Greetings UMW Sisters,

I love Advent and our waiting for Christ’s arrival. Each year I try to find new ways to prepare my heart to welcome Him. The sermon series at my home church this Advent was “Do Not Be Afraid!—the messages of the angels.” In each situation, an angel appeared with the message “Do not be afraid”, before explaining a situation and asking for human help in completing God’s plan. It made me think about how often I am asked to take on a task that seems beyond my abilities. Do I question, like Zechariah, and lose my chance to speak? Do I accept, like Joseph, and do my best with a difficult situation? Or do I, like Mary, say “Let it be with me just as you say.” I pray that I am most often like Mary.

Now I am asking all of you: Will you step up to serve UMW in a leadership role? The conference team needs a secretary to serve for this year. Next year we are looking for a president, vice president, and treasurer. There is training offered for all of these positions. Do you have the gifts and graces to fill any of these positions? Do you know of someone who would be a good candidate? You do not have to be a “long-term” UMW member. Nor do you have to be “seasoned”. In fact, I encourage young women to serve. If you have a name to suggest, even your own, please contact Sue Reisinger, chair of nominations, at suereis@ptd.net. Remember, God doesn’t choose the qualified, He qualifies the chosen!

Annual Day is October 26 at First UMC in Muncy, in the Williamsport district. The theme is Celebrating Our Journey, a 150th birthday celebration. Thank you for your prayers and support as we go forward serving women, children, and youth.

In the Love of the newborn Christ,
F.R.O.G
Cathy

Vice President’s Report
Gretchen Mackey

How exciting to be part of the Climate Justice Simulation Experience! Thank you to our gracious hostesses of Hicks Memorial United Methodist Women, simulation facilitator Phyllis Terwilliger, Altoona District Women and all who participated in this outstanding Conference Annual Day 2018.

OCTOBER 26, 2019 you are invited to CELEBRATE the 150th anniversary of the founding of our mission organization for women, children, and youth.

SAVE THE DATE
OCTOBER 26, 2019
Join us at FIRST UMC, MUNCY for a FUN DAY!
Treasurer’s Report for 2018
Donna Speelman

Good news! We made our Pledge for 2018! Thank you to all the units and to our wonderful District Treasurers! A special thank you for three of our Districts that met and exceeded their pledges - Altoona, State College and Williamsport.

As 2018 closes, we have three retiring District Treasurers - Cathy Casey, Lewisburg, Nancy Timm, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, and Pepper Hewes, York. I want to thank them for their dedication and hard work that makes all this possible. But as three are leaving, I want to welcome - Louise Grove, Lewisburg and Patricia Moore, York - our new District Treasurers to the team. You notice I only listed two. We are still searching for a District Treasurer for Scranton/Wilkes-Barre. Please keep the officers of that district in your prayers as they seek to find a treasurer. In the interim, I will be their treasurer.

Our Pledge for last year was $155,000. Here is a list of the monies we sent to UMW New York, UMCOR and the Susquehanna Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated Giving (Pledge)</td>
<td>$156,918.66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Call to Prayer</td>
<td>$10,455.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighter Future for Children &amp; Youth</td>
<td>$3,867.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Center</td>
<td>$8,735.82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red Bird</td>
<td>$1,300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>McCurdy</td>
<td>$150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UMCOR</td>
<td>$4,778.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susquehanna Conference</td>
<td>$2,060.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(this includes UM Children’s Home, Mission Central, Harvest Home World Hunger, and Normandie Ridge)

Our Pledge for 2019 is $145,000.00.

United Methodist Women’s Retreat 2019 Reminder
Annette Steger, Registrar

Ten things you need to know:
1. The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 6.
2. The Best Western/Country Cupboard Desk cannot register you.
3. The limit of number who may attend at this location is 100.
4. You can commute.
5. You can room alone.
6. You can share a room with 1, 2, or 3 people reducing the cost.
7. Women attend from all over the Susquehanna Conference.
8. You can invite a friend who does not belong to a local unit or a United Methodist Church.
9. This year’s presenter, Karen Knight, has music and drama skills. You may remember her as Mrs. Noah from our 2012 retreat at Best Western/Country Cupboard.
10. I agreed to serve as appointed registrar for this event because I personally love attending and want our Conference wide retreats to continue.

Editor’s Note: The Retreat flyer and registration form can be found at the Susquehanna Conference web site. https://susumc.org under the “Ministries” tab.
Membership Reporting

ATTENTION!! LOCAL UMW UNITS!!!

This is a reminder to fill out your Membership Report at the UMW website. The Districts will not be doing this for you, so it is very important that each unit complete the survey. Anyone from the unit may do this. At one time you only reported numbers, but now National is using the Membership Survey to gather a lot more information. They are asking questions about use of social media to plan and advertise events. They are also asking about your local group’s mission focus areas. The only way for this to be correct, is for the local unit to report it themselves. It is especially important that you report if you do not use social media, so we can be sure you are included in information sharing. National is using this information to plan programs and design training sessions.

Unfortunately, the districts who have stopped reporting for the locals have seen a sharp decline in the number of units reporting. There is also a significant difference between the numbers reported to National and the information recorded in the conference journal, as reported by the local pastors.

I know this is a lot to ask, but our Conference needs all of the local units to start filing their own membership report. If you do not have internet access in your unit or your church contact me at 570-696-2907 and I will help you complete your report. If you get my answering machine, please leave your contact information and I will call you back. I have helped a few units with this already and I really enjoy the time spent and the information shared. The survey will be available until February. It takes about 10 minutes to complete. Simply go to unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the "Census 2018" block. Fill in your church’s zip code and you will be given a choice of churches in that area. Select your home church and it should auto-fill your district and conference. Then just answer the questions as they appear.

We cannot expect National to meet our needs and plan programs that interest us if we do not let them know what those interests are.

We all know that the local units are the heart and soul of UMW, and this reporting will make sure it stays that way. Thank you for your help with this important issue.

Peace, Cathy Berkey

Chevron Advocacy Follow-up - United Methodist Women

Chevron Corporation is the second biggest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world since 1880. It is one of the top 10 producers of natural gas globally, and its production is increasing. In a 2017 special edition of “Disclosing the Facts” report about methane, Chevron substantially lagged behind its peers in efforts to reduce methane leaks and in its reporting of methane emissions.

In May United Methodist Women members delivered almost 2,000 letters and met with Chevron staff pressing them to sign on to “Reducing Methane Emissions Across the Natural Gas Value Chain” guiding principles and reduce leaks across the supply chain. If you attended Assembly you may have signed one there! We are pleased to learn that Chevron has signed on, and with recent attempts at federal methane reduction rollbacks, we urge Chevron to act on their commitments. In particular, guiding principle #4 states: to “advocate sound policies and regulations on methane emissions.” So please use the link provided and send a follow up letter to Chevron! https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/ChevronAdvocacy.html

If you have any questions related to this action or any climate justice issue please call or e-mail me.

Thanks,
Phyllis Terwilliger
570-388-6303 - phylterwil@hotmail.com
Mission Today
Glenda Shepherd, Coordinator

The Mission Today reports for 2018 are due to me by May 31, 2019. This year we will accept only the updated forms as updated for the 2017 reports. The local UMW groups should send their reports to their District Education and Interpretation Coordinator, or to whomever the District President designates if there is no coordinator.

The District Coordinators should send their reports to me at the following address:

Glenda Shepherd
8 E. Belmont Ave.
Dallas, Pa. 18612

It would be helpful to include the address of the church on the form in case of more than one church of the same name in the district.

If you have questions, my email is gcshepherd@hotmail.com, and my phone number is 205-299-6313.

2019 Conference United Methodist Women Officers and Appointees

Front Row: Donna Speelman, Annette Steger, Mary Jane Jones

Back Row: Gretchen Mackey, Phyllis Terwilliger, Tina Rockwell, Cathy Berkey, Glenda Shepherd, Sonia Keiper, Sue Reisinger

Missing from photo: Suzy Lutz, Bev Renn, Elaine McCurdy, Margaret Salazar, Flo Waybright, Kathy Whipple, Dusty Knisley, Donna Ream, Toni Oplinger (I’m behind the camera!)

Celebrating 150 Years of Mission and Ministry