



SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

United Methodist Women News

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Greetings UMW sisters in the name of the newborn Christ!

I hope everyone had a safe, healthy, happy holiday season! We have a very exciting year coming up in United Methodist Women.

The Northeastern Jurisdiction meeting is June 16-18 in Syracuse, NY. Registration ends May 15th. This is a close venue for us, so I hope a lot of you can attend.

Mission u in July is taking a new approach with two Sampler Days in different locations and a three day school at Bucknell.

Most exciting to me is Annual Day on October 15 at Mt. Nittany UMC in the State College District. Harriett Jane Olson, CEO of United Methodist Women will be our guest and featured speaker. Watch for registration information coming soon.

Our major focus for this year will be in three areas.

Climate Justice: We will work with Phyllis Terwilliger and Carmen Francesco, both from the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre District to look at the impact of industry on our area climate. We will explore ways to improve negative situations and restore beauty to our area.

Mass Incarceration: Gretchen Mackey and I will be attending the General Board of Church and Society Seminar in Washington DC at the end of February to learn more about this topic.

We will see who is impacted and what we can do to change the situation.

Voices: Strengthening the mission with our sisters whose preferred language is other than English. I will be attending Voices: A Transformative Leadership Event at Scarritt-Bennett in Nashville the last weekend in February to gain more information on this topic. Our Conference has not found a Language Coordinator yet. If there is someone that you would recommend, please let me know.

Please keep the entire team (and our supportive families) in prayer as we start this great adventure!

In closing, you will notice a new closing to my emails. Instead of the usual Peace, I will be using F.R.O.G. I have always loved frogs, but they do get a bad rap in the Bible, only showing up during plagues. I was glad several years ago when someone came up with the acronym F.R.O.G. Fully Rely On God! I can now use my frogs as a reminder of who is really in charge.

So join me on the amazing journey of United Methodist Women.

F.R.O.G.
Cathy Berkey
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Mission u 3-Day School will be held Thursday-Saturday, July 7-9 at Bucknell

Sampler Saturdays will be July 16 at Chambers Hill UMC, Harrisburg and July 30 at Faith UMC, Montoursville

Details are in the Mission u Brochures which can be found on line at www.SUSUMC.org and at Spiritual Enrichment Days



2016 Conference Executive Team

Front row: Sue Reisinger, Donna Ream, Donna Speelman, Beverly Renn, Cathy Berkey
 Back row: Gretchen Mackey, Jean Rupp, Sonia Keiper, Kathy Finnerty
 Absent: Barbara King



Harriett Jane Olson

What an exciting time to be a United Methodist Woman in Susquehanna Conference

What an exciting time to be a member of United Methodist Women in the Susquehanna Conference! I encourage you to save the date of Saturday, **October 15** and attend our Annual Conference Day with featured speaker Harriett Jane

Olson, General Secretary and CEO of the United Methodist Women's National Office. Mt. Nittany United Methodist Church, State College District will be our host. Come join us as we celebrate "Growing in

Blessedness"! (more information to come)

Gretchen Mackey
 Vice President
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2015 Pledge of \$180,000 exceeded by \$6,831.40

“ We made and exceeded our PLEDGE”

We made and exceeded our PLEDGE!!!! Thank you to all units, unit treasurers and district treasurers for your hard work. We sent in over \$186,000 toward our pledge. Our pledge was \$180,000. Five of our districts made their pledges. Congratulations to Altoona, Harrisburg, Lewisburg,

Williamsport and York Districts.

We say good-bye and thank you to a few District Treasurers—Joan Shotts, Altoona; Ruth Cox, Harrisburg; Helen Nylund, Lewisburg; and Pat Confer, York. That being said, welcome to Sue Shimmel, Altoona;

Belinda Mullen, Harrisburg; Cathy Casey, Lewisburg; and Pepper Hewes, York. I look forward to a great year in 2016.

Donna Speelman
 Treasurer
susconfreas@gmail.com
 (717) 564-8391

Supporting Our United Methodist Women's Legacy



You have all heard stories of the UMW Legacy Fund. One way to ensure that the women that come after us will be educated as well as we have been, is to add to the fund. A way that benefits all involved is to go to the Equal Exchange website that is set up specifically for the Legacy Fund with the Susquehanna Conference as its' sponsor. This is an opportunity for you to help grow the Legacy Fund and at the same time support Equal Exchange which is an organization devoted entirely to Fair Trade Goods. Please go to the website that Equal Exchange has set up for us. <http://fundraiser.equalexchange.coop/?fundraiser=IFC19804W> (this is the only way for the Legacy Fund to benefit) You can also access it directly from the Susquehanna Conference website by going to www.susumc.org and highlighting the ministries tab and then the SUSUMC ministries tab. You'll make your purchases; complete the payment and shipping sections. By going to the above website, 25% will go directly to the UMW Legacy Fund. If your church orders Fair Trade supplies and they order from the Legacy Fund site even more people will benefit.

Fawn McCallister. Member
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Membership Report for January-December 2015

It's time for local organizations to report their membership for 2015. The National Membership Executive Secretary Marva Usher-Kerr and her committee have devised an even easier and faster way to report membership statistics (census).



The process is as follows:

Conference Membership coordinator or president forwards the reporting document with the instructions and link to the District Membership (MNO) coordinator or president. The District contact sends it on to the local unit president.

The local unit uses the link to enter the data and submit directly to the national office. The deadline for reporting is February 28, 2016.

There are several advantages to this new system:

1. There is no paper involved.
2. The totals go directly to the National office.
3. The National office reports to the Conference Membership coordinator.
4. This makes it faster and easier to submit and receive census information to/from the National organization.

Local units may already have these reporting forms and perhaps have submitted their reports. If not, please make every effort to fill out and send in by February 28, 2016.

If the local unit is unable to file on line, ask the church secretary, pastor, your District or Conference Membership coordinator for assistance. Every member is important and should be counted.

Helen Keister, Appointee
Conference Membership Coordinator
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Mission Today Letter

Dear UMW Sisters,

Now that we are into a new year, it is time for us to take a look at what we have accomplished in 2015. In 2014 we had 56 Mission Today units and 7 units received honorable mention, completing 9 of the 10 requirements. I am hoping that we can have even more for 2015 and encourage units that have not participated in the past to do so this year.

Each unit president should send their completed 2015 Mission Today form to their District Education & Interpretation coordinator or to the District's designated person. The District in turn will send to the Conference Mission Today coordinator.

The deadline for Districts to submit their forms to the Conference Coordinator is June 3, 2016. Districts will set their own deadline for local units. Mission Today 2015 form is attached.

Thank you ladies and God bless.

Dorothy Dawe, Conference Mission Today Coordinator
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Lehman, PA 18627

Quilting finger prayer labyrinths for General Conference. Go to UMW web site for instructions/pattern. Deadline to mail is Feb. 29. Or contact Toni at toplinger5009@comcast.net and she will send you the pattern with instructions.

I've A Story to Tell

This person encouraged me to be a part of United Methodist Women (UMW -

I cannot just select one person. All of the women of the UMW have been important to me for different reasons.

I have continued to be a part of the UMW because of the hospitality, learning the history of the church, sharing in their service to the congregation, and witnessing the true meaning of being a Christian.

The best thing about being a member of United Methodist Women is my continued spiritual growth through witnessing their walk with Christ.

Story I have struggled over

the past several years with my faith because of personal tragedy. The UMW have been there for me—they have been my safety net when I thought I would slip into darkness. They expect nothing in return but welcome and encourage me to share my gifts. They are selfless in what they offer by just being themselves.

The UMW encourage me to participate and serve when and how I can. Every time I think I have no more to learn about faith and fellowship, they offer an interesting surprise!! I have so many great memories of the Annual Cookie Exchange, Fruit Cake Baking, Thanksgiving service, and the monthly meetings—just

to name a few. I strongly encourage women of all ages and stages in their walk of faith to join the UMW. Simple words cannot do justice to the work these ladies provide to the church and community.

Linda Blontz

Every member of United Methodist Women has a story to tell. Please share your story by completing the attached form "I've A Story to Tell". Return your story to Toni Oplinger, 5009 Chestnut Grove Road; Spring Grove, PA 17362. Some of your stories will be published in future editions of our Conference Newsletter and will be included in a booklet celebrating our 150 Year Mission Legacy in 2019.



Mission u brochures and flyer available at our UMW and Mission u web sites. Brochures will also be available at Spiritual Enrichment Days

We're on the web:
www.susumc.org
Under the "ministries" tab highlight "SUSUMC ministries"