



THE MESSENGER

News from the Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women

Volume 2, Issue 1

January, 2019

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our Church:

On February 23 -26, 2019 a special session of the United Methodist Church General Conference will be held in St. Louis, Missouri to address one issue: A Way Forward. The issue is whether the Book of Discipline should be changed to strengthen, alter or eliminate the current language regarding homosexuality, namely, the prohibition on performing the rite of marriage for LGBTQ couples and self-avowed homosexuals serving as clergy in the UMC. No matter what the outcome of the conference there will be United Methodists who will have great difficulty accepting the decision.

Available to help each of us understand the history and varying perspectives of our fellow church members are a number of resources including Bishop David Bard's "Connectional Conversations: Finding Our Way Forward" available at michiganumc.org/resources/a-way-forward.

As United Methodist Women we can help our own churches through the changes ahead. Please prayerfully consider your own acceptance of the changes, no matter what those changes may be. Pray for those who have difficulty accepting changes, or for that matter, the status quo, should that be the decision.

United Methodist Women:

On March 23, 1969 eight women gathered in Boston and pledged to give \$.10 per week to enable sending a female doctor and female missionary to India.

We have gone through many name changes from that date:

- The Women's Foreign Missionary Society
- The Women's Home Missionary Society
- Ladies Aid Society
- The Women's Society of Christian Service

We are an 800,000 member Christian women's organization whose focus is on women, children and youth. We provide funding for many missions around the world; due to our work, life is eased for thousands of women, children and youth. In order to assure that we can continue this mission we are raising money to endow a \$60 million Legacy Fund.

Hopefully you will plan to celebrate our first 150 years with local recognition of this event. A cake on Sunday, March 24 after worship service is one way to draw your congregation's attention to our long service and our hopes to continue our work in the future.



PRESIDENT'S REMINDERS

"He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"
Micah 6:8 ESV

We are at the open door of a new year as a new district. This reminds me of the story of Jesus at the door knocking to enter in. I hope you are as excited as I am to open the door and to see what God has in store for the women of Mid-Michigan District. All suggestions and recommendations will be considered as we build our district.

I have had the opportunity to attend several UMW unit activities this past year and look forward to visiting and hearing more about the wonderful happenings in the Mid-Michigan District units. Within this newsletter is the list of District Friends and hope all units will take the opportunity to invite your District Officer to a unit meeting to become acquainted, ask her to provide information or just to share what you are doing as United Methodist Women.

The Social Action topic in 2019 for Mid-Michigan District will be Economic Inequality and looking at the gap between the wealthy and poor. The Minimum Wage of \$7.25/hour has not changed since 2009. A yearly wage of \$15,080, before taxes are deducted, will not allow a person to sustain themselves, let alone a family. The June 2018 Response Magazine is a good resource to begin discussion of economic inequality. I encourage you to find a copy from your church library or a friend and read about why economic inequality is a social concern.

IMPORTANT: All UMW units must be registered with National between January 1, 2019 and March 30, 2019. This is to provide National UMW with a complete count of women involved with United Methodist Women. The President of each unit needs to log into www.unitedmethodistwomen.org, locate the green square for "Census 2018" and complete the requested information. If your President does not have access to a computer then someone else from your unit can complete this for her. Be sure to complete by March 30, 2019, because the program will be removed as of April 1, 2019.

Under the same web site, each woman can go in and register herself by clicking on the "Blue Square" and complete the requested information. She can also print off a membership card after the registration is completed.

May God Bless you in 2019.

Donna Kleiver, President
Mid-Michigan District

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dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Vice President: Sharon Smith
517-648-1333
sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com

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CLIMATE JUSTICE: LAYING OUT THE PROBLEM

Climate justice is a term used for framing global warming as an ethical and political issue, rather than one that is purely environmental or physical. This is done by relating the effects of climate change to concepts of justice, particularly environmental justice and social justice and by examining issues such as equality, human rights, collective rights, and the historical responsibilities for climate change. A fundamental proposition of climate justice is that those who are least responsible for climate change suffer its gravest consequences. Occasionally, the term is also used to mean actual legal action on climate change issues.

The ability of populations to mitigate and adapt to the negative consequences of climate change are shaped by factors such as income, race, class, gender, capital and political representation. People living in poverty or in precarious circumstances tend to have neither the resources nor the insurance coverage necessary to recover from environmental disasters.

In 2000, the first Climate Justice Summit took place in The Hague. This summit aimed to "affirm that climate change is a rights issue" and to "build alliances across states and borders" against climate change and in favor of sustainable development. Climate Justice affirms the rights of communities dependent on natural resources for their livelihood and cultures to own and manage the same in a sustainable manner, and is opposed to the commodification of nature and its resources.

Developed countries, as the main cause of climate change, must recognize and honor their climate debt as the basis for a just, effective, and scientific solution to climate change. The focus must not be only on financial compensation, but also on restorative justice, understood as the restitution of integrity to our Mother Earth and all its beings.

According to one study, Hurricane Katrina provided insights into how climate change disasters affect

different people differently, as it had a disproportionate effect on low-income and minority groups. A study on the race and class dimensions of Hurricane Katrina suggests that those most vulnerable include poor, black, brown, elderly, sick, and homeless people. Low-income and black communities had limited mobility to evacuate before the storm. Also, after the hurricane, low-income communities were most affected by contamination, and this was made worse by the fact that government relief measures failed to adequately assist those most at risk.

UMCOR EARTHKEEPERS: PART OF THE SOLUTION:

In the first event of its kind, Global Ministries and the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) commissioned a class of EarthKeepers—United Methodists committed to the ministry of creation care.

The commissioning affirmed members in their understandings of God's call to the ministry of creation care, and commissioned them to lead creation care projects in their communities. EarthKeepers is a training program of Global Ministries and UMCOR, designed to equip United Methodist clergy and laity to lead their communities in environmental stewardship. The program has trained 85 EarthKeepers. During the training, participants are immersed in discussions on theology, United Methodist resources for creation care, and community organizing.

EarthKeepers commit to spend 10 hours per month working on creation care projects in their communities, which include recycling programs, sustainable gardens, creation-care curriculum development, green building, renewable energy initiatives, and the cultivation of "green teams"—teams of United Methodists working on environmental initiatives in their local churches.

Elaine Ferris
Green Team

FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE

Mission Today Units



Something New represents a common future

Mission Today continues to be our road map for fulfilling the Purpose of United Methodist Women in the new 2019 year. With conference and district changes have come changes in the Mission Today unit goals to help us all be on the right page. Elements of the Detroit Conference and the West Michigan Conference past goals along with new innovative ideas have resulted in the new 2019 Mission Today unit goals found in this issue. They may also be found by going to umwmichiganumc.org. On the left-hand side of the page scroll down to the Mission Today link. This Michigan UMC site will give you a world of information on what is going on in the Michigan Conference so check it out often.

The new goals make it easier for you to report on what you are doing in your unit. For example, you get credit for just sending in the completed form. The deadline will be February 15, 2020, to receive recognition as a FAITH; FAITH, HOPE; FAITH, HOPE, JOY; OR FAITH, HOPE, JOY, LOVE unit at the Mid-Michigan Conference Annual in 2020.

Something Old represents the past

In the meantime, it's that time again! Return your Mission Accomplished 2018 form by February 15, 2019, to get recognized as a Gold, Silver, Bronze, Mission Today, or participant unit at the Mid-Michigan Annual Conference held at Howell UMC in September. This form was printed in the January 2018 issue of the *Heartline*. ***This issue may be accessed at the umwmichiganumc.org site.***

Some units recently joining our district may have followed a different time schedule and been recognized at your former district's annual meeting in the fall of 2018. For those wishing to be recognized for 2018 in your new district, you may find the 2018 form in the January 2018 *Heartline* found on line or by contacting me at my e-mail address or telephone.

All 2018 forms (2-15-2019 deadline) are to be returned to:

Pat Mentzer, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
528, Middlebury Lane, Mason, MI 48854
pat_mentzer@yahoo.com 517-676-4232

2019 Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Methodist Women - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____ District _____
 _____ (_____) _____
 Name Telephone

 City State Zip
 Email _____

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 and December 31. Check the numbers completed.

- Units completing any 8 or more objectives will be a “FAITH” unit.
- Units completing 9 or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” unit.
- Units completing 17 or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” unit.
- Units completing 25 or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” “LOVE” unit.

Mission Giving

- _____ 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- _____ 2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- _____ 3. Donated to local women’s shelter or children’s/youth program.
- _____ 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Methodist Women activities.

Spiritual Growth

- _____ 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- _____ 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- _____ 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

Membership

- _____ 8. *Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- _____ 9. *Added one new member not included in above.

Attendance

- _____ 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- _____ 11. Had a combined meeting with another United Methodist Women’s unit.
- _____ 12. Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
- _____ 13. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
- _____ 14. *At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- _____ 15. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the *District Elected Leadership Training*.

Mission Education

- _____ 16. *Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission u Study*.
- _____ 17. *One member completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- _____ 18. Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- _____ 19. *Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- _____ 20. *Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
- _____ 21. Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
- _____ 22. *Unit had two members reading ***response*** each month.
- _____ 23. *Unit included a ***response Moment*** during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- _____ 24. Unit had one *Social Action* program.

Mission Action

- _____ 25. *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- _____ 26. Had a member of United Methodist Women present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- _____ 27. Had at least one member visit a United Methodist Mission Project and report to the unit.
- _____ 28. *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Methodist Women's Action Network. Call: (202) 488-5660,
E-mail: umwanet@gbgm-umc.org
- _____ 29. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
- _____ 30. *Unit participated in the *Campaign for Children* in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
- Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 - Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 - Communicated with representatives advocating for children issues.
 - Attended a school board meeting.
- _____ 31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Methodist Unit.
- _____ 32. *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.
Possibilities include:
- Read books and articles about another race or culture.
 - Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
 - Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 - Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
- _____ 33. Sent this completed form to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation by ***deadline date: February 15, 2020.***

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit. (Circle all that apply)



Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation:

2018 Membership Report

Please return the following names of new and deceased members
no later than **February 15, 2019** to:

Donna Kleiver
8905 Petrieville Hwy.
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Name of Local Unit:

City:

Person submitting:

Members Deceased between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

New Members Acquired between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

Name

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2019 SOCIAL ACTION FOCUS: ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

Greetings to all, as we say goodbye to 2018 and welcome the new year with renewed energy for those in need. As a re-cap, guest speaker, Linda Schramm lead a Climate Justice workshop at Mason FUMC in mid-October that was open to the whole district. Materials and best practices were shared with all in attendance.

The Mid-Michigan District social action focus in the new year will be: Action for Economic Inequality. We intend to study the issue of minimum and sub-minimum wage earners, predominantly 'tip workers' who earn even less than minimum wage. Legislative support is one way to uphold Michigan's support of minimum wage raises to be phased in by 2024.

"Open your mouth, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:9

Blessings for the new year,

Nancy Nay
Social Action

2019 READING PROGRAM

Mission Resources will sell books to anyone who wishes to purchase books for their local church library. Beginning in late 2018 they no longer offer consignment books. At future district events, I will sell the last of the books I have, and will continue to offer the free material. Readers are encouraged to borrow books from their church county library or purchase books from the bookstore or borrow from other readers.

The leaflet for tracking the four reading programs is still in use and there is only one change: the New World Magazine is no longer required reading.

2018 reading lists are due to me February 15, 2019.

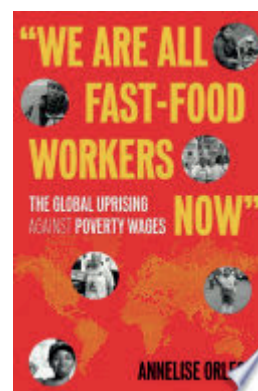
Karol Fry
Program Resources

WE ARE ALL FAST FOOD WORKERS NOW

"We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now: The Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages" by Annelise Orleck is the story of low-wage workers rising up around the world to demand respect and a living wage.

Tracing a new labor movement sparked and sustained by low-wage workers from across the globe, this book is an urgent, illuminating look at globalization as seen through the eyes of workers, hotel housekeepers, home-healthcare aides, airport workers, and adjunct professors who are fighting for respect, safety, and a living wage. With original photographs by Liz Cooke and drawing on interviews with activists in many U.S. cities and countries around the world, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Mexico, South Africa, and the Philippines, it features stories of resistance and rebellion, as well as reflections on hope and change as it rises from the bottom up.

This book is a good way to introduce yourself to our social action focus for 2019, as we settle down from the holidays and curl up next to the fire and read the winter away.



Be Bold!

Happy New Year! As we look forward to a new year and the opportunity to be God's hands and feet to the world may we always have the love of God in our hearts that shines through in all we say and do. My Pastor spoke this past Sunday on how a small spark of light is brightest in a dark room. As our world seems to grow darker and darker may we all be that spark of light that shines through the dark.

We have positions open on our Mid-Michigan leadership team. If you would like to be part of helping to keep our UMW moving forward and continue shining our light to the world **"BE BOLD"** and join our team.

Bernice Natoli, Chairperson
Nominations Committee
517-321-3070, bnatoli@provide.net

Gift To Mission Cards

One of the ways we as United Methodist Women can give is through a Gift to Mission. When you purchase a card(s) through a Gift to Mission, you are both honoring someone and supporting mission work.

Cards are \$5 each, can be purchased individually, or in multiples, and cover significant events in life. These include: "New Baby", "Birthday", "Thinking of You", "Thank You", and "Christmas." Order forms can be downloaded at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org. At the bottom of the page click on "Treasurer's Resources" under the third heading of "Where the \$ Goes." You will find the Gift to Mission order form at the top of the page. If unable to access order forms on-line, please contact me and I will get them to you.

Jackie Ricketts, Treasurer
Mid-Michigan District UMW
4827 Marian Hills, Pleasant Lake, MI 49272
517-812-5107, jricketts657@gmail.com

Spring Growth Retreat

The Midwest and Mid-Michigan Districts will join together at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Dewitt on May 3-4, 2019. The registration deadline is April 23. More information and the registration form will appear in the April issue of *The Messenger*.



PURPOSE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

2019 DISTRICT FRIENDS

Local units have been assigned a friend from the district team. Please invite your district friend to a unit or circle meeting during 2019. District Friends are also available to preside over induction of officers or present programs for your unit.

Riverdale St. Louis Ithaca
 Breckenridge Alma
 Friend: Julia Paradine-Rice 989-576-0675

Carson City St. Johns First Ovid
 Maple Rapids St. Johns Pilgrim Shepardsville
 Friend: Linda Huyck 989-838-2523

Ashley Banister Pompeii
 Chesaning Henderson Elsie
 Friend: Waltha Gaye Leavitt 989-640-0238

New Lothrop Juddville Owosso First
 Owosso Trinity Corunna Vernon
 Friend: Donna Kleiver 517-663-4193

Bancroft Morrice Perry
 Shaftsbury Okemos
 Friend: Judy Marr 517-655-2348

Fowlerville/Plainfield Webberville
 Williamston Williamston Crossroads
 Wheatfield
 Friend: Jackie Ricketts 517-812-5107

Dimondale East Lansing University
 Holt East Lansing Peoples
 Friends: Evelyn Bochenek 517-290-6695
 Joyce Plumhoff 517-676-2716

Mason Leslie
 Milville Stockbridge
 Friend: Karol Fry 517-525-6561

Grand Ledge Charlotte Wacousta
 Brookfield Eaton Rapids
 Friends: Pat Mentzer 517-676-4232
 Elaine Ferris 517-676-4175

Vermontville Nashville Peace
 Dowling Kalamo Delta Mills
 Friend: Bernice Natoli 517-321-3070

Mulliken Sunfield Freeport
 Woodland Hastings (Welcome Corners)
 Lake Odessa Central Hastings (Green Street)
 Friend: Rita Baird 517-589-9132

Lansing Asbury Lansing Central Lansing First
 Lansing Mt. Hope Lansing Grace
 Lansing Sycamore Creek/Pottersville
 Friend: Sharon Smith 517-648-1333

Portland Laingsburg Bath
 St. Johns Campus of DeWitt Redeemer
 Friend: Nancy Nay 517-676-3024



The Messenger
Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women
Mason First UMC
201 East Ash Street
Mason, MI 48854

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Deadlines

March 13, 2019.....*The Messenger* Articles for April Issue Due
February 15, 2019.....2019 Members, 2018 Mission Today and Reading Reports
April 23, 2019.....Spring Retreat Registrations Due

Events

January 5, 2019.....Epiphany, Owosso First UMC
April 6, 2019Keep Making Peace, University UMC, East Lansing
May 3 - 4, 2019.....Spring Renewal, St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt
July 10 - 13, 2019.....Mission u, Albion College, Albion