



# SUSQUEHANNA CONFERENCE

## United Methodist Women News

Volume 11 Issue 1  
February 2017

### President's Letter

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Greetings UMW sisters in the name of the Universal Christ!

By seeking Him, finding Him, and worshiping Him, the Magi have established that Christ came for all who accept Him into their heart.

2017 is an "off year" for United Methodist Women. There are no major national or jurisdictional events planned. That doesn't mean it is a quiet year for Susquehanna Conference. We have several events planned.

The conference-wide women's retreat, "If Our Closets Could Talk", will be held March 24 to 25 at Country Cupboard in Lewisburg.

Annual Conference is May 4-6 at Hershey Lodge. Each district should have a representative at Annual Conference. If any UMW are attending, please wear your Susquehanna scarf. If you don't have a scarf, please contact me.

On behalf of the Conference UMW, I have submitted a resolution for consideration by Annual Conference. It is proposing that the conference encourage the Pennsylvania state legislature to adopt a bill requiring all interrogations of underage persons be electronically recorded. This resolution is also being brought before the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference by their United Methodist Women.

Mission u will be July 6-8 at Bucknell. The Sampler Days will be July 5 at First (Muncy) UMC, Williamsport District and July 29 at Chambers Hill UMC, Harrisburg District.

Annual Day on October 14 at Camp Hill UMC, Harrisburg District will feature a panel discussion "Hope After Incarceration".

We will continue to focus on Climate Justice and Mass Incarceration.

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

Come along with me on the amazing journey of United Methodist Women.

F.R.O.G.  
Cathy Berkey, President

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March 24-25, 2017  
Women's Retreat at Country Cupboard, Lewisburg

Friends of the Heart  
Presents  
"If Our Closets Could Talk"

Friends of the Heart is comprised of three Millersburg women who share God's love through teaching, testimony, drama and song. See attached registration form. Deadline: March 1.

### Vice President's Report -



Annual Day 2016 Harriett Jane Olson (center)  
and the 2017 Conference UMW Team

What a fabulous day having Harriett Jane Olson with us in celebration of our 2016 Annual Day! We were very pleased to have a wonderful attendance (over 150) and so grateful for those who were inspired by Harriett to "Grow in Blessedness". Now, when we read the "Responsively Yours" section in the *Response* magazine, we have a personal connection to the author. We can recall her calm awe-inspiring demeanor and know that she graciously represents us at various functions and events all over the world.

Plans are being made for Annual Day **October 14, 2017** at Camp Hill United Methodist Church, Harrisburg District. More information and registration forms will be coming soon. **SAVE THE DATE!**

Gretchen Mackey, Vice President

### Membership Update -

Unit Presidents, don't forget to complete the Membership Census at [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org). It takes about five (5) minutes and can be done from a computer, tablet, or phone. This is important to have an accurate count of our members. The deadline for completion is March 31.

And NEW THIS YEAR!! The National Organization is compiling an every member survey. This will help them focus on the true make-up of the organization and our mission interests. Each member is asked to go to [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) and select myUMW. Once at the page, type in your church, city, or zip code (I used zip code). A list of churches will come up and you select your home church. Once the church is selected, the church, district and conference lines should populate. Verify this information and change it, if it is incorrect. Your unit type will be local. It will then ask for age group, ethnicity, mission interests, and what type of social media you use. At the end you will be prompted to print a membership card. This did not work correctly when I did mine, but I was sent an e-mail with a link to print the card and that did work.

We realize that not all women have computers or internet access. We suggest you hold a Membership Party. Does your church have Wi-Fi? Or you could go to your local library. Invite members to bring their laptop, tablet, or smart phone. This way several people could complete the form at the same time. You could share the computers with the women who don't have access.

This is a large undertaking, but will provide an excellent data base when completed. I hope to be able to say that Susquehanna Conference is 100% enrolled!

If you need help with either of these, ask your district president or membership coordinator. Or you can always contact me or our Conference Newsletter editor, Toni Oplinger. Our contact information is on page one of this newsletter. Thanks for your help with this important project.

Cathy Berkey, President

### Nominations Report -

Winter greetings to those who remain faithful to the snow. I am a little jealous of those who abandon us and go south. They do miss some lovely photos. Well on to some pressing issues. As Chair of the UMW Conference on Nominations, I wish to thank all who have accepted new positions on the Conference Team and congratulate others who are fulfilling another year in their current position.

The nominations committee is still looking for a communications coordinator. The duties would include designing a newsletter that would be sent out three times a year. We are seeking someone who is comfortable with computer skills. Also there is a position on the nominations committee to fill the class of 2018. Most of the work of this committee is completed on line. If you have any questions, please call or e-mail:

Jean Rupp, Chair Nominations  
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**Treasurer’s Report for 2016**

Thank you all for another great year! **Our Conference has met and exceeded it’s Pledge!** The following Districts also met and/or exceeded their Pledge: Altoona, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, State College, and York.

Thank you to—Joan, Belinda, Cathy, Nancy, Patty, Helen and Pepper—our District Treasurers and all their hard work this year. A special thanks to Joan Shotts (Altoona) who will be leaving us after many years of service. Welcome aboard to Margaret Daub. I look forward to working with you.

And, I don’t want to forget all the unit treasurers and all the UMW members in our Conference. Without you, we would not have met our goals.

<b><u>Pledge</u></b>		<b><u>Designated Giving (a few highlights)</u></b>	
Pledge to Mission	\$136,723.81	Call to Prayer & Self Denial	\$13,428.81
Special Mission Recognition	\$ 4,831.00	Brighter Future	\$ 3,653.85
Gift to Mission	\$ 2,539.13	Neighborhood Center	\$ 9,747.69
Gift in Memory	\$ 3,112.50	UM Children’s Home	\$ 1,675.00
World Thank Offering	<u>\$ 33,353.39</u>	UMCOR (designated & undesignated)	\$ 6,212.06
<b>Total Undesignated Giving</b>	<b>\$180,109.82</b>	Legacy (only money sent through Conference)	\$ 4,055.24

**Supporting Our United Methodist Women's Legacy**



**Legacy Challenge**

If you attended Conference Annual Day last October, you will remember Judy giving a Legacy challenge to each UMW member in our Conference. The challenge is to collect 150 pennies from each UMW member in our Conference and to bring them to the 2017 Conference Annual Day. This is a great challenge.

I did a little math—one penny weighs .088 ounces, 150 pennies weigh 13.2 ounces. 100 women bringing 150 pennies = 82.5 pounds of pennies. If each unit accepts this challenge, there will be much more than 82.5 pounds of pennies.

Do you see a possible problem here? We could have several hundred pounds of pennies. Judy said to roll the pennies. Unfortunately, my bank will ask me to unroll all of them and run them through the coin counter.

I would like to suggest each UMW member collect 150 pennies and give it to the unit treasurer. She can then exchange the pennies for bills and other coins. Someone from the unit can then bring the ‘lighter’ money to Annual Day where there will be a container to drop them in. If no one from your unit is going to Annual Day, send it to the District Treasurer and she will bring it.

Giving through all channels for the Legacy Fund (including money sent through Local, District and Conference treasurers, on line giving, giving at the Jurisdiction meeting and gifts given directly to the National organization) for 2015 \$3,212.32 was given and in 2016 \$6,599.34 through October 31 has been given. The final giving numbers for 1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016 are not yet available from New York. That amount will be shared when it has been reported to our Legacy Chair.



## Mission u

Three opportunities are available for you to attend a Mission u experience. July 6-8 a three day school for adults, youth and children will be held at Bucknell University, Lewisburg. Sampler days will be held July 5 for adults at First UMC, Muncy and July 29 at Chambers Hill UMC, Harrisburg for those who are unable to attend the 3 day school. Brochures and registration forms will soon be available. There has been no increase in the cost for 2017.

The studies being offered are Spiritual Growth “Living as a Covenantal Community” and the Geographic Study is “The Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church”.

For scholarships contact your local church or unit of United Methodist Women for assistance. Partial scholarships are available from Mission u for children, youth, and young adults to age 30. Contact Gretchen Mackey at (717) 264-0366 or gemackey@pa.net for Mission u scholarship information.

If you would like to support our scholarship fund, please make check payable to: SUS UMW Mission u and send to Judith Grove, 613 Green Valley Rd, York, PA 17403. Please mark your check’s memo line with “Scholarship Fund”. Thank you.

For registration information contact Edna Brehm, registrar at samiam2108@gmail.com or (717) 448-3808. See attached flyer for posting.

## Mass Incarceration - How can you show faith, hope and love in action for an inmate?

The United States only makes up about 5 percent of the world’s total population, yet it harbors 25 percent of the globe’s prisoner population, making it the largest jailer on the planet. (UMW Action Alert, June 2015)

To bring the statistics a little closer to home, as of December 31, 2016, Pennsylvania has 25 state prisons (notice—state prisons, not including local jails, federal prisons), with a prison population of 47,750.

To focus in on women in prison, the Muncy State Correctional Institution for women houses 1,396 women, including 162 “lifers”. The percentage breakdown by race is 62% white, 30% black, 7% Hispanic. The other women’s state prison facility in Cambridge Springs (minimum security) houses 1,202 women. (PA Dept of Corrections Monthly Institutional Profile, Dec. 2016)

These numbers may be surprising

to you, but as United Methodist Women, we know that awareness often leads to action. There are a number of ways that we are showing “Faith—Hope—Love in Action” within the Susquehanna Conference. As the new Social Action Mass Incarceration appointee, I wanted to share one of those stories.

Women of York District are involved in an outreach to women in prison through a program called “Supporting Incarceration Women Through Prayer”. Coordinating with the chaplain at the York County prison, interested female inmates fill out a form with some basic information and in turn receive cards of encouragement and support from prayer partners. Begun in the early 1990’s by Flo Waybright, requests for cards have ranged from 53 to 5.

Current Social Action coordinator for the York District is Elaine McCurdy, who tells me that UMW provide free

of charge to area prison chaplains the book “Breaking Out of Your Prison,” written by local author Ray Kauffman. Chaplain Kauffman, is a retired chaplain from the Franklin County jail, serving 1979-89. “Breaking Out of Your Prison,” an easy-read book for inmates and their families identifies 12 keys that unlock the doors of one’s personal prisons.

Do you have an outreach to women in prison, or to women recently released from prison? I’d like to know about it. Contact me at kbaraco@windstream.net or (570) 546-5180.

Karen Barraco  
Social Action, Mass Incarceration

