

The NorthStar, Vol 2 Issue 1  
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United Methodist Women  
Metro North District  
c/o St. Luke United Methodist  
Church  
623 Ontario Ave  
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United Methodist Women Metro North District Wisconsin Conference  
Present the

# NorthStar

Quarterly Newsletter  
February 2014

It's NOT TOO LATE To Register for

## Assembly 2014

April 25-27, 2014

You can REGISTER online UNTIL APRIL 1ST by going to

[www.assembly2014.org](http://www.assembly2014.org)

Help is available on the web site



## 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.

## WISCONSIN CONFERENCE MISSION TODAY UNIT

To become a *MISSION TODAY* Unit, the unit must meet eight of the following criteria, including four of those marked with an asterisk(\*).

1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting to pray for mission workers and Projects.\*
2. The unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission.\*
3. The unit will add at least one new member to its roll.\*
4. The unit will have at least one member subscribe to **response** magazine.\*
5. The unit will use two programs from the Program Book for United Methodist Women each year.\*
6. The unit or circle will conduct at least one mission study a year.\*
7. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least one way during the year.\*  
Some suggested plans of action: ^Plan a unit meeting with a different racial/ethnic background, using programs from the Program Book. ^Use Program plan for Charter prepared by Conference.  
^Share worship service or meeting with speaker of another culture.
8. At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the Conference Mission u.
9. At least two members (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the District Meeting or Conference Annual Gathering.
10. The unit will have a least one person join the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information. Web address: <http://new.qbgm-mc.org/umw/act/network/>
11. Members will write or Email to five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar each year.
12. The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children in at least two ways. Possibilities for action:  
^Help sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth needs. ^Sponsor a Children's Sabbath, promoted by the Children's Defense Fund. ^Get involved with children in mentoring, tutoring and "big sisters" programs. ^Write letters, e-mail, or call congressional representatives and/or others in government regarding children's issues. ^Visit your local schools. ^Attend a school board meeting. ^Learn how our schools are funded.
13. The unit will be a Five Star unit, contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving.
14. Each unit or circle will include a **response magazine moment** where an item from the magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
15. Have at least two people from the unit, circle or subgroup complete one of the Reading Program Plans and report on one of the books read; encourage all members to complete Plan One, have a book review program.
16. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than that of a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year.
17. Make a pledge to care for God's creation and become a "Green" United Methodist Women unit (Get information on How to Become a Green Unit at <http://www.umwonline.org/environment> or contact Women's Division Community Action).
18. Hold a Mini-Spiritual Growth Retreat. See Program Book for ideas.
19. Unit to contribute at least \$25.00 for School of Christian Mission.

Use these criteria to plan your programs and mission projects this year in your local organization.

## From Our Metro North President:

### Unwrapping Gifts

People are gifts which are sent to us .. wrapped.  
Some are wrapped very beautifully.  
They are very attractive when we first see them.  
Some come in ordinary wrapping paper.  
Others have been mishandled in the mail.  
Once in a while, there is a special delivery.  
Some persons are gifts which come very loosely wrapped, others very tightly.  
But the wrapping is not the gift.  
It's so easy to make this mistake.

Sometimes the gift is very easy to open up.  
Sometimes we need others to help.  
Is it because they are afraid?  
Maybe they have been opened up before and thrown away.

You are a person, so you are a gift, too, a gift to yourself.  
Have you ever really looked inside the wrappings?  
Maybe you've never really seen the wonderful gift that you are.  
Could such a gift be anything but beautiful?

And you are a gift to other people.  
Are you willing to give yourself to others?  
Do others have to be content with the wrappings?  
Never permitted to enjoy you, the gift?

Anonymous

People are models and people are gifts - beautiful, priceless gifts. Each person is a gift, but each must be carefully unwrapped. Each person is unique and how that person is permitted to unfold and grow lies to a great extent in the hands of significant others - individual models who possess a caring, helping

attitude toward people. Investing your time and talents to help another individual grow - another member of United Methodist Women, prospective member, Conference, District, Local Mission Team member, is indeed an expression of your commitment to the organization of United Methodist Women.

While I can't take credit for the poem or the paragraph following it, I also can't take credit for the gifts given to each of us by our Heavenly Father. We shouldn't waste those gifts, they are meant to be shared. You can share your gifts through membership in United Methodist Women, through the giving of your time and talents, through your pledge to mission, through advocating for others, through your commitment to spiritual growth, social action and living out your faith. In this new year, please join us in his sharing with each other.

***For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. -- Romans 12:4-8***

Cheryl Malko, 446 Ponderosa Drive, Hartford WI 53027, 262-670-6396, [cherylmalko@yahoo.com](mailto:cherylmalko@yahoo.com)

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## From Our Vice President

Hello Metro North UMW

I would like to thank everyone who put in so much effort for the Metro North and Metro South "Day Apart" on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The event was hosted by Agape United Methodist Church in Brookfield. The church members did a great job with the fabulous Hmong luncheon and making all of us feel

welcome. Special thanks to Emmanuel Yang who stayed with us for the entire event to make sure the audio visual equipment worked properly. We were all inspired by Rev. Scott Walters who presented “The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly” and Jennifer Burns who presented “The Roma of Europe”. Both studies provided us with information and action plans for the mission field. When we know more about a certain population and understand what God challenges us to do, it gives us a better way to know how to help. I pray that we all take this information and share with our churches. We also honored Christine Whiteside for her years of service to United Methodist Women, Metro North. Thank you Christine for all you do!

Please mark your calendars for these dates for continued inspirational opportunities:

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**, Mission Action Day-Kaukauna Peace UMC

**April 24-27<sup>th</sup>**, UMW Assembly-Louisville, KY

**July 26-July 31<sup>st</sup>** Mission u Wausau

**August 1<sup>st</sup>** Mission u Overview Day Wausau

**September 27<sup>th</sup>** Joint Metro North/Metro South Annual Celebration –location TBA

**October 17-18<sup>th</sup>**, Conference Annual Gathering – Madison Asbury UMC

Please call me if you have any questions.

Blessings,

Wendy Wilson Uhl

929 N. Genesee Woods Dr. Oconomowoc, WI.

53066 262-567-3276 [wilsonuhl.929@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonuhl.929@gmail.com)



Organize a Reading Group to read and discuss the books from the UMW Reading Program.

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### **From the Secretary of Program**

#### **Resources:**

Happy New Year everyone. I do hope that 2014 will be a year filled with many blessings for all of you. I also hope that you will continue to find time to read and enjoy the books on the Reading Program list. As this newsletter will be printed after Day Apart, I hope you were all able to visit the Program Resource Room at Day Apart at Agape United Methodist Church in Brookfield and were able to find some good books to read. Here are two reviews of books that you might want to consider reading.

**AN INVISIBLE THREAD** by Laura Schroff and Alex Tresniowski

What would you do if an 11-year-old panhandler stopped you and asked you for money? Most people would keep walking and ignore the young boy, and that’s exactly what Laura Schroff did. But, for some unknown reason, she returned and connected with Maurice. Because he said he was hungry, she took him to lunch at Mc Donald’s. This was the start of a long friendship. AN INVISIBLE THREAD is the true story detailing the relationship which developed between Laura and Maurice after this chance meeting. It is a story that is both heartbreaking and heartwarming, inspiring and uplifting. During the years that a friendship developed, both Maurice and

Mark your calendars for the Northcott Neighborhood House 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting  
 Sunday, May 4  
 “Surviving & Thriving as a Non Profit”  
 Harley Davidson Museum  
 \$50 includes Free Pass for the Harley Davidson Museum to be used within 90 days

Laura experienced remarkable positive changes to his and her life. Laura gained a 'son' and Maurice another 'mother' and family. The book shows how one person can make a difference in another's life. Maurice now works to change the lives of disadvantaged children.

RADIO SHANGRI-LA by Lisa Napoli

RADIO SHANGRI-LA provides the reader with the opportunity to experience life in Bhutan with Lisa Napoli as our guide. Bhutan is a tiny landlocked Kingdom in the Himalayas between India and China. This simple, poor country was never colonized and regards itself as 'the happiest place on earth'. It measures its success not in terms of the Gross National Product but by its Gross National Happiness. Lisa Napoli needed a change from her public radio job in Los Angeles and was fortunate enough to meet a handsome stranger who provided her with the opportunity to go to Bhutan. She goes to Bhutan to help start-up Radio Kuzoo FM, and through her, we learn about the people, food, customs and history of the Bhutanese. The story is fascinating.

I want to remind you also to read "Response" regularly as part of the reading program. The articles are interesting and informative and you will find that you want to discuss them with your friends. Often there are articles that can be used as part of your unit or circle meetings either as devotions or as additions to the program.

Best wishes.

Cherrie Hartley

262-650-1184 [hmarelise@ymail.com](mailto:hmarelise@ymail.com)

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**From the Nominations Committee Chair:**

Hello, my name is Cheryl Mallow (not to be confused with your district president, Cheryl Malko). Yes, we have had a lot of fun with this. I am your Metro North District Nominations chair for 2014. I am a member of Oconomowoc Good Shepherd UMC and have been active in United Methodist Women for many

years. I am on the Board of Director for the Hmong House of Good News. I am married and have one daughter.

I will be bugging all you lovely nominations members to give me names and to have a training session soon. so....HOW ABOUT LUNCH?

Please call or email me at the following to talk about it. 920-261-6140, [nonicheryl@yahoo.com](mailto:nonicheryl@yahoo.com)

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**From Our Social Action Coordinator:**

**Why Social Action?**

Whenever I attend a UMW event, I hear statements such as, "I don't think UMW has any business being involved in social issues." or, "What can I possible do? I'm just one person."

There is actually a very simple answer as to why UMW **IS** involved in Social Action: Because Jesus told us to be involved! Matthew 25:40 "Truly I tell you. just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." In this chapter Jesus reminded his listeners that they need to be concerned with the well-being of EVERY member of his family!

Getting back to the question of what any one member can do, there are several things that you can do without even leaving your living room:

A. Read at least one article from **Response** and/or **New World Outlook** each month. Both of these magazines are full of articles about issues that are being addressed by UMW and the Methodist Church.

B. Read each issue of the **North Star** to find information about current concerns as well as what you can do to help.

C. Become an active participant in the UMW Reading Program. These books have been carefully chosen to provide the background information that will help you understand the plights of people around the world as well as right here at home. Many can be borrowed from your local public library, and they are

usually available at large UMW gatherings. As an example, **Half The Sky** deals with the *millions* of women and children who are forced into the illegal sex trade every year. (And we think that slavery no longer exists!)

D. Go to the official UMW website and find **umwactionnetwork**. This is a FREE website that sends out Social Action updates at least once a week. You can check the site weekly, or sign up and have them send it directly to your Email. The Updates often include simple actions you can take as well as additional information that will help you share your knowledge with others.

Once you have gotten this far, you will be ready to venture out. Elsewhere in this issue you will find registration information for the upcoming **Social Action Day** in April. This year it will be held in Kaukauna on Saturday, April 5th. Pastor Heather Brewer will help us understand the positions of the church on both Human Trafficking and Elder Abuse. (Is it possible that members of our own organization are victims of the latter?)

Mission Action Day will be held in Kaukauna, closer to Metro North District. If you can find Appleton, you can find Kaukauna—it's just a few miles to the east of Appleton and about 100 miles north of Milwaukee.

It is also not too early to be thinking about Mission "U" 2014. It will again be held in Wausau, and one of the new study topics will be "The Church and People With Disabilities." Mark your calendar now for the last week in July.

Cynthea Rollo, 1613 Dover Drive, Waukesha WI 53186, 262-574-7142 [thearollo@aol.com](mailto:thearollo@aol.com)

How are you getting the UMW message out to members of your church and community? Invite new people to your programs and meetings! Publicize events in your newspaper.



**From Cathryn Luse:**

## **WHO WILL LEAD US IN 2015?**

**2020?                      2025?                      2030?**

**THE ANSWER IS UP TO US - PREPARING  
FOR                      FUTURE                      LEADERSHIP**

**1:15-40; 41 .....**

EACH OF US WILL RECRUIT AT LEAST ONE PERSON BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 40 AND ONE PERSON AGE 41 OR OLDER

I could totally identify with Norma Taylor Mitchell ( "Response" magazine, January 2014; "Wanted: Women in Mission") as she made her pitch for the relevancy of United Methodist Women now and in the future. As she outlined the role that UMW has played in bringing justice and equality in the church and society, she challenged us to remain steadfast, for our plight is far from over.

Yes, we've come a long way, but justice for too many has gone awry: a cry for food security; attack on public schools; dissipating middle class; insufficient housing – homelessness; an attack on affordable healthcare for all; etc. What a hill to climb! The battle continues.

How we climb that hill will be determined by what we do today to create leaders who won't be afraid to tackle the "isms" that lurk around the corner - blatant and subtle.

**TRUTH:** We need a sturdy program of Inviting, Welcoming, Nurturing, and Training Teens and Young Women to accept leadership roles in 2015, 2020, 2025, 2030, 2035 and beyond. Sounds daunting? Yes, but it should be a natural

progression.

TRUTH: We don't have such a program, but we can't wait until the program is signed, sealed, and delivered.

THE CHALLENGE: What is the one thing that we can all do to start the ball moving? Each of us is called to **RECRUIT AT LEAST ONE PERSON BETWEEN THE AGES OF 15 AND 40 AND AT LEAST ONE PERSON AGE 41 AND OLDER TO COMMIT AS A DISTRICT MEMBER OR BECOME A MEMBER OF A LOCAL UNIT OR DISTRICT UNIT AND TO BE REGULAR IN ATTENDANCE AT DISTRICT EVENTS.** *YOU will serve as their mentor – INVITING, NURTURING, HELPING AND ENCOURAGING THEM to find their place in the mission field.*

SOUNDS CHALLENGING? IT IS, but a sure way to create future leaders. You write and implement the

program with YOUR ACTIONS: **1:15–40;**

**41**..... beginning today. Let me hear from you .Cathryn P. Luse, 6900 N 98<sup>th</sup> St, Milwaukee WI, 53224, 414-353-8343, [cpluse@prodigy.net](mailto:cpluse@prodigy.net)

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### **Be Inspired. Read about Theresa!**

From the United Methodist Church News Service

### **Theresa Hoover 'larger than life...gentle as a dove'**

Theresa Hoover was the first African-American woman to become a top staff executive for The United Methodist Church. She was a mentor to many young women, promoted the leadership of laywomen and engineered a secure future for the women's organization of the denomination during a period of tumultuous change.

Hoover led the Women's Division of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries, the corporate body of United Methodist Women, for 22 years, from 1968 to 1990.

"She had a presence that could be larger than life, but she also had a presence that could be as soft and gentle as a dove," said Andris Salter, a UMW executive who witnessed how Hoover ministered to women struggling with issues such as physical and sexual abuse.



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Hoover, 88, died Dec. 21 in Fayetteville, AR. One of five children born to James C. Hoover and Rissie Vaughn, Hoover's options might have seemed limited in the segregated South, especially after her mother died when she was a small child. But her father, a city hospital orderly, taught her to be fearless and gave her the confidence to do what she needed to do.

A 1946 graduate of Philander Smith College, she helped the Little Rock Methodist Council, a coalition of 19 black and white Methodist congregations, convert a former turkey farm into Camp Aldersgate, dedicated in 1947 as a camp for African-American youth and a racially integrated training center.

Segregation remained firmly entrenched in the Methodist Church when Hoover joined the staff of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, part of the Board of Missions, in 1948 as a field worker for the denomination's [Central Jurisdiction](#).

Traveling across the United States in Jim Crow days as an African-American woman meant "she had a job for the Women's Division that required sacrifices that none of the other women had to think about," said Peggy Billings, who became "fast friends" with Hoover in the 1960s as they worked together on racial justice issues.

Even later, at the board offices in New York, "it was not an easy time for a black person to agree to come on an all-white staff or to take on an organization that had historically been white," she noted.

The year that Hoover was elected the Women's Division top executive — 1968 — was a pivotal year as the Methodist Church merged with the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Barbara Campbell, who was Hoover's "second in command" at the Women's Division for many years, noted that Hoover had to rebuild the division staff practically from scratch from the merger to the massive reorganization for the new United Methodist Church in 1972.

As with other reorganizations over the years, such tumult endangered the membership and institutional relationships of United Methodist Women. "There were always those who thought they could handle our money better than we could." Hoover's "outstanding leadership" on church union for the Methodist Church was crucial in an era when it was difficult for both a woman and a person of color to command influence and power.

Possessed with an active prayer life and deep grounding in the faith and history of Methodism, Hoover was not afraid to "speak truth to power," but did so with grace, compassion and respect, women close to her recounted.

Administratively, she was "a great boss," and always operated under the assumption that others should know the mechanics of running the division.

She made United Methodist Women a strong organization by emphasizing the need to understand its membership, mission and intent and by "training other women to take your place, do the work and share the message when you no longer do it."

Hoover took young women of all races under her wing, nurturing leadership skills that would have an impact on the denomination for years to come.

When M.Garlinda Burton first met Hoover while covering a Women's Division meeting for United Methodist News Service, she was amazed to see an African-American woman have so much influence in the church.

Hoover encouraged Burton, who recently retired as top executive of the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women, to see herself as a leader. She also learned from Hoover that laywomen, women of color, women from small towns "are the legs the church stands on and that position deserves respect."

For the Rev. Maxine Allen, now on staff with the Arkansas Annual (regional) Conference, Hoover was one of three women,

along with Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly and Euba Harris Winton, "who laid the legacy where, particularly, black women could see themselves outside of the local church environment."

Allen went back to school at the age of 40 and then on to seminary. A UMW scholarship helped her graduate without debt.

Hoover's niece, Melba Smith, who started work with the Women's Division at the Church Center for the United Nations in 1970, also felt fortunate for the guidance provided by her aunt. Smith said "She was one of my greatest mentors."

Jan Love, who first met Hoover when she was 17, followed her lead in encouraging The United Methodist Church to bring its gifts and "considerable weight" to the table in ecumenical matters and served with her as United Methodist representatives on the World Council of Churches Central Committee.

Hoover was inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame in 2000, but a more visible sign of her zeal for mission can be found at the Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church in Little Rock, thought to be the denomination's first local church named for a laywoman. Hoover "had played a big part" in the life of the Rev. William H. Robinson, Jr., who chartered the congregation in December 1981 and served as its pastor for 32 years.

Over the years, [Theresa Hoover United Methodist Church](#) has built 70 new homes in the community, supported projects for women, children and youth and started a certified faith-based licensed substance-abuse program.

"I think that she spelled out mission work for this denomination," Robinson said. "She tackled strategic problems in a sensitive way to get it done and she certainly trained and provided leadership and gave inspiration to many minority women, especially, who followed in her footsteps. "She was just a jewel."

*Adapted from an article by Linda Bloom, a United Methodist News Service multimedia reporter based in New York. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/umcscribe> or contact her at (646) 369-3759 or [newsdesk@umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@umcom.org)*

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

**From our Secretary:**

**“Woulda, Coulda, Shoulda”**

Often we wish that we had done something that we didn't do or we wish that we had not done something that we chose to do. Both put us in the “woulda, coulda, shoulda” category.

Recently I was reflecting on the life of a friend who had just transitioned from the earthly realm, and I was remembering that she seldom voiced regret for things that she had done in her life. She loved the Lord, read His word, praised Him and attended worship services. She often said that maybe she could have used more finesse in certain situations; but that she had done the best she could at the time. That is how I want to live my life. I want to be able to truthfully say that I tried my best to be the woman that God wants me to be and that sometimes I succeeded.

Living a ‘woulda, coulda, shoulda ‘ life is not for God’s people. It does not reflect prayerful regard and attention to His word. It does not reflect our attempts to lead a Christ centered life and to be followers of Jesus.

I am very much aware that we are human and that sometimes we will fail at what we attempt to do. The trick is to keep trying the best we can. That will reduce the “woulda, coulda, shoulda” factor.

Muriel Smith-Gross, 2856 N Sherman Blvd,  
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[IMOSG@att.net](mailto:IMOSG@att.net)

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**From the Communications Coordinator:**

I want to apologize to those of you who did not receive our newsletter in November. Our Newsletter could not be printed and I was not prepared to send the NorthStar out electronically to everyone that had

email. This indicated the importance of getting everyone’s email into my email contact list. **If you have email and it is not listed in our District Yearbook please send it to me.** Our November NorthStar is on the Conference web site along with other district newsletters.

As I was surfing the internet looking for things to add to our newsletter, I got an email from Cathryn Luse about the Children’s Defense Fund. If you need a reason to understand why we raise money to benefit youth and children and serve youth and children in the U.S. and the world today, just go to the Children’s Defense Fund web site, [www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org), and read “The State of American Children 2014” and it will astound you with the statistics and facts about poverty and its effects on children in our country today. It is fifty years since the War on Poverty was launched and our country is richer than ever and our children are poorer than ever before.

Did you know that:

- The majority of children in America under two are now children of color.
- Over one-third of children of color under 2 were poor in 2012 during years of rapid brain development.
- The top 1 percent of earners received 22.5 percent of the nation’s income in 2012, more than double their share in 1964 and equal to levels last seen in the 1920s.
- Children in single-parent families were nearly four times more likely to be poor than children in married couple families in 2012.
- In no state could an individual working full-time at the minimum wage afford the fair market rent for a two-bedroom rental unit and have had enough for food, utilities and other necessities in 2013.
- More than 1 in 9 children lacked access to adequate food in 2012, a rate 23 percent higher than before the recession.
- In six states — Kentucky, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, Oregon, and **Wisconsin** — half or more Black children were poor and nearly half the

states had Black child poverty rates of 40 percent or more.

These are just a few facts pulled from "The State of American Children 2014." Read the report and get angry. Write your congressional reps and express your concern for our children in poverty.

By now each unit should have the Metro North District Year Book if you were at the Day Apart meeting on January 25. A special "Thanks" to Muriel Smith-Gross(our Secretary) and Marie Garnhart(Metro South Secretary) for putting the Year Books together. If you were not able to attend this year's Day Apart, the president of your group should have received the Year Books in the mail. Use this information to keep in touch with your sister units and your district mission team members.

If you are receiving this newsletter and you have an email address that is not listed in the 2014 Year Book, or you have changed your address or phone number, please contact me at [jfelde5679@charter.net](mailto:jfelde5679@charter.net) to update our records. In case of any emergency (as in November) this is the way we can keep in touch with you.

If you have upcoming events and you would like to list them on our District calendar, please send them to me either by email or to my home address listed below.

Stay warm and stay in touch with those neighbors and fellow UMW members who may not be able to get out in this very cold winter weather. Remember **SPRING** is just around the corner!

Jackie Felde, 1654 S 23<sup>rd</sup> St, Sheboygan WI 53081, 920-458-5679, [jfelde5679@charter.net](mailto:jfelde5679@charter.net)

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**From Our Spiritual Growth Coordinator:**

Our friend and Spiritual Growth Coordinator Salud Rodeman is on a Volunteers In Mission trip at time of printing so I have selected a prayer:

**A Prayer for the Beginning of Epiphany**

Maker of the universe, Fashioner of the stars, who dwells within time and beyond time, hear this prayer:

If I have failed to perceive you

when you have appeared  
in the face of a friend,  
if I have neglected to feed you  
when you have come  
with the hunger of a stranger,  
if I have not embraced you  
when you have sought me out of  
a sister or brother's poverty,  
if I have not laughed and played with you  
when you greeted me with the delight of a child,  
forgive me.

Open my eyes, my hands, my arms, my heart,  
to know your appearing and to celebrate  
the flesh-shaped mystery of Emmanuel,  
God with us.

Make my heart a dwelling place ready to receive you  
in even the bleakest spaces,  
to delight at your appearing even as the animals  
who made welcome for the birth of wonder.

----- from Sacred Journeys, A Woman's Book of Daily Prayer

by Jan Richardson

**God Bless You!**

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**Social Action Priorities for Wisconsin**

**Conference:**

Social Action is at the heart of supporting our United Methodist Women purpose. Each year priorities are set at many levels of UMW organization and are outlined below for your information and planning.



In 2014 Wisconsin **Conference** UMW has chosen 6 social actions issues:

- 1) Charter for Racial Justice,
- 2) Health and Domestic Violence,
- 3) Wisconsin Mission Agencies
  - a. Hmong House of Good News in Milwaukee
  - b. Harbor House in Superior
  - c. United Methodist Children's Services in Milwaukee
  - d. Northcott Neighbor House in Milwaukee
- 4) Human Trafficking,
- 5) 11 X 15 project to reduce Wisconsin prison population.
- 6) Disabled Persons

**Metro North Social Action Priorities**

1. Human Trafficking
2. Relationships

Regarding Human Trafficking, many of the District Mission Team will attend the Social Action Day in Kaukauna to learn about what we can do to alleviate human trafficking.

Regarding Relationships, members of St. James UMC initially talked about focusing on domestic abuse, but after discussions decided to entitle their activity "Relationships" and will focus on domestic abuse, bullying, and positive relationships. Their overall goal is education and prevention. Our Metro North District Secretary attends St. James and is on their planning committee. We will support them in their activities.

In addition to these district goals, we will support the Conference in meeting their social action goals.

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**From Membership, Nurture and Outreach:**

Women have **various avenues of membership** to belong to UMW. The most common is the **Local unit** made up of members from a local church. Every woman who indicates a desire to belong to and participate in the global mission of the church through United Methodist Women and its PURPOSE is a member. There is no

discrimination in age, race or color. Everyone is invited. You may also join a **Charge or cluster unit, a District unit, become a District member, or an Online member.**

**A Cluster unit** consists of women from various churches who show an interest in the mission of UMW, but their numbers are too small to support a local unit.

**A District unit** may be formed by women from different churches who choose to meet in a location other than a local church, such as a college, a retirement community, etc.

A woman may become a **District member** if there is no active unit in her church or if she is a member of another denomination. Such membership must be authorized by the district leadership team.

If you are interested in finding out more about cluster units, district units or district membership, please contact Linda Smeaton, our MN&O Coordinator.

A woman may become an online member through registration and participation in the United Methodist Women's social network for members, UMWOnline.org.

Any woman may become a member of UMW and membership in the United Methodist Church is not required for membership. The only members who must be members of the United Methodist Church are those serving as President of a unit.

Linda Smeaton, 2116 Stratford Rd. West Bend 53090, 262-483-3570, linda\_smeaton@charter.net

\*\*\*\*\*

**From Our Historian:**

On January 20,2014, the second annual Rev Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration was hosted by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung at Albright United Methodist Church in Milwaukee where Mary Council-Austin is pastor. The Marquette University Gospel Choir and the combined Metro Regional Choir sang the opening song, "This is my Song." Youth led the worship service and celebration of Dr Martin Luther King Jr's life. Bishop Jung read the scripture and introduced the speaker, Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble, of the UMC Iowa Conference. Refreshments following the service were provided and served by Metro North and Metro South United Methodist Women. Thanks to all who attended and participated in this

observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration.

Shirley Jackson, 4527 W. Bradley Rd, #117 Brown Deer 53223 414-354-5258

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**Meet Our New Metro North Team Members:**

**Maris Edgar is the Treasurer** for Metro North District:

She was born and raised in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in Shorewood just blocks from the city of Milwaukee.

Maris joined the United Methodist Church in 2009, shortly after graduating from UW Green Bay with a Bachelor's degree in Accounting. Professionally, Maris attained a CPA license in 2010, worked briefly as an auditor of nonprofit organizations, and currently works as an accountant for a charitable Milwaukee nonprofit. Maris is also very active at Summerfield United Methodist Church in downtown Milwaukee, currently serving as treasurer and assisting in several other capacities.

Maris lives on Milwaukee's east side, and usually prefers to walk or bike places, rather than drive. Maris is looking forward to meeting everyone, especially the unit treasurers. **You may send pledges to her at 2426 N Cramer St. #11, Milwaukee WI 53211.** Her telephone number is 414-630-3654 and email is renjost@aol.com.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Gail Nelson is a member of the Nominations Committee** for Metro North District:

A life-long Wisconsinite and raised in the United Church of Christ, I've been a United Methodist since 2003. I'm a member of Central UMC, Milwaukee, and am a Certified Lay Servant. Last summer I was a member of Central's UM VIM trip to Pastocalle, Ecuador, where we taught Vacation Bible School to more than 80 children ages 4-12. At my previous church, I served on the Staff-Parish Relations Committee and the Evangelism Committee, taught Sunday School, facilitated Disciple Bible study, was a

Confirmation Mentor, and co-led the Young Adult Ministry group. In fall of 2011, I attended Adult Leaders in Youth Ministry training. My husband Rex and I have been married for 29 years, and have one son Andrew, age 23, who is a nurse in Chicago. I earned my BA at UW-Madison and work at a bank as an employee trainer.

Gail Nelson, 6891 N 60<sup>th</sup> St, #101, Milwaukee, WI 53233 414-365-3802 gail@itlabs.net

\*\*\*\*\*

We are grateful for this article written by Glory E. Dharmaraj who works at the UMW National office in New York City and was available to us from their website.

**Ash Wednesday is March 5, 2014.**

**“You are off track. Recalculating.”**

*We are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (II Corinthians 5: 20)*



Just a few days ago, I rented a car to reach a vacation spot with my husband. I had the directions figured out with my rented GPS to the place of destination. When I was close to arriving, I made a wrong turn. A gentle but firm voice said, “You are off track.” Then there was a pause. A second or two later, I heard the voice again; this time it reassured me, saying, “Recalculating.” There was no blame, no reproach, and no abandonment. I made a few more wrong turns. The voice never gave up on me, and soon I arrived at our destination. This GPS guided and stayed with me until I completed my journey.

**Tryst with Self**

Ash Wednesday is about taking time to make sure we are on the right track in our own Godward journeys. It is about checking to see whether we are

on track with the purpose for which we are made, to set aside all that distracts us or works against our calling in Christ, and to allow ourselves to be centered on the right path.

In the highway called the mundane, it is easy to lose our way. Sometimes we may not have someone caring enough in our lives to ask us those questions that help us reflect: "Are you on track?" or "How is it with your soul?"

Ash Wednesday invites us to set apart some time for a tryst with ourselves to make way for the voice of the Holy Spirit to be heard, from the distant margins of our lives to the center of our lives, from the cacophony of competing voices to the core of one's baptismal calling for mission. It requires a shift by grace on our part. Repentance serves as the key.

#### **Ambassadors for Christ**

St. Paul describes the identity of Christians as one of being ambassadors of Christ. To live out our Christian calling takes a bold commitment and daily discipleship. It calls for re-thinking, re-orientation, and re-calculation.

When cultural elements and global cross-currents are reshaping our society, being ambassadors of Christ means learning a new mind-set. It is to be in touch with the source of the gentle, whispering voice, and serve as Christ's mouthpiece and reconciling presence.

**Ash Wednesday** is a milestone in time for a spiritual restoration and inner renewal. We can use it

- to re-orient ourselves with the vision of God's transforming activities in the world,
- to de-junk everything that works contrary to this vision,
- to de-clutter our lives in order to allow the Holy Spirit to create a clean heart in us,
- to let the Holy Spirit "re-calculate" and set us back on track on our Godward journeys, and
- to recommit ourselves to God's intervening grace with our joyful and public expressions of mission with women, children and youth.

Let us enter into this Godward journey this Lent with Jesus journeying with us, angels hovering over us, saints cheering us, into the new world which is God's

making and which is being birthed in our midst. We are ambassadors of this Christ

who makes everything new. We are God's grace in motion.

When we are told, we are "off track," may we listen to the timely voice and allow ourselves to be redirected Godward. Amen.

Glory E. Dharmaraj, Ph.D., is director of spiritual formation and mission theology for United Methodist Women.

### **ATTENTION**

In lieu of a **spiritual retreat** for 2014 we are going to have a special program about the **Africa Education and Leadership Initiative (ELI)**. The date is tentatively set for **May 3rd**.

This promises to be a very **upbeat** presentation on a mission related school for young girls in Africa.

**Your sister on the UMW mission team will call or email you when we have the date, time, and place confirmed.**

### **AFRICA ELI**

Anita Henderlight, executive director of **Africa Education and Leadership Initiative**, will present her program somewhere in south east Wisconsin in May 2014. Founded in 2006, **Africa ELI** works in the world's newest country of South Sudan to bridge gender gaps in secondary education by improving access to school for girls and refugees of war. Henderlight travels extensively to mobilize investors

and collaborates with Africa ELI personnel, partner agencies, government leaders, and South Sudan's young adults to help them implement skill-building programs and develop sustainable solutions to meet their educational and occupational needs. Anita taught the mission topical study on Sudan a few years ago at **Mission U** and is a **dynamic and passionate speaker** with many wonderful anecdotes to tell about her "girls" and this newly formed South nation of Sudan.

In newspapers, you read about the terrible things happening every day in South Sudan! Come and see something **positive** happening in the same country.



## **Updated Membership Materials Now Available**

What is United Methodist Women and what do we do? These NEW resources share the history, work and joy of United Methodist Women, and they are ready for you to share with others!

Our **new brochure**, "[We Are United Methodist Women](#)," gives the basic information about who we are and what we do and are the **perfect resource to give to new and potential members**. (This replaces both the "Join United Methodist Women" and "Membership Joys" brochures.)

For new and current members who **want to learn more**, our **new 13-page booklet**, "[United Methodist Women: On a Path for Mission](#)," tells the story of United Methodist Women in mission, including our history, work, place in the church, and how we fund mission. (This replaces the United Methodist Women in Mission booklet—the green one)

Both the brochure and booklet are free.

The **New Unit Starter Kit** and **New Member Packet** have been updated as well.

Check out [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org)

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**Education & Interpretation:** Since Metro North does not have an E&I Coordinator, we are fortunate to have an article from Mary Garvens, Education & Interpretation Coordinator for Metro South.



Greetings. Since it is snowing outside as I write this, let's take a cruise through the **five channels of giving**.

- **Pledge to missions.** This pledge starts at the local level, each member pledges an amount they feel comfortable giving. It is then sent to the district or to the Conference and finally to the national level. The district and conference retain a certain percentage for administrative and membership development.

- **Special Mission Recognition.** This lets a group or individual recognize a special faithful person by giving them a special pin.
- **Gift to Mission.** This is used to honor someone for a special reason. Cards are available for this.
- **Gift in Memory.** This honors the memory of a special person. Cards are again available. These gifts make additional mission work possible.
- **World Thank Offering.** For this gift members may have boxes at home to set money into as they see fit. At the end of the year usually in November the money is brought to the local unit. There is a special program in the program book for this day.

The information provided in this article was taken from the 2013-2016 United Methodist Women (UMW) handbook. Hopefully each unit has one. There is information on page 16 and 17 also on pages 70 and 71.

*Just a reminder Mission Action day is April 5, 2014 at Peace United Methodist Church in Kaukauna Wisconsin.*

**Metro South Education and Interpretation Coordinator, Mary Garvens, 2167 S. 80<sup>th</sup> St., West Allis, WI 53219, 414-327-5305 (no e-mail)**

*Editor's Note: If you have questions about Education and Interpretation, I am sure Mary would like to hear from you*



**Hmong House of Good News - Moob Tsev Moo Zoo**

**Did you know** at the Hmong House of Good News the following groups of beneficiaries are impacted:

***Hmong Elders***

- ✓ Are happy and accept that they are persons of worth
- ✓ Experience a caring and supportive environment
- ✓ Understand and live a healthier lifestyle
- ✓ Are able to relate well to other cultures

***Hmong Elders families***

- ✓ Experience a life that balances the needs of the elders and the family.

- ✓ Support the elders need for development and use of their potential
- ✓ Have "peace-of-mind" knowing that their elders are in a caring and supportive environment.

***Hmong Community***

- ✓ Acknowledges the complex needs of Hmong Elders in the US
- ✓ Knows that the HHGN is Christian-based, serving Hmong Elders with love and respect
- ✓ Trusts the HHGN to provide safe, enriching and social programs for Hmong Elders
- ✓ Chooses HHGN as the premier adult day service center for their elders

***Christian Community***

- ✓ Understands that Hmong Elders are poor marginalized refugees.
- ✓ Unites to serve the complex needs of Hmong Elders in the US
- ✓ Experiences Christian fulfillment through hands-on volunteerism and financial support
- ✓ Grows spiritually and culturally through involvement with the HHGN

**How Can You Help the Hmong House?**

- **Host a Hmong Fashion show and buffet:**

Oak Creek UMW and church hosted the first ever Hmong fashion show and buffet on Nov 15 2013. The theme is an evening in Laos. Proceeds will benefit the Hmong House and we are grateful for this collaboration. Should you have questions or would like to schedule one for your UMW or church you can get in touch with Kady Her Yang 414-704-2365. We would like to host **5 of these in 2014.**

- **Looking For A Place To Do God's Work?**

Hmong House of Good News is seeking volunteers to help in a few different capacities to be able to better serve the Hmong seniors that now and will one day utilize the center. We need:

- ✓ A lawyer to advise,
- ✓ Medical personnel to provide screenings and education
- ✓ Social workers to provide advice, brokerage services and advocacy,
- ✓ One on one volunteers
- ✓ Translators.

Please prayerfully consider helping this vulnerable group of people. For information or to make a

commitment, please contact Cheryl Mallow at 920-261-6140 or [nonicheryl@yahoo.com](mailto:nonicheryl@yahoo.com).

- **UMW Mission Visits:**

We are always excited to share our testimony and joy to be at Hmong House with our visitors. Why don't you plan to come and join us? Just give our director a call at **Hmong House of Good News** 639 N 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, WI 53233, 414-342-4380 or email us at [Hmonghgn@gmail.com](mailto:Hmonghgn@gmail.com). Nhia Wahn's Her, our director's cell is 920-562-9594.

- **Designate Hmong House as the recipient of your church's Noisy Collection:**

(Change for Change/Coins Count Up/Empty Your Pockets/etc.). Send the money directly to Hmong House of Good News, c/o Treasurer Patsy Ruppe, 2427 Sunrise Rd., Racine, WI 53402, or to the Wisconsin Annual Conference UMC Treasurer, 750 Windsor St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590. Indicate Advance #7809.

- **Be a Partner in Mission**

This is a means of sustainable support in which you, your church, or your unit sign up to give Hmong House of Good News a designated amount either monthly or yearly. You can choose to have the money taken automatically from your checking or savings account, or you may pay by check.

- **Would you like to help drive our elders? We will pay you mileage.**

**Sustainable giving allows us to know when money will be received so that we can manage our budget more efficiently.**

Check us out at:

<http://www.hmonghouse.org>

## **It's Never Too Early to Think About Mission u**

**Mission u** is scheduled Monday, July 28 through Thursday, July 31

Overview Day is Friday August 1

This year's studies are:

Geographic: **The Roma of Europe**

Spiritual Growth: **How Is It With Your Soul?**

Issue Study: **The Church and People with Disabilities**

There are classes and activities for **High School and College age young women.**

Bring one or two from your church. Ask your local unit to offer a scholarship for young women and introduce them to **LEGACY, UMW and Social Action.**

**LEGACY** is an acronym for **Limitless Energy:God Advocating for Change and Youth.**

**For more information about LEGACY contact our Metro North Rep, Fiona Odum at 414-744-2065 or by email at [terrabyrd09@gmail.com](mailto:terrabyrd09@gmail.com)**



# Mission Action Day

## Saturday, April 5, 2014

Peace United Methodist Church  
2300 E. Wisconsin Ave.  
Kaukauna, WI 54130

### Human Trafficking in WI

- Presented by Pastor Heather Brewer, Bloomer/New Auburn UMC - WI Initiatives, what you and your church can do in response to Human Trafficking.
- Lieutenant Steve Elliott, Appleton Police Department -the local response to Human Trafficking.

### Elder Abuse

- Diane Mandler, Supervisor of Crisis Intervention and Adult Protective Services with the Outagamie Health and Human Services Department will speak on Elder Abuse.

Online registration available at [www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)  
(cash or check for registration fee of \$12.00 will be paid at the door when registering online)

Registration: 9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. ● Sending forth: 2:30 p.m.

*Registration is transferrable, not refundable.*

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### 2014 MISSION ACTION DAY REGISTRATION FORM Deadline for Registration: Monday, March 10, 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary or other considerations \_\_\_\_\_

---

When registering by U.S. Mail, send form and **\$12.00 registration fee** to (registration must be received by Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>):

**Shirley Carpenter, 2711 North Biron Drive, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494-8804**

Make checks payable to: **Wisconsin Conference UMW**

## **Driving Directions to Peace UMC, Kaukauna**

### **For Mission Action Day, Saturday, April 5, 2014**

- FROM STEVENS POINT/WAUSAU AREA (NORTHWEST): Take 45/10 east. Continue on 441 to the County Road Oo/Northland Ave. exit. Take County Road Oo east (right). Turn right onto Rose Hill Road. Left onto E Main Street. Right onto Hayes Street. Left onto E Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the left.
- FROM MADISON AREA (SOUTHWEST): Take 151 north to Hwy 41 north. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- FROM MILWAUKEE AREA (SOUTH): Take Hwy 41 north. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- FROM GREEN BAY AREA (NORTH): Take Hwy 41 south. Take the 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.
- FROM LA CROSSE AREA (WEST): Take 90 east to WI Hwy 21 east. Take Hwy 21 east (toward Oshkosh) to Hwy 41. Take Hwy 41 north to 55 Kaukauna (Delanglade Street) exit. Turn right onto 55. Turn right onto County Road Oo. Left onto Gertrude Street. Right onto W Wisconsin Avenue. Church is on the right.

For precise directions and map, go to <https://maps.google.com> and type in 2300 E. Wisconsin Ave., Kaukauna, WI 54130 or visit [www.peaceunitedmethodist.com](http://www.peaceunitedmethodist.com).

# **REMINDER**

Keep collecting those Milk Moola caps and Moola slips from the tops of Nature's Touch milk, juice, & water products found only at Kwik Trip gas stations. They are worth 5 cents each for Hmong House of Good News. Also clip the ovals from boxes of Glazer donuts sold at Kwik Trip. They are worth 10 cents. Give them to district or conference officers who will get them to me.

The cutoff date is December 1, 2014.

Judy Vasby

Kwik Trip fundraiser coordinator  
218 Neli Ct., Deerfield, WI 53531  
608-576-0173

[vasby.umw@gmail.com](mailto:vasby.umw@gmail.com)

## 2014 Metro North Mission Team Meetings and Special Events

April 5	Mission Action Day - Kaukauna Peace UMC
April 15	NorthStar Articles Due
April 24-27	UMW Assembly - Louisville KY
May 3	Tentative Date for Africa ELI (time & place to be announced)
May 4	Northcott Neighborhood House Annual Meeting at Harley Davidson Museum
May 9-10	Conference Mission Team Meeting - Mauston
May 17	Metro North Mission Team Meeting - Sheboygan St. Luke UMC
July 15	NorthStar Articles Due
July 28-August 1	Mission U - Wausau
August 22-24	Conference Mission Team Meeting - Pine Lake
September 27	Joint Metro North/Metro South Annual Celebration
October 15	NorthStar Articles Due
October 17-18	Conference Annual Gathering - Madison Asbury UMC
November 7-8	Conference Mission Team Meeting - Shawano
December 13	Metro North Mission Team Meeting and Christmas Social - Port Washington - Grand Avenue

**Share your mission works and fund raising events with other UMWs. . . .Be connected with each other.** If you wish to add something to this calendar to appear in our May issue, please contact Jackie Felde 920-458-5679 or [jfelde5679@charter.net](mailto:jfelde5679@charter.net)

### "INTENTIONAL"

GOODNESS, DOESN'T FALL FROM THE SKY  
There were intentional acts to create such goodness:

"1964 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT TRIUMPHS"  
"WOMEN GAIN FULL CLERGY RIGHTS IN THE UMC"  
"PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR ALL"  
"COLORED WATER SIGNS DISAPPEAR"  
"CENTRAL JURISDICTION CRUMBLES"  
"APARTHEID DEAD IN THE WATER"

Behind each goodness story are stories of actions: struggles and strife.  
The question is what goodness do you want to create?  
The greater question is: what will **YOU** do to bring about that goodness?

"TALK IS CHEAP" From Cathryn Luse

Metro North District UMW  
c/o St. Luke United Methodist Church  
623 Ontario Ave  
Sheboygan WI 53081

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