

Installation of Officers *(Led by Harriett Jane Olson)*
Western North Carolina Conference Annual Meeting
September 12, 2009

Call forth members of the Conference Mission Team members who are newly elected and appointed and those continuing in their responsibilities.

Today we celebrate our mission as members of United Methodist Women by installing these women who have accepted the call to be in mission through leadership in our organization. We are called by God, through the Holy Spirit to live as the body of Christ through United Methodist Women, in our church, in our community and around the world.

(to the team)

The Nominating Committee has selected some of you, the President has named others and still others are serving by office. You are nominated, elected, named, and appointed because you possess the gifts and talents you need to do the work that God is calling us to do-in this time and in this place. The Annual Meeting has confirmed the calling to leadership of the officers and mission coordinators and here in the presence of this session each of your gifts is being affirmed.

So I ask you: As you accept these roles and begin the responsibilities of your office, will you do so with prayer for guidance and strength, with constant searching to be faithful to God's call, with the patience to listen to each other and to our members and prospective members?

If so, please respond, "I will, with God's help"

As leader of the Western North Carolina Conference organization of United Methodist Women, will you promise to fulfill the duties to which you have been called, with God as your helper?

If so, please respond, "I will, with God's help"

Will you participate in training and leadership development opportunities and make use of the resources available to you for the fulfillment of your responsibilities as part of this team?

If so, please respond, "I will, with God's help"

Will you be open to new ways and styles of fulfilling the Purpose of United Methodist Women?

If SO, please respond, "I will, with God's help"

(to the members)

Will you support these women with your prayers, your participation and your encouragement? Will you be open to the new ideas and possibilities that they will generate in the year ahead?

If so, please respond, "I will, with God's help"

Together you are a team. I challenge you to intertwine your lives of faith so that you may act together as becomes the body of Christ-supporting, challenging and forgiving each other. Relying on the presence of God to sustain you through joy, frustration, sorrow, busyness, loneliness and celebration, I challenge you to act in ways that strengthen this conference organization of United Methodist Women to serve its members, its church, and its local and global communities.

Let us pray:

Creating and Sustaining God, we give you thanks for each of these women who stand before you and before us today, as they accept the responsibility of leadership. May they be guided by your life-giving spirit as they work together. Guide, direct and sustain them as they lead the United Methodist Women of this conference in fulfilling the Purpose. May their lives and their witness be both fruitful and faithful after the example of Christ, in whose name we pray. AMEN