

**CALLED TO MISSION**  
**2008 Annual Meeting Pledge Service**  
**Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women**

Processional of Mission personnel – processional hymn –

All assigned Treasurers will come up on stage after Sherry Sink's welcome & presentation. Please be in your assigned USHER seat (at least 10 minutes before the Mission session) so that Martha Phillips can distribute the poster/signs. One side of the poster will have your District Name and your 2009 District Pledge. On the other side will be a copy of what you will need to say as you hold your sign in front of you (so the audience can see it).

As Sherry & Sharon go to podiums, move quickly to stand together in groups, mid-stage, as follows:

Group #1 – Virginia Braswell (ALB), Ruth Walther (ASH)

Group #2 – Dianne Beam (CHA), Mary Ann Detter (GAS)

Group #3 – Julia Willis (GRE), Martha Phillips (HP)

Group #4 – Dianne Beam (LN), Elizabeth Lookabill (LEX)

Group #5 – Martha Phillips (MAR), Shirley Gardner (NE)

Group #6 – Virginia Braswell (NWB), Connie Drye (SAL)

Group #7 – Elizabeth Lookabill (STA), Julia Willis (WAY)

Group #8 - Evelyn Plummer (WS)

Sharon will be at the podium microphone at stage left, and Sherry Sink will be at the small podium microphone at stage right. When everyone is in place, Sharon will begin:

**Sharon Smith:** Our theme for this weekend is “Called by Name.” We are ‘called by name’ to support the purpose of United Methodist Women: 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.

**Sherry Sink:** We are a part of God's creation and we are “called by name” to witness in areas where ministry is difficult. We are “called by name” to minister to those who need our love and concern. United Methodist Women are involved with more than 100 mission institutions in more than 100 countries around the world.

**Stage Direction:** Group #1 – Move to the two microphones, and be ready to begin following the next section.

**Sharon Smith:** As United Methodist Women, we participate in the Five Channels of Mission Giving. Our giving supports these national and international mission institutions that provide us opportunities to be “Called by name.”

**Virginia Braswell:** The Albemarle District UMW has been called to pledge \$53,000 for 2009.  
The Alaska Children’s Services in Anchorage, Alaska, is a residential treatment center. It coordinates psychiatric treatment, community-based programs and therapeutic foster homes for children.

**Ruth Walther:** The Asheville District UMW has been called to pledge \$70,000 for 2009.  
The Susana Wesley House in Baltimore, MD, a women’s residence which provided private suites and individualized case management for families with up to three school-age children.

**Stage Direction:** Group #1 returns to their spot on stage, and Group #2 moves to the microphones.

**Sherry Sink:** We are each different and yet we are the same. We are one in ministry to all the world.

**Dianne Beam:** The Charlotte District UMW has been called to pledge \$80,000 for 2009.  
The International Assistance Mission: Maternal Health Clinic in Afghanistan provides surgical services, children’s vaccinations, animal vaccinations, agricultural development and literacy classes. Funds provide free health care for patients or flights to Kabul for patients too ill to be treated at the clinic.

**Mary Ann Detter:** The Gastonia District UMW has been called to pledge \$60,000 for 2009.  
The Peace Builder’s program of the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches in Cyprus provides regional leadership seminars for youth from the Protestant community in Iraq to engage youth in peace-building and conflict resolution activities as a form of active resistance to the continuous violence and wars in the region.

**Stage Direction:** Group 2 returns to their places on the stage and Group 3 moves to the microphones.

**Sharon Smith:** Called by Name; called to community; called to service – these three ideas are the essence of our Christian walk.

**Julia Willis:** The Greensboro District UMW has been called to pledge \$75,000 for 2009.  
Mary Elizabeth Inn in San Francisco, CA, is a women's residence which provides housing and support services to low-income women recovering from homelessness, substance abuse, domestic violence, and women living with mental and physical disabilities.

**Martha Phillips:** The High Point District UMW has been called to pledge \$51,300 for 2009.  
The Sistren Theater Collective in Jamaica reaches out to youth with workshops that focus on the destructive nature of gangs and viable alternatives to gang membership.

**Stage Direction:** Group 3 returns to their places on the stage and Group 4 moves to the microphones.

**Sherry Sink:** We are called, individually, by God, to come into fellowship with God.

**Dianne Beam:** The Lake Norman District UMW has been called to pledge \$37,000 for 2009.  
The Evangelical Methodist Church offers health trainings to approximately 60 female leaders, strengthening the capacity of self-sufficiency in women facing adverse situations. The trainings empower women to reach beyond their social and economic conditions.

**Elizabeth Lookabill:** The Lexington District UMW has been called to pledge \$78,780 for 2009.  
Over 70 percent of the women in the West Angola Conference live in displaced areas due to war. The Agricultural Training Program provides trainings in sewing, first aid, midwife and motherhood skills, as well as land cultivation, medical assistance, and schools for women and children.

**Stage Direction:** Group 4 returns to their places on the stage and Group 5 moves to the microphones.

**Sharon Smith:** We are called into a community of believers, where we work out the meaning of this life together in fellowship with one another.

**Martha Phillips:** The Marion District UMW has been called to pledge \$40,000 for 2009. The North Rampart Community Center in New Orleans, LA, reaches out to the community by providing housing for volunteers rebuilding New Orleans. In addition, North Rampart works with children and youth through an after-school program and summer program.

**Shirley Gardner:** The Northeast District UMW has been called to pledge \$41,500 for 2009. The Martha Landon O'Neill Center in Cambodia provides expectant mothers with health training on hygiene, family planning, infant child care and nutritional needs for healthy families.

**Stage Direction:** Group 5 returns to their places on the stage and Group 6 moves to the microphones.

**Sherry Sink:** God has given us the responsibility to care for the physical, spiritual and emotional needs of our children.

**Virginia Braswell:** The North Wilkesboro District UMW has been called to pledge \$59,000 for 2009. Epworth Village in York, Nebraska, is a residential treatment center which works with children and families to deal with emotional and behavioral issues in a healthy manner.

**Connie Drye:** The Salisbury District UMW has been called to pledge \$70,000 for 2009. The Wi'am Conflict Resolution Center in Palestine/Israel provides alternatives to violent behavior through group recreational activities and individual therapeutic sessions to children, families and young people who experienced trauma-related stress.

**Stage Direction:** Group 6 returns to their places on the stage and Group 7 moves to the microphones.

**Sharon Smith:** We are called by name, called into community, called to service – expressed simply – get changed, get together, and get going.

**Elizabeth Lookabill:** The Statesville District UMW has been called to pledge \$50,000 for 2009.  
Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake City, Utah, provides direct services for homeless, disabled and low-income people through a food pantry, and free and low-cost clothing. Crossroads also advocates with Utahns on hunger issues, economic justice issues and subsidized housing improvements.

**Julia Willis:** The Waynesville District UMW has been called to pledge \$53,000 for 2009.  
The Gilbert Agricultural & Rural Development Center in St. John's, Antigua, has trained over 60 artisans in grasses, metal, wire and wood handicraft-making. 40 to 50 women participate in a three-year project enabling them to start a business.

**Stage Direction:** Group 7 returns to their places on the stage and Group 8 moves to the microphones.

**Sherry Sink:** We are called for a purpose – we are called to serve others and to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are blessed in order that we may, in turn, be a blessing to others. The history of United Methodist Women has been to give gifts of mission in support of women, youth and children.

**Evelyn Plummer:** The Winston-Salem UMW has been called to pledge \$88,500 for 2009. The Dallas, Texas Bethlehem Center is dedicated to improve the quality of life for children in the community. They provide programs for learning and child development, pre-school and after-school, summer enrichment and recreational activities.

**Stage Direction:** Group 8 returns to their places on the stage.

**Sharon Smith:** We are called to support our mission through our Pledge to mission dollars. Giving is a way for United Methodist Women to give expression to our faith. This morning you have heard stories of women and children who benefit from your mission giving. Your Pledge to mission giving insures that ministries to women, youth and children will continue around the world through the work of United Methodist Women.

**Sherry Sink:** Let us pray - Dear God, we thank you for the organization of United Methodist Women and for the many ways in which the lives of children are touched through the mission giving that supports our mission projects. We ask for your guidance in that the mission dollars given will be used wisely and where they are needed the most. We ask your blessing on all of the lives touched by our mission dollars. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

**Stage Direction:** Treasurers exit stage. Please go to your assigned seats; as the Love Offering is the next item on the program.

### **General Information for the Pledge Service**

1. Speak loudly and clearly into the microphone.
2. Be enthusiastic! Smile!
3. The purpose of the pledge service is to educate.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!!**