

THE FIVE CHANNELS OF MISSION GIVING
2009 Annual Meeting Pledge Service
Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

Please try to wear one of the five colors of the Five Channels – red, blue, green, yellow or orange. I have aprons made of the 5 colors that 5 of you can wear. I also have 8 ½ x 11” signs of the 5 channels of mission giving that 5 of you can hold up.

Processional of Mission personnel – processional hymn –

All assigned Treasurers will come up on stage after Virginia’s welcome & presentation. Please be in your assigned USHER seat (at least 10 minutes before the Mission session) so that Julia Willis can distribute the aprons/signs. Those with signs should hold them so the audience can read them.

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

Group #1 – Virginia Braswell (ALB), Thelma McGraw (ASH)

Group #2 – Teresa Todd (CHA), Mary Ann Detter (GAS)

Group #3 – Julia Willis (GRE), Louise Jones (LEX)

Group #4 – Martha Phillips (MAR), Mahalia McGee (NE)

Group #5 – Linda Greer (STA), Donna Ireland (WS)

Sharon will be at the podium microphone at stage left, and Virginia Robinson 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 “Sisters with a PURPOSE – Celebrating 140 years Together in Mission.” United Methodist Women come together to be in mission. We explore together what mission is and ways that we can expand our understanding of mission.

Virginia R.: Today we gather to share the vision of United Methodist Women, the vision of wholeness for women, children, and youth around the world. For 140 years, church women have reached out to those in need, seeing un-met needs and responding with love, caring, and monetary gifts.

Sharon Smith: Matthew 25:40: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” From a beginning concern for the un-met needs of women and children that saw dedication and determination in the form of a penny and a prayer, the mission started by our foremothers has sustained that commitment.

- Virginia R.:** Sustaining the vision of mission, UMW provide money annually for witness and outreach around the world. As the condition of women and children in poverty and crisis has escalated, UMW have responded in loving concern and commitment to alleviate suffering in the name of Christ.
- Sharon Smith:** Giving makes mission possible. Mission Giving supports institutions and programs empowering and improving the lives of women, children and youth. Mission Giving provides food, shelter, education, employment, healthcare and human rights advocacy for those in need. Mission Giving also funds spiritual growth programs, leadership development events and mission education opportunities for UMW.
- Virginia R.:** As a member of United Methodist Women, you assume a part in the support of its work in local units or circles, in the community, across the nation and around the world.
- Stage Direction:** Group #1 – Move to the two microphones, and be ready to begin following the next section.
- Virginia R.:** We come today to celebrate our Mission Giving, and in doing so, to look at what it means to being involved in a mission partnership with God. Our history has been one of sharing in mission. We will explore the Five Channels of Mission Giving. By giving money without designating how it is to be used assures the availability of funds for a multitude of projects and programs rather than limiting our gifts to just a few of our favorite causes.
- Virginia Braswell:** Special Mission Recognition (Thelma holds SMR sign up.) is an undesignated gift for mission work that honors the recipient. Special Mission Recognitions may be given by any individual, or circle, or unit, in honor of any person, female or male. It is not necessary that the recipient be a member of United Methodist Women. There are several categories of Special Mission Recognitions, each representing a different amount of money for mission.
- Thelma McGraw:** The basic \$40 Special Mission Recognition is a small gold oval lapel pin with a cross and a white certificate. The other categories are \$60 (set with small sapphire), \$100 (pearl), \$200 (emerald), \$500 (ruby), \$1,000 (diamond), and \$2,000 (double diamond).
- Stage Direction:** Group #1 returns to their spot on stage, and Group #2 moves to the microphones.

- Teresa Todd:** The beauty of Mission Giving is that it truly enables a mission partnership. Let me tell you about another one of the five channels. What is the perfect gift for any occasion and easy on the budget? The answer is Gift to Mission Cards. (Teresa holds GTM sign up.)
- Mary Ann Detter:** A Gift to Mission is a way to honor someone with an undesignated gift in her or his name of at least \$5.00. There are eight different Gift to Mission cards: Thank You, Congratulations, Thinking of You, A Special Day, A Baby, Happy Birthday, Peace, and In the Service of Christ. And, there are five special Christmas card designs. Each card has a message indicating that a gift to mission through United Methodist Women has been made in the recipient's honor
- Stage Direction:** Group 2 returns to their places on the stage and Group 3 moves to the microphones.
- Sharon Smith:** The next Mission Giving Channel is the Gift in Memory Cards. (Julia holds up GIM sign up.)
- Julia Willis:** A Gift in Memory honors the memory of a much-loved family member or friend by making possible additional mission work in the United States and around the world. Gift in Memory cards represent a gift of a minimum of \$5.00. The cards can be obtained for free, so that they are readily available when needed. The person making the gift sends the card to the family of the deceased person, and then sends their gift money to the local UMW treasurer along with the tear-off stub indicating the name of the deceased person.
- Louise Jones:** Giving a Gift in Memory card is a very appropriate way to remember the life of a special person, while at the same time making a contribution for the work of mission.
- Stage Direction:** Group 3 returns to their places on the stage and Group 4 moves to the microphones.
- Virginia R.:** Another channel of Mission Giving that is very important is the World Thank Offering. (Martha holds up WT sign.)
- Martha Phillips:** The World Thank Offering is an opportunity for individuals to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. Individuals or families collect such gifts in special boxes or labeled containers. Gifts are usually brought together in the unit once a year.

Mahalia McGee: (Mahalia holds up Pledge sign.) Pledge to Mission giving is the foundation for mission work through United Methodist Women. An individual Pledge to Mission is the amount each member decides is her share of the local unit's total budget. (Mahalia gives Pledge sign to Donna to hold up.)

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

Linda Greer: The amount an individual member Pledges to Mission helps fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. Each local unit and each District makes a Pledge to Mission. The conference United Methodist Women pledge a specific amount to the Women's Division for mission with women, children and youth and retains a designated percent to be used for district and conference administration and membership development expenses.

Donna Ireland: All mission giving is important, but it is true that the Pledge to Mission is the most important. This one channel provides the foundation for mission work through the United Methodist Women. Did you realize that most of the money that Women's Division receives annually in mission giving comes from the Pledge to Mission? Without it, mission projects here in the United States and around the world would suffer greatly because the funds they so desperately need would not be available.

Stage Direction: Group 5 returns to their places on the stage.

Sharon Smith: Earlier we talked about being in a "mission partnership" which requires a commitment of time, talent and money. Luke 12:48 states "To whom much is given, much is also required." If we take seriously the relationship between Christian faith and Christian action, then all three – time, talent, and money – are required of us.

Virginia R.: Mission Giving is the foundation for mission work through United Methodist Women and the Women's Division. Your contribution enables a full and consistent response to human need, especially the needs of women, youth and children. It affirms the wholeness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and a commitment to its proclamation in word and deed. Mission Giving strengthens basic programs and projects. It also makes emergency response and exploration of new and evolving areas of mission possible.

Sharon Smith: As United Methodist Women, we have heard Christ's call to participate in God's mission, both near and far. Our commitment is show as we give through the channels of giving. We expand our concepts of mission as we participate in the Schools of Christian Mission and the Reading Program. We realize the scope of today's mission when we use the Prayer Calendar or read Response Magazine. We put a face on mission by corresponding with persons in mission. Think now about your commitment to mission. How and where is God calling you? As United Methodist Women, we participate in mission here in the United States and in many countries around the world. Christ has told us that he would be with us, day after day, in our commitment.

Virginia R.: Let us pray – Heavenly Father, I pray to you that you abundantly bless our UMW family. I know that you recognize, that a Family is more than just a mother, father, sister, brother, cousin, husband and wife, but all who believe and trust in you.
Dear God, I thank you in advance for your blessings. Release your Godly wisdom that we might be good stewards over all that you have given us, for we know how wonderful and mighty you are. If we just obey you and walk in your word and have faith, you will pour out your blessings upon us. We thank you now Lord for the recent blessings we have received and for the blessings yet to come, because we know that you are not done with us yet. 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!!