

Conference Gram



February 2011
Volume 60, Issue 1

2011 Conference Goals

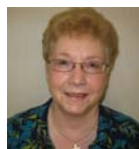
Conference Priority: Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence

Goal 1: Increase the number of local units giving in all 5 channels of Mission Giving by 10%

Goal 2: Increase the number of local units who are Mission Today units by 5% over the 2010 number

Goal 3: Increase the number of new members by 2% over the number of new members in 2010 (this will be approximately 609 new members)

Goal 4: Increase the number of Charter Club units by 10% over the number for 2010



President – Mildred Carter

At the beginning of this year, my thoughts are about joy -- joyfully giving, living, growing, serving. "...their abundant joy...overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part..." (2 Corinthians 8:2)

Because we joyfully give, the lives of many women, children, and youth are changed:

- Unemployed women and youth in South Africa learn new skills
- Young people in Latin America are taught to be church leaders
- Homeless women in San Francisco are provided a safe place to live
- Families in Houston, Texas, are helped to move from financial instability to financial stability

The Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women finished 2010 with wonderful news of again overpaying our pledge to mission. Your generous giving made that happen. Thank you! Please see Treasurer Julia Willis' article for specific information.

Your prayers and your giving of yourselves and of your funds is what keeps the ministry of United Methodist Women alive. I'm so grateful to be a part of this great ministry with you!

We have many opportunities to grow through United Methodist Women in 2011. Plans are being made for our Spiritual Growth Retreat June 17-18, the School of Christian Mission July 13-17, and Annual Meeting September 9-11. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

Please pray with me for all the vulnerable women, children and youth around the world who we serve through United Methodist Women.

This year, may we renew our commitment to the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. Please let me know if I can personally share with you and your local unit.



Chair of Nominations – Janet Turner

Greetings to the Committees on Nominations. You are very important since your decisions can shape the leadership and future of our organization of United Methodist Women. Many of you attended Officer Training last fall and are now beginning to make plans for the year and work on a slate of officers for 2012. Members of the Conference Committee on Nominations will be visiting each district to seek potential leaders. We are always available if you need assistance. Our prayers are with you as you serve this important responsibility to United Methodist Women.



Vice President – Tonya Lanier

It is common knowledge that exercise is good for the heart. Zumba or aerobics are great ways to get that heart rate up. There is also a great benefit in exercising moderately. The spiritual exercise of obeying God has even greater benefits for our hearts. There is freedom, peace and joy that come with running alongside our heavenly Father. In 2011, let's run the paths that God has laid out for us. The terrain may be rough, we may encounter hills, bad weather and pitfalls that delay our travel, but we should keep moving.

The moving has already begun! I have read several newsletters and it is apparent that things are well underway in our fifteen districts. While planning, be sure to use the vast resources that are only a click away. Our website, www.wnccumw.org, is the best one around. It is filled with suggestions, ideas, pictures and prayers. ***Finding Peace***, our 2011 Program Book, is packed full of inspirational programs that can be adapted to any unit for most any time. Grab that 2011 ***Prayer Calendar*** and incorporate it in your local unit programming. Another great resource is our 2009-2012 ***Handbook for United Methodist Women***. I also encourage you to contact a member of the conference team. They are always eager to assist. Invite someone to your next meeting. Challenge your unit to have representation at each of the conference events. Make your UMW Purpose come alive in your unit. Stay alert to issues affecting women and children in your community and most importantly, pray.

Our 2011 UMW Annual Meeting is sure to put pep in your step as we "Jump into Mission" at Lake Junaluska on September 9–11, 2011. We want to work-out those mission muscles and lunge into LUV Visits. We will tackle social action issues, like Domestic Violence and Racial Justice, while flexing our financial giving goals. We would like to sprint forward with special mission recognition cards and cool down with a great book from the reading program. We plan to dance with each district and soar with our UMW sisters. So, march to your calendar and circle the dates for Annual Meeting.

2011 has started and we want to move to the next level. Whether you skip, hop, leap, fly or merely step out.....let's merge our faith and fitness as we "Jump into Mission!" Your heart will be glad that you did.

Treasurer - Julia Willis



Year 2010 in Review:

Total Giving from the 15 Districts \$1,044,072.78

Conference Love Offering \$27,538.66

5th Walk for Mission \$5,584.15*

Spiritual Growth Retreat Love Offering \$7,375.10*

School of Christian Mission Love Offering \$1,221.49*

(these four offerings totaling \$41,719.40* exceeded same offerings in '09 by \$166.66!)

Mission Giving sent to Women's Division \$827,500

(exceeding our Pledge to Mission of \$817,500 by \$10,000)

Designated Giving to Women's Division \$100,176

(includes Call to Prayer and Self Denial Offering, national, international and UMCOR projects)

Donations to **other designated projects** \$14,941.61

(includes \$3,388.75 for WNCC UMW General Scholarship Fund, \$6,063.36 for Pennies with a Purpose; project ended 12/31/10)

*indicates an increase over previous year

Thank you for MAKING MISSION POSSIBLE. Even though our economic issues are far from over, your generous giving is providing much needed aid to women, children and youth in third world countries as well as our own neighborhoods.

A special thanks to Betty Letzig and Barbara Campbell, St Paul's UMC, Asheville District, for their \$2,310 Walk for Mission from 38 sponsors!

We also received \$150 Walk for Mission funds from Women's Division staff members who sponsored our speaker, Elmira Nazombe, for her walk around the Lake during Annual Meeting.



Mission Giving

2010 Financial Goal

To increase the number of local units giving in all five channels of Mission Giving by 10%

2010 Conference Love Offering

A Gift to Mission in honor of those who LIVE Faith, GIVE Hope, and PUT Love in action

Secretary – Ann Aldridge



Greetings to All District and Local Secretaries!

As we begin 2011, it is important to be reminded that our primary responsibility is to keep accurate minutes of all meetings. Key points to remember related to minutes:

1. Listen carefully and use the meeting agenda as a framework for your minutes.
2. Motions must be recorded exactly as stated. A motion is a formal proposal made by a member of the group, seconded by another member, and passed or defeated by a vote. List the names of those making and seconding motions.
3. Always head minutes with the name of the group, place of meeting, and date. Include the time the meeting was called to order and the time of adjournment.
4. Note persons in attendance, and write your minutes in the third person. Minutes should be written in the past tense and should be concise.
5. When minutes are presented, the chair asks if there are corrections or additions to the minutes. Then the chair states that the minutes are approved as presented or as corrected (if corrections are needed). It is not necessary to ask for a vote on accepting the minutes.
6. Minutes may include the president's name and the secretary's name at the end.
7. The phrase *Respectfully submitted* is no longer used.

If I may be of service to any of you, please do not hesitate to contact me at 828-433-0988 or through email at ahaldridge@charter.net. Blessings to all.



Social Action – Martha Phillips

Last year was very busy for Social Action.

- We worked to increase individual and unit activity in Public Education.
- We worked to increase the number of units that were members of the Charter Club.
- We had a workshop at Annual Meeting, "Making the Charter Come Alive."
- We sent letters to the NC State Legislature in support of passage of The Deaf Students' Bill of Rights. This bill did not get out of committee before the closing of the Legislature for the year. Hopefully, it will be reintroduced in 2011.
- We were ready to write letters to the US Congress urging passage of the IVAWA and GROWTH Act. Unfortunately these bills did not get to the floor for vote before Congress adjourned for the year.

Our work for justice and the rights of others continues in 2011 with our Conference Priority to Raise Awareness of Domestic Violence. Our Social Action Priorities for 2011 are:

- To increase the number of units that are members of the Charter Club by 10% over the 2010 number. Remember, membership in the Charter Club is renewed each year.
- To increase our awareness of the effect of Human Trafficking on women and children in the US and internationally.
- To support passage of the IVAWA which is expected to be reintroduced to Congress this year.

Look carefully at the flyer about our upcoming trip to NYC for a WNCC UMW Seminar on International Women's Rights and Justice Issues. Please consider participating in this wonderful opportunity. Space is limited on this trip so I hope to hear from you soon.

Grace and Peace.



Mission Interpretation and Education – Virginia Robinson

What an awesome 2010! You continue to answer the call for mission every time you are asked to bring your Hands-On mission opportunities. You brought birthing kits to the Spiritual Growth Retreat, health kits to School of Mission and Gift to Mission cards to Annual Meeting. These are in addition to all the other kits and buckets you brought to the meetings. The total monetary value for all events was \$75,951. Let's continue our journey of mission this year! Hands-on opportunities will again be coming your way. Take up the challenge for your units! Be a Mission Today unit by fulfilling these opportunities (#22). 2010 was phenomenal and I know this year will be no different!

The conference has two goals this year that we as Education & Interpretation coordinators can educate our local units: Increase the number of local units giving in all 5 channels of mission giving by 10% and increase Mission Today units by 5% over the 2010 figure. Let's get the message out to our women! Check with your district treasurer for updates on their giving. Let the unit know what area they need to work on for giving. Make sure they are keeping a record of what criteria they are finishing on the Mission Today list. We as coordinators MUST educate our units so we will have 100% for these goals.

Be aware of the new Mission Today! Go to the Conference website (wnccumw.org) to find the criteria. In 2010, we completed the Public Education Initiative so that is no longer a part of the criteria. Make a different criterion your highlight for 2011. You still must complete #1, "The Unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission," to be a Mission Today unit. That criterion is not an option. You are already on your way to being a Mission Today unit just by using our *PURPOSE*.

Several districts will soon be having their mission studies. Take advantage of these learning tools and complete #4 of the criteria. Use the *Prayer Calendar* and the Program Book. They are other resources included in the criteria (#2 and #3).

Include *response* moments when planning your programs for the year. This criterion is #16 and you will be following #5 also by subscribing to *response* magazine.

Remember, your conference and district officers love to visit. Include them when planning your calendar for the year and fulfill #20 of the Mission Today criteria.

Challenge your unit to undertake those more difficult criteria. For example #6, "The Unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year". You will find them enlightening! View a DVD on the Charter and see how you can work together to bring our *PURPOSE* alive...expand our concepts of mission...develop and create a supportive fellowship. What a way to begin 2011—continue this decade through MISSION!

www.gbgm-umc.org/umw/history

Historian – Patricia Settle



Tell the History of United Methodist Women by utilizing *New World Outlook* and *response* magazine as mission moments at local and district meetings. Both of these magazines have a rich heritage of the voice of women in mission. *New World Outlook* is now 100 years old and *response* magazine is over 140 years old. Check out this website: www.gbgm-umc.org/umw/history. This interactive site features a historical timeline of dates and facts about the various women's missionary organizations, and a collection of ten outstanding history books that highlight activities, experiences, and stories of Christian women involved in ministries with women, children and youth.

Program Resources – Kim Keyse



EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT

I travel worldwide sitting quite comfortably in my oversized chair...I meet the most inspiring people without leaving my home...I have learned more than I ever dreamed being home schooled. How do I accomplish all these feats with such ease, you ask...through the wonder of books! What is so cool is that you can too! The Reading Program allows the Purpose of the UMW to come alive in the most incredible ways.

Welcome in 2011 by allowing these books to help you flourish spiritually, nurture locally and globally, set social justice into action, and expand life changing missions through education...now that's remarkable reading!!

To pique your interest in books, I offer this challenge...via e-mail, tell me the title of the book that corresponds to the following clues:

- ✓ a modern day slave, an international art dealer, and the unlikely woman who bound them all together
- ✓ turning oppression into opportunity for women worldwide
- ✓ ministry with the homeless
- ✓ sometimes, all a person needs is a little perspective

(Hint...the books are all on the 2011 reading list)

Be lost in wonder, love, and praise, my beloved sisters, in a good book. I know where you can get one! Love, Kim



Membership Nurture and Outreach – Sherry Sink

Membership Nurture and Outreach (MNO) mission coordinators are on the move! There are lots of **NEW** opportunities available for women everywhere to participate in the mission of United Methodist Women.

The **Walk for Mission** will now take place in your own district. Districts will have their own walk and local units can have a Walk for Mission at their church or in their neighborhood. If local churches want to join together and have a Walk for Mission, that is also an option. Your district MNO can answer any questions and help you with organizing your event. Money will be sent to our conference treasurer and the top three districts will be recognized at annual meeting.

Our district teams will be contacting local units as they begin to set up **LUV** visits within their districts. Your district teams are there for you! They are available to do programs, answer questions, or just give support. The LUV visits are to help with communication

between the conference, districts and the local units. Every unit will be hearing from your district team!

MNOs are especially excited about the creation of a **membership event**. We have set up a pilot project and after it takes place, you will be hearing more about it. This event will be a nurturing and fun event. It will be a time to relax and renew!

This new year brings with it new exciting opportunities for the ladies of our conference! To really set the tone for the year, the district MNOs have made a covenant with one another to pray for our work in the conference and for United Methodist Women. We will pray at any time on Wednesdays. If you wish to join us, feel free to do so. We felt we needed to lift up UMW, our planning and the implementation of our plans. Join us in asking God for His guidance and blessings as we seek to serve Him through our ministry in United Methodist Women. **AMEN!**



Spiritual Growth – Dixie Tyson

Here it is - 2011! And, away we go! The Spiritual Growth Retreat will be June 17-18, 2011. We will follow the schedule for last year and there will be three sessions - one on Friday evening and two sessions on Saturday morning. You will note that Online Registration begins February 1, 2011 and you will receive a discount if you register online before May 23. You may make your lodging reservations online also or you may call Lake Junaluska at 1-800-222-4930 or 828-452-2881. You may choose to extend your stay to include Saturday evening at the Lake. If you have questions, please call me or other conference officers.

Our theme is "Peace, Popcorn, and Pansies." Reverend Dr. Heather Murray Elkins, author of one of our Reading Program books, *Holy Stuff of Life: Stories, Poems, and Prayers about Human Things*, will be leading us. There will be a praise band and a group of young ladies, "Trinity", leading our music. Please encourage all your ladies to attend. It promises to be a wonderful time of worship and renewal. More information will be in the next Conference Gram.

"Give a Gift of Love" is the theme for our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program this year. Please promote the observance of this program. This year's offering will support the Retirement Benefits Fund that provides for pensions and health care for retired United Methodist Women deaconesses and missionaries. Prayer and giving are vital to our organization. From our beginning, women have been trained to serve as deaconesses and missionaries. Though retired, these women are no less active. Some live at UMW supported Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville, and ascribe to the motto, "Called to serve, serving still." No matter where they have retired to, these faithful women continue in mission, witnessing to the importance of Christian service. Their dedication to mission service and social justice is based on their devotion to Christ and his work with the marginalized in society. You will find the program on page 61 in our 2011 Program Book, "Finding Peace."

An "Action Idea" from our program book suggests that we organize a year-long card shower using the missionary names listed in the back of our "Prayer Calendar". Assign different ladies the name of a retired missionary or deaconess and ask them to send a card on their birthday and other holidays throughout the year. One of the resources listed in the Program Book is the book written by Rev. Dr. Heather Murray Elkins, our speaker for the Spiritual Growth Retreat this year. You may order program books, Prayer Calendars, 2011 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial posters and prayer cards by calling 1-800-305-9857 or by going online at www.missionresourcecenter.org.

World Day of Prayer will be March 4, 2011. The theme is "How Many Loaves Have You?" The program this year is written by the women of Chile in South America. Materials are available to order: Website: www.wdpusa.org

If I can help you, please give me a call or e-mail. I'm excited about 2011 and look forward to where God is leading. We'll seek His guidance and follow together.

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We're on the Web

See us at:

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Purpose of United Methodist Women

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Upcoming Dates

May 21

School of Christian Mission Committee and
Program Committee

June 8 – 12

Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska

June 17 – 18

Spiritual Growth Retreat, Lake Junaluska

June 25 – 28

Regional School for Conference Officers & Study Leaders,
Ferrum College, VA

July 14 – 17

School of Christian Mission, Pfeiffer University

August 6-7

Executive Committee, Brooks-Howell, Asheville

September 9 – 11

Annual Meeting, Lake Junaluska

October 8

Officer Training, First Conover

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Join Us for a United Methodist Seminar in New York City

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In our three day seminar we will learn more about:

*INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S RIGHTS
AND JUSTICE ISSUES
AT THE CHURCH CENTER FOR
UNITED NATIONS

Be Change[d]

United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs is a cooperative program of the Women's Division of the *General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM)* and the *General Board of Church and Society (GBCS)*. We provide custom-designed, interactive, educational seminars throughout the year in New York City and/or Washington D.C. for groups interested in studying complex social issues from a perspective of faith.

Emphasis is placed on the United Methodist Church's commitment to:

- *Human rights *Racial justice *World peace *Global justice

This program enables you to acquire a global education in light of biblical and theological reflections. Check out the United Methodist Seminar Program on YouTube

The 12-story **Church Center for the United Nations** is owned by the Women's Division. It houses the United Methodist Office for the United Nations as well as the U.N. offices of Women's Division and United Methodist Board of Church and Society. In the building are other denominations' U.N. offices and offices of non-profit organizations that relate to the United Nations. On the first floor is a chapel named for Sadie Wilson Tillman, a former president of the Woman's Division. From the serenity of the chapel, one is thrust into activity created by people from a variety of nations.

Following a study of the United Nations, North Carolina Conference women, led by Rachel Holcomb of Mount Airy, N.C., began advocating for a place near U .N. headquarters where church representatives could meet. Woman's Division staff had been working toward the same goal.

Financing for the building came from the Woman's Division through a non-interest bearing loan. Later the Woman's Division acquired a mortgage on the building and provided additional funding. The United Methodist Council on World Service and Finance, with the approval of General Conference, provided \$1 million. In 1983, the Women's Division purchased the building.

The trip includes:

- *Tour of the U.N. *Visit to Women's Division
- * Wednesday night free time to attend a play or other activity as you wish
- * Attend a rehearsal of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir Tuesday evening
- *Bus tour of Lower Manhattan including the opportunity to ride the Staten Island Ferry

**Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women
 "International Women's Rights and Justice Issues" Seminar
 At Church Center for United Nations**

May 2-6, 2011, New York City



BUS TRIP RESERVATION FORM

Bus Departure Date: Monday, May 2, 2011 pickups in Marion and Statesville

Bus Return Date: Friday, May 6, 2011

Cost of bus with meals and room enroute: \$340 includes Monday lunch and dinner, Thursday lunch and dinner, lodging (double occupancy) & continental breakfast enroute home, snacks and bottled water on the bus.

Cost of rooms in New York (for 3 nights: May 2,3,4) at Seafarers and International House (Lutheran owned)

See www.sihnyc.org

Double Occupancy, 2 twin beds with bath \$202.50, limited number available based on postmark.

Double Occupancy, 1 twin bed + rollaway bed and lavatory with shower and toilet down the hall: \$157.50

Single Occupancy, 1 twin bed and lavatory with shower and toilet down the hall: \$315.00

United Nations tour (Age 60+ = \$11.00, Under age 60 = \$16.00)

Space is limited to 36. Total cost will be cost of bus + choice of rooms in New York and your UN tour ticket. To ensure your spot, you must send \$350 deposit to Martha Phillips by March 1. The remainder will be due April 1. No refunds/cancellations after April 1.

Trip will include Seminar at the Church Center for United Nations across from the UN, a visit to Women's Division, a bus tour of lower Manhattan including Ground Zero, an opportunity to ride the Staten Island Ferry and attend a rehearsal of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. On Wednesday evening, May 4, you will have free time to take in a Broadway play at your own expense. All meals in NYC on your own. The bus will provide all transportation in New York related to the Seminar and planned tours.

Pickups Monday, May 2: Marion 6:30am, Statesville 8:00am

For questions, contact Martha Phillips, mwphillips@wildblue.net, phone: 828-765-7009

----- Detach -----

Name: _____ Phone #: _____
Please Print Clearly

Address: _____
Street Address City State Zip Code

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone # _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Lodging Choice for New York May 2-4: (Please check one, and fill in roommate as appropriate) Price includes bus cost

Double Room (2 twin beds)\$542.50/person Roommate: _____

Double Room (1 twin + 1 rollaway)\$470.50 /person Please send roommate forms together

Single Room (1 twin bed)\$655 /person Room Choice \$ _____

United Nations Tour Ticket (Choose one)

UN Ticket + _____

Age 60+ = \$11.00

Total Due \$ _____

Under age 60 = \$16.00

Make \$350 deposit check payable to: Treasurer, WNCC-UMW

Mail this form and your deposit check to: Martha Phillips, PO Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647