

## 2010 Annual Meeting Saturday night President's Message

**Read previously:** I John 3:17-18: *How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.*

### Slide #1



Good evening? United Methodist Women is a very important part of my life. So, I celebrate with you all of your accomplishments that we have learned about today.

**And I want to Thank you** for your generous giving. As you heard this morning, your gifts, and the gifts of other United Methodist Women across our conference, totaled over \$1 million dollars again last year.

### Slide #2

# \$ 1,071,726.24

Making **MISSION** Possible  
Around the World



For several years, this Conference has been first in the nation in mission giving.

But, it is not about being number one, it is about our gifts making a difference, every day, in the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. **You** are making a difference in the world.

### Slide #3



This weekend we are bringing Assembly home. Also, I want to share with you some of the ways United Methodist Women are putting God's Love Into Action. Assembly began with a Day of Ubuntu Service – true Love In Action. Seventeen non-profits in St. Louis benefitted from this Day. United Methodist Women even picked up garbage from a vacant lot!

### Slide #4



An impressive Commissioning Service was held for 12 Deaconesses and one Home Missioner.

Our own Lynn Barnes helped with the music. These new deaconesses and the home missioner share a desire to serve God by serving those in need, be alleviating suffering, eradicating the cause of injustice, assisting in developing human potentials, and sharing in building global community through the church.

Deaconess and Home Missioners are the only offices in the United Methodist Church for laity called to full-time servant ministries. The Women's Division is responsible for these programs.

Slide #5



Della Lamb Elementary Charter School Children's Choir wowed us. The children's parents are from 17 different countries – an example, perhaps, of God's kingdom! The school is part of the Della Lamb Community Services Center -- that works with more than 2,000 low-income families in Kansas City. Our Mission Giving supports this ministry – Love In Action.

Slide #6



We are committed to our communities. *Children learn to use the computer in one of the many programs for children and youth at Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House in St. Louis, Ill. This is a National Mission project that we support with our mission-giving.*

Most National Mission projects are housed in properties owned by the Women's Division.

Pfeiffer University, Bennett College and Bethlehem Centers in Charlotte and Winston-Salem are national mission projects.

Slide #7



How do United Methodist Women put Love Into Action in the world?

**We provide funds for International Mission Projects:**

Haitian Artisans for Peace International (HAPI), a project that we support with our mission giving, was founded in 2007 as a fair trade artisan co-op -- focused on women's economic empowerment.

HAPI's work extends into the community through community-based health care and programs for children and youth.

Slide #8



**We provide salaries for missionaries :**

Cathy Mejia is a member of United Methodist Women's Language Ministries Consultative Group in Louisville, Ky.

Cathy says that, "amazingly, God called me to mission in El Salvador. There was a big revival in churches in El Salvador calling people to mission. It was time for Third World countries to go into mission. I felt the call of God so strongly."

Mission is no longer carried out only by us "going there." The USA is also a mission field.

### Slide #9



**Finda Quiwa is a Regional Missionary. She works with youth and young women in Sub-Saharan Africa.**

Regional missionaries usually work in their own countries.

Finda's ministry focuses on leadership development and empowerment programs, and workshops and seminars on topics including HIV/AIDS, spiritual growth, peace education, and poverty alleviation. We help pay her salary and fund some of these projects.

Finda says about mission: "Mission is all about serving God's people anywhere at any time whether young or old, rich or poor, male or female."

## Slide #10



**As** United Methodist Women, we are learning constantly:

- We read response magazine.
- We learn from the books on the Reading Program.
- We participate in mission studies.
- We attend School of Christian Mission.

We learn new things, new ways of doing ministry through United Methodist Women – Love Into Action.

One area that we really need to learn and try some new things is in Membership: We must be flexible if we want new members:

- Change time and place for Circle meetings
- Have a dinner meeting or a Lunch Bunch – where you share your lives with each other and share at least one bit of information about UMW. It works! We've tried it!
- Ask young women what they need
- Share leadership responsibilities
- Provide child care at meetings
- Encourage your minister to participate
- Be positive

Do a new thing with new possibilities to encourage new people to put Love Into Action.

## Slide #11



FOUNDERS OF THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.  
(TAKEN 1869.)  
MRS. THOMAS RICH.    MRS. E. W. PARKER.    MRS. THOMAS KINGSBURY.    MRS. WILLIAM MERRILL.  
MRS. WILLIAM BUTLER.    MRS. LEWIS FLANDERS.

How do United Methodist Women put Love Into Action?  
We care about Health Care and have a long Health Care heritage.

United Methodist Women may not have been established without our Methodist foremothers' concern for health care.

On Sunday afternoon in 1869, a discussion between three Methodist Episcopal women sparked a national Methodist women's movement. Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Parker, missionary wives who had lived in India, explained to a small group of women that Indian women were underserved -- because traditional customs limited contact between genders, and there were no female doctors.

The following story from an article from 1919 described the situation:

*"It was found that men could not work among the secluded women of the Orient. We are all familiar with the story of the physician who was called to see a patient and found himself obliged to base his diagnosis upon a glimpse of her tongue, thrust through a hole in a curtain, and the feeling of her pulse, also through an opening in the curtain. This was accompanied by the pressure of the husband's pistol in the small of the physician's back — intended to discourage undue familiarity."*

These Boston women recognized the need for female doctors in India. They organized and raised money to send Dr. Clara Swain to India.

The interest in health care didn't stop with the efforts in India. Hospitals were established in Korea and China.

The interest in health care didn't even stop there. Our commitment continues as we provide funds for hospitals, clinics, midwives, wellness programs, and home health care workers around the world. God's Love Into Action for God's people!

## Slide #12



### **How do United Methodist Women put Love Into Action?**

#### **We are advocates for Ending Violence Against Women.**

Despite years of advocacy and work, violence against women remains a silent issue in many churches and in society at large.

United Methodist Women and United Methodist Men are planning a joint effort to address domestic violence. We will work together on programs, training and resources on domestic violence awareness, and prevention. You will be hearing more about this next year as we work with our Conference United Methodist Men.

In The Message – a contemporary version of the Bible -- 1John 3:18, that Taffy read earlier says – “If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God’s love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.”

Our challenge is to continue to turn Love into Action for women, children and youth around the world. **Please do not allow that Love to disappear!**

## Slide #13



A group of women in India -- laugh together as they participate in a march celebrating International Women's Day.

This is one of the most beautiful pictures I have ever seen -- a wonderful example of Joyfully Serving God.

May we serve with a smile – letting those around us know that it is a Joy to serve in the ministry of United Methodist Women.

May God continue to empower us to joyfully keep on translating faith, hope, and love into just, committed, and sustainable actions.

Let us pray.

### **Closing Prayer:**

Dear Lord, we give you thanks for our foremothers -- for their love and concern for the women of India, China, Japan, and here at home.

We give you thanks for those who serve so faithfully in our mission projects.

We give you thanks for the membership of this great organization, especially those present here,

and for the many ways in which they have shown their support.

We ask for your continued guidance as we attempt to show your Love in all that we do through United Methodist Women.

We thank you most of all for your great gift of Love, your Son, Jesus Christ – in whose name we pray. Amen.