

The New Mission Today



United Methodist Women
Western North Carolina Conference

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!
Become a Mission Today Unit!!

The purpose of promoting a Mission Today Unit is to:

Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes. Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a Unit?

A unit is any organized group of United Methodist Women within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles, which periodically get together for a unit meeting.

How Do We Become a Mission Today Unit?

In order to be recognized as a Mission Today Unit, UMW groups must complete a minimum of twelve of the following criteria, including six of those marked with an asterisk (*). **#1 of the Criteria is not optional. You must complete this one to become a Mission Today Unit!** Activities conducted between January 1 - December 31, 2009 will be recognized at annual meetings in 2010. This is an ongoing program, so strive to become a Mission Today Unit!

Criteria:

- *1. The Unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission. (Must be completed)**
- *2. Use the *Prayer Calendar* at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth. A new *Prayer Calendar* is printed each year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.**
- *3. The unit will use at least two programs from the *Program Book* during the year. A new *Program Book* is printed every year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.**

- *4. The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies are for each year. (If members of your unit attend your District Mission Study and your unit takes an action growing out of the study, Gift to Mission, ministry related to the study, etc., your unit will meet this criteria.)
- *5. The unit will have at least two members subscribing to *Response*. Order from Magazines With A Mission, \$24 for a year's subscription. *New World Outlook* is also available from Magazines With A Mission, \$19.95 for a year's subscription. (1 member subscribing with units less than 15 members.)
- *6. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year. Possibilities are:
 - a. Have members read books and articles about other races and cultures;
 - b. Sponsor an interethnic event between two or more units;
 - c. Recruit women of color to be members and officers of the unit;
 - d. View the video on the Charter, "In Search of Racial Justice." Check your conference AV library or order from the Mission Resource Center.
 - e. Use the new "Resources for Racial Justice: Tools for UMW Leaders" handbook. (Available on our conference website on the "Downloads Available" page, and on the "Mission Today" page.)
 - f. Write to elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, low-income programs, civil rights, etc.
- *7. Become a member of the Western North Carolina UMW Charter Club. See link to info on Charter Club at our conference website.
- *8. The unit will add at least two new members (one member for units with less than 15 members) to its roll.
- *9. The unit will have one program from the *Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2009-2012*.
- *10. Complete one of the issues of the "For Christ's Sake, Turn the World Upside Down" Initiative. See link to info on the Initiative at our conference website.
- 11. At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or a district officer) will attend the School of Christian Mission and report back to the unit on classes and events they experienced.
- 12. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members), other than a conference or district officer, will attend the district or conference annual meeting and report back to the unit about the event and what they experienced.
- 13. The unit will have at least one person joining the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. (To join, contact Women's Division Washington Office, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 530, Washington, DC 20002. No charge for joining at this time. There may be a nominal charge at a later date.) (Attach to Mission Today report what you responded to and what action was taken.)

14. Members will correspond with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar* at least once a year.
15. The unit will cosponsor, with the local church, a Children's Sabbath. (This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children.) The Women's Division and the Council of Bishops support this effort. Contact Children's Defense Fund for materials at 25 E. St. NW, Washington, DC 20001. Telephone 202-628-8787.
16. The unit will contribute to all five channels of undesignated Mission Giving.
17. Each unit or circle meeting will include a "Response Moment" where an item from *Response* magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
18. The unit will sponsor one teen member (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman member (ages 18 to 39) to at least one Conference event during the year.
19. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members), other than a conference or district officer, will attend a district Prayer Breakfast, district Day Apart or conference Spiritual Growth Retreat.
20. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) other than a district or conference officer will complete Plan 1 of the Reading Program and give a report to the unit on the book read.
21. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year and/or for their United Methodist Women's Sunday.
22. The unit will add one new teen (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman (ages 18 to 39) circle during the year, or one new teen member (ages 12 to 17) or one new young woman member (ages 18 to 39) during the year.
23. Each Unit will be responsible for supporting at least one local mission project and participate in one Conference Hands on Mission Project during the year. The local project should be listed on your Mission Today report.

Be a Mission Today Unit!!

Resource Information:

Mission Resource Center: Toll Free 1-800-305-9857 Website: www.missionresourcecenter.org
United Methodist Women Mission Resource Center, 1221 Profit Drive, Dallas TX 72247

Magazine Circulation (For Response & New World Outlook): Toll free: 1-877-881-2385
Magazines with a Mission, PO Box 395, Congers, NY 10920-0395
FAX: 1-845-267-3478

Conference Website: www.wnccumw.org