

For
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
The Detroit Conference News – Winter 2018

PRESIDENT

WE ARE ALL LEADERS

Are you a good leader? Am I a good leader? What leadership skills do I have? What leadership skills do I need? Have any of you ever asked these types of questions? Many of the definitions of what are considered good leadership skills state that a person should have honesty, focus, passion, respect, comparison, humility, collaboration, leverage team strengths, be supportive, and there are many other things that can be listed as having good leadership skills. The United Methodist Women embrace this same list; however, we include the United Methodist Women Mission Initiatives for the betterment of women, children and youth. Please take the time to reference the United Methodist Women Mission Initiatives that are outlined on the website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/ourmission

Another way that the United Methodist Women support our PURPOSE is through our many special events, and especially the Leadership Development Days (LDD). This years' LDD sessions were in St. Louis, MO and Tempe, AR. I attended the St. Louis event that was scheduled for November 10th - 12th, 2017. I enjoyed and attended the following workshops:

- The Presidents' Workshop.
- Towards a Racially Just World.
- Engagement: Deepening the Commitment.
- A session with two other Conferences and leaders, and we discussed the importance of UMW working in harmony with the communities we are servicing.

In addition to the workshops, the worship theme was the absolute highlight of the weekend. The dramatization of Joshua, Rahab and the Children of Israel truly explained the meaning, **"Courageous Leadership: Listen, Wait, and Act (with courage)"**.

I must admit that this was a very timely occasion for leadership training, especially since we continue to approach our work with merging into the UMW Michigan Conference; the up and coming division and downsizing of the Detroit and West Michigan Conferences and changing UMC and UMW district lines; the joint Conferences' team meetings on May 12, 2018 and August 22, 2018; the UMW Luncheon, at the Detroit Annual Conference, tentatively on June 1st, 2018, in Traverse City; and the joint UMW Leadership Training and Annual Celebration/Meeting that is scheduled October 26th and 27th, 2018. Also, the LDD was a wonderful introduction to some of the exciting things to expect at the UMW Assembly in Columbus, OH, on May 18th - 20th, 2018.

As part of our work to be completed, the Detroit and West Michigan UMW Conferences must include local units and district meetings conversation on the "A Way Forward" topic that has been outlined within the United Methodist Church. The National Office of the United Methodist Women also had training sessions on this topic which started before LDD on November 10th, 2017 and ended after the LDD sessions on November 12th, 2017. You will be receiving more information about these conversations soon.

Last but not least, please plan to attend one of the Mission u events in July, August or October. There will be more information on each Mission u event coming soon.

Respectively submitted by
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VICE PRESIDENT

We are approaching the end of 2017, a year filled with talks of mergers, "Way Forward" mission work, Assembly and new Districts. All are important to the Michigan Conference. But, how will we maintain our work/life balance and our focus? Will our checklist include supporting the Legacy Fund and Community House? Will it include reading Response Magazine and the Prayer Calendar? Will it include prayer?

We will focus on changing what we can, and working with what we cannot change. Can we make the adjustments needed to be at peace with each other? The merger will not only merge conferences, but combine our spiritual gifts, culture, faith, hope, and our dedication to mission.

Other exciting events are coming up! Have you registered for Assembly? Both conferences (Detroit & West Michigan) have consistently been encouraging members to register and increase our numbers from the 2014 Assembly in Louisville by 30%. Let's show the "Power of Bold", in Columbus, Ohio, May 18 – 20, 2018. Please register now, if you haven't already, as this will be a historical and exciting time in Columbus

I am asking you as United Methodist Women to stay focused on your work/life balance. Take a few minutes each day, stop, breathe in and out, and meditate, you will be amazed at how you feel.

Remember, we have been called to love others, as Jesus does. Stay positive.

Best regards,

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CHAIRPERSON OF NOMINATIONS

Merry Christmas to all of you! This Advent season rejuvenates us for the exciting year ahead. There are new challenges for 2018 in the Nominations area and I would like to share some of them with you.

We have a new member to the Nominations Committee, Patti Steinberg from the Marquette District. Sadly, we still lack representation from the Blue Water and Crossroads Districts. She joins Loretta DeLoach, Linda Brown, Pat Engelbrecht, and myself.

I am also involved with the Steering Committee for the new Michigan Conference. Now is a busy time for me there, as we are looking at who will be on its first Executive Team! I am working with my counterpart from West Michigan on this project and reporting to the larger committee.

During the past couple of months, I led the training for the District officers in this area as well as attending the Annual Celebration of the Detroit Conference. Do you realize that it was the last one under that title? God is bringing many changes to us.

We also had our last Executive Committee meeting in November under this title. Lots of lasts going on, but many firsts next year in 2018!

May God bless all of you during this exciting time!

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TREASURER

Where have we failed with our Leadership Training? This year at Celebration we had vouchers for 6 hotel rooms with one person in it. One was Randy Hildebrandt and because he was our only male guest, we knew that in advance. His remark was "You sure put me up in style". The rooms were pricey at \$160.92 so this would have added up to an extra total of \$402.30 if I had paid for the whole room. I explained to each one that we only pay half on a private room which was not what each one wanted to hear. There were different reasons, but I ask you if this is good use of "Mission Money"?

All new members to any team should read the Standing Rules to become familiar with them. I realize they won't remember every detail, but they will know it is a source of information to refer to in most cases. We can't put enough rules on paper to cover every little detail, but common sense can tell us we are spending mission money and need to be wise with every dollar we spend.

I grieve as I write large sums of money when my thoughts go to that child that was sleeping under a bridge or in a car with one parent or two perhaps. Maybe it was the teenager I read about and can't forget that slept in a stairwell where he did his studies at night, found a place to shower and went to school each day. He didn't want people at school to know he was homeless but wanted an education that bad. On top of this it is getting cold outside and I can't imagine trying to sleep in these conditions.

Are we spending the dollars on ourselves that could help in these situations or many more around the world? I consider myself a volunteer in mission as I serve in this office. Many times, I feel all alone as I balance out each month and hope there will be money to send to National after we deduct our Administration and Membership Development (A&MD) funds for the month. As our funds from units go down in dollars each year we also need to go down in our budget just as we must in our personal life and we can only do this with each officer's help.

I pray that we, in our concentration to do our individual office duties, have not lost sight of the fact that we are all about raising money for missions, not to put ourselves first in fulfilling the duties of our office. Maybe I have been a treasurer too long of different fundraising organizations, but I ask myself and you, "What would Jesus do?"

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MISSION COORDINATOR SOCIAL ACTION

Social Action events could fill a library in today's world. As I write this, lawmakers are preparing to vote on a new tax law that will affect middle income families. The "Chip Program" will run out of funds in some states by the end of the year and all others by March 2018. The health and welfare of our children are in the hands of those who will let it expire. Health care must be addressed for the benefit of families.

We must talk about Domestic Violence. Each day the news has reports of women who have been not only abused but killed. The partners, whether spouse or boyfriend have seen fit to kill women in the presence of co-workers, their children and at other public places. We must educate women and the society about Domestic Violence. Men are subject to Domestic Violence as well, but females are abused three times more often.

Human Trafficking is about to enter full pledge with the upcoming Super Bowl Annual Events. United Methodist Women, you know what to notice in hotels and public venues. Open your eyes and be aware of what you see and report it.

The Annual Meeting was a time to visit our Racial Charter. We were able to discuss the significance of the Charter as we move forward.

I have attended many events supporting our Purpose, initiatives and focus. I served on the Methodist Children's Home Society Committee in preparation for their Centennial Celebration. I also attended United Methodist Women and JFON fundraisers for missions. I had the opportunity to speak with and listen to a Dreamer, (an undocumented child brought to the United States). This is what we fight for, this is what we believe in.

**Keep Making Peace April 14, 2018
See you there!**

Matthew 20:26-27 tells us that the measure of greatness is not position, power or prestige; it is service, so we serve.

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

Wow, what a wonderful whirlwind we have enjoyed this Fall and so far, this Winter. Lazy Days of Summer with reduced Church meetings, and activities kicked into high gear in September with Choir Practice and Sunday School resuming and even preparations for our beloved Charge Conferences. Now we have emerged from a beautiful Advent and Christmas Season and are looking forward to a wonderful New Year in 2018.

In mid-November I was blessed to be able to travel to The Holy Land on a group tour with Educational Opportunities. I never had any thoughts of travelling to that part of the world before, but God has a way of nudging me to get my attention. While I was attending Mission U the summer of 2016, I was looking at the flyers about the Holy Land Trip and Rev. Ann Emerson suggested I join their trip, so I started pondering it. In 2017 I was going to celebrate a "mile-stone birthday" and thought that maybe this could be a meaningful way to continue my own Spiritual Growth. I felt the nudge again and signed up for the trip right away.

I could spend pages recalling the wonderful experience I had going to Israel. I sort of walked around in a cloud a lot, soaking up all the history, the beautiful scenery and the Holy Spirit with 100 other Michiganians, mostly United Methodist, and other Christians on this pilgrimage. We walked, we ate, we laughed, we loved and cried, we worshipped and sang and none of us will ever be the same again.

While my trip was quite a wonderful event in my life, my hope and prayer for all of you in this New Year, is to listen and feel the nudges that God may be sending to you. Acknowledge them, don't just brush them aside. Perhaps a trip to the Holy Land isn't possible, but perhaps taking or teaching a new Bible Study class, teaching children, working at a local food bank or a host of other needs in your community may be just what He has in mind to help you grow spiritually, but most importantly, to serve others in God's name.

I wish you much Love and Spiritual Growth in 2018.

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MISSION COORDINATOR FOR MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Membership Count

As the New Year happens, units are starting to meet again following the busy Advent Season. Hopefully everyone is inviting new people to be a member and programming has started.

As with last year, the National Office is having the membership count done on line. They are hoping that if the information is sent directly from the individual units to national office that they will receive a higher return rate. By now you should have received the information from the District MNO Coordinators. If you do not have internet available, your church should have received the information. Please ask your secretary and complete the form. It has to be sent back to national office directly. National office will notify us of those who have not responded.

All Coordinators or their representatives have been informed of this change. If you have questions, please contact your District Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach. District Coordinators have also received the number of members that your church reported and was printed in the Conference Journal. Please do not wait until the last minute to complete the form. Remember that the program is not difficult but please have all your information readily available because the program will not stay long on the screen. If you find it too short, please have someone assist you in completing the information.

Do something special for your members to show how much you appreciate their participation. During the winter months, have a gathering, tea/coffee, cookie exchange, soup tasting, movie and popcorn night, or any other creative get-together. Keep up the enthusiasm and spread the word.

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MISSION COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION



While I am new to the Conference Team, I have previously served on the Saginaw Bay District Team in the capacity of Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Within my local UMW unit I have served as President and Treasurer and I will again be serving as President for the coming year. Although I am relatively new to the Eastern side of Michigan, having only lived in Saginaw since 2012, I previously lived on the West side of our state, in Portland, and worked for the Michigan House of Representatives for more than 20 years.

Our local unit, like so many of yours, is struggling to continue and we are working very diligently to involve more of the younger women in our congregation. My family and I are very much mission oriented. My two granddaughters have each participated in several mission trips both to Europe and Africa. My son recently participated in a Veterinary Mission trip to the Dominican Republic. My son and daughter-in-law hope to be going on a Veterinary Mission trip to China soon.

Although I cannot say that I have been involved in the UMW all my life, I can say that continuing the work of the UMW and supporting its missions is very important to me. I strongly believe in the words of several of our hymns – Have Thine Own Way, Lord -- Where He Leads Me I Will Follow --Trust and Obey – and -- Because He Lives. The words are my prayer that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit I will continually strive to serve in whatever capacity I am called. I know that for me to hear and follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit I need to continually keep before me the admonition of Psalm 46, verse 10 – “Be still and know that I am God.” I look forward to the challenges facing us as we work to seamlessly move toward having one “UNITED” Michigan UMW Conference.

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SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

The Reading Resource Program ended with a bang at the Conference Annual Meeting. I introduced the Book Room during the Annual Meeting and it was well supported. I had a few books to send back to the Resource Center. Everyone was very supportive, and Laragene Triplett is a great partner to have. She brought a list of books that can be found at the Library from the 2018 list.

The training went well. I learned from those that attended as well as being able to share new information with them. History shows us that some version of the Reading Program has been a part of the predecessor organizations of the United Methodist Women. In 1870 an editorial in the Heathen Women Friend Magazine urged that missionary reading circles be formed, and a report given each month. This was taken from Pages of the Past, by Marion Baker, Response Magazine, December 1979. Another thing that went over big was the United Methodist Women Racial Justice Timeline. Visit unitedmethodistwomen.org. and umwmichiganconference.org. to find additional information.

The Districts reported a total of 270 participants in the Reading Program. There were 18 children reported as part of the Reading Program and 12 children had the stories read to them. Get involved and read, share what you are reading and send your report to your District Secretary of Program Resource.

The Response and World Outlook Magazines can be shared at the local meetings. You can also get ideas of how your locals units can become involved in mission, and see how mission funds are used to support women, children and youth.

I am excited about all I am learning and able to share with others. If you have any suggestions, please contact me.

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LIST OF DISTRICTS AND TRANSITIONS Revised 12/17

There are CORE Districts who will have to sort out the ins and outs of their Mission Teams. The CORE Districts will need to get the lists of the Mission Team Members from the other districts who will now be in their section, communicate with them, and get together as a steering committee to begin to create a new mission team and create a budget. They will also determine where the Sept/Oct 2018 Annual Meeting will be held. The Michigan Conference UMW Steering Committee will be available to help.

1. Upper Peninsula - MARQUETTE – Stays very much the same as before with one new church from Grand Traverse District.
2. Northwest Corner of the Lower Peninsula and over the top.
GRAND TRAVERSE - Will be the CORE district that will check for officers in the upper Saginaw Bay area and a part of Heartland.
3. North East and Upper Thumb around Lake Huron
SAGINAW BAY - Will be the CORE district that will check for officers in the northeastern part of Heartland, northwestern part of Blue Water and northwest corner of Crossroads (4 churches).
4. Middle West along Lake Michigan
GRAND RAPIDS - Will be the CORE district that will check for officers in the lowest area of Grand Traverse (a few churches) and the west side of Heartland.
5. Middle Central Capital Area
LANSING - Will be the CORE district that will check for officers in southwest part of Heartland, southwestern part of Crossroads, one church from Ann Arbor and one from Grand Rapids.
6. Middle East along Lower Lake Huron and St. Clair River
BLUE WATER - Will be the CORE district that will check for officers in most of the west side of Crossroads.
7. South West along Lake Michigan and the Indiana border
KALAMAZOO - Will be the CORE district that will check for officers in the West side of Albion and one church from Grand Rapids.
8. South East along the Ohio border
ANN ARBOR - Will be the CORE district that will check for officers in the East side of Albion and one church from Lansing.
9. South Central along the St. Clair River and Lake Erie
DETROIT RENAISSANCE - Will be the CORE district and will look for officers in the eastern lowest part of Blue Water and the eastern lowest part of Crossroads.

A special thanks to Diana Miller, our webmaster, who has been helping with this section of the new Michigan Conference with the Steering Committee.

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

ANN ARBOR OUTGOING PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to you and yours! I am looking forward to 2018 and all the opportunities it will bring into my life. I will have finished my term as the Ann Arbor District President as of December 31, 2017. I have served on the District Mission Team as Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, Secretary, Nomination member and President. I am now tenured out and will be adjusting to having a bit freer time (I hope!). I will certainly miss the frequent fellowship with all you wonderful sisters in the Conference and Districts, but I will continue to be an active UMW member. I will continue as Past President on the District this coming year, hoping to be able to give a helping hand to our new President, Sherry Wagenknecht. Sherry has been very active on the District as well as Conference teams and will be an excellent leader and President for the Ann Arbor District and the new District that will soon become official. Please lend your support to her as she embarks on this new journey.

I am looking forward to attending the Assembly in Columbus. I hope to see many of you there.

As we all continue to work for the causes supported by United Methodist Women, let us always remember who we are and whose we are. God has truly blessed us with His mercy and love – let us go into the world and share what we have been given.

Blessings to you all,

Vicky Engelbert, Ann Arbor District Past President

ANN ARBOR INCOMING DISTRICT PRESIDENT



I am the new Ann Arbor District President and excited to have the opportunity to serve in this position. I know there is lot to be responsible for, but I will have a great team to work with. There are only two new officers this year: myself and Kathy Snyder who will serve as MNO. She is starting on her new journey outside of the local unit and is excited to learn more. I attend the Erie UMC and am a Certified Lay Servant/Speaker. I have been a United Methodist Woman for almost 40 years.

Transition is all around us and we will be a larger district very soon. I have talked with Vickie Englebert who will be serving as Past President along side of me and we have a few plans to welcome the new women in our District. We will begin planning for our September 29, 2018 Annual Celebration and Leadership training at Milford UMC. The Ann Arbor District will have its Spring Prayer Breakfast on April 7th, 2018.

I want to share a story of one way our women can come together. On the list of Mission Objectives one of the items you can do is invite another UMW group to your meeting. Two years ago, our Unit decided to invite the Zion LaSalle UMW to our meeting. In June this past year we invited the ladies from Zion LaSalle, Samaria Grace, Ida and Petersburg to a joint meeting where we had 32 in attendance. The Pastors of the churches came also. It was a great meeting.

On November 26 the Ida UMW had an Advent Tea and invited all the same churches to the tea and we had a few from Lambertville and Blissfield. There were 58 women present and it was a beautiful evening. This is a great way to get to know other women in your community. I would challenge each of you to consider doing this with the UMW's in your community. I look forward to meeting many of you at our Spring Prayer Breakfast.

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BLUE WATER DISTRICT CO-PRESIDENT

As we approach the new year with lots of changes, it is good to note that we have great activities for the ladies of Blue Water District! Also, welcome Dawn Titus as the new Co-president, Grace Cameron as Chair of Nominations and Cynthia Rossman as our new Spiritual Growth Coordinator!

We will host our Annual Spiritual Growth Retreat at the Lions' Bear Lake Camp on March 23 & 24 2018 featuring Rev. Faith Fowler on "Reading, Writing but No Arithmetic": Reconnecting with the creative side of our spiritual lives". Newsletters should be coming out soon with the information.

We will also host our 32nd annual Prayer Breakfast, featuring Richard and Susan Frey sharing "Music as a Spiritual Practice", at Jeddo United Methodist Church on May 15, 2018.

Please be watching for more information from your shepherds as our new district takes shape – at least 5 of the current officers will be moving to a new district!

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DETROIT RENAISSANCE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

The Annual Meeting and Celebration was held October 14 at Ferndale First UMC with Taylorie Bailey as the keynote speaker. In her message, entitled P.R.A.Y. she shared with us the importance and value of ongoing, even constant prayer. She held our attention and much appreciation was demonstrated in the applause, verbally after the meeting and on the evaluation forms. Taylorie expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the National Board of Directors. She has especially enjoyed this, her second year, because the board members have been so involved with planning the 2018 Assembly. Ruby Anderson, also a member of the Board of Directors from Detroit Renaissance District, officially installed the newly elected 2018 officers.

Thank you to the United Methodist Women Detroit Conference for sponsoring district Vice-President, Tina Campbell; Membership Nurture and Outreach Mission Coordinator, Susan Howze; pianist and technology expert, Valarie Felder and myself to attend United Methodist Women Leadership Development Days in St. Louis, Missouri November 10 – 12, 2017. Leaders of United Methodist Women National (New York and Washington) offices did an outstanding job as presenters and facilitators of the training. A strong message for me from LDD: Be excited and proud to be a member of United Methodist Women, in mission for women, children and youth. We might consider wearing our UMW T-shirts, talk about UMW and what we do with friends. Maybe even display a bumper sticker or a sign in the back-car window, "I am a United Methodist Woman". For many of us displaying a sign may not be our thing, but, we all can look for and find opportunities to talk about United Methodist Women.

The second lesson at Leadership Development Days: LISTEN! Listen to friends, neighbors, those in meetings with us and those around us and HEAR! Hear the ideas, the cries for help, even the negativity and the love being expressed. LISTEN and HEAR God! Then ACT! Pray, support, be in mission, give, care and speak. ACT and SPEAK together as one voice. Communicate with community leaders, local elected leaders, legislators and congress members and with friends, neighbors and colleagues.

We were pleased to attend LDD but it meant we could not attend the District Elected Leader Training at Detroit Scott Memorial Saturday, November 11, 2017. A big THANK YOU to Alice Tucker, Jeanette Harris and Jimmie Jones and other district officers who helped make it a productive and enjoyable day in our absence.

A Happy New Year to all members of United Methodist Women Detroit Conference as we continue to prepare to become United Methodist Women Michigan Conference in January of 2019.

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CROSSROADS DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Shalom, Peace be with you, Peace be to your family and may Peace be with you throughout the season. If you are wondering why I bid you Shalom, I just returned from a wonderful trip to the Holy Land, the birthplace of our Savior. It was the trip of a lifetime, a trip of dreams, a check off my bucket list. A trip that I am very grateful to be able to have taken and one I shall remember and cherish forever.

As I write this, it is just before Thanksgiving, a time of gratefulness and gratitude. I am called to reflect on my own personal gratefulness. After Thursday, we will be in a state of transition between Thanksgiving and Advent, a time to ready ourselves for the birth of our Savior. For those who have responsibilities within our churches, myself included, Advent is a busy time preparing the church for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services. For most, it is time for the hustle and bustle of buying the perfect gift for Christmas. I do hope that in the time of Advent, even with all the busyness; we all get a chance to reflect on the meaning of Advent, to ready ourselves for what was to take place and to remember that Christmas is supposed to be a season of Peace, not hypertension. It is a time to stop and be still and to know God. It is a time to receive Christ into our life. I hope we don't miss the moments of Joy, the moments of excitement and the anticipation for what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, (This gift, the baby born and put in a manger). I truly hope we can seize those moments of joy, to experience the angels singing and the love this season brings to the world, even if it is just for a short time. May the love and joy continue for you, your family and friends into the new year.

By the time you read this, we will be in the new year and again, we will be in a time of anticipation for what this new year will bring. For us in the Crossroads District we will be watching to see how our District of United Women will come together with other Districts to make one. Perhaps we will take a moment to reflect on the women that came before us that made the Crossroads District what it is.

May we thank God for all women who worked hard for missions and those that work hard to make a place in their lives for United Methodist Women. Hearing God's call, we are doing things we never dreamed possible in mission, through the global ministries of the church. May God continue to bless our work in the new year. Shalom.

Blessings
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On the Sea of Galilee.
Mediterranean Sea.



Michele Weston & myself
with the city of Jerusalem
behind us.

MARQUETTE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

The Marquette Celebration occurred on 10/30/2017, Newberry UMC. The speaker was Randy Hildebrant from God's Country Cooperative Parish (GCCP) which brings people from 7 churches to provide love and support in serving Christ, Community and Mission to all. These churches can be 100 miles apart, which brings a different set of challenges from churches in a more closely populated area.

The UP is beautiful, but isolated and long winters are difficult. GCCP organizes mission trips, Bible Studies, youth activities, and training events, etc. They support the UMW with prayers and presence at many of our meetings. A true example of Faith, Hope and Love in Action. We were very happy to have Conference Officers with us at our Annual Meeting.

Our next Spiritual Growth Retreat will be April 27, 2018, presented by Dawn Ferguson on the "Armor of God".

Bobbie Clift, President

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SAGINAW BAY DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Will You Join Me in Thinking?

Leadership Development Days offered everything from coloring to yoga to mindful devotion to journaling to dancing to singing to imaginative worship during free time. The two dinners and breakfasts included a wonderful 12th floor view of the airport runways. Snuck in between were ice cream, photo shoots, a little dancing, and a wonderful mingling of United Methodist Women officers from many states, plus a chance to meet many of our National UMW officers and our CEO, Harriett Olson.

Those attending from Detroit and West Michigan Conferences even managed to find a private little booth off the restaurant in the hotel to chit-chat and eat fried ravioli and chicken strips, compliments of Pat Bostic, who wanted nothing more to do with chicken covered in white stuff! The optional activities I participated in were Meditative Walking and Mindful Devotion for the 6:30 am offerings.

The classes I took were 1) Standing in Our Faith and 2) Getting to the Heart of the Matter: Mission Giving. A late flight (no, not snow but a malfunctioning toilet) caused the connecting plane to miss me and so I missed the meeting for presidents. That was the main one I wanted to attend, but at least I didn't miss dinner...The worship theme was **Courageous Leadership: Listen, Wait, Act (With Courage)** and featured the stories of Joshua, Rahab, and the Children of Israel. A simple little 'Girl Band' consisting of guitar, keyboard, and drums played by lovely young women led us in many songs that were most meaningful and new to me, and somehow the tech crew kept up with everything. My mind was overflowing by the time I turned down the 2-track to my cabin-in-the-woods with the beavers and the bears at 1 am Monday morning.

Here are some challenging 'To Think About,' that I pondered during the all-too-quick weekend: (When you uncover the answers, let me know. I only have questions!)

We are marching in the light of God – song refrain
Not taking a stand condones it
Wait actively – God is moving on our behalf
The need to go deeper
The wilderness is about not knowing
How can we have a bigger impact?
Pharaohs will always oppress and enslave
What walls need to come down today?
Courageous listening as a leader looks like...
What does a vibrant UMW look like?
Issues that are unpopular are...

Continued on page 11

SAGINAW BAY DISTRICT PRESIDENT REPORT CONTINUES

A few years ago, I would have never imagined myself as a district co-president. And now here I am, fumbling through and learning along the way, gathering up details and writing articles, both leading and following, but mostly making new friends and coming to understand the BIG Picture of United Methodist Women, along with growing in my faith. I always hope to learn and teach and help inspire others with my enthusiasm! The year 2018 will bring lots of changes and challenges and I hope to be in the thick of it all! As for now, I think I will stay home for a minute or maybe even 2! And maybe try to figure out how to make fried ravioli...

Harriett Olson: Are leaders born or made? Yes
People are doing amazing things with no more brains than you have!

but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

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THE LEGACY FUND UPDATE



Top 10 Ideas to Continue our Legacy

10. Do your part to support the Legacy Fund by . . .
9. Learning about how our history has changed us as women, our church, our nation & the world!
8. Understanding how you can continue this powerful legacy by . . .
7. Using a Legacy video in your local unit (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150)
6. Pledging at least \$18.69 (the year of our beginning) each year &
5. Urging your local unit to pledge \$150 (our age in 2019) each year
4. Honoring someone with a limited edition 150th Special Mission Recognition Pin (\$150)
(see www.umwmissionresources.org)
3. Honoring someone with a 150th Necklace & Pendant (\$50) (see above)
2. Sharing YOUR LEGACY about what United Methodist Women means to you
1. Be ready to celebrate 150 years of United Methodist Women & its Legacy Fund to insure Love in Action for the next 150 years!

Linda A Schramm, Chair
lars@greatlakes.net

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FROM OUR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL OFFICERS

NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION

May God Bless you and your family for the holiday season and for the New Year. A new year is starting again. As a United Methodist Woman, I am here to serve you. If you need help for anything call me. Our President Rita L Smith of the North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team would like to thank everyone for inviting her to our 44th Annual Celebration. The theme for the 2020 Quadrennial meeting is "Calling u" from Romans 1:6 from the Message version. Don't forget to start planning for 2020. I hope to see all of you at the 2018 Assembly in Columbus, Ohio May 18-20, 2018. And remember GOD loves us all.

Mildred Braddock, NCJLT
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PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP – NATIONAL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As I ponder to write this article, there is a sense of sadness as both the West Michigan and the Detroit Conferences of the United Methodist Women held their last separate Annual Celebrations. West Michigan celebrated their 45th Annual Celebration on October 21, 2017 and the Detroit Conference celebrated their 44th Annual Celebration on October 28, 2017. I was blessed to represent the National organization and to bring greetings at both events

I also shared in presenting a Skit with Ruby Anderson, National Director promoting attendance at the 2018 Assembly at the West Michigan Conference Celebration and with Suzanne Hewitt, Program Advisory Group (PAG) member from West Michigan at the Detroit Conference celebration. Both celebrations were inspiring and motivating. Each of them took a historic perspective of where we have been. Now the question is where will we go next year? Our 2018 Combined Annual Celebration will be at Midland First, UMC in Midland, Michigan. This is just the beginning as we continue to make history in Michigan.

In the November's issue of our Response Magazine, Our General Secretary and CEO, Harriett Jane Olson said "We are not yearning to go Backward, we are gathering the strength to go Forward to work and to witness on behalf of the world that God so loves." There is no other place to go but FORWARD.

John 6:13 :(paraphrase) So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the bread and fish (abundance) that was left over. We are always called by God to use what we have. We have an abundance of gifts and talents from both conferences that we can put together to continue the work of mission as we move into the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Women. We are called to use what we have so that God can perform miracles through us. The little boy had to give up his bread and fish so that God could bless it and multiply it to feed the thousands. What gifts and talents do you have that God can use and bless and multiply for the work of mission here in the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Women? Beside our gifts and talents, we have Jesus, and with that we have more than enough to do the ministry that is needed in our world.

As we continue this journey, our next step is Assembly 2018, which will be held in Columbus, Ohio from May 18-20, 2018. There are goals for us to accomplish as we go to Assembly. They are:

1. Being in Relationship with our sisters in the United States and around the world.
2. Naming and Claiming our value in the 21st century.
3. Moving into the future by being equip for action on our 4 priorities: focusing on Maternal & Child Health, Climate Justice, Ending Criminalization of Communities of Color and Economic Inequality

May we continue to Say Yes to the Call, share our stories, build our relationships to every woman and be a part of God's Miracle for the world.

Taylorie Bailey
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**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ASSEMBLY
Columbus, Ohio-----May 17-20, 2018**

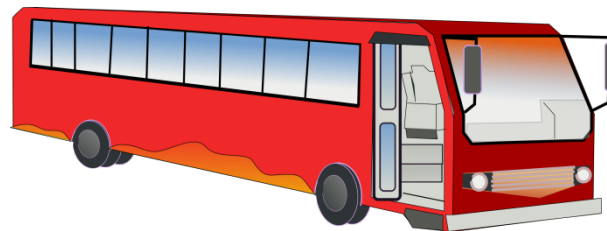
It's not too late to plan to attend this 150 year old movement of United Methodist Women as they gather at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio to celebrate **THE POWER OF BOLD**. It is a time for fellowship, and opportunity to empower faithful women to be stronger discipleship leaders in their communities through moving worship, inspiring speakers, exhibits, workshops, and town hall style meetings. We will leave this great world-wide gathering with the knowledge, courage and determination to change the world and our communities.

Detroit Conference United Methodist Women has been advertising a 4-day trip organized by Sally Andrews. If you want to go to Assembly, **you need to do two steps.**

- 1) Register with the Assembly Office "on line" – www.umwassembly.org – cost is now \$330 per person
- 2) Make your bus reservation (which includes rooms and more) – the form is at www.umwmichiganconference.org – cost is based on number of room occupants. There is also a link if you want to drive to Columbus and stay in a hotel.

**Reservations: \$100 deposit per person will confirm your reservation---send asap
Payment in full by April 1, 2018**

**Checks payable to and mail to: Sally J. Andrews, tour coordinator
423 W. Todd Ave., Reed City, MI 49677-1143 Phone(810)444-4823**



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United Methodist Women Detroit Conference

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Kay Mowery Past President

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United Methodist Women Detroit Conference 2018 Dates to Remember

January 19 (Friday) or 26(Alternate)

February 16 (Friday) or 23(Alternate) March 16 (Friday) or 23 (Alternate)

April 20 (Friday) or 27(Alternate) Michigan Area Steering Committee, Lansing (also additional monthly meetings)

April 14 (Saturday)

Keep Making Peace Day, University Church, East Lansing

May 12 (Saturday) Joint Conference Team Meeting (Okemos)

**May 17-20(Thursday- Sunday)
2018 UMW Assembly!**

May 31-June 3 (Thursday-Sunday)
Annual Conference, Traverse City

June 1 (Friday) –Tentative
United Methodist Women Luncheon
At Annual Conference

July 1(Sunday)
New church districts start operating

July 21 and August 16-19
Mission u
Southfield: Hope UMC
Lake Huron Retreat Center

August 22 (Wednesday) Joint Conference Team Meeting (Midland)

September & October - New District UMW Annual Meetings

October 15–16 (Monday-Tuesday)
Mission u of the North
Gaylord UMC

October 26 (Friday)
Conference Officer Training & Leadership Development (Midland)

October 27 (Saturday)
New Michigan Conference Annual Meeting & Election of Officers

**Detroit Conference UMW
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United Methodist**

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