



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

*THE LINK
VIRGINIA
CONFERENCE
UMW NEWSLETTER*

FALL 2011

OFFICIAL CALL

TO ATTEND

THE 39TH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

**VA CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

OCTOBER 29-30, 2011

**ALL UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
ARE URGED TO ATTEND!**

Olivia Thompson Hinton—President

Ladies, are you ready? The time for our 39th Virginia Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting is just around the corner. October 29-30, 2011 will be here before you know it! We want to gather at VUMAC in Blackstone and celebrate our wonderful accomplishments. Our fellowship time together is a marvelous opportunity for renewing friendships, sharing ideas, and catching up on the latest happenings in mission across the Virginia Conference and beyond.

We are excited that Dr. Jennifer L. Braaten, President of Ferrum College, will be our keynote speaker this year. She possesses a dynamic, enthusiastic, high energy personality that radiates as she speaks, whether in conversations, board meetings, greeting visitors or seniors and families at graduation time. Her strong leadership has brought many advancements and new opportunities for the students attending Ferrum. She reaches out to serve a diverse population. The atmosphere that is generated on campus by students and staff is both warm, caring, and helpful to visitors.



I call upon you, District Presidents. Get an encouraging word out to your mission team and your local church UMW presidents. Ask your presidents to share the word about the meeting and share rides with others who wish to attend. We are ready to take a journey. Together we shall progress along the journey as we live out our theme—**ALL THINGS NEW IN CHRIST: WALK WITH WHOLENESS**, and we shall not fail to achieve our goals while we live out **our vision of turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.**

There are two references that I wish to recommend to you for reading-- *The Journey: Forgiveness, Restorative Justice and Reconciliation* by Stephanie Hixon and Thomas Porter and our new United Methodist Women Program Book 2011-2012 entitled *WALK WITH WHOLENESS*. The first reference was taught this year at the School of Christian Mission. With our new program books we shall discover our patterns of consumption, know what it means to be the body of Christ, explore poverty and justice issues in our communities and work for solutions. We shall pray that we may see what Christ sees and act on His behalf and to His glory as we become stronger servant leaders.

This is an excellent time for all of us who have become a part of a new district to celebrate our belonging and become new partners in mission with one another and welcome each other to share on the ministries we hold dear. Let us be reminded that we as United Methodist Women exist to be in mission, and let us all make mission personal!

We look to scripture for guidance; and as we read Luke 8:1-3, we are reminded that "Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God. The twelve were with Him and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had come out, Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Cuza,; Susanna and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means." Like these women we are led by our faith to support the ministry of Christ through our pledges to United Methodist Women and our churches. This is our way of fulfilling Jesus' command in Mark 16:15 where "...He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." With our pledges the lives of women, children, and youth are made better. Our regional missionaries can see to it. Then we shall be hearers and doers of the Word. So, I shall see you in Blackstone! Don't be late! There is much to celebrate.

Ann Klotz - Education & Interpretation

Did you get to the School of Christian Mission this summer? We had a superb set of teachers and learners! I know that in most of your districts you will be planning district “mini-schools of mission”. Although these have traditionally been focused as UMW events, I hope that you will “think out of the box” and plan ways for “mission education” to be shared with laity and clergy, men, youth, and others beyond “UMW membership”. Learning about God’s mission to the world is for all of the church. Do you know others that are interested in world events? A Haiti mission study is an excellent way to introduce them to ways that God’s people have engaged in helping to heal the hurts of poverty and injustice that have plagued Haiti throughout its complex history. Share the Good News!

How have you succeeded in district promotion and unit participation of Mission Today implementation? Do you remember what the purpose is of the Mission Today initiative? It is

to fulfill the PURPOSE of UMW by energizing United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action; to increase contacts between units and mission personnel and projects; to encourage use of mission resources; and to expand concepts of mission including social justice as mission.

The goal is for 75% of units on a district to be Mission Today units. If we don’t achieve that for 2011, that could be a goal for 2012. The goal is set to measure Mission Today units, (not the number of silver and gold). The criteria are established for Mission Today to be achievable by any unit, regardless of size. I have heard commented that it is difficult for small units to achieve “silver or gold” status, but it might help to remember that the goal is not to have more “silver or gold” units – only in the sense that by fulfilling more criteria, perhaps more members of a unit are able to “*be energized, involved, and encouraged...*” Keep your focus on how you are fulfilling the PURPOSE of UMW, and find ways to turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

Now, let me tell you something I have been learning about: Regional Missionaries.

Women’s Division supports six Regional Missionaries as a part of the International Ministries focus on women, children and youth. The *Regional Missionary Initiative* was created as a result of requests for leadership and organizational development from Methodist and United Methodist women around the world. Regional missionaries build relationships with programs that focus on issues of health, gender equality and elimination of violence among women, and support for the uprooted and marginalized.

I have just finished the Reading Program book Half the Sky - Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn (Leadership Development category, 2011 list). The authors share stories to show that the key to world economic progress depends on unleashing women's potential. Top in the list of organizations that make a difference in the lives of women, girls and children, could/should be the international projects of Women’s Division, and work of these Regional Missionaries.



Take out your **Prayer Calendar** right now and mark the birthdays of these wonderful United Methodist Women-supported Regional Missionaries in: *cont’d next page*

Africa

Catherine Akale (August 30) is based in Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon. Her responsibilities include working with church and community women's organizations developing training and leadership opportunities in areas of enterprise development, economic justice, violence against women and gender justice throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Elmira Sellu (Nov. 25) is now based in her home country of Sierra Leone. The focus of her work throughout West and East Africa will be leadership and organizational development of United Methodist Women national and central conference programs, and leadership for mission outreach to women living with HIV/AIDS.

Finda Quiwa (March 7) is serving in her home country of Sierra Leone. Ms. Quiwa coordinates the Global Justice Volunteer Africa Program as well as leadership, organizational development and networking of Africa's youth and young women's Methodist/United Methodist organizations throughout Sub-Saharan Africa.

Asia

Emma Cantor (Nov. 16) is a deaconess, based in her home country of the Philippines. Ms. Cantor provides gender training and leadership development for women of the Asia/Pacific region. Ms. Cantor has provided leadership for the Bible Women Program throughout Asia since 2000.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Rosangela Soares de Oliveira (July 18) is based in the Americas. She provides leadership and organizational development for women and young women in all of the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking Methodist and United Methodist Churches in Latin America and the Caribbean, focusing on gender awareness and gender justice.

Serna Samuel (April 18), based in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, serves as a liaison between the United Methodist Women/Women's Division and the women of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA). She will provide mission program leadership for churches to reach out to persons living with HIV/AIDS, and to advocate for gender equality.

Read more about the *Regional Missionary Initiative* on the UMW website, select the tab for "Programs", and then to the link on the right-hand side. There you will also see a link to read the expanded Biographies of these women (including podcasts of interviews with Rev. Samuel and YouTube videos by Rosangela Oliveira, on their respective pages). The podcast with Rev. Samuel, (also featured on the Haiti DVD), shares how she was blessed by the women of Haiti praying for her! She had gone to assess how the Women's Division could best address their needs, and they in turn blessed her with their gratitude and prayers.

The more we learn, the more we can share about God's mission through United Methodist Women, turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

Yours in serving Christ,
Ann Klotz
Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
Mission coordinator for Education and Interpretation

NOTE NEW phone and address:

(540) 366-3872
830 Dexter Road
Roanoke, VA 24019

Mary Jane Rawley—SPIRITUAL GROWTH

As you all know "Finding Peace" has been our UMW theme for the year. I'm sure your units have had some uplifting, interesting programs on peace. I am currently in the process of putting together my unit's UMW Sunday message which just happens to fall on September 11th. How is that for church calendar planning on my part? You might say "how appropriate" or you might be like me and think "how am I going to tie all this together with this so important anniversary date for our country?" As I have been preparing for this message I came across a story with an unknown author, I'd like to share with you about peace.



There once was a King who offered a prize to the artist who would paint the best picture of peace. Many artists tried. The King looked at all the pictures, but there were only two he really liked and he had to choose between them. One picture was of a calm lake. The lake was a perfect mirror, for peaceful towering mountains were all around it. Overhead was a blue sky with fluffy white clouds. All who saw this picture thought that it was a perfect picture of peace. The other picture had mountains too. But these were rugged and bare. Above was an angry sky from which rain fell and in which lightning played. Down the side of the mountain tumbled a foaming waterfall. This did not look peaceful at all. But when the King looked, he saw behind the waterfall a tiny bush growing in a crack in the rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, in the midst of the rush of angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest...perfect peace. Which picture do you think won the prize? The King chose the second picture. Do you know why? "Because," explained the King, "peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be in the midst of all those things and still be calm in your heart. That is the real meaning of peace."

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your heart and mind through Jesus Christ.

"Peace be with you this and every day." Philippians 4:7

Gail Sutcliffe—PROGRAM RESOURCES

Yes, we are doing awards at the VA Conference UMW Annual Meeting, so check with your District Secretaries of Program Resources for their due dates. Forms are the same as prior years. Any questions, please call or email me.



We had some wonderful books to read in the past year. Hopefully, 2012 book list will be out soon and I hope to have them in the book store. Also, the 2012 Prayer Calendars and 2012 Program Books will be available. Meeting will be busy, so try to stop in early and shop.

There are changes in the Program Plans for the Reading Programs starting with the new 2012 reporting year. Briefly, Plan I will require reading 5 books – one in each of the 5 categories; Plan II will require reading 10 books- 2 books in each of the 5 categories, Plan III- will require reading 15 books – 2 from each of the 5 categories plus 5 additional books from any category and Plan IV – 20 books -2 from each of the 5 categories, plus 10 additional books from any category. Of course, you are also expected to read Response and New World Outlook also. Look for

these changes in the printed material in the book room.

Hope to see you all at Annual Meeting in the Book Room. 703-490-3381 gfv543@aol.com

Geraldine Sanderson - TREASURER

Please continue to send in your pledges to your district treasurer. The Virginia Conference United Methodist Women Mission are praying that we will make our pledge of \$760,000.00 for this year. Please pray with us. In addition to your pledge money, continue with your candle burning programs and "Rainbow Giver". All of this money goes to MISSION GIVING. We can only make our pledge with the help of each lady from each local unit.



VUMAC – Blackstone needs our dimes and dollars to continue to be sent to your district treasurer. I will have a detailed report for you at the annual meeting in October showing you what our money has been used for and what they need for the future.

If I can be of any service to you please let me know.

Geraldine Sanderson, Virginia Conference United Methodist Women Treasurer
81 Angola Road, Farmville, Virginia 23901
434-392-4402 or email: geraldines@starband.net



BECOME A RAINBOW GIVER:

A \$60.00 donation to Mission Giving makes you an individual 5 Star Giver.

Ask your unit Treasurer for the Rainbow Giver Form.

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\$5.00 to Gift in Memory

\$40.00 to Special Mission recognition

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Sue Boltz—MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH



Missed the deadline for the Young Women's Retreat in Leesburg – September 23-24th? You can call Joyce Winston to see if a bed is still available (\$70.00 for the entire retreat) or come for the day (\$15.00). Emily Miller of Women's Division and I are looking forward to meeting you! We are going to have a fantastic retreat as we focus on "Being Christian in the 21st Century"! Make room in your schedule to meet at Leesburg UMC, Leesburg, Virginia on Friday, September 23rd. Dinner's at

6:30 – see you then!

It's that time of year again when we are concerned with school starting; activities starting up again after a summer break and getting in reports. We would like to honor our deceased sisters at annual meeting. Please make sure that you send the names to your district MNO by early September so that we can honor those who have died since you last sent them in (September 2010).

I have read and reread the surveys sent in by women from all over Virginia on what it would take to get women to join UMW. Two things stand out. The non-members would like more information on what we do. That means many have no idea that without UMW most of the United Methodist missions that deal directly with women and children would go out of business without our money and support. Many of these missions are right here in the United States. The other thing that stands out among women of all ages is that the best way to get new members is a personal invitation from someone within the group. Why not invite someone today – and tell them you'll pick them up! If you can take them to a meeting which provides more interesting information and less "business" they might just decide to join!

As the end of year approaches I invite you all to Annual Meeting and hope that, as Sisters in Christ, we take time to figure out just what we want to do with our local groups and how we can truly be the hands of Christ. I hope to see each of you soon.

Lillian Sloan - CHAIR NOMINATIONS

The year 2011 has been a challenging year for all of us one we way or another.

I am so glad I serve a God that knows our every need and supplies them according to his riches in glory. Our purpose clearly says, "To know God."

And with that said, we would like to welcome our newly elected Vice President-Ruby Lee Anderson, Dolly Porter VU-MAC Representative and Nancy Yarborough- VA Conference UMW Life Task Force committee member.

The Committee on Nominations is submitting the following nominees as Directors to Women's Division:

Maxine Mallory

Janice Webb

Joyce Winston

Charlotte Edge-Alternate

We are attempting to build a Talent Bank for the Conference UMW Committee on Nominations. Please use every opportunity to have your local and district UMW to complete a form and return it to our committee or any conference officer.

Our committee needs your help, support, gifts, talents and prayers.

Thanks for all that all of you do, all of the time.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

(Proverbs 3: 5&6)



Joann McClung - COMMUNICATIONS

Please send to me the e-mail addresses for your new District officers and local unit Presidents & Secretaries for 2012 as soon as possible. If they do not have an e-mail address, do they have someone who will pass information on to them. We are trying to cut cost so that we will have more funds for "Mission Giving"



Linda Porter—SOCIAL ACTION

“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8

Greetings! I hope everyone has had a great summer.

We’ve had many social justice issues to keep us busy advocating for justice for all God’s children. I want to thank you for all you do. Your voice is important in making changes to right wrongs. I encourage you to speak out boldly when you witness an injustice. That is what Jesus calls us to do.

The General Board of Church and Society’s website, www.umc-gbcs.org has lots of information that will keep you informed of social justice issues. You can sign up for all GBCS alerts or join a particular Action Network. Some of the topics are: Alcohol and Other Addictions, Civil and Human Rights, Economic Justice, Environmental Justice, Peace with Justice and Women and Children’s Issues. Here are some suggestions for engaging in faithful advocacy: **What are the issues we need to be concerned about as people of faith? How can we add our voices to the public debate? How can we become advocates for God’s Shalom in our community and throughout the world?** Knowledge is power and when we know what we are talking about, we can bring about changes to an unjust system.



Districts who turn in their Social Action Award reports will receive certificates of appreciation at our Annual Meeting in October. I know many churches have become part of the new districts. The local units need to send their Social Action reports to their new districts and the districts will pass out Social Action Award certificates to the local units. I know you have been doing much to advocate for justice and each unit needs to be recognized by their district. If you have questions, give me a call or send me an e-mail and I will try to answer your questions.



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FALL 2011

PURPOSE
OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



***ALL REGISTRATION FORMS
ARE AVAILABLE ON THE
CONFERENCE UMW WEB
PAGE***