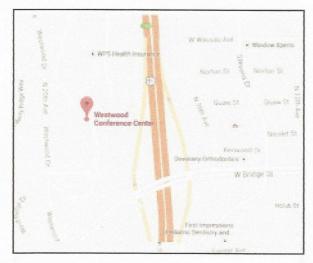
Driving from the EAST on WI-29

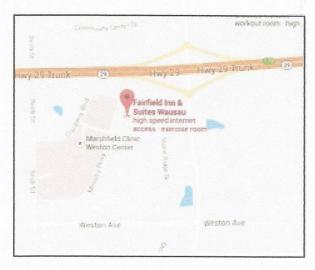
Take WI-29 East interchange toward Green Bay. Take EXIT 173 (County Road X/Camp Phillips Rd. Turn LEFT onto Cty. Rd. X/Camp Phillips Road. Follow steps 4-6 above.

Driving from the WEST on WI-29

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







Date: Sunday May 3, 2015

Time: Gathering 3:00 PM (with auction fundraiser) Dinner 4:00 PM

Celebrate and learn more about the ongoing mission of Northcott Neighborhood House.

- Cost is \$50 per person
- Make checks payable to Northcott Neighborhood House
- Register before Monday April 20th
- Send name, address, email (if any) and number attending with payment to:

Northcott Neighborhood House c/o Darlene 2460 North Sixth Street Milwaukee, WI 53212

Location of Event: Harley-Davidson Museum "The Garage Hall" 401 West Canal Street, Milwaukee, WI

Come early and tour the Harley-Davidson museum (adult cost is \$18). The museum is open 9AM-6PM.

Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

215 N. Lafayette St., Shawano WI 54166-2133

Address Service Requested

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Vice President (Annual Gathering)

4 Treasurer

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Save these dates-

Mission Action Day

Saturday, April 11, 2015 Peace UMC, Kaukauna WI

Mission u - See Pages 5-10

July 20-23 - 4 day School July 24 - Overview Day Westwood Conference Center Wausau WI

Conference Annual Gathering

October 23-24
Eau Claire Lake Street UMC
Eau Claire WI