

Mission Session - Welcome Guest

Good morning and welcome to everyone to our Mission Session of the Western North Carolina Annual Meeting. I want to share some things about our honored guests this morning.

We have deaconesses, church and community workers and other mission personnel that are working in such places as Elkin, the Mission Response Center, Winston Salem, Asheville and Charlotte.

We have retired missionaries, general board of global missions' staff, Women's Division staff, Deaconesses and other mission personnel that have worked everywhere from Zimbabwe, Congo, United States, Fiji, Malaysia, Ghana, China, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, Zaire, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Philippines, India and Korea.

We have with us past United Methodist Women conference presidents and Mission Coordinators for Education and Interpretation. We have expanded our concepts of mission by including persons that lead our conference mission and outreach projects. We have a representative from Golden Cross, project AGAPE, and Vice Chair of the Committee on Mission and Outreach known as COMO. As all of these guests tell their Mission stories with you at lunch and you share them with others, we will learn more about how we are all in Mission together.

Turning our attention to our retired mission personnel, some of you wanted to know what some of them are doing. Knowing that the motto of Brooks-Howell is **Called-Served-Serving Still**, listen to what they are involved in: painting, writing books, being officers in their local UMW unit, tutoring math, volunteering in a homeless shelter, environmental activist, Stephen minister, teaching Sunday school, choir director, working in a library, counselor, musician, and volunteering at Asheville Police Department, just to name a few.

Stand up and welcome our guests with a round of applause!!!

And now, I want to welcome our guest speaker, Emily Brooke Newsome of Durham, North Carolina. Brooke is a US-2 missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries. She is serving in Urbana, Illinois at the Cunningham Children's Home. She is a graduate of Appalachian State University and is affiliated with Boone United Methodist Church and is a member of Duke Memorial United Methodist Church. Brooke has said that throughout college she felt a calling to ministry in some capacity, but for a long time denied this calling. She answered that call though through the US-2 program and is working with youth and children. She serves with the special therapies groups, such as music and recreational, and assists in coordinating spiritual life activities.

Brooke will bring her message a little later in the program, but I ask that she come forward for a special presentation. Brooke!