

# Conference Gram



Volume 57, Number 1 Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women February 2008

## **Conference Priority for 2008**

**“For Christ’s Sake, Turn the World Upside Down Initiative” with emphasis on Public Education**

## **Conference Goals for 2008**

**#1. Conference Financial Goal: To increase TOTAL Mission Giving through the Five Channels by 1%. The Five Channels are Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering.**

**#2. Mission Today Goal: 40% of local units to become Mission Today Units.**

**#3. Increase attendance at Conference Events by 2%.**

**The events are Spiritual Growth Retreats, School of Christian Mission, and Conference Annual Meeting.**

**More information on these goals and our conference priority can be found in your district newsletters, future Conference Grams and on our Conference Website which is**

**[www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)**

## **PRESIDENT-AMY JOHNSON**

The Western North Carolina Conference UMW finished 2007 with wonderful news of overpaying our pledge to Women’s Division of \$810,000. Thank you for helping to make that happen. Please see Sharon Smith’s article for specific information.

Over the past several years, the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women have made a valiant effort to make our **PURPOSE** come alive. In studying our **PURPOSE**, we have been especially strong in the areas of Spiritual Growth (to know God), Membership Nurture and Outreach (to develop a creative, supportive fellowship), as well as Mission Education and Interpretation (participation in the global ministries of the church). The one area where we have not had as much participation as we would like is in Social Action (to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ).

Social Action is an area that can make us uncomfortable. Social justice issues are not easy ones to tackle. In looking at this work area of United Methodist Women, our Conference Executive Committee has approved the formation of two new programs, as well as implementing changes to Mission Today criteria.

### **WNCC UMW Charter Club**

In order to learn more about the Charter for Racial Justice, each local unit is encouraged to become a member of the Conference UMW Charter

Club. Criteria for the Charter Club provides new and innovative ways for local units to implement the Charter for Racial Justice. There are three different levels of participation which enables the local unit to be as involved as they would like. You may find the criteria on the Conference web site. Please study the criteria and make plans how your local unit can become a member of this new organization.

### **“For Christ’s Sake, Turn the World Upside Down”...with emphasis on Public Education**

In August of 2007, Sherry Sink and Tonya Lanier represented the Western North Carolina Conference UMW at the National Seminar in Nashville, Tennessee. The National Seminar is held every four years with special emphasis on a social justice issue. There were several social justice issues targeted: Economic Justice; Community Food Security; Public Education; Health Care; Militarism, Peace and National Security; Immigrant and Refugee Rights; and Environmental Justice. Each conference was asked to determine how they would implement this program upon their return.

The Western North Carolina Conference UMW Executive Committee approved at the November 2007 meeting to make **PUBLIC EDUCATION** our Conference priority for 2008. While all of the social justice issues are worthwhile, we felt that it is better to focus on one issue rather than try to spread

ourselves too thin in trying to cover all of them. The work that we do should not be just a “band-aid fix” but a movement to effect change in our communities. The Conference UMW Mission Team has pledged to work diligently to implement this initiative. The Conference UMW will model ways that local units can be involved and work for change at all of the Conference events in 2008 as well as provide related materials in the Conference Gram and on the website.

### **New Mission Today Criteria**

Some additions and changes have been made to the Mission Today criteria in order to make the criteria more action-oriented. In studying the Mission Today reports submitted by the local units, the Mission Today Committee found that there were units who qualified as being a Mission Today Unit without making or meeting their pledge to mission. The Mission Today Committee, as well as the entire Conference Mission Team, felt that this is wrong! Beginning in 2008, the **NUMBER ONE** Mission Today criteria is that you **MUST** make and meet your pledge to mission. Your unit may complete all of the other criteria listed; however, if your unit does not make and meet their pledge to mission, your unit will not be a Mission Today Unit. You can view the Mission Today criteria on the Conference website. Please help your local unit become a Mission Today Unit in 2008.

## School of Christian Mission



### “Living the Sacred”

Greensboro College, Greensboro,  
North Carolina

“July 24-27, 2008”

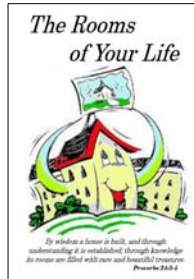
\*Spiritual Growth Study:  
“I Believe in Jesus”

\*Geographic Study: “Israel/  
Palestine”

\*General Issue Study: “Giving Our Hearts Away:  
Native American Survival”

Teen Women Event—Saturday, July 26th  
Registration Deadline is June 28, 2008

## Spiritual Growth Retreats



“The Rooms of Your Life”  
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

“June 13-14/ 14-15, 2008”

1st session: 3:45 pm  
2nd session: 7:15 pm  
3rd session: 9:00 am  
4th session: 10:30 am

Retreat Leader: **Jean Padgett**  
Music Team: **Mark Barden & Adam Ward**

Registration brochures are available from your  
District Presidents.

**Remember our Mission Today**  
Goal is for 40 percent of our local  
units to be a Mission Today Unit.

Some pretty big changes have been added for 2008, but they are changes and additions to our existing program that can be achieved. You may say that your unit is too small to participate in these new programs. The answer to that “problem” is to partner with another unit. Don’t think of obstacles that may prevent you from doing the work; instead, begin building bridges to help your local unit work with other units in your community to effect change.

Your Conference UMW Mission Team stands ready and willing to help you in any way that we can. Please call or email any of us if you have questions or need assistance in any way. It is my prayer that the Western North Carolina Conference will become a brighter beacon of Christ’s love through your continued support of United Methodist Women programs.

Blessings for a great 2008!

### **VICE PRESIDENT** **SANDY HIERONYMUS**

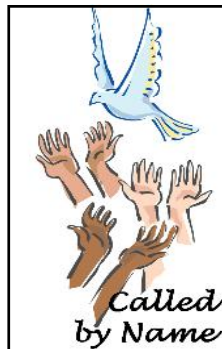
With each new year come opportunities and challenges to fulfill the **PURPOSE** as we plan programs and events. Look for new and exciting ways to make your programs meaningful, educational and spiritually uplifting. Keep in mind the goals set by the conference and your district. Try to emphasize the new Mission Today criteria, Charter Club, and Public Education priority set by the conference.

Many resources are available to aid in programming. Three very important resources are the **Program Book**,

**Publish Glad Tidings** (Stock #M3010, \$5.00), **2008 Prayer Calendar** (#M3009, \$11.00), and **Response Magazine** (\$24 per year, call toll-free 1-877-881-2385). Order books and other items from the Mission Resource Center in Dallas, Texas. Their toll-free number for the Mission Resource Center is 800-305-9857 or go to their website at [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org).

Being with United Methodist Women is always a rewarding experience. Our supportive fellowship is priceless. Make plans now to attend upcoming district and conference events. I have made friendships all over our conference because of UMW. I thank God for YOU!

Plans are underway for our 2008 Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska, September 5, 6, & 7. The theme will be **Called by Name**. This theme is



the same as the upcoming SEJ Meeting in April in Hampton, Virginia. We want to bring the SEJ Meeting back to Western NC. Check the conference website and click on “Annual Meeting” for valuable information updated as plans become firm.

I am passionate about the UMW ministry. We make a difference in many lives as we work together. Contact me if I may help you in any way. May 2008 be full of God’s richest blessings as we serve Him through UMW.

**DON’T FORGET** the registration fee at Conference Events at Lake Junaluska!!!

There will be a \$10.00 registration fee collected from all persons attending the Spiritual Growth Retreats and Annual Meeting at Lake Junaluska.

Fees will be collected at Harrell Center at the time of registration.

Please do not mail registration fees in with your housing reservation form.

### **LEADER DEVELOPMENT** **BETTY SWARTHOUT**

Invite your shepherdess to visit your local UMW unit in 2008. Invite them to do a program for your unit, and to update you on coming events.

Keep connected with your district and conference officers by participating in the events throughout the year.

Learning is essential for all of us so we can become stronger advocates through our mission giving of prayers, time, talents, energies, and money on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. We can all learn together, and know that we are not alone in our call to mission.

Let’s learn and grow together in our commitment to serve God following Jesus’ example. We are called to serve alone and together. So invite your district officers for a **“LUV Visit”** [Local Unit Visitation].

Let God bless you.

**EDUCATION &  
INTERPRETATION**  
**SHERRY SINK**

**A New Year Brings Changes**

A **new** year is upon us and it is bringing with it **newness** and challenges to our conference. Yes, **change** is coming to the WNCC!

We have **new** Mission Today Criteria, a **new** Charter Club, and a **new** conference priority that is "For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside Down Initiative" with emphasis on Public Education.

You can find all of the above information on our website. I suggest that you get your hands on this information as soon as possible. The sooner you get it, the faster you can get started. I know that we can have at least 40 percent of our units become Mission Today Units for 2008.

Do not be afraid to call on district and conference officers to help with programming and information. Local units can join together to make programming and events more fun and effective.

The changes in Mission Today were made to help us be better informed at the local level, and more aware and active in the area of social justice. We need to attend district and conference events and bring them back to our units. Do not be afraid to share all the details of your experience with those in your unit, or better yet, invite someone that has never been to attend with you.

Throughout the year you will be hearing a lot about our **2008 Conference Priority, "For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside Down Initiative."** We will be focusing on Public Education and there will be district and conference activities. As our conference tackles the issues of public education, we will keep you, informed and invite you to take part. Together I know that we can **"Turn the World Upside Down!"**

Do not let the words **new** or **change** be a stumbling block to you as you begin to work on becoming a Mission Today Unit, Charter Club member, or working on our **new** initiative. Jesus Christ himself brought **change** everywhere he went and to everyone he touched. He can touch us now and **change** us into someone **new**. I suggest that we become the **change** we want to see. If we let God — He will make all things **new!**

**SECRETARY**  
**ANN ALDRIDGE**

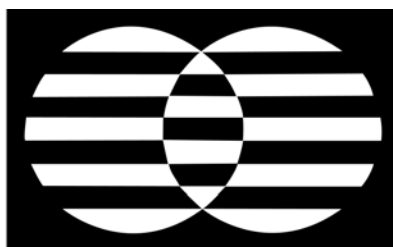
Greetings to each of you!! How blessed we all are to be a part of United Methodist Women. I look forward with excitement to serving as your secretary as we work together to accomplish the purpose of UMW in 2008.

I would like for you to join me in expressing sincere appreciation to Dixie Sheff who served as Conference Secretary 2006 – 2007. Dixie did a wonderful job and I know we are all grateful to her for her dedication and hard work.

The role of secretary at both the local and district level is a very important responsibility. She must understand the organization of her unit, the **PURPOSE** of UMW, and the responsibilities assigned to her in order to assist the president. Her primary duty is to keep accurate minutes of unit meetings and of the Executive Committee. She is also the custodian of all records and official papers. She should keep an accurate up-to-date roll of the membership and serve on the Executive Committee. She is to sign with the president all official papers and keep a list of elected officers along with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses. As a member of the Executive Committee, a secretary should attend all training opportunities and make every effort to take advantage of all District and Conference events.

I share with you one of my favorite expressions of John Wesley: "He who governed the world before I was born shall take care of it likewise when I am dead. My part is to improve the present." As a member of United Methodist Women, join me in improving the present by living the **PURPOSE**.

If I may be of service to any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me.



**Mission Giving**  
**New Name, Same Great Opportunity**

**TREASURER-SHARON SMITH**

**Thank YOU!** Every Mission Dollar makes a difference. The United Methodist Women of the Western North Carolina Conference continue to honor Jesus Christ through their support of ministries to women, children, and youth throughout the world.

**We DID IT AGAIN!!! - Total giving from the local units went over the \$1,000,000 mark. Total giving reached \$1,093,853.22 in 2007,** an increase of \$16,137.34 over 2006. Total giving sent to Women's Division was \$961,861.84 - \$840,595 in undesignated funds, an increase of \$43,094.20 over 2006. The total received for the Conference Love Offering was \$33,163.51 – an increase of \$269.18 over 2006. The Walk for Mission totaled \$6,329.25, a decrease of \$2,170.65 over the 1<sup>st</sup> walk. The Spiritual Growth Love Offering totaled \$5,739.56, a decrease of \$573.97 over 2006. Also, we gave \$121,266.84 in designated gifts for programs of the General Board of Global Ministries. And, we gave \$10,042.00 to other projects, including \$2,385 in contributions to the WNCC UMW General Scholarship Funds. Even if we did not meet all of our goals or surpass giving in some areas, we can still hold our heads high and be proud of our accomplishments. Thank you for all you have done to interpret where the money goes.

**We not only met, but we surpassed, our \$810,000 pledge for 2007. We also met our 2007 Financial Goal of increasing giving in the Gift to Mission Channel by 10%. We actually increased mission giving in the Gift to Mission Channel by 22.23%.**

With each new year comes new challenges and the need for undesignated funds is greater than ever. **Our 2008 Financial Goal is to increase total Mission Giving through the Five Channels by 1%.** We need to work on interpreting where the money goes and the importance of giving undesignated through our Five Channels of mission giving.

The **2008 Conference Love Offering** will be a **Gift to Mission Giving "In Honor of Bishop and Mrs. McCleskey for their support of UMW in Mission."**

We need to let them know how much they have meant to the WNCC United Methodist Women.

Your monetary gifts will help to relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for women, children and youth by providing food, clothing, health care, education, missionary support, and funds for many other mission projects. As United Methodist Women, we pledge our prayers, our time, and our gifts as we seek to fulfill our **PURPOSE**.

Thank you for your continued commitment to mission. **YOUR GIFTS make mission possible throughout the world.**

### **NOMINATIONS CHAIR** **PATSY BAKER**

The Committee on Nominations is a very important responsibility for the future of UMW in our districts and conference. Women we choose for these positions must be those who love UMW and are devoted to **Our PURPOSE**. Now is the time to study talent bank forms and profile sheets for potential leaders to fill offices for 2009. Continue to get these information sheets filled out when you see someone who may be a good leader and team player. Nominations committee members should always have talent bank forms with them at District events to pass on to persons of interest. Keep in mind to seek women from a wide spectrum of the membership: age, race, marital status, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, physically challenging conditions, employment and non-employment. Evaluate the present officers that are completing their second year in office and decide if you will ask them to continue the office for another two years or if you should you replace them. Keep the committee meetings, discussions, evaluations and profile sheets confidential. Ask those you talk with about filling positions to do the same until the slate of officers is approved. Please contact me if you have any questions.

### **SOCIAL ACTION-LINDA YOUNG**

Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphans. Plead for the widow. These words in Isaiah 1:17 read like a job description for members and leaders of the United Methodist Women called to mission. United Methodist Women give generously to mission projects with women, children, and youth in the United States and in countries around the world. When we seek justice, love

mercy, and walk humbly with our God, we then are doing what the Lord requires of us. The Lenten season is here and we are reminded to repent and get our lives centered, our priorities straight, and our hearts clean. This holy season offers us a new chance to say "yes" to the Lover of our Souls who created us, who made us in His own image. Lent is the time for a restoration project that will reveal the beauty of God's design for us, showing once again the scale, proportion, and priorities intended by our Maker.

We continue to hear the word **priority**. Our Conference priority was chosen from the "For Christ's Sake...Turn the World Upside Down" initiative with emphasis on **PUBLIC EDUCATION**.

Public Education was one of many social issues addressed at the Women's Division National Seminar held last fall in Nashville and chosen by our representatives, Tonya Lanier and Sherry Sink, for Western North Carolina to concentrate on for 2008.

At our training session in January, the Bible study focused on the importance of our children and their right to a good education. Ideas and suggestions from this training as to what our local units and district teams can do, were compiled and are now in the hands of your District President. I'm sure the list will be in your district newsletter and members hands immediately.

Why Public Education? On an average day in the United States, one-fifth of all citizens are in school. Current educational policy trends emphasize using testing to judge the performance of students, teachers and the entire system. We need to explore the root causes of the current crisis in public education, such as poverty, allocation of funds, race, class, and societal conditions, to name a few. Also, examine the impact of root causes on school, children, teachers, and communities. We, as United Methodist Women, envision a world where public education names core values that serve individuals, communities, and the nation in the future. We envision a system that serves the needs of all children.

As we enter an election year, I want to encourage each you to **VOTE**. Voting is the most important tool Americans have to influence the policies the government adopts that affect every aspect of our lives-from tax policy, to preserving our environ-

ment, to protecting equal opportunity in housing and employment. In short, voting is power. Let us not forget the struggle for women's right to vote. Our right to vote is a privilege that we must not take for granted. As United Methodist Women, we must make sure that, not only, all of our ladies have registered to vote, but that every illegible family and church member is registered to vote. Please exercise this precious gift. 2008 marks the 88th year of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing all American women the right to vote. We celebrate having a voice in politics. The foundation of our democratic form of government is the right to vote. Unfortunately, even today, many minority voters face impediments or barriers to voting. Throughout much of our nation's history, large numbers of Americans have been denied the right to vote.

**\*Women** were denied a federal right to vote until the Constitution was amended in 1920.

**\*Native Americans** were denied the right to vote until 1924, when the Indian Citizenship Act granted them citizenship and the right to vote.

**\*Chinese Americans** could not vote until the Chinese Exclusion Acts of 1882 and 1892 were repealed in 1943.

**\*Until 1952**, first-generation Japanese Americans could not vote because of the racial restrictions of the 1790 Naturalization Law.

**\*African Americans** in the South and Latinos in the Southwest were often systematically denied the right to vote until the enactment of the Voting Rights Act in 1965 permanently outlawed direct barriers to political participation by racial and ethnic minorities, and required jurisdictions with a history of discrimination in voting to obtain federal approval before making any changes to voting practices or procedures.

**\*Language minority** citizens were often denied needed assistance at the polls until the 1975 amendments to the Voting Rights Act required such assistance be provided.

2008 is the 43rd Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act. Enacted in 1965, the Voting Rights Act is among the nation's most effective civil rights legislation guaranteeing millions of minority voters the equal opportunity to participate in elections and to have their voice's heard by removing

barriers to voting. The Act prohibits racial discrimination in voting and establishes the right to language assistance election materials.

We are blessed to live in a society where we have so many rights. Lest we forget the brave and amazing people who fought for these rights so that we could pull the curtain at the polling booth and have our say.

Keep up with the candidates. Become very informed about them. What they stand for don't stand for. What they believe in. Where their priorities are. What issues and concerns they address. Be on the scene when the candidates come to your town. Most of all, register and exercise your precious right on election day...**VOTE!**



Watch for this symbol  
.... the  
New Charter Club!!

### **MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, & OUTREACH—LINDA BAITY**

As mission coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach you have accepted the honor and privilege of serving God through and organization with a **PURPOSE**. Thank you on behalf of all United Methodist Women members, especially the local units. You actively contribute to fulfilling our **PURPOSE**. Our responsibility is to encourage the officers in the local units to determine the needs of the membership and to keep in touch with all the women in the unit. We are to "help members of the unit to see membership as a great opportunity for spiritual growth, leader development, involvement in mission, personal growth and meaningful participation in study and action." (District and Local Handbook)

As a conference we are making a joint effort in improving our image. We addressed boring programs at annual meeting last year with the "Extreme Makeover" skit. The members that always attend may not even notice they are in a rut. In order to attract new and younger members, we must respect their time away from home. Young women and teens want to **do** mission as well as hear about it. No matter how small or large the local unit

is they can do hands-on mission projects, such as bring items for Bethlehem Centers, make Health Kits for UMCOR, provide personal items for foster children or cards of appreciation to the public school teachers in the community. We need to have programs with real purpose. Change is not always easy, but we must make changes and adjustments to keep up with the fast pace in today's world. Young women and children want to belong to an organization that can help make the world a better place.

"Alone we can do nothing, together we can do everything." Helen Keller

Please contact me if I can be of any service to you.

### **SECRETARY PROGRAM RESOURCES—KIM KEYES**

#### **EXTRA!! EXTRA!! READ ALL ABOUT IT!**

Greetings, my beloved sisters! I am your new librarian on the Conference! I am eager to serve each of you in this capacity and to fellowship with you as you browse among the books and materials at our three events. Resources that you and your Unit need to make our **PURPOSE** come alive can be purchased at Conference and District events and can also be individually ordered from our Mission Resource Center.

For more than 135 years, the UMW and our predecessor organizations have been involved in mission that has always included prayer, study, and action. The **Reading Program** is a wonderful opportunity to engage in each of these areas. But being informed is just the beginning...reading should lead to action! Many of the books on the **Reading Program** lists deal with issues such as racism, human rights, peace, the environment, and concerns of all women and children. Follow up your reading with action!!

Be sure to get the new **Prayer Calendar** (you'll love the new design!) and the **Program Book** for your Unit. The **Children's Reading Program** is thriving. Encourage your ladies to get your children and youth involved and watch missions come alive even more within your churches and districts.

Contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have concerning program resources, ladies. Titles read from the 2003 list will be credited

through December 31, 2008. The booklists for 2002-2008 are on the Reading Program Online Community, [www.umwonline.org](http://www.umwonline.org). Lists for 2007 and 2008 are available at Women's Division website, [www.umwmission.org](http://www.umwmission.org). To order **Reading Program** books go to [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org).

Remember that there are four **Reading Program** plans in which to participate. Come in and browse our UMW library...I'll be there waiting for you... I'll be the one publishing glad tidings!!

### **SPIRITUAL GROWTH PATRICIA WISEMAN**

Grace and Peace to all my UMW sister and especially to those who are taking the journey with me serving as Spiritual Growth Coordinators. Our tasks is helping our UMW members grow spiritually. Our **PURPOSE** states that we are "to know GOD."

How do we do this? By participating in Bible Studies and in the Reading Program. By attending our Conference School of Christian Mission and attending District Prayer Breakfasts and District Mission Studies. It is part of our responsibility to keep our units informed of conference and district events, giving plenty of notice so UMW members can make plans to attend.

This is the time of year that we promote the **Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Service**. The theme for 2008 is "**Learning for a Lifetime**" and the offerings collected will be used to fund programs at mission institutions related to the United Methodist Women



and the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries. The total offering will be divided among United States institutions and international institutions. The Call to Prayer and Self Denial

Service can be found in the **2008 Program Book**, "**Publish Glad Tidings**." The prayer cards for this service can be downloaded from our conference website at [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org).

Our **Spiritual Growth Retreats** are coming up June 13/14 & 14/15 at Lake Junaluska. The next Conference Gram will give full details about the retreats. *However, those planning to go and who want to stay in conference lodging on the grounds must not mail their registration form before February 11th.* A registration form can be obtained from District Presidents, district newsletters, or you can download a copy from our UMW website.

I'm excited about the UMW journey I'm on and I hope you are too. I look forward to working with each of you. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Wanted All District Officers to attend....

***District Officers Training***

***When:***  
Saturday,  
October 11, 2008

***Where:***  
Highland UMC, Hickory

This is a very important training event for district officers!!!

Please mark your calendars now and make plans to attend!!!

**SCHOLARSHIP  
LOUISE JONES**

**THANK YOU,** district communication coordinators, for getting the information about our Conference UMW Scholarship Program in your district newsletters last year. The Scholarship Committee will be interviewing applicants on Saturday, March 29th, 2008. As of January 22nd, a total of eleven letters have been sent out with four of these letters going to new persons requesting applications.

The Scholarship Program is funded by eight endowed scholarship funds and the General Scholarship Fund. Contributions to the General Fund are encouraged after units have met their pledge to mission and given in all the other Five Channels of mission giving.

One of the most rewarding opportunities of being on the Scholarship Committee is seeing how the lives of our youth, and those starting a second career, change through Christ's call.

We are given the opportunity to actually see their hopes and dreams unfold as they choose a life for Christ.

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Your conference officers ask you to covenant with us to pray for all the conference events coming up this year. Prayer is a vital part in the life of a United Methodist Woman. Please pray along with us each day that God will use us and these events to touch the lives of all those who attend.

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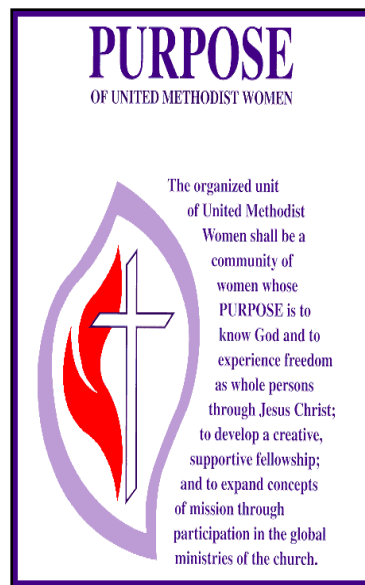
Get ready!!!

Our Hands-on Mission Opportunity for the School of Christian Mission

**UMCOR HEALTH KITS**

Involve your whole church in this Hands-on Mission opportunity. More information to come later or checkout our website for more information.

Remember YOU make mission possible!!!



**The 14 WNCC UMW DISTRICT PRESIDENTS—2008**

**Omitted for Web Site Purposes**

**Officer Names and Email Addresses  
Are available on Conference Officer page of our website.**

2008 WNCC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ROSTER

## Omitted for Web Site Purposes

**Officer Names and Email Addresses**  
Are available on Conference Officer page of our website.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Watch for another new symbol*



*.....the new Mission Today*

**2008 Conference Gram Subscription**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Make \$2.00 check payable to WNCC UMW & mail to: Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Ave SE, Newton NC 28658

**CONFERENCE GRAM**

WNC Conference United Methodist Women  
Karen Wilkerson, 2829 17th Avenue SE, Newton NC 28658



**“For Christ’s Sake, Turn the World Upside Down Initiative” with emphasis on Public Education**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WNC CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**2008**

- April 4-6 Southeastern Jurisdiction Meeting—Hampton VA  
“Called By Name”
- April 22-May 2 General Conference, Fort Worth TX
- June 5-8 UMC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
- June 13-14/14-15 Spiritual Growth Retreats, Lake Junaluska
- July 24-27 WNCC UMW School of Christian Mission, Greensboro College
- September 5-7 WNCC UMW Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska
- October 11 WNCC UMW Officer Training for District Officers, Highland UMC in Hickory

**Web Site Address:** [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)

Lynne Gilbert maintains the web site. You are invited to send her articles and photos for the web site.

**Join Our Conference Email List Free!!** To receive conference event information, updates, the Conference Gram, etc: send an email to Lynne Gilbert ([lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net)) or Karen Wilkerson ([kwilkerson@charter.net](mailto:kwilkerson@charter.net)), giving your name, email address, and district name. Join Now!!

The **Conference Gram** is published four times per year by the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women. It is mailed, free of charge, to all district and conference officers, and to local unit presidents, vice-presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and circle chairs. If you hold one of these offices and have not received your copy, please send your name, address, local unit name, office, and district name to Karen Wilkerson, WNCC UMW Communications Coordinator, 2829 17th Avenue SE, Newton, NC 28658. Any other persons may use the subscription form on page 7. You may also receive the **Conference Gram** free via email. See the information regarding our conference email list above.