

From our President



Greetings to my partners in Mission,

This past weekend the Conference team had their annual spring meeting. It is always good to get together with people with whom we share a common purpose. Naturally we heard lots of reporting on upcoming events and programs, but two things caused me to pause and evaluate my journey.

During the last year we have worked hard to accomplish some of the many items on the TO DO maintenance list at the United Methodist Community House. There were two items that were very costly. The HVAC (heating and cooling) system is one of them. We were blessed to have made it through

the winter without a major problem. This is top priority now so that the work can be completed before winter shows up again. We need just under \$10,000 to do this.

Naturally, Mission u was a topic of discussion. I turned my registration in, as I also kept this choice of study in prayer. Let me share something from my early spiritual journey.

As a child, I was able to experience missionary stories first hand when my father's cousin would be home from Liberia, Africa on furlough. Some of you may remember Mildred Black, she was from the Lansing area.

Growing up I always wanted to be a teacher, and being a missionary felt like the right path for me.

However, I put some limits on my willingness to serve. Oh God, send

me anywhere, as long as it isn't Africa and definitely not South America. This year our geographic study is Latin America. I am looking forward to learning more about our neighbors to the south. I may not be a certified teacher, I may be too old to go into the mission field, but I can learn, and I can share this information with my local church. I am sure that I will be able to find some way to contribute to the well being of my sisters and brothers to help build the kingdom of God here on earth.

I hope to see many of you at Mission u this year. We are going back to Albion College this year.

Scholarships are available from the Districts and the Conference and kids come FREE again this year.

Blessings for all you do,
Jenny Kroeze

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 mrigh1300@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)
727-536-1888 (Nov-Mar) cjmckum@gmail.com

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 cslaghvd1@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

Lansing: **Joyce Plumhoff**

517-676-2716 tplumhoff1858@att.net

I Have a List for That

Conference Vice President



I am a list maker. I have a list for everything. I suppose it is the satisfaction of accomplishment to mark a task off of my list. It is the time of the year when my list gets long and I look forward to so many things. I enjoy winter but I look forward to the first daffodil and crocus.

I am ready to attend a District Retreat as it is time to get rejuvenated. I am excited because I am going to be a delegate at the North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting being held in Grand Rapids. Also, in July it is time for Mission u.

As I have mentioned many times, Mission u is one of my favorite programs presented by the UMW. I have started reading Ellen Brubaker's book "The Bible and Human Sexuality" and hope to finish

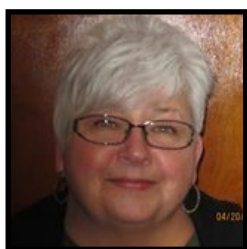
it while I am on vacation. I enjoy all of the studies, the worship, singing and the chit chatting and the laughter.

As you prepare your list for this spring and summer, I hope you will include a retreat or Mission u. See you at Mission u and don't forget to mark your calendars for the UMW West Michigan Conference Annual October 15 at Central United Methodist Church in Muskegon, Michigan.

Shirley Chappell
Vice President

From Your Book Lady

Secretary of Program Resources



I always laugh this time of year when I get all kinds of lists by email or Facebook for "summer reading" recommendations. My list is already so long with all the books I've yet to read that I will need MANY summers to finish it all! I hope UMW Reading Program books are on your list as well.

Now is the time to send in your completed list to your District Secretary of Program

Resources person so you are recognized at your District Annual meeting. Remember that this year books from the last six years can be counted.

Mission Resources is trying to better manage their inventory and as a result have many titles still on sale at great prices. (<http://www.umwmissionresources.org>) Check it out! Some are as low as \$2! The book list for 2017 will be out soon and I hope to have many books, program books, study books, prayer calendars, etc. at

our next Conference event, Mission u at Albion College, July 14-16.

And speaking of Mission u, if you have a particular book from the Reading List that you would like to discuss or lead a talk about at Mission u, please contact me. We will make time to talk about it.

Happy Reading,
Connie Swinger,
Sec'y of Program Resources
connieswinger@att.net
616-813-4670

Take Note!

Journey to Lake Junaluska.

It's exciting that the reservations fill the bus to 2/3 capacity for the West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women trip, "Journey to Lake Junaluska", October 26-30, 2016. See the brochure on page 9 for details. Are you joining us? Please do!

Peru Mission 2017

Bishop Samuel Agulair and Pastor Dennis/Tania Rojas, have extended the invitation to bring a work team to Ica/Chincha Peru July 2-9, 2017. The group of 15-20 would do light

construction, work with children, and a possible health fair.

Schedule : July 2 , 2017 Orientation in Lima (Miraflores UMC) and travel to Ica, Return to Lima July 9 , 2017

Individuals may extend stay in Lima/Peru if prearranged.

Cost : \$1,000 covers all internal transportation, food, lodging, and project costs. Plane fare to Lima is additional .

Application fee : \$100 put toward cost of trip

Information : Jody A. Pratt
prattgj09@gmail.com
[616-292-4908](tel:616-292-4908)



United Methodist Community House

We've got \$10,000 yet to earn before we can start the heating and cooling project at the United Methodist Community House. We need to put a hold on the major canopy project due to a defunct roof unit. Onward and upward — WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN — more details can be found in this issue on page 11.

Who Me, A Legacy?



What puts a U M W member in the legacy category? Is it the years of service,

their ability to help the local unit meet their yearly goals, the loyalty to UMW even when the number of members decline, or is it the women who come to meetings and help in any way they know? My vote is that all of these women belong to the legacy.

Each one of us has different focuses, talents, and abilities; and we use those abilities in different ways. The elderly friend who said I should go to an annual UMW meeting, helped open my eyes to a different world. All of the local members who allowed me to be their president when I didn't have a clue what the UMW organization strove to do. An amazing woman who asked me to be the vice president for the district – and silly me, I said yes. What an amazing ride it has been. I learn more every day, by listening, reading (the *Response*

magazine is a good source of what other units are doing) and asking questions that help to guide me along.

Each year I try to have a favorite donation project and this year it is for the United Methodist Community House maintenance fund. So, if you, or your unit has a little money set aside for a rainy day, please let it rain on the Community House.

Hoping to see many of you at Mission U in July.

Blessings on you and yours,

Donna Smith

– Albion District President

Albion District President

The Trouble Tree

The carpenter I hired to help me restore an old farmhouse had just finished a rough first day on the job. A flat tire made him lose an hour of work, his electric saw quit, and now his ancient pickup truck refused to start.

While I drove him home, he sat in stony silence. On arriving, he invited me in to meet the family. As we walked toward the front door, he paused briefly at a small tree, touching the tips of the branches with both hands.

After opening the door, he underwent an amazing transformation. His face was wreathed in smiles, and he hugged his two small children and then gave his wife a kiss.

Afterward, he walked me to my car. We passed the tree, and my curiosity got the better of me. I asked him about what I had seen him do earlier.

“Oh, that’s my trouble tree,” he replied. “I know I can’t help having troubles on the job, but one thing for

sure, troubles don’t belong in the house with my wife and children. So I just hang them up on the tree every night when I come home. Then in the morning, I pick them up again.”

“Funny thing is,” he smiled, “when I come out in the morning to pick them up, there aren’t nearly as many as I remember hanging up the night before.”

Author Unknown

My Favorite Kalamazoo District Event



My favorite Kalamazoo District Event is Mission Day or **Evening of Mission** in June.

This Event is on a weekday -- on one of the longest days of the year-- and in the evening. This makes it

possible for some gals that can’t get away on Saturday or others to bring someone new. We start out with Happy Hour from 5-6:00 pm. Yes, registration and fellowship with a tasty punch. I like to wander through all the mission displays and chat with other Unit gals. It is festive. Greeting each other and collecting handouts and ideas to take home. Next, is the good meal. There might be an entertaining skit and/or music while we eat. When the

Kalamazoo District President

dessert is finished and the coffee cups are refilled, the keynote speaker begins. There is something about catching the fever and facts of the speaker on the topic of the night. Just think about it. Topping it off is driving home. A car load of gals discussing all we’ve seen and heard while God paints a beautiful sunset in the western sky.

Cindy Thiele
Kalamazoo District
President

*From Our Conference Treasurer*

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Here is the third installment of FAQ's regarding U M W funds that I am sure many of you have but don't have a chance to ask.

What are acceptable uses of our local UMW funds?

This is a very common question, especially as the needs in our local geographic areas seem so overwhelming, we ask ourselves – why would we send our funds to other parts of the world when the needs here demand our action? The Local Unit budget consists of 3 main categories:

-Pledge to Mission – UMW Mission Giving (including Special Mission Recognition, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offerings, etc.) always remains at the heart of our organization. This is why we were organized on a “cold and stormy night”

in 1869 and it has been our guiding purpose ever since!

-Administration and Membership Development (A&MD) – These are the funds you spend locally to enrich the educational and spiritual growth of your local membership (think postage, printing, local events and attendance at conference and district events).

-Mission Locally – This allows the local unit to be in mission in its own area. As you decide where to give these funds, do so with the UMW purpose in mind.

So, how much should your local unit allocate to each of these categories? You decide! Traditionally about 60% is for Pledge to Mission, but you may feel that amount is too big or too small, so decide locally what the right percentage is for your group.

What are not acceptable uses of our local UMW funds? Items that are the

responsibility of the church are not appropriate, such as the church operating budget, building fund, parsonage upkeep, etc. UMW members already give to these areas in the offering plate on Sunday – our UMW funds are specifically for our local, district, conference, and national mission purposes! If you want more information it can be found beginning on page 74 of your UMW Handbook.

Do you have another question you would like answered? I need to know your questions, so please contact 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. I look forward to hearing from you!!

Julia Paradine Rice
Conference UMW Treasurer

See You at Mission u

Realize God's Reality

From Our Social Action Coordinator



In his introduction to *Is the Kingdom of God Realism?*, E. Stanley Jones stated the following about the Christian Gospel. "It is not something we can take or leave alone. For it stands before us-and is in us- as Destiny. It is the way that we are made to live, and to try to live some other way is not only foolish but impossible. You cannot live against life and get away with it."

Naturally Supernatural

From creation on, we have the created potential and human capacity to be in relationship with God Almighty.

Since the Garden of Eden, God is coming to humanity looking for a **reciprocal** love relationship. Jesus was God's, "Yes" inviting us to God's supernatural reality the Kingdom of God living on earth as it is in heaven..

Jesus taught us in John

14:25-26 ...²⁵"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. ²⁶"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you." We know from Wesley, that the means of grace help us realize and actualize the Holy Spirit's action in our lives. UMW identified social action topics

As the Holy Spirit teaches you during your private devotions. Let the living water bubble up in your hearts and flow over to ministry. Hebrews 10:23-25 suggests the following. ²³Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; ²⁴and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, ... encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Please go to the United Methodist Women's web site: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and review the Social Action Categories.

Is the Holy Spirit directing you to bring God's Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven by taking up the causes in one of these categories? Will you

in and through your units spur each other on to love and social action deeds?

I hope to have articles and pictures to make a poster highlighting the social actions in our conference. Please email pictures and articles me, randie.clawson@gmail.com. Let us know the supernatural work, the social actions, where God has directed you and your units. Hearing about how the Holy Spirit is active in your service to people God loves will be an encouragement to all.

All we do is our duty of gratitude for all God has already done for us.

In Solidarity,
Randie Clawson

Bras, Beads, Bingo

Mission Peru will be traveling to Chinch/ Ica Peru working with Pastor Dennis and Tania Rojas July 1, 2017

Collections of bras (any size new or gently used), beads for making jewelry and small prizes for Bingo are needed.

Pick up of your donations can be arranged at district/conference meetings, Mission u July 2016, or Jody Pratt: prattgji09@gmail.com or 616-292-4908. Jody Pratt is available to share happenings from previous trips, schedule permitting.

*From Our 2016 Mission u Dean*

I hope many of you are planning to attending Mission u at Albion College this year. We have a challenging and varied schedule planned of studies, activities, and meaningful worship experiences. You don't want to miss a minute on the beautiful campus of our Methodist founded Albion College.

Albion College is asking each participant to sign a waiver this year. The form will be sent to you.

This is a particularly good year to bring the whole family. Youth

and Children are offered free registration and Dads will be just as fascinated with the studies as anyone. And, I hear, the food is great.

Here are the details again.

Date: July 14-16, 2016,
8:30 AM Registration

Accommodations in Whitehouse
Dorm, Albion College

Classes will take place in the
Norris Science Center

Studies:

"The Bible and Human Sexuality,"
led by the Rev. Ellen Brubaker

"Latin America, People and
Faith," led by the Rev. Nohemi
Ramirez

"Climate Justice," led by Clarice
McKenzie and Suzanne Hewitt.

UMCOR School kits (two handled bags) will continue to be the ingathering for Mission u as well as the contents listed here:

- ◆ 1 pair of rounded tip, blunt scissors
- ◆ 3 pads of paper, spiral bound or loose leaf bundles of 150 sheets
- It is acceptable to have a combination of spiral bound and loose leaf
- ◆ 1 30 cm. ruler
- ◆ 1 hand held pencil sharpener removed from packaging
- ◆ 6 plain unsharpened wooden pencils with erasers
- ◆ 1 eraser 2 1/2 inches.
- ◆ 1 box of 24 count (only) crayons

Blessings,

Susan Emmons, Dean

When: July 14 - 16, 2016
Where: Albion College, Albion, Michigan
For: First time attendee
Pays: Registration, Room and Board

Submit by June 25, 2016 to
Beth Mitchell
3813 Rockwood
Kalamazoo, Mi., 49004
269-343-6806

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ District: _____

Church: _____

Age group: __18-25. __26-35. __36-45. __46+

Something about you _____

U M W
SCHOLARSHIP
APPLICATION
FOR
MISSION U
AT
ALBION
COLLEGE



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

West Michigan Conference

Faith Journey[™] Lake Junaluska

October 26-30, 2016

(Wednesday - Sunday)

Our Tour Includes:

- Transportation via deluxe highway motor coach
- Countryside's 'breakfast to go' bag
- Two nights accommodations at first class hotels and two nights at the Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center
- Five breakfasts, three lunches, and four dinners
- Guided tour at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
- Tour of the Red Bird Mission and shopping at the craft shop
- Guided tour of the Brooks-Howell Home and time to get to know Deaconesses
- Shopping at the Folk Art Craft Center on the beautiful Blue Ridge Parkway
- Time to enjoy Lake Junaluska
 - o The World Methodist Museum
 - o Shopping at The Lake Junaluska Bookstore (Cokesbury)
 - o Ice cream social at the historic Lambuth Inn
 - o Walk the path around the lake
 - o Relax in the Susannah Wesley Garden
- A tour of the Scarritt Bennett Center which includes the labyrinth and a Belle Harris Bennett Fellow's presentation
- View the Last Supper wood carving and the stained glass World Christian Fellowship Window at The Upper Room Chapel. Stroll in the sculpture and symbol garden representing Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Your visit includes some time for shopping at the gift shop.
- Taxes and tips for all inclusions (driver's tip appreciated)

Your Price:

\$839.00 per person, double occ.

\$994.00 single occupancy

\$789.00 per person, triple occ.

\$669.00 per person, quad. occ.

Departure Points and Times:

6:00 am Grand Rapids:

Park & Ride Lot, I-96 and the Beltline

7:00 am Holt

Holt United Methodist Church, 2321 N. Aurelius Road



*Lake Junaluska Conference
& Retreat Center*



*National Underground
Railroad Freedom Center*



Red Bird Mission

Tour Arranged By Countryside Tours, Inc
For More Information Call
616.636.4628 or toll-free 800.784.3828

From Our Grand Rapids District President



The Grand Rapids District UMW hosted a spiritual growth retreat on May 6 & 7 at the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt. Ladies

ranging in ages from 22 years old to 88 years old came from all over the West Michigan Conference to join in Christian fellowship led by Pastor Sueann Hagan to learn about different tools that can be used to find peace in a frantic world. But as many of you have experienced, UMW retreats are multi-faceted. Over

\$1,000 were raised during a purse auction for the new HVAC system for the UM Community House along with boxes and boxes of school supplies and book bags. Make plans to attend the Spring Retreat at St. Francis in May 2017 to be hosted by Lansing District UMW. The experience will enrich your spiritual life.

UMW Upcoming Meeting Dates

June 24-26, 2016 - North Central Jurisdictional Meeting, Grand Rapids, MI

July 14-16, 2016 - Mission u, Albion College, Albion MI

September 17, 2016 - District Annual, La Nueva Esperanza UMC, Grand Rapids, MI

October 15, 2016 - Conference Annual, Muskegon Central UMC, Muskegon, MI

November 17, 2016 – Evening Apart, TBD

From Our Education and Interpretation Coordinator



Greetings,
150 years ago eight women met in Boston and formed the Women's

Foreign Missionary Society. How we have multiplied! Our numbers have gone from 8 to 800,000. Our pledge has gone from 2 cents to over \$15 million. Clara Swain and

Isabella Thoburn were sent to India in 1870. Today we have over 200 mission projects around the world.

I became involved in 1960. I was a recent college graduate and newly married. A woman in our church invited me to a Woman's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) meeting. I said yes and the rest is history. Having been in Methodist Youth Fellowship, Wesley Foundation, and Kappa Phi, it

was an easy decision.

Oh, the places I have been, the people I have met, and the mountain tops I have experienced. It has been an awesome journey. Are you encouraging young women to become involved? Today there are endless opportunities.

150 years from 8 to over 800,000, unbelievable, awesome.

Sue Stickle

Education and Interpretation

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

West Michigan Conference Mission u July 14 - 16, 2016 ALBION COLLEGE ALBION, MICHIGAN

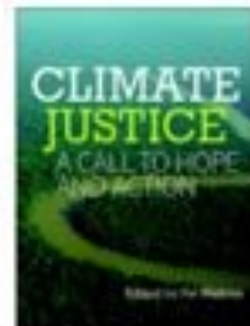


The Bible and Human Sexuality This study explores the Bible and human sexuality as two essential components of our Christian faith. The Bible is part of the foundation of our faith. Human sexuality is part of who we are as human beings, created by God and called good. The study invites us to explore the complexity of the biblical text and our varied understandings of it in light of human sexuality.

Study Leader: Ellen Brubaker

Climate Justice - A Call to Hope and Action This study invites you to understand climate justice, which means setting right our relationships with each other and the earth. Climate injustice is the result of climate change. The study will challenge you to see what needs to happen for climate justice to become a reality in the world today. The church needs to more powerfully model a way of doing it differently. This will entail not just focusing on the environment, but also asking hard questions regarding financial profit, a growing economy, our independent way of thinking and our understanding of efficiency.

Study Leader: Susan Emmons



Latin America - People and Faith This study is an overview of the richness of Latin America and its people for readers on the North American continent. The study examines the history of the region from pre-Colombian times until colonization and the struggle for independence. It also explores the current challenges of the nations, along with their rich art, culture and the ongoing contributions of women. The role of religion is woven throughout the pages and will help the reader understand how Latin America has been influenced by various religions and faith traditions. Photos by missionary Paul Jeffrey offer a glimpse of the work of The United Methodist Church in the region.

Study Leader: Nohemi Ramirez

JOIN US FOR A TIME OF LEARNING, FELLOWSHIP AND COMMUNITY

For more information, contact Sue Emmons, Dean
Linda Burton-Collier, Assistant Dean or Beth Mitchell, Registrar



2016 Mission u Registration Form * July 14-16, 2016 * Albion College

Duplicate form as needed. Deadline for registration is **JULY 3, 2016**

Each person registering to attend Mission u must have their own registration form, regardless of age.

INFORMATION

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone _____
 Cell Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Home church _____
 District _____
 Name tag (if different from above) _____
If Child or Youth:
 Age _____ Grade entering August 2016 _____
Enriched Child Care:
 Age (0-5) _____
Name of adult responsible for the child/youth
registering above.

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

☐ First time attending ☐ Clergy
☐ Study Leader ☐ District Officer
☐ Conference Officer ☐ Missionary
☐ Scholarship Applicant

Please submit your scholarship application to the Registrar along with your completed registration form. Send to:
 Beth Mitchell, Registrar, 3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004.

SPECIAL NEEDS

☐ First floor housing
☐ Minimal stairs
☐ Minimal walking
☐ Help moving around campus
☐ Sign language interpreters
☐ Special dietary needs (please specify)

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Requested roommate: _____
 (Your roommate must have same needs regarding housing.)

MISSION STUDIES

Spiritual Growth: "The Bible and Human Sexuality"
 Everyone will be taking this study.

Select ONE Choice Study:

☐ "Climate Justice - A Call to Hope and Action"
☐ "Latin America - People and Faith"

PAYMENT INFORMATION

ON CAMPUS

Adult	\$250.00
Children/Youth	FREE
Enriched Child Care	FREE

COMMUTER WITH 5 MEALS

Adult	\$150.00
Children/Youth	FREE
Enriched Child Care	FREE

COMMUTER WITH NO MEALS

Adult	\$100.00
Children/Youth	FREE
Enriched Child Care	FREE

Total Due: _____

* Make checks payable to West Michigan Conference UMW

* Registration is not complete until payment is received.

* You may pay for multiple registrations with one check.
 Staple all registration forms together, include payment and mail to:

Beth Mitchell, Registrar
3813 Rockwood Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

Priorities



Greetings from Grand Traverse District,

What are your priorities? Better yet, what would God want your priorities to be? My life is a whirlwind right now as I'm preparing for my last offspring's graduation and open house next weekend! But when I think of the mission and purpose of United Methodist Women I have to

give this wonderful organization of Christian women some time in my life, as well. There is so much we can do to improve the lives of women, children, and youth in our world!

Grand Traverse District's recent Social Action Day on May 10th at Alden UMC was an eye-opener about the modern day slavery going on even in our district and conference with human trafficking.

Our district team plans interesting and enlightening programs with speakers who challenge us to make a difference for the better in our world, whether it be locally, nationally, or around the world.

Do plan to come to Mission Day on August 4th at Alden UMC where we will learn about a locally based mission called The Manna Food Project and how we can help that cause.

I'll never forget a long-time UMW member saying to me, "A church without a UMW is like a home without a mother!" Don't let our UMW's disappear! They are the "heart" of our churches!

Have a wonderful spring and summer, and do plan to be at Mission Day and bring your friends!

Your Sister in Christ,
Judy Gasco

From Our Spiritual Growth Coordinator



We have finished our Bible study for the summer and will begin again in the fall. I enjoyed my time with the group.

I spend a lot of time studying. I am sure others do as well. God does not take a break. We need to find a way to stay grounded in scripture.

There are many ways to do this.

Make time everyday for devotions. It can be done at any time. To help you track, you may want to keep a log. This will ensure a record of your progress each day.

There are many ways for us to be spiritually fed. Find what works best for you.

I am going to read one book

of the Bible this summer. You can Facetime with a friend and do a Bible study. I have a friend with whom I Facetime every week to pray. It has been a positive experience. I hope you find a way to study, pray and be in fellowship spiritually with others.

Blessings,
Simmie Proctor
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

WHO ARE WE?

“United Methodist Women are women whose feet are firmly rooted in the local unit of her church with her wings spread out in the global arena. She is a witness to the story of stories, that the church has its origin in God’s mission in Christ. It is an awe-inspiring story - a story of commitment and conviction. It is also a story of love and involvement - a story of sacrifice and death. It is the story which the women at the empty tomb of Christ carried into the world.”

“It is the story which our foremothers lived out in their homes, implanted in our land, and carried across the seas and continents. Organizationally, the United Methodist Women live out this grand story of love and salvation by empowering women, youth and children.” (from the *Workbook for Mission Coordinators for*

Christian Global Concerns by Glory Dharmaraj.)

The role of the conference organization is to help district and local units as they continue the work of the past century in the ministry to women, to youth and to children. The ministry is one of the spiritual formation, transformative education, leadership development, service and advocacy. United Methodist Women interprets the mission of the church and helps women be involved in that mission, with prayers, presence and financial giving. It is a ministry that includes in very special ways, the member herself, as she grows in her Christian faith and understanding.

The Organization of United Methodist Women provides a support system for its members as they challenge racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. As an organization we are



committed to programs that advocate for the needs of children and youth. We have a solid commitment to global awareness and to providing a strong program of mission education for transformation.

The leadership of United Methodist Women must be able to further its purpose and the concerns listed above. The recruitment and selection of nomination of this leadership is the task of the committee on Nominations.

Linda Darrow, Chairperson
Conference Committee
on Nominations

2016 UMW Prayer Calendar

Check it out, page 92! Sunday, September 25, 2016, the day United Methodist Women all over the world will pray for and focus on the mission we all know and love, the United Methodist Community House.

West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

www.michiganumc.org (Ministries-UMW)

United Methodist Women

61470 County Road 657, Lawton, MI 49065



NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT # 933

Inside This Issue

From Your Book Lady

District Updates

Mission u

Faith Journey

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

OR 61470 County Road 657, Lawton, MI 49065

2016 Calendar of Events

June 15	Evening of Missions	Gobles UMC
June 24-26	North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Celebration	Grand Rapids
July 14-16	Mission u	Albion College
August 4	Grand Traverse District Mission Day	Alden UMC
August 13	Short Study Mission u	Cassopolis UMC
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