



women's ministries

*“I now remind you to stir
into flame the gift of God
which is within you . . .”*

—2 Timothy 1:6, NEB

United Methodist Women/Women's Division
General Board of Global Ministries

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

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Some paragraph numbers for and language in the Book of Discipline and the Book of Resolutions may have changed in the 2008 revision, which was published after these Guidelines were printed. We regret any inconvenience.

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Welcome

You are so important to the life of the Christian church! You have consented to join with other people of faith who, through the millennia, have sustained the church by extending God's love to others. You have been called and have committed your unique passions, gifts, and abilities to a position of leadership. This Guideline will help you understand the basic elements of that ministry within your own church and within The United Methodist Church.

Called to Spiritual Leadership

Each person is called to ministry by virtue of his or her baptism, and that ministry takes place in all aspects of daily life, in and outside the church. As a pastoral leader or leader among the laity, your ministry is not just a "job," but a spiritual endeavor. You *are* a spiritual leader now, and others will look to you for spiritual leadership. What does this mean?

First, *all* persons who follow Jesus are called to grow spiritually through the practice of various Christian habits (or "means of grace") such as prayer, Bible study, private and corporate worship, acts of service, Christian conferencing, and so on. Jesus taught his disciples practices of spiritual growth and leadership that you, as a disciple, are to share with others as they look to you to be a model and guide.

Second, it means that you always keep your eye on the main reasons for any ministry—to help others grow to a mature faith in God that moves them to action on behalf of others, especially "the least" (see Matthew 25:31-46). This is an aspect of "disciple making," which is the ultimate goal of all that we do in the church.

CULTIVATING VISION AND MISSION

As a spiritual leader, a primary function you carry is to help those you lead to see as clearly as possible what God is calling your church to be and to do. Ideally, your church council first forms this vision and then forms plans and goals for how to fulfill that vision. As a leader, you will help your team remain focused and accountable to honor the vision and goals to which the church is committed. You will help your team create and evaluate suggestions, plans, and activities against the measure: *Does this move us closer to our church's vision to bring others to God in this place and time?*

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCING

While there are appropriate and useful business-like practices that apply to church life, Christian practices distinguish the church as the church. In the United Methodist tradition, how we meet and work together is important. “Christian Conferencing” involves listening not only to each other, but also listening intently for the will of God in any given task or conversation. This makes prayer essential in the midst of “business as usual.” As Christians, we are called to “speak the truth in love.” This is a special way to speak in which we treat one another as if each of us were Christ among us. As a spiritual leader in your ministry area, you have the privilege and opportunity to teach and model these practices. By remembering that each of us is beloved of God and discerning the presence of God in all that the church does, every task becomes worshipful work.

THE MISSION OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Church is a connectional church, which means in part that every local church is interrelated through the structure and organization of districts, conferences, jurisdictions, and central conferences in the larger “family” of the denomination. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* describes, among other things, the ministry of all United Methodist Christians, the essence of servant ministry and leadership, how to organize and accomplish that ministry, and how our connectional structure works (see especially ¶¶125–138).

Our Church is more than a structure; it is a living organism. The *Discipline* describes our mission to proclaim the gospel and to welcome people into the body of Christ, to lead people to a commitment to God through Jesus Christ, to nurture them in Christian living by various means of grace, and to send persons into the world as agents of Jesus Christ (¶122). Thus, through you—and many other Christians—this very relational mission continues.

(For help in addition to this Guideline and the *Book of Discipline*, see “Resources” at the end of your Guideline, www.umc.org, and the other websites listed on the inside back cover.)

What Is the Emblem?

In now remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you . . ." (2 Timothy 1:6, NEB). Inspired by a passage of Scripture from 2 Timothy 1:6, the emblem of United Methodist Women symbolizes the organization. The cross and flame are ancient symbols of the Church and appear on The United Methodist Church emblem. Both remind us of our PURPOSE of growing in our understanding of and willingness to participate in the global ministries of the Church. The shape is fluid and free-flowing, suggesting change and mobility. The women who came before us, serving the Church at home and in other countries, were at the forefront of movements for change. Always aware of the times, we move into the twenty-first century aware of the opportunities and obligations of discipleship. We are a group of Christian women with many gifts who are unified by our Spirit. We participate in God's mission in all areas of life.



What Is the PURPOSE?

United Methodist Women is 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.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the General Conference affirms the powerful witness of the Women's Division in our church and our world; 135 years of faithful service to Christ and the church, its current commitment to mission and its dedication to work within the General Board of Global Ministries;

Be it further resolved, that the General Conference affirm the powerful witness of the Women's Division in our church and our world;

Be it further resolved, that the General Conference upholds the current structure of the Women's Division and the organization of United Methodist Women.

The Book of Resolutions of the United Methodist Church
Resolution No. 19

Membership Counts— Introduction/Invitation

United Methodist Women is the official women’s organization of The United Methodist Church. Its membership is voluntary and open to all women committed to spreading the gospel through mission work.

“Membership shall be open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the church through United Methodist Women. The pastor(s) shall be an ex-officio member of the local unit and of its executive committee” (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church 2008*, ¶256).

Since 1869, women in the Methodist tradition have been organized with the purpose of being in mission with women, children, and youth. United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations believed all human beings are of sacred worth, therefore deserving of dignity, justice, and well-being. Today, United Methodist Women members continue to pledge their support to meet the needs; advocate for justice; and honor the lives of all women, children, and youth around the world.

Membership counts! The contribution of each member of the organization is a gift that brings about change and betterment to all of us—as individuals, members of society, and members of The United Methodist Church.

Second Timothy 1:6 says, “I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you.” This gift is constantly rekindled in the lives of United Methodist Women members and persons whose lives are affected by the dedication and generosity of those members.

The generosity and dedication of United Methodist Women members allows the organization to engage in mission in more than 100 mission institutions in the United States, and programs and projects in more than 80 countries around the world. The focus in every place is the life of every woman and child. How can we do unto them as we would like to have done unto us? How can we help make sure they have what we, women in the United States, unconsciously enjoy?

We invite you to join this creative, supportive fellowship of women of all ages, ethnicities, and economic, social, and educational backgrounds with the common goal of spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ through witness and work.

Why United Methodist Women?

Throughout history, women, children, and youth have been left unseated at the table of power. Decisions and policies are set in place without the input, nor consideration, of women and children. Repeatedly, these decisions and policies leave women, children, and youth without resources and recourse to a whole life.

Women are among the majority of those lacking education, health care, and proper nutrition as well as access to systems that provide those resources. Women and children suffer disproportionately from war and violence. They are also victims of oppression due to cultural or religious customs. Focus on the well-being of women has a great impact on the community. Women are educators and caregivers in most family settings, hence sharing resources, knowledge, and tools with the larger community. United Methodist Women strives to fulfill the mandate of Jesus Christ to care and provide for the least of these. And we call on the whole church and society to share in the call so women, children, and youth have a stronger voice in decisions affecting their lives.

History

BEGINNINGS

In the late 1800s when women and children were considered nonpersons, the women of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Churches came to the realization that services to these groups were limited due to prejudices and cultural attitudes.

A small group of women decided to organize themselves into what became the Methodist Women's Foreign Missionary Society. This was the beginning of service and mission work that has expanded from:

- Two missionaries in India to work in more than 80 countries
- Three hundred dollars to more than \$18 million designated for mission
- Six women gathering in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1869 to more than 8,000 women gathering in Anaheim, California, in 2006, to celebrate and affirm the work of United Methodist Women at Assembly.

The Boston Six



From the beginning women's mission work has been visionary and dedicated.

MERGERS

The organization of United Methodist Women has evolved from eleven women's mission groups in predecessor churches. Each of these groups was formed to serve women and children.



*Anaheim, California,
2006
Pictures by Mike
Dubose, United
Methodist News Service*

LEADERS

The organization of United Methodist Women has been influenced by the strength and spirituality of courageous women in what has become The United Methodist Church.

Clementina Butler and Lois Parker

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1869 at the instigation of Clementina Butler and Lois Parker, wives of two missionaries serving in India.



Clementina Butler



Lois Parker



Lizzie Hoffman

Lizzie Hoffman was instrumental in helping to organize the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church. In 1875 Ms. Hoffman and a group of concerned women got together in Dayton, Ohio, and issued a call for a Woman's Missionary Convention. Out of that meeting the Woman's Missionary Association was formed.



Virginia Laskey

Virginia Laskey served as the fourth national president of the Woman's Division of Christian Service from 1964 to 1968. At the end of her presidency, the Woman's Division established a \$50,000 Scholarship fund for Theological Education of Women in her honor. Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee, now Scarritt-Bennett Center, also honored her by naming its library the Laskey Library. She was an outspoken advocate of a just society and racially-inclusive church.

Mai H. Gray

Mai H. Gray grew up in Jackson, Tennessee. She was a member of the "Committee of 24" that proposed the organizational structure for United Methodist Women in 1972. Also in 1972, Ms. Gray was elected a member of the Women's Division board of directors. From 1976 to 1980, she served as the division's first black president. The division honored her presidency by establishing the Mai H Gray Education Grant to Women and Children in Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa.



Thelma Stevens

A native of Mississippi, Thelma Stevens graduated from State Teachers' College at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, now the University of Southern Mississippi. In 1926 Ms. Stevens entered Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tennessee, completing a master's degree in 1928. From 1928 to 1940, Ms. Stevens served as director of the Bethlehem Center in Augusta, Georgia. Ms. Stevens held the position of executive secretary for the Department of Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities with the Woman's Division and then the Women's Division from 1940 until her retirement in 1968. Ms. Stevens is best remembered for her untiring efforts toward the elimination of racism in the church and society.

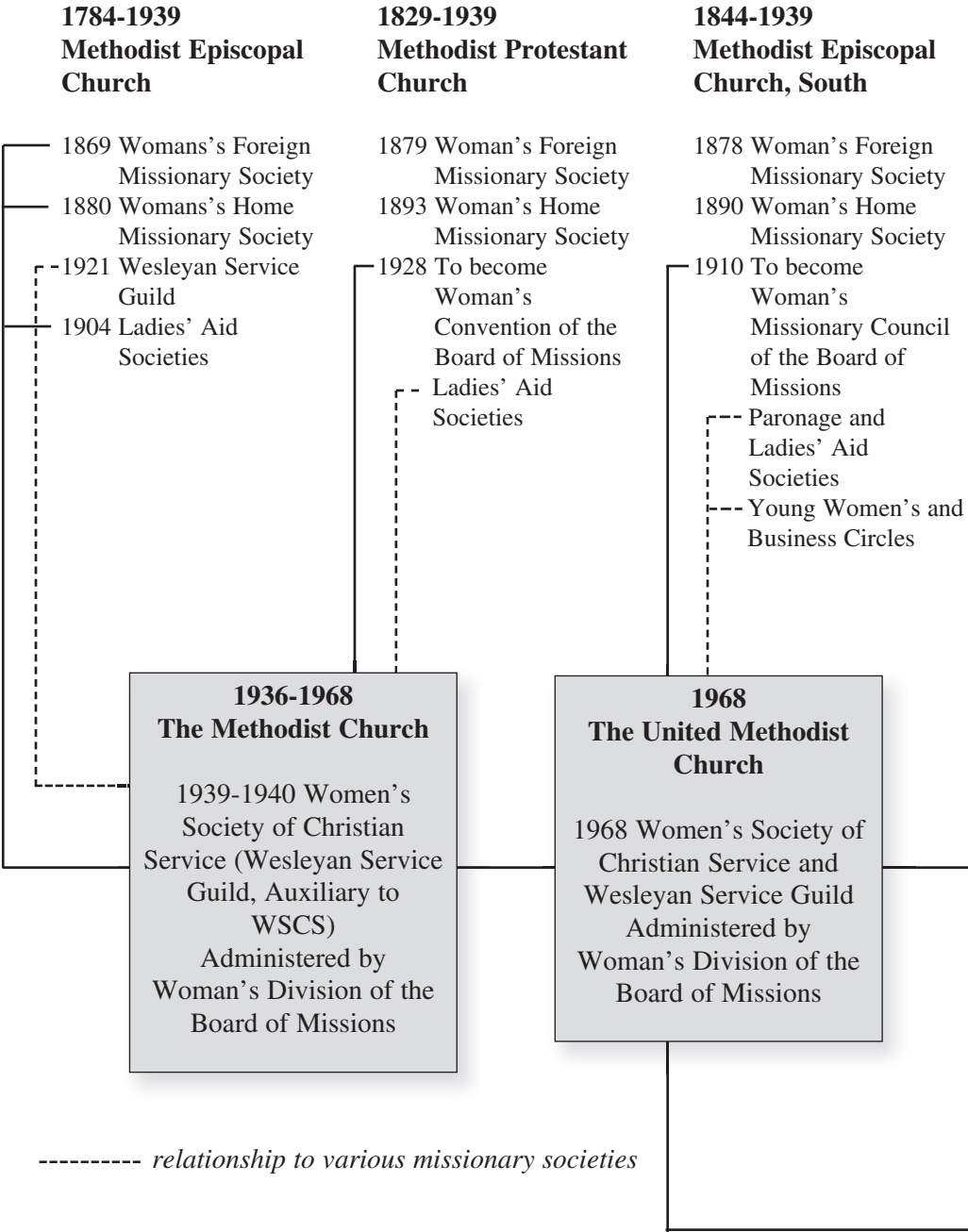


Theresa Hoover

A native of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Theresa Hoover was born September 7, 1925. Upon graduation from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas, Ms. Hoover accepted the position of associate director with the Little Rock Methodist Council. In 1948 she went to work for the Woman's Division as a field worker. For ten years Ms. Hoover traveled among the woman's societies, attending and resourcing districts, conferences, and jurisdiction meetings, and maintaining contact with leaders across the connection. Ms. Hoover moved to New York City in 1958 when she became a staff member of the Woman's Division's Department of Christian Social Relations. In 1965 she became assistant general secretary, Section of Program and Education for Christian Mission, Woman's Division. In 1968 she was chosen to head the Women's Division as its deputy general secretary, a position she held until her retirement in December 1990.

Today United Methodist Women continues to be led by dedicated and capable women leaders. Women's Division Deputy General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson and Women's Division President Inelda González will lead United Methodist Women in this quadrennium.

HISTORICAL CHART OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



HISTORICAL CHART OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

1800-1946
United Brethren in Christ

1803-1922
Evangelical Association
United Evangelical Church

- 1875 Womans’s Missionary Association
- 1909 Administrative responsibilities merged with General Home and Foreign Service Missionary Societies
- Harford Circle (for Business Women)
- Otterbien Circle (for Young Women)

1922-1946
Evangelical Church

- 1884 Womans’s Missionary Society
- Christian Service Guild (for Business Women)
- Young People’s Missionary Circle (prior to formation of EYF in 1942)

1946-1968
Evangelical United Brethren Church

1946 Women’s Society of World Service Christian Service Guild combined to become in 1958 Women’s Society of World Service Administered by Women’s Division of the Board of Missions

1973
United Methodist Women

Administered by Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries

Purpose: Reason for Being

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.

Commitment

United Methodist Women are committed to:

- channeling efforts and resources to provide for those in need
- growing in faith through relationship with each other
- being agents of change by analyzing systems that promote oppression and seeking alternatives to those systems
- living out their faith by being involved in acts of justice and mercy
- creating and seeking opportunities to participate in church and society.

Mission Organization

As we approach the completion of the first decade in the twenty-first century, the organization of United Methodist Women continues to evaluate its programs to ensure it is addressing the needs of women, children, and youth around the world today. The organization's policy statement on education for mission lists the following components as key to the work of United Methodist Women:

- Information—education about God's mission
- Preparation—education for God's mission
- Action/Reflection—education through involvement in God's mission
- Mutual Learning—education by interaction with others in God's mission.

Mission Formation

Mission education: United Methodist Women's mission education programs equip members for mission involvement through:

- prayer and reflection
- interaction with people from diverse communities
- opportunities to participate in mission activities
- study and exposure to new information that expands concepts of mission.

United Methodist Women's mission education programs include mission studies and Schools of Christian Mission. Each year selected themes related to a spiritual growth topic, a geographic area, and a current issue are the

focus of study in United Methodist Women Schools of Christian Mission around the country. The schools, started in the mid-1930s, are organized by United Methodist Women leaders in each conference of The United Methodist Church.

Justice education: United Methodist Women, guided by John Wesley's practices, participate in works of piety and mercy. Charity is a gift that addresses the immediate need, and social action helps change systems that keep people oppressed and dispossessed. United Methodist Women members believe these are inseparable.

As part of the call to mission, United Methodist Women engages in justice-education learning about peace, the environment, family advocacy, public education, racial justice, global policy and U.S. public policy, and makes available opportunities to all through the Seminar Program on National and International Affairs at the Church Center for United Nations in New York City.

Leadership education is central to our mission. Every year, United Methodist Women members participate in study and training with the unique focus of expanding their skills, knowledge, and abilities for better understanding and service.

Training for the members and friends of United Methodist Women is available in a variety of ways and sources. Some training is developed specifically for officers and persons in leadership positions in the organization; other training is tailored to those who want to become involved and are seeking information on specific issues.

National Ministries

United Methodist Women in partnership with the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries is actively involved in National Ministries with women, children, and youth. This includes institutions that receive support, and leadership development and service-based experiences in mission. In addition to the list below, United Methodist Women's mission giving supports church and community workers, and provides pension and health benefits to women sent into mission service by predecessor organizations.

National Mission Institutions

United Methodist Women, through their Mission Giving, support National Missions Institutions related to the General Board of Global Ministries. These institutions are located across the United States—schools, colleges, community centers, women's residences and residential treatment centers. They offer a variety of services and work with communities to meet emerging needs.

Deaconesses and Home Missioners

Deaconesses have been a part of our tradition as a church since 1888, and at the 2004 General Conference the Home Missioner program was established, providing laymen with an opportunity to serve in a lifetime relationship in The United Methodist Church. The Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner is the only currently active recognized office in The United Methodist Church for those called to full-time vocations in servant ministries as laity.

Together, deaconesses, who are laywomen, and home missioners, who are laymen, form a covenant community that is rooted in Scripture, informed by history, driven by mission, ecumenical in scope and global in outreach. This is a community of laity who has responded to the call of God in their lives and has been commissioned by The United Methodist Church to full-time ministries of love, justice, and service.

US-2 Program

The US-2 Program is a leadership development experience of peace with justice mission for young adults ages twenty–thirty.

This two-year opportunity to serve in the United States encourages participants to deepen their faith while learning from and serving with community-based organizations. US-2s boldly reexamine their role and participation in society as they struggle at their placement sites with hunger, racism, illiteracy, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, domestic violence, children at risk and inadequate health care.

International Ministries

International Ministries with women, children, and youth includes support for childcare, health care, Bible Women, scholarships, leadership development, and youth advocacy in communities around the world. In addition to programs listed below, United Methodist Women supports people in mission, including eight regional missionaries who serve women, children, and youth, and other missionaries recruited and commissioned by the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries.

Global Justice Volunteers Program

The Global Justice Volunteers Program arose from a recognized need to develop young adult programming, especially as part of an overall effort to broaden volunteer mission opportunities.

This program is designed to enable young adults who are eighteen–thirty years old to have short-term mission experiences living and learning alongside people whose lives are shaped by justice work. The program provides opportunities for service, learning, and cross-cultural exposure. Through this program, individuals explore the links between faith and justice through mission work.

Mission Intern Program

The Mission Intern Program is a leadership development and social justice opportunity for young adults ages twenty–thirty.

The program provides an opportunity for young people to hear the prophetic voice of communities and individuals around the world who are working for systemic change, and then apply that experiential learning to their home context. The program encourages participants to learn about and live out the transformative gospel of Jesus Christ while working as grassroots organizers and/or advocates in areas of conflict resolution, peace, education, environmental justice, economic development, indigenous rights, and women’s and children’s issues.

Ubuntu Explorer Journeys

Ubuntu Explorers Journeys offer United Methodist Women members and friends opportunities to visit mission partners in various areas of the world to learn firsthand the issues women, children, and youth face around the world, and contexts in which they live and work.

Grants

Brighter Future for Children and Youth

The Women's Division offers grants of up to \$6,000 for projects and programs addressing the needs of children and young people between the ages of five and eighteen in the areas of peacemaking, antiabuse and nonviolence.

Types of projects funded by the Brighter Future grant should:

- cultivate spiritual life and values
- provide direct and comprehensive services to young people
- demonstrate the ability to raise additional funds from other sources
- have significant involvement of women and youth at the grassroots level
- promote respect for, and appreciation of, racial and ethnic diversity.

Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

Offerings from the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial provide support for mission through grants and dedicated gifts to programs with women, children and youth. This long-standing offering emphasizes the call to remember those in mission service and mission projects that work with communities in need in the United States and around the world.

Membership Counts

The purpose and mission of United Methodist Women has remained the same for almost 140 years—organized for mission to seek wholeness for everyone, especially women, children, and youth.

By building a community of women committed to mission—with members in every local United Methodist Church—United Methodist Women is expanding programs and concepts of mission:

In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women (*the Discipline*, ¶256)

Accomplishments

United Methodist Women and their predecessor mission organizations have advocated for justice by addressing issues such as:

- full clergy right for women
- establishment of the United Nations
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- founding of the World Council of Churches.

Presently United Methodist Women advocates for:

- racial justice
- public education
- fair labor practices
- immigrant and refugees rights
- environment and economic justice.

Looking to the Future

God calls us to be in mission, to take the risks necessary to break the barriers of prejudice, isolation, and distrust, which keep people from sharing in the good news that God loves every person. God calls us to love God, to be in relationship with God, to love one another and to be in relationship with others as an expression of that love. Jesus lived that good news and was willing to die for it. Resurrection gives us faith and hope to be in mission in our complex world. Examples from the teachings of Jesus help us focus on what it means to be in mission. For example in the story of the Samaritan women (as told in John 4:1-42), Jesus breaks social taboos about women and people from other religions in order to call the Samaritan woman into mission. As a result, “Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony.”

(Excerpt from “Education for Mission Policy Statement for the Women’s Division”)

United Methodist Women knows all about the love of God, and is committed to showing and giving witness to that love in word and in deed.

Join Us!

What Is Expected of a Member?

When a woman chooses to be a member of United Methodist Women, she is expected to:

- attend unit meetings, and participate in various events, projects, issues, and concerns of the Women's Division
- support global mission programs through undesignated giving
- participate in local community concerns and issues affecting the lives of women and children
- accept leadership responsibility
- join in intercessory prayer on behalf of others
- keep informed of the ongoing concerns and programs of United Methodist Women and the Women's Division
- study and use resources developed for United Methodist Women, including the *Program Book*, *Response* magazine, Bible studies, and spiritual growth resources
- engage in critical analysis and active listening while remaining open to differing perceptions and diverse views
- participate in the Reading Program
- make suggestions and recommendations for programs, resources, and activities that increase awareness and understanding of global issues concerning women and children.

We are organized for mission! We are not a group to be joined lightly where membership has no meaning. UNITED METHODIST WOMEN is a missional organization, with responsibilities to all members in each unit and for a worldwide program of mission outreach. Our hallmarks are mission, inclusiveness, continuity from the past, flexibility to meet ever changing needs, provision for leadership opportunities and financial support, and a willingness to move out into new and adventurous paths. (*United Methodist Women: In the Middle of Tomorrow* by Barbara E. Campbell)

How Do We Organize a Unit?

The Constitution and Bylaws of United Methodist Women provide for three types of units: local church-based units, charge and cluster units, and district units. These three types of units offer members the opportunity for participation in mission in a variety of settings. (See Constitution and Bylaws 2005–2008, Local, Article I, Section 1-9 for organizational information.)

- Most of the membership of United Methodist Women is in units based in local churches.

- A charge or cluster unit may be formed by women from more than one church. This type of unit is usually formed when the number of women from a single church is too small to carry out the basic structure.
- A district unit may be formed by women from different churches who choose to meet in locations other than a local church, such as on a college campus, in a retirement community, or in other locations.
- A local unit should be organized as soon as possible after the formation of a new United Methodist congregation. Special efforts should also be made to organize or reorganize units in established churches currently without units. The district executive committee of United Methodist Women is prepared to give assistance to a local group interested in organizing a unit. All women in the congregation should be invited to a meeting designed to explain the organization and its PURPOSE. (See *United Methodist Women Handbook: 2009-2012* for organizational information.)

How Are We Part of the Connection?

United Methodist Women connects to the larger Church in many ways. The conference United Methodist Women president is a member of her annual conference and often serves on a variety of committees. The local unit United Methodist Women president is a member of her church council.

Women's Division directors are elected through a representative selection process that includes the active bishops of each jurisdiction. Women's Division elects at least thirty directors of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries, and Women's Division staff participate in cross-board work that implements the Church's mission in the United States and around the world. The Deputy General Secretary of the Women's Division serves on the cabinet of Global Ministries. Three women named by the Women's Division from directors or staff serve as ex officio members on the board of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

Like The United Methodist Church, the organization of United Methodist Women has district, conference, and jurisdiction organizations. These organized bodies are determined by geography. A district is the smallest area and a jurisdiction the largest area. There is also a national policy-making body named the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, the national mission agency of The United Methodist Church.

THE DISTRICT

Your unit's most immediate link is to the district organization. District officers connect your unit with the conference officers. A district officer will

make regular contact with your unit to share information and to provide support within the organization.

You and the members of all the units in your district are part of your district organization. The district holds at least one event each year: an annual meeting featuring a program that is reflective of the PURPOSE and includes a business session. As president of your unit, you will want to know when and where the next district annual meeting will be held. Plan to attend along with other members of the unit.

THE CONFERENCE

The conference organization of United Methodist Women connects your district organization with the Women's Division. Conference officers are elected from the members of the United Methodist Women belonging to churches in your conference.

You and the members of all the units in your conference are part of the conference organization of United Methodist Women. Your conference has at least one business meeting a year, the annual meeting. It is usually held in conjunction with a program that interprets the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. At this event, you will meet women from across the conference, hear special speakers, and have an opportunity to participate in workshops on mission education as well as skills training.

Each conference sponsors at least one School of Christian Mission annually. The schools offer a chance for members to grow spiritually and relationally and to broaden leadership skills. Your conference may also sponsor other mission events such as retreats, seminars, and workshops.

THE JURISDICTION

The structure and role of the jurisdiction organization is different from the structure and role of the other parts of United Methodist Women. The jurisdiction "executive committee" is called the Core Planning Group. Its task is to provide assistance with mission education training and interpretation to the conference organization.

Once every four years, in the spring of the year the General Conference meets, the Jurisdiction Core Planning Group holds a special quadrennial meeting open to all United Methodist Women in the jurisdiction. The purpose of this event is the election of officers and directors to serve on the Women's Division for the next four years. Mission education and spiritual development are important elements of this meeting.

THE WOMEN'S DIVISION

The directors of the Women's Division are volunteers elected every four years. The division is the official policy-making body for United Methodist Women. This representative body develops resources and shapes policies and programs for the organization.

The Women's Division is responsible for disbursing funds that assist important mission programs and projects around the world, especially those for women, children, and youth. Comprised primarily of women who belong to units like yours, the Women's Division is a resource for United Methodist Women throughout the organization.

Your local or district unit as well as all local or district units benefit from our connectional system. As part of the connection, your local unit can convey its concerns, ideas, funds, and evaluations to the Women's Division. In return, your unit receives resources, skills development, and numerous opportunities to participate in spiritual growth retreats, workshops, and leadership training events.

Resources

PUBLICATIONS

United Methodist Women Handbook: 2009–2012

United Methodist Women in Mission, by Ruth A. Daugherty

Acting Out Our Conversion, by Peggy Billings

Ministries with Women, Children and Youth: A Policy Statement of the Women's Division

Mission: Responding to God's Grace: A Policy Statement on Giving

Response. The official magazine of United Methodist Women

CONTACTS

United Methodist Women's National Office
Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries
475 Riverside Drive 15th Floor
New York, NY 10115

Telephone: 212-870-3749

Fax: 212-870-3736

United Methodist Women Website

www.umwmission.org

United Methodist Women's Online Community

www.umwonline.org

Resources and Publications

www.missionresourcecenter.org

800-305-9857

United Methodist Women have many resources to help in fulfilling the PURPOSE. Some are for elected leaders, others for the entire membership. Below is a list of resources essential for every local unit.

RESOURCES FOR ELECTED LEADERS AND MEMBERS

For Elected Leaders

- *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2008. (Available from Cokesbury; call toll-free 1-800-672-1789.) This book is a statement of rules and regulations governing The United Methodist Church and all its agencies, as approved by the General Conference. The *Book of Discipline* includes the constitution of United Methodist Women (local, district, conference, and jurisdiction versions) and the constitution, responsibilities, and organization of the Women's Division. It also contains historical and theological material and the current Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.
- *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*, 2008. (Available from Cokesbury; see above.) Official United Methodist Church position statements on a variety of social issues as approved by General Conference.
- *Ceremonies IV* (English #3225; Spanish #3648; Korean #3622). A collection of worship resources for United Methodist Women including services for installation of officers, a memorial service, a Pledge Service, services on the Campaign for Children, and the Charter for Racial Justice.
- *United Methodist Women Handbook 2009–2012* (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean). All United Methodist Women's organizations—at the local, district, conference, and jurisdiction levels—have specific instructions about their roles, responsibilities, and relationships to other United Methodist organizations, boards, and agencies. This resource describes these and is essential to your office. The Constitution and Bylaws of United Methodist Women is included in this handbook.
- *Program Book for United Methodist Women* (English and Spanish, published annually). A collection of program suggestions for United Methodist Women on a variety of mission topics, including a Quiet Day Service, a Pledge Service, and a World Thank Offering service. Check the Mission Resource Center Catalog for current titles.
- Mission Resource Center Catalog. All current materials produced especially for United Methodist Women are listed in it.

For Members

- *Mission Studies*. United Methodist Women produces printed and audiovisual materials on two different topics, one a geographical mission theme and one a general mission theme. These are introduced in our denomination through our Schools of Christian Mission. Check the Mission Resource Center catalog for current titles and descriptions.
- “Membership Joys” (English #M5006; Spanish #M5007; Korean #M5008; free for postage and handling). A brochure that introduces new members to United Methodist Women.

- *Ministries With Women and Ministries With Children and Youth: A Gift for the Whole Church* (English #1892; Spanish #1893; Korean #2580). A policy statement of the Women's Division, with a study guide, that reviews the position of women, children, and youth in our society to discern our ongoing mission.
- *Mission: Responding to God's Grace, A Policy Statement on Giving of the Women's Division* (English #2581; Spanish #2582; Korean #2583). A policy statement that stresses the biblical and theological reasons for giving. This booklet includes a study guide.
- *My Date Book* (published annually; see Mission Resource Center catalog for price). Program calendar in a purse-size booklet.
- *New World Outlook* (published bimonthly). As the mission magazine of The United Methodist Church, it reports on the work of the General Board of Global Ministries and the ecumenical mission of the church. Call 877-881-2385 to subscribe.
- *Prayer Calendar* (published annually; see Mission Resource Center catalog for price). A daily guide to prayer for mission workers and mission projects in the United States and around the world. Includes names, addresses, birthdays, special prayers, daily Scripture readings, and colorful pages showing mission projects around the world.
- *Children's Prayer Calendar* (published annually). Pocket calendars with missionary children's birthdays and addresses. Set of 8: #2516.
- *Reading Program Catalog* (published annually). Free except for postage and handling. This booklet describes Reading Program plans and books. Books are listed under each of the four mission emphases. A new list is published each year.
- *Response* (published 11 times a year). *Response* magazine is the official program journal for United Methodist Women. It is essential for every leader and for every member. Regular reading of this magazine increases one's understanding of the current program and concerns of the Women's Division and of United Methodist Women in global mission. The focus is on women, children, and youth. In addition, there are organizational and program aids for elected leaders.
- *Spiritual Growth Study* (English, Spanish, and Korean; published annually; see Mission Resource Center catalog for current title and price). Published by the Women's Division, this book is one of the three annual mission studies, written especially for United Methodist Women. It includes a study guide.
- *United Methodist Women in Mission* (English #2139; Spanish #2143; Korean #2182). This is a resource for new members, pastors, and all United Methodist Women. Designed with brilliant sunburst colors, it expands on *One Million Plus—United Methodist Women* and includes the biblical basis for our long heritage of mission.

- *Charter for Racial Justice Policies* (English #M5005; Spanish #5338; free for postage and handling). Contains the Charter for Racial Justice Policies for United Methodist Women, which has also been adopted as a resolution of The United Methodist Church.

RESOURCES ON HISTORY

- *Speaking Out in the Public Space: An Account of the Section of Christian Social Relations* by Peggy Billings (#2517) covers the years 1968 to 1984.

Resources on History: Out of Print

The three books listed below are out of print. However, they are available on the United Methodist Women's History website (<http://gbgmumc.org/umw/history>) and on CD-ROM. The CD-ROM can be purchased from Mission Resource Center (#2829-1999-01).

- *In the Middle of Tomorrow* by Barbara E. Campbell. Provides a comprehensive examination of the Women's Division.
- *Legacy for the Future: The History of Christian Social Relations in the Woman's Division of Christian Service 1940–1968* by Thelma Stevens. Details the history of Methodist women's work for justice during this 28-year period.
- *To a Higher Glory: The Growth and Development of Black Women Organized for Mission in the Methodist Church 1940–1968*.

Audiovisuals

- *Response on Cassette*. Highlighted articles from each issue are available on a subscription basis. Call 877-881-2385 to subscribe.
- CD-ROM—*A Century+ In Mission*. Learning resource on the 135-year history of United Methodist Women, including study guide and extensive photo gallery. (#3635-2004-01)
- CD-ROM—*Ten Best History Books* on United Methodist Women and the Women's Division (#2829-1999-01)

WHAT IS THE MISSION RESOURCE CENTER?

Your main source of printed and audiovisual resources is the Mission Resource Center. The Mission Resource Center is the distribution center for literature, audiovisual resources, and books produced by the Women's Division. All materials prepared especially for United Methodist Women are available at the center and are listed in the annual Mission Resource Center catalog.

The Women's Division produces resources in English, Spanish, and Korean. Check the current catalog for prices and postage and handling charges for materials. As the president, you will want to ensure that the secretary of

program resources or someone designated to carry out that function has a catalog and understands how to order resources from the Mission Resource Center. The Mission Resource Center's toll-free number for placing orders is 1-800-305-9857. You may also correspond by e-mail: cs@missionresourcecenter.org.

The Mission Resource Center has established an e-store for quick and easy online ordering: www.missionresourcecenter.org. Access the e-store through Women's Division/United Methodist World Wide website.

It is important that your secretary send the names of the newly elected president and secretary of program resources to the Mission Resource Center annually. You will not want to miss receiving materials that come to the unit from the Women's Division.

All inquiries and questions related to resources should be addressed to
The Mission Resource Center
1221 Profit Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

WHAT IS RESPONSE MAGAZINE?

Response, "The Voice of Women in Mission," is the official program journal for United Methodist Women and is published eleven times a year. It is essential reading for every leader and every member of the organization. Regular reading of *Response* increases one's understanding of the current program and concerns of the Women's Division and United Methodist Women in global mission. The focus of the magazine is on women, children, and youth. You will also find organizational tools and program aids and suggestions.

Response's colorful photos and lively copy tell the mission story of United Methodist Women and stir readers to solidarity and action with women, youth, and children of the world. *Response* carries a message of faith and hope, a call to justice, and the new reign of God. Call 877-881-2385 to subscribe.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH AND TRAINING

1. Officer Training and Leadership Development opportunities are available to local unit leaders in a variety of ways—district officer training days, cluster meetings, officer time at Conference Schools of Christian Mission, and so forth. Check with your district president to discover what kinds of opportunities are available for your local unit.

2. Schools of Christian Mission or Mission Education Events are held annually in each conference. They are one of the strongest links of the total women's organization.
3. District and conference annual meetings are held each year. They combine a business meeting and a program for members of United Methodist Women in the district or conference in keeping with the PURPOSE and work of the organization and the Women's Division. The meetings are open to all members of United Methodist Women. (For more details about these meetings, see the *United Methodist Women Handbook* or contact your district president.)
4. Other special events are sponsored frequently by district and conference United Methodist Women. These may be retreats, seminars, workshops, financial promotion events, or one of several other experiences. The district president is your contact for up-to-date information about such events.
5. The Assembly of United Methodist Women is held once every four years. It is open to every member of United Methodist Women, providing space is available. Eight to twelve thousand women have attended assemblies in the past. The next assembly will be held in April 2010 in St. Louis, Missouri. Make plans now for members of your unit to attend and begin to budget for it.
6. Jurisdiction quadrennial meetings are held during the final year of the quadrennium. The next meeting will be held in 2012. The pattern of these varies in the five jurisdictions, so inquire about the meeting in your own jurisdiction.

