

United Methodist Women Sunday: Faith, Hope & Love in Action

Sample Order of Service 2014

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Adapted by Wisconsin Conference Mission Coordinators

Units, please adapt to your church service adding the creativity of UMW.

PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

Eternal God, we have gathered here in your sanctuary this morning, as members of your family, to worship you as our Living God. Community-making God, you have called us to be in community with each other. Enable us to center ourselves for renewal in your presence, commitment to your mission, and ministry with the least of these, here and around the world. Equip us with your Holy Spirit to witness to your love and power, healing and reconciliation, nurturance and new life. Inspire us once again to be the tellers of the old, old story, in ever new contexts, that Jesus has come so that all may have life, in fact, more than life, Life in its Fullness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN:** Many Gifts, One Spirit (United Methodist Hymnal 114)

SCRIPTURE READING: Lectionary or Unit/Speaker's Choice

SCRIPTURE (GOSPEL) READING: Lectionary or Unit/Speaker's Choice

LITURGIST: The Word of God for the people of God.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN:** *Hymn of Promise* (United Methodist Hymnal 707)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: Relate a short lesson to mission. Have children stand with UMW members reminding the congregation that UMW's monies go to help women, youth and children.

UWM PURPOSE: United Methodist Women members stand up and recite the PURPOSE.

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

***DOXOLOGY:** Church preference

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: God of mission, we thank you for your gifts that surround us. Out of our gratitude to your faithful love, we give ourselves and this token of monetary gift for the furtherance of your mission. Bless our gifts that they may be multiplied for the transforming ministries of the world. In your name, we pray. Amen.

***HYMN:** Speaker's choice to relate to message

MESSAGE: (Title)

PRAYER: Include the congregation's joys and concerns followed by the **LORD'S PRAYER**.

LITANY OF CONFESSION (optional):

Leader: If we have hallowed you as “Our Father in heaven,” yet have cut ourselves off from you, and each other...if we have prayed for your kingdom to come, yet have been bogged down by our own concerns...

All: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: If we have prayed for your will to be done, yet have schemed and acted in our own ways...if we have prayed for our daily bread, yet have succumbed to the economics of consumerism...

All: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: If we have sought forgiveness for our sins from you, yet have not had the grace to forgive...If we have prayed to overcome temptation, yet have not trusted in the strength of your love...

All: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Leader: If we have prayed for deliverance from evil, yet have not risked an unpopular witness to stand against structures of evil and iniquity...If we have prayed for your kingdom, power, and glory, yet have chosen instead lesser gods we have manufactured...

All: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.

Words of Assurance (based on Hebrews 12: 1-2)

God give strength to the least of God’s people. God gives us strength to set aside every weight and sin that clings so closely. God helps us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Amen.

***HYMN:** *We’ve Got a Story to Tell the Nations* (United Methodist Hymnal 569)

***BENEDICTION:** May God, whom heaven and earth cannot contain, burst forth into new life in you. May Christ bless you with the power of the gospel to disturb and heal you. May the Holy Spirit accompany you beyond the known path, so that you may proclaim your faith in action, without fear and without apology. Amen.

*Stand as you are able.

Additional UMW Information:

In 2013, there were 261 UMW units in Wisconsin and 7,102 members. With gratitude, we collected \$368,923.02 of which we sent \$243,281.14 towards our pledge of \$340,000 and \$26,228 to designated projects. We used \$87,253.58 for Administration and Membership Development of conference and district planning, training, and programming.

Some special Wisconsin projects are Northcott Neighborhood House, Hmong House of Good News, Harbor House, and United Methodist Children’s Services. Prayers are needed.

Here is a message from Laura Pfeffer, Wisconsin UMW President: “Northcott is struggling financially this year as well as recovering from flood/furnace damage. Harbor House also has had flood damage and Hmong House of Good News continues to need to build up sustainable funding, so these should be lifted up prayerfully. Mission giving should always be our first priority, but any extra-mile giving to our United Methodist Women and Conference projects is also part of our calling as generous stewards of our abundant blessings.”