



From our President

Congratulations ladies!!!! We have reached another milestone in the process of raising funds to continue making the necessary updates and fixes at the United Methodist Community House.

One of the big expense items was a new HVAC system (heating and cooling system). Our initial bid for this system was over \$40,000. This was presented to us in 2014. The costs have gone up, but we have raised enough to cover the increase.

In June the West Michigan Conference hosted the North Central Jurisdiction meeting. Ladies from Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa and the Dakotas came to Grand Rapids. We were able to provide an opportunity for some of the ladies to tour the Community House. I was able to speak to many of those women during this event. Everyone was very impressed with the facility, the staff, and the program. The community house fund received the offering that was taken during worship at this event.

Last year I challenged

each of you to give \$5.00 to Finish, to accomplish the list of long overdue maintenance projects that we as landladies have at Community House. We have worked hard, with help from the special offering at Jurisdiction, and added help from our Detroit UMW Sisters. It is my hope that in the very near future we will have completed all the projects and be able to keep things updated with an amount we have budgeted on our annual finance program.

The theme of the Jurisdiction meeting was "A Fresh Wind Blowing". This year I challenge your districts, units and yourselves to take a fresh look at the United Methodist Community House and create a FRESH way to continue to fund this wonderful mission that touches so many lives in the heart of a big city. Be creative, don't let \$5.00 be your limit. Dream big, open your hearts and allow the fresh wind to blow God's blessings to all of God's family.

In July we were excited

when we had 30 first timers attend our Mission u. The classes were about the same size this year, and everyone had the opportunity to experience the Spiritual Growth class. The kids camp was it's usual lively event and we had 17 middle and high students.

Our next events are District annual meetings. They provide a great chance to see friends from the past and meet new ones. It is important to attend these events because this is where leadership is elected, budgets approved and business of the District is conducted. Support your District Leadership teams and spend a beautiful day with UMW Sisters.

I hope to see many of you in October at our West Michigan Conference annual meeting. This year we travel to the lakeshore and meet in Muskegon. More information is included in this issue of the Highlights. Plan to come and bring your friends.

Blessings,
Jenny Kroeze
President

2016 Conference Team

President: **Jenny Kroeze (2013)**

640 Seminole Dr., Fremont 49412
231-924-4814 jennyK48g@gmail.com

Vice President: **Shirley Chappell (2016)**

719 S. Griffin, Grand Haven 49417
616-846-4197 shirley2billchapel@att.net

Secretary: **Meredith Richter (2015)**

1300 Highland Dr., Petoskey 49770
231-347-9717 mr1300@yahoo.com

Treasurer: **Julia Paradine-Rice (2014)**

4114 Sanctuary Dr., Alma 48801
989-576-0675 juliapr@charter.net

Mission Coordinators:

Spiritual Growth: **Simmie Proctor (2014)**

73486 8th Street, South Haven 49090
269-637-6053 simmiepr@hotmail.com

Education & Interpretation:

Sue Stickle (2016)

10970 Dutch Settlement Rd, Marcellus 49067
269-646-9425 suzannestickle@gmail.com

Social Action: **Randie Clawson (2015)**

384 Lind Drive, Traverse City 49696
231-929-7808 randieclawson@gmail.com

Membership Nurture/Outreach: **Pat Snyder(2016)**

807 S. Sheldon St., Charlotte 48813
517-231-1301 dpsnyder807@peoplepc.com

Program Resources: **Connie Swinger (2015)**

255 Brown St. SW, Grand Rapids 49507
616-452-3532 connieswinger@att.net

Communications Coordinator:

Dorie Litchfield (2014)

61470 County Road 657, Lawton 49065
269-436-0023 creator.dorie@gmail.com

Appointed:

Be Just Be Green Coordinator: **Clarice McKenzie**

396 Ford Street, Bitely 49309
231-745-3256 (Apr-Nov)

Committee on Nominations:

Chairperson:

Linda Darrow (2014) 4-year term
232 N. Cooley St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-763-8750 darrowlinda@gmail.com

Committee Members:

Clara VanderLaan (2015) 2-year term
6702 Waterview Drive, Grandville 49418
616-457-1554 cslaghvdl@hotmail.com

Beth Mitchell (2014) 4-year term
3813 Rockwood, Kalamazoo 49004
269-343-6806 bmitchell@lewisreedallen.com

Sue Emmons (2015) 4-year term
2226 Anderson Dr. SE, Grand Rapids 49506
269-308-3802 sre.peace@yahoo.com

Sue Franklin (2014) 2-year term
2392 Fern Ct., Farwell 48622-9789
989-339-0491 Lsfbflat@gmail.com

Suzanne Hewitt (2015) 4-year term
2250 Knapp St., Grand Rapids 49505
616-361-9565 suzmckhew@att.net

4 — year term OPEN;

Historian — (appointed) OPEN

District Presidents:

Albion: **Donna Smith**

269-565-0958 smithd42f@gmail.com

Grand Rapids: **Sue VanHoesen**

231-755-3476 pvanhousen1@comcast.net

Grand Traverse: **Judy Gasco**

231-549-2084 jgasco@hughes.net

Heartland: **Waitha Gaye Leavitt**

231-640-0238 wally@journey.com

Kalamazoo: **Cindy Thiele**

269-673-4514 cindahthiele@gmail.com

Special Maintenance Fund Program for the UMCH

The West Michigan and Detroit Conference United Methodist Women announce the Special Maintenance Fund Program for the United Methodist Community House, our National Mission Institution in Grand Rapids, MI. Together we are committed to fund this program until all the special maintenance has been completed. The total estimated cost to finish is \$136,121.

Julia Paradine-Rice, West Michigan Conference UMW

Treasurer, reports that we currently have a balance of \$51,816.99 available. Therefore, we are proceeding with the HVAC system. She also notes that Special Maintenance Fund Program monies are arriving regularly for deposit. Thanks to all who have graciously contributed. We can make it happen!

Top five projects in order of priority as of 8/6/16:

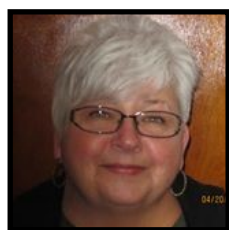
1. Install a computerized HVAC system - \$43,000
2. Repair entryway canopy

\$48,000

3. Repair parking lots \$12,000
4. Trim limbs, remove trees \$2,475 (*volunteers are needed to remove old short fence*)
5. Replace doors and door handles throughout building \$17,700

For further information, please contact either Suzanne Hewitt at [616.361.9565](tel:616.361.9565), suzmckhew@att.net, Jenny Kroeze at [231.924.4814](tel:231.924.4814), jennyk48g@gmail.com, or Diana Miller at [989.426.2644](tel:989.426.2644), diana@ddmiller.net.

From Your Book Lady



2017 is here!! Ok, so you didn't sleep through the last few months and it is still 2016, but the 2017 Reading Program books are out! You can see the entire list at www.umwmissionresources.org. The list for 2017 has some great thought-provoking, discussion-making selections. I just picked up my library copy of Snake Oil - How Fracking's False Promise of Plenty Imperils Our Future by Richard Heinberg. After taking the Climate Justice study

at Mission u this summer, I am eager to dig into this book. Remember, the goal of the reading program is to broaden our thinking and not to sell books, so borrow them from your library, buy them at Amazon or at your District and Conference Annual meetings or order them from mission resources, but READ! The list for 2017 has quite a few books that you can buy for your Kindle or e-reader.

You are able to use books from the 2012-2017 lists to complete your Reading Program. Mission Resources is

Secretary of Program Resources

trying hard to be responsible with their inventory and have marked down many of the previous years titles. The 2012 books are now 75% off!

The Quadrennial Calendar (green 4 year calendar) will be available after Sept. 1. I will have some to sell at Conference Annual Celebration in Muskegon on October 15, along with Program books, Handbooks and UMW merchandise (back packs, water bottles, Bibles, etc. which make great gifts).

Keep Reading,
Connie Swinger,

West MI Conference UMW Bus Trip, "Faith Journey to Lake Junaluska"



Seats are still available for the West MI Conference UMW bus trip, "Faith Journey to Lake Junaluska", October 26-30, 2016. Reservations and

deposits are being made by phone or in writing to Countryside Tours at [616.636.4628](tel:616.636.4628) or toll-free [800.784.3828](tel:800.784.3828). Final payment is due 30 days prior to departure (September 26th). Arrangements are being made for those who want a roommate. If you're thinking about going, now is the time to make your reservation.

Have you thought about how many lives you can change with your pledge to Mission?
Homeless women and children?
Flint water crisis?
UMCH
Mosquito nets?
YOU COULD MAKE A
DIFFERENCE IN ANY OR ALL OF
THESE PLACES.
Be Faithful
Be In Mission

**United
Methodist
Women**

Take Time To Pray



Take time to pray – let God know that you are thinking about Him and resting in His strong support. Close your eyes and open your mind to the glory that can fill your heart, heal the wounds, and soothe the troubled thoughts that crowd your mind.

I've had to stop and reevaluate my relationship with God lately, and I've

found that the bus had pulled out and left me behind. Don't let that happen you, or if it has happened. Stop! Right Now! God will halt the bus and welcome you aboard.

UMW would also like to have you join the bus trip to Lake Junaluska in October. It's going to be an eye-opening event for me and I hope you can join us too. Otherwise you will have to listen to the rest of us extoll about the wonders and sights enjoyed. Call Countryside tours at 616-636-4628 for details.

After four years as president of the Albion

Albion District President

District UMW, it's time to step aside and let a new president take over. She will do a wonderful job and is better equipped to handle it. I pray and hope that everyone will offer support and help to ease the transition.

A thank you: to members of the UMW Conference Team, and Albion District UMW members for helping me along the way.

Blessing to all.

Donna Smith –

– Albion District President

PS I'm not leaving the team – just taking a different position.

JUST DO IT

Conference Vice President



*"Breathe on me,
Breath of God,
fill me with life
anew, that I may
love what thou
dost love, and do
what thou wouldst do."*

I have always thought of September as a "new beginning". School starts and it is time to make new friends and learn new things. It is also the same for the Church. It is time to start a new bible study, join the choir, be a liturgist etc. There is something exciting about starting a new project. I always get excited starting a new quilt or afghan. We as

UMW members need to get excited also. The District meetings are coming and we should all plan to attend one in our area. I have six to attend. I want to hear what each District is doing. I want to hear how they are getting their ladies involved by challenging them to do things. I want to hear about their missions and how they raise money for them or provide physical work.

I think sometimes we get in a rut. We contribute the same amount of money -- to the same mission -- and sit by while someone else does the physical work. Let's do

something different! Get out there and work in a food pantry, serve a meal at Supper House, prepare a meal for the men at Harbor Hall, be a mentor to a child, read to a classroom, listen to someone who is lonely, pour coffee on Sunday morning, buy school supplies, collect soup labels for Red Bird, collect pop tabs for Community House, bake cookies, surprise someone with a loaf of banana bread, pull some weeds around the Church-----JUST DO IT! The world will be better and you will feel better.

Shirley Chappell
Vice President

From Our Spiritual Growth Coordinator

At this time of the year we are beginning our fall activities. School is starting and all the stresses that can cause families. Our lives become full of all the busy things that come our way. Along with our church commitments we wonder how we will fit it all in?

Sometimes church activities and things we do outside of church become a competition. Which do we choose? Sometimes it's hard, but choose we must.

We have to set our priorities no one can do that for us. How do we set our priorities? What do you think about? Where do you spend your time? How do you spend your money? That's how you know your priority.

I want us to think about where is God in all of our busyness? How can we balance our lives to be a part of what God is calling us to do, as well as, all the other things we need to be or are called to do?

I hope we make time in our busyness to do some type of daily devotion.

Find the time that works best for you. For some it may be first thing in the morning or just before bed. For others it may be during your lunch time. Whatever works best for you just devote some to God daily.

Have a blessed fall season,
Simmie Proctor





From Our Conference Treasurer

On Wednesday, August 17 the West Michigan Conference UMW Finance Committee met at United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids. At this meeting we reviewed each of the District Budgets for 2017 and also reviewed and approved the Proposed Conference Budget for 2017. The total pledges from the Districts for 2017 are \$241,450, (a decrease of \$3,350 from the previous year). Another way to look at this amount is to divide it by the total membership count of

United Methodist Women in the West Michigan Conference of 5,000, which equals \$48.29. So, if each UMW member gives a \$48.29 Pledge to Mission in 2017 we will reach this goal. That seems doable, doesn't it?

Many of us can do even a bit more than that. If we each give \$60 our total would be \$300,000, or if we could stretch to \$70 each we could reach \$350,000. Our units use a combination of fundraisers and personal giving to achieve our unit pledges, so let's challenge ourselves to find a way to grow

our Pledge to Mission and exceed our goal in 2017.

Remember, if you have a Treasurer or "Where the Money Goes" question that you would like answered, please get in touch with me at juliapr@charter.net, or 989-576-0675, or at 4114 Sanctuary Drive, Alma, MI 48801, and look for your question answered in a future edition of Highlights!

Julia Paradine Rice
Conference UMW Treasurer



United Methodist Community House Sunday

The 2016 UMW Prayer Calendar mission focus for Sunday, September 25th is the United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids, MI. The UMCH is a National Mission Institution in a covenant relationship with the United Methodist Women National Office. September 25th has been announced as the "UMCH Sunday". United Methodist Women and churches will celebrate this 114-year ministry whose mission is to increase the ability to meeting the unmet, basic needs of the Urban Core children, youth, adults and families to

succeed in a diverse community.

Available for use during worship, unit or circle meetings is a 4:23 minute video. The link to the video is <https://vimeo.com/172028707>. Other visual and audio materials include: 1) UMCH Overview and history power point and 2) UMCH Sunday Sept 25th flier.

How You Can Be Involved:

- * **Pray** for the neighborhoods we serve, our volunteers and supporters, and the agency's leadership and employee base
- * **Invite** a representative of UMCH to speak on the mission work being

performed and allow us to educate your congregation on how they can lend their time, talent and/or treasure (this is a short 5 minute presentation)

- * **Share** a promotional video about UMCH with your congregation (4:23 in length)

- * **Designate** a collection to support UMCH Programs & Services

For more information on how your congregation can participate, please contact Chardonnay Henderson at (616) 452-3226 or chenderson@umchousegr.org



Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules

Page 38: Section I - Nominations, etc. A. Conference Leaders shall be elected at the Conference Annual Meeting with the exception of the members of the Committee on Nominations which shall be elected to a four year term.

Page 39: K. Nominees for Women's Division United Methodist Women, Inc. Directors and Jurisdiction Delegates K. 3. The Conference shall elect three (3) voting delegates, plus one (1) alternate to attend the Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, at conference expense, to the Jurisdiction Quadrennial Officer serving in year of Jurisdiction Meeting.

Page 40: No changes

Page 41: No changes

Page 42: No changes

Page 43: A. Annual Meeting - change wording under 5. to the following: 5. Conference Leaders shall be elected at the Conference Annual Meeting.

Page 44: Adjust the right margin so the words are not cut off. Under E. Representation to Groups and Conference Board: 1. Change colon at the end of the third line to a period. Fourth line down should be changed to read: 2. Representative to Conference Boards and Agencies: The word "appointed" in the next to last line of 2. is missing some letters. Number 2 should be changed to 3.

Page 45: No change

Page 46: Under K. Scholarships - Remove the word "young" from the 2nd line.

Page 47: Under S. - connect the word "unanticipated"

Page 48: Under B. Treasurer's Records - make the following change: 3. A safety deposit box shall be maintained by the Conference **at the Conference Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan.**

Under VI. VISITATION AND ITINERATION, Paragraph B - correct the spacing in the words "expense" and "Conference" on lines 2 and 3 respectively.

Page 49: Paragraph B under VII. COURTESIES - correct the spacing in the word "discretion" on line 3. Paragraph C under VII RESOURCES - correct the spacing in the word "meeting" on line 2. Paragraph B under X. RELATIONSHIP TO UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY HOUSE - change the wording to the following: B. United Methodist Community House ~~is one of the non-profit charitable projects related to the National Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist church. It operates under the policies and administration of United Methodist Women, Inc. as a National Mission Institute.~~

Page 50: Under XI. PROVISIONS FOR CHANGES IN STANDING RULES - the second line in the paragraph should read: "current Constitution and Bylaws of United Methodist Women, **Inc.** The standing"

Inside Back cover: ~~Central~~ should be changed to **Heartland.**



Social Action

From Our Social Action Coordinator



Prayer

Let's join with each other in intercessory prayer.

Walter Wink author of *The Powers That Be* expressed the following ideas about prayer.

The struggle to live the life of God's intention, Love of God and others in relationship requires the act of praying. Prayer is the interior battlefield where the victory is won over all principalities and powers. It is a chance to gain the inner liberation available to God's children. We are able to tune in to what God is pressing for in our here and now. "Prayer is the field hospital in which the spiritual diseases that we have contracted from the Powers in the world can be diagnosed and treated."

Possibilities

As we each pray, adjust to God's call and live in God's love, the possibilities are God's. We will experience God acting thorough each of us. As we live into God's original intentions for us, we will see

God's results in our UMW units, districts and conference. Our social actions will change our world.

United Methodist Community House

Last November the Conference Leadership team set goals for 2016-2017. A very important one was: *Support and advocate regarding the ministries of United Methodist Community House (UMCH).*

As you know, Suzanne Hewitt has been very instrumental in bringing the needs of Community house to us. She has also been VERY instrumental in the development of resources that will help us reach our goal of support and advocacy. Not only will we support the needs of the building, we will support and advocate for the ministries that are serving the basic needs of the urban core in Grand Rapids.

The new logo giving the areas of focus, seniors, adults, children and youth. With Suzanne's help, many resources have been developed and are available. More information is available on UMCH's web, <http://umchousegr.org>

The UM Prayer Calendar has

designated September 25, 2016 as the date for special prayer for United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids. United Methodist Women from around the nation will be praying for UM Community House in Grand Rapids on September 25th. Suzanne and the representative at the UMCH have created resources that have been sent to the districts to be used to educate ourselves and our churches on the ministries at our United Methodist Community House. Representatives from UMCH are willing to educate you and your congregation on how you can lend your time, talent and/or treasure for UMCH.

For this special day, September 25th and throughout this year, let us work to fulfill our goal: *Support and advocate regarding the ministries of United Methodist Community House (UMCH).*

Mass Incarceration

Mass incarceration is one of the most pressing social justice issues in our country and a focus for the national UMW. The United Methodist Women web site, <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>, has a video to watch titled,

Mass Incarceration 101. Racial injustice and mass incarceration are connected. Also available at the UMW web site is *The Anti-Racist Resource List*. You will find these resources from the UMW website very helpful as your work for justice in your cities and our state.

Restorative Justice

The West Michigan Annual Conference passed legislation calling for all of us to be involved in addressing these issues. The petition was titled “Mass Incarceration and Restorative Justice.”

Motion: The West Michigan Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church encourages all local churches as well as our district and conference to advocate for change in our local areas in how we seek to prevent crime, empower victims and hold offenders accountable. We need to stand against our society's “culture of violence,” our failure to truly rehabilitate incarcerated persons.

An appropriate response to these challenges is to work for ways that restore and preserve human dignity. Restorative justice is a cultural, political, and systemic change we can embrace. We shall advocate

efforts that seek to address the feelings of neglect and incomplete healing of victims as well as an increase in efforts to address the needs of prisoners and ex-offenders to help them rehabilitate and re-enter society. Restorative justice, therefore, represents hope for both victims and offenders. As churches throughout our Conference we should advocate programs of restorative justice in our courts and our local schools.

The Petition for Restorative Justice is our call to advocate for change to restorative justice's principles in our churches, their ministries throughout our districts and conference. Restorative Justice is needed in each of our local areas.

Restorative Justice is

Because crime is a violation of people and relationships, restorative justice involves victims, offenders and community members in an effort to put things right.

The central focus is victim's needs and offender's responsibility for repairing harm.

Address Needs

Restorative Justice address needs asking who has been

hurt, what are their needs and whose obligations are they?

The **primary victim** is the most directly harmed by any offense. In addition, family members of the victims and offenders, witnesses and other members of the community are also victims.

Offender's violation creates liabilities and obligations. Obligations follow from the harm inflicted by the crime and are related to making things right.

The Community is responsible for the social conditions and relationships that promote crime and the community of peace. Communities' obligations are to both victims and to offenders. Communities are responsible for the general welfare of members.

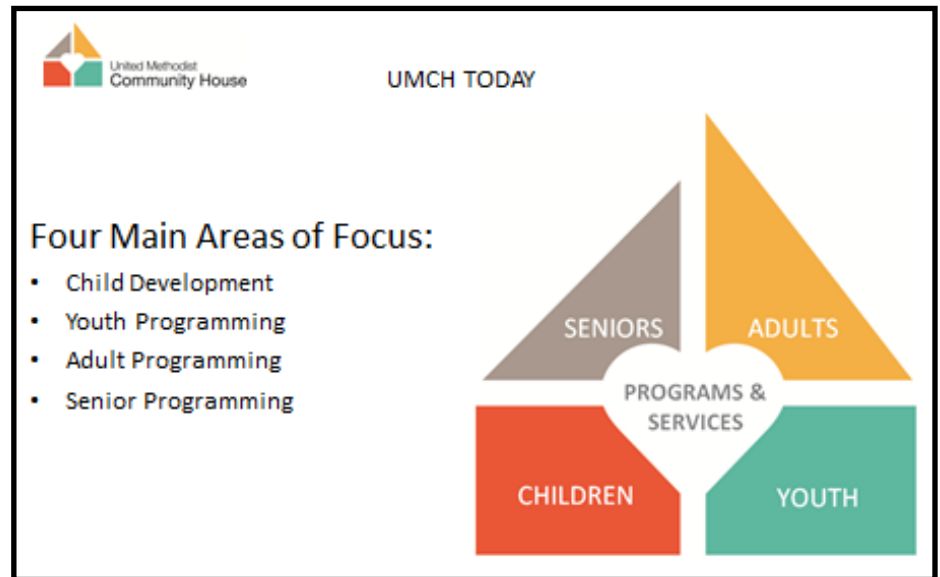
Passing and implementing this petition will give our United Methodist Churches and ministries the opportunity to answer our call to be reconcilers, reconciling people to God and each other.

seek first

In Solidarity,
Randie Clawson

Unveiling the New United Methodist Community House Logo

Many United Methodist Women were present in the gym of the United Methodist Community House, 904 Sheldon SE, Grand Rapids, MI to celebrate the unveiling of the new UMCH logo on Thursday, June 30, 2016. Pre-school students proudly wearing bright orange shirts with the new logo tugged the strings to unroll the colorful new logo.



United Methodist Community House
Outline of Projects as of 5/21/16
Estimated cost to finish is \$136,121
West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

Exterior

1. Entryway canopy repair - guaranteed maximum price not to exceed – ASAP - \$48k
 - a. remove metal roof, fascia, soffits
 - b. store metal at bakery warehouse (**additional cost for fork lift and storage rental**)
 - c. repair structure underneath
 - d. lay rubber membrane
 - e. recreate gutter
 - f. replace metal
4. Parking lots - \$11k + cement repair (estimated \$1k) – Spring 2016
 - a. repair/seal coat/paint main parking lot (SE corner will require major repair)
 - b. repair hole/paint visitor parking lot
 - c. repair pot hole N driveway
5. Sand and paint 2 exterior doors (Lollipop and Care Bears) under front canopy (**volunteers**)
6. Replace/paint (**volunteers**) 4 CDC (Care Bear and Kellogg's) doors - \$5k
7. More tree work - \$2,475
 - a. trim and remove dead limbs on large maple tree in lot west of garage - \$800
 - b. North of building - trim pines, remove dead bush and 3 pine trees, grind stumps - \$625
 - c. East property line fence behind building - trim low hanging branches and remove 2 dead trees - \$1,050 (**volunteers - needed to remove old short fence**)

Interior

1. Replace doors and install 15 new door handles throughout building - \$9k
2. Replace/paint (**volunteers**) doors - \$7.5k
 - a. 2 kitchen \$1.2K
 - b. men's restroom by gym
 - c. janitor's closet
 - d. warming kitchen
3. **Install HVAC System – \$42,946**
7 roof top units, boiler system, 4 radiant heat zones, 4 bypass dampers, 29 zone dampers, system programming
4. Paint - \$15k: \$5k donated + \$10k balance
 - a. N hallways, S hallways, and Family Development Center
 - b. Offices?

For further information, please contact either Suzanne Hewitt at 616.361.9565, suzmckhew@att.net or Jenny Kroeze at 231.924.4814, jennyK48g@gmail.com

Conference UMW Proposed Budget for 2017

Conference SMRs/Gift to Mission/Gift in Memory	300.00
Conference Annual Meeting	800.00
Conference Directory	400.00
Contingency	500.00
Dependent Care	100.00
HIGHLIGHTS Subsidy	3,000.00
Keep Making Peace	300.00
Meals and Lodging	2,200.00
MI Non-Profit Corp Fee	20.00
Mileage	4,200.00
Mission u of the North	700.00
Mission u - Conf Officers Registration	5,000.00
Mission u - Conference UMW Subsidy	5,000.00
Mission u - Conference Scholarships	1,000.00
North Central Jurisdiction A&MD*	1,203.45
Officers' Resources and Literature	650.00
Officers' Training	1,500.00
Postage	200.00
Printing, Supplies & Checks	300.00
Program Resources	200.00
Quad Conference Registration	350.00
UMCH Bldg Insurance	6,000.00
UMCH Bldg Maint/Repair	3,000.00
World Federation of Methodist Women	50.00
TOTAL	\$89,704.45

*NCJ Budget amount is 1% of Pledge to Mission remitted to UMW in 2015.

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN****WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE 44TH ANNUAL CELEBRATION****REGISTRATION FORM****DEADLINE: September 30, 2016***Singing-----Memorial Service-----Holy Communion-----Linda Schramm – Speaker**Special Music-plus Beth and Marna-----Reports-----Installation of Officers**Business Meeting and of course----Lunch!***INGATHERING * Non Perishable Food**

West Michigan UMW Conference Annual Celebration

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Central United Methodist Church

1011 2nd Street

Muskegon, Mi

Name_____

Address_____

Email_____

Cost \$15.00 Amount Enclosed \$_____

District_____Home Church_____

Special Dietary Needs_____

Child Care Needed_____ (bring a sack lunch for each child)

Name and Age of Child(ren)_____

Checks Payable to: WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UMW

Send to: Linda Darrow, 232 N. Cooley St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858. 1-989-763-8750.

Include a self-addressed stamped envelope for confirmation and map.

Homelessness

From United Methodist Women.Org

On any given night, nearly 565,000 people won't have a place of their own to go home to. The most invisible population of them are the families and the individual women and girls experiencing homelessness.

Those 206,286 families experiencing homelessness go unnoticed by the general public because they are less visible; they are more likely to be in a shelter or other housing program than homeless individuals are, and are not as often seen on the street.

Individual women and girls are invisible in a very different way: The majority of the services and programs set up to help the homeless were made in response to the larger homeless men population.

Properly funded government programs geared toward the causes of homelessness and the different life experiences for homeless women are not common. Since women and girls make up about 60 percent of all homeless people in families and are

more likely to be the head of poor households, the lack of gender-specific services for the homeless affects both individual women and families.

Why Focus on Women?

There can be multiple reasons why a person is homeless: Poverty, lack of affordable housing, unemployment, substance abuse, lack of mental health services, abusive home life and natural disasters are just a few. However, women experience certain social inequalities that could increase their risk of homelessness.

Gendered violence is an experience most homeless women have had in their lifetimes, and it is also an immediate cause of homelessness for some women.

In Massachusetts, a study found that 92 percent of homeless women had experienced physical and/or sexual assault. More than half of these women were also survivors of domestic violence. Women are also more likely to have

experienced childhood abuse than men.

Domestic violence puts women at risk of becoming homeless since abusers often isolate them from support networks and financial resources. Survivors of domestic violence may also experience anxiety, panic disorder, major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse because of the abuse. Women are also more likely to be evicted or refused housing because of domestic violence, despite not being at fault.

As a result, service providers have noted that many women, as a minority in mixed shelters or housing programs, feel unsafe in these environments. The staff at these homeless shelters or programs may also not be able to address the specific challenges women face or be able to provide a safe space with mental health services.

For the rest of the story ...

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/a-lack-of-services-for-homeless-women-and-families>

West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

2017 Proposed Mission TeamMission Coordinators:President

***Linda Darrow (2017)**
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Vice President

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Secretary

***Beth Mitchell (2017)**
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Treasurer

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Membership Nurture and Outreach

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Social Action

Randie Clawson (2015)
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Be Just Be Green Coordinator

(appointed)
Clarice McKenzie
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Bitely, MI 49309
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727-536-1888 (Dec-Mar)
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Committee on Nominations:Chairperson

***Sue Emmons (2017)**
2226 Anderson Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49506
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sre.peace@yahoo.com
Grand Rapids District

Committee on NominationsMembers4-year term

***Ruth Jones**
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Grand Traverse District

4-year term

(open)

3-year term

Jenny Kroeze (2017)
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jennyk48g@gmail.com
Grand Rapids District

2-year term

Sue Franklin (2017)
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Heartland District

2-year term

***Loretta Lee (2017)**
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Albion District

Historian -- (Appointed)
Open

Program Advisory Group

***Suzanne Hewitt**
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***Names in bold print are new to this position.** This slate of 2017 proposed officers is presented by the Committee on Nominations for consideration at the West Michigan UMW Conference Annual Meeting, Muskegon Central UMC, October 17, 2016.

Linda Darrow, Chairperson: Committee Members, Sue Emmons, Sue Franklin, Suzanne Hewitt, Beth Mitchell, Clara VanderLaan

West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

www.michiganumc.org (Ministries-UMW)

United Methodist Women

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Inside This Issue

From Your Book Lady

Faith Journey

Proposed Slate

Proposed Budget

Proposed Changes

Much more

HIGHLIGHTS-- the official Newsletter for West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women; Is published quarterly: Dec., Mar., June, Sept.

Submissions requested by the 5th of each previous month to:
Editor: Dorie Litchfield, creator.dorie@gmail.com

2016 Calendar of Events

September 17	District Annual Grand Rapids	La Nueva Esperanza UMC
September 17	District Annual Heartland	Alma UMC
September 17	District Annual Kalamazoo	Watersedge UMC
September 21	District Annual Lansing	Lansing First UMC
September 24	District Annual Albion	Concord UMC
September 24	District Annual Grand Traverse	Lake Ann UMC
September 25	United Methodist Women Sunday	All Churches
October 14	District Officer Training/Conference Team Meeting	Muskegon Central UMC
October 15	UMW Conference Annual	Muskegon Central UMC
October 17-18	Mission u School of the North	Gaylord UMC
October 26-30	Faith Journey to Lake Junaluska	Conference UMW Bus Trip