

# Annual Report 2015

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

# Interrupting Indifference

Distracted

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NOT ENOUGH

Worry about offending

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# General Secretary's Report



Photo by Kristina Krug



“United Methodist Women continues to mobilize critical funding through Mission Giving and local giving and our members are increasingly and generously contributing to the Legacy Fund.”

INTERRUPTING INDIFFERENCE is what United Methodist Women members do. For our 2015 National Seminar, we took our theme from the great words of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and an idea that has echoed through time — that evil takes root when good people remain indifferent. We must see the harm to others; we must stand together for human rights — and not just for people with whom we agree. This is part and parcel of United Methodist Women's work, animating our service and our advocacy.

At the National Seminar, we equipped representatives from all U.S. Annual Conferences with information about the four priority areas we will be focusing on during the coming years: climate justice, criminalization of communities of color (mass incarceration), economic inequality, and maternal and child health. The training and resources provided at the National Seminar are an offer for each United Methodist Women conference to connect its own work with these themes and to broaden and deepen our collective impact working with National Mission Institutions, deaconesses and home missionaries, and all the organizations with which we are connected.

Our priority issues are one way that United Methodist Women members are turning faith, hope and love into action. Another is reflected in the theme for our National Seminar, "Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy." We bring all of who we are to this work. We grow in our own faith as we delve deeply into scripture and follow regular spiritual practices through using the *Prayer Calendar*, building nurturing communities, serving others, advocating for justice and through Mission Giving.

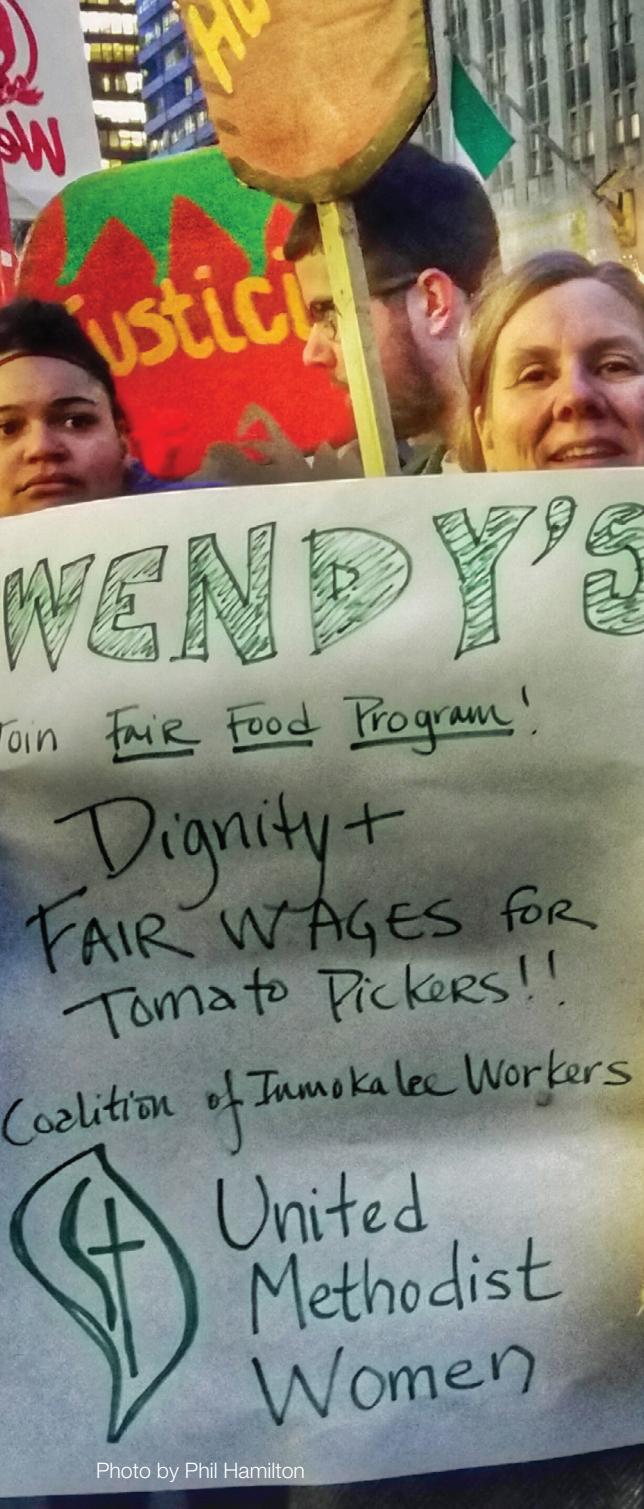
United Methodist Women continues to mobilize critical funding through Mission Giving and local giving and our members are increasingly and generously contributing to the Legacy Fund. Each conference also has a team working to help communicate about the Legacy Fund as part of our 150-year celebration. We are dreaming about what would be possible if every member gave \$18.69 to the Legacy Fund each year during this campaign — and not just dreaming, but working toward our goal of participation from every United Methodist Women member.

We are also looking forward to the next 150 years. Working with input from the Program Advisory Group and staff, in October 2015, the Board of Directors approved focusing strategically on three areas of work: increasing organizational capacity for membership growth and development, strengthening our work by bringing all of who we are into each kind of project, and intentionally building mutual relationships within The United Methodist Church and beyond to extend our impact. You will hear us talk about membership, identity and relationships as this work develops.

We are who we are because our members are not indifferent to the needs, gifts and strengths of marginalized women, children and youth. The year 2015 was another great year of strengthening our roots and stretching our reach. Thank you for all you do to make more mission possible.

**Harriett Jane Olson  
General Secretary and CEO  
United Methodist Women**

# President's Reflection



“We began the year with an outstanding Legacy Fund committee meeting, ensuring that our organization will be around past the 21st century and allowing us to continue turning faith, hope and love into action.”

IF YOU HAVE SEEN United Methodist Women's word buttons, you can imagine what type of "awesome" year 2015 has been. We began the year with an outstanding Legacy Fund committee meeting, ensuring that our organization will be around past the 21st century and allowing us to continue turning faith, hope and love into action. We are gearing up for our 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2019, engaging members in new ways to include everyone in this historical event. I was delighted to assist with the Reading Program and see firsthand the hard work that goes into selecting books that align with our vision and priority issues. Our Board Meeting in Nashville required dedication and perseverance as we weathered an ice storm — flights were changed, accommodations were rearranged, and people struggled to drive through the ice and snow. I was thankful to all who made the extra effort to attend and grateful for our amazing staff, who set up technology that allowed those who could not attend in person to participate and give vital input.

We hosted a conference of history scholars lecturing on United Methodist Women's rich traditions. One spectacular highlight of 2015 was attending the National Seminar, a premiere event where United Methodist Women announces its next four priority issues. Members of all ages are passionately energizing their conferences, districts and local units around the new issues of maternal and child health, criminalization of communities of color, economic inequality, and

climate justice. At the meeting, we engaged in table dialogue, in-depth discussions and planned site visits and actions across Chicago. I also attended The United Methodist Church National Disabilities Banquet in Dallas to accept an award on behalf of our organization for our outstanding work on our Mission u study, *The Church and People with Disabilities*. It was an honor to be with such amazing United Methodist Church members, who participated in Mission u and respect and admire our work.

I was blessed to represent United Methodist Women at the General Board of Global Ministries board meetings in April and October. Serving on the executive, personnel and mission committees reminds me that engaging in mission is key to building on a great and wonderful relationship. Thanks to all the conferences that invited me to attend their annual meetings, where I was able to visit our National Mission Institutions, and also to the churches who invited me to speak for United Methodist Women Sunday. The joy of the Lord has blessed me to represent this "awesome" and "amazing" organization of people who have been "bold," "compassionate" and "faithful" in "interrupting indifference!"

**Yvette Kim Richards**  
**National President**  
**United Methodist Women**



# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

- United Methodist Women produced its annual spiritual growth Mission U study, *Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God*, for understanding and reflecting on scriptural happiness.
- Regional missionary Serna Samuel developed a Lenten devotions booklet addressing the issue of violence against women.
- The Office of Spiritual Growth and the Office of Racial Justice collaborated to add web resources for Lenten devotions on racial justice using the format of pray, learn, mentor and transform.
- United Methodist Women members used the *Prayer Calendar* to pray and connect with missionaries all over the world.

Photo by Mary Cheng

# Read a United Methodist Women member's spiritual reflection on Mother's Day:

## A Day for All Who Mother

*Mother's Day is a day to celebrate all women who mother*

By Julie Taylor with Tara Barnes

Mother's Day, for me, is more about celebrating all mothering instincts. It is about remembering my own mother and enjoying her gifts to me even as I miss her presence in my life. It is about thinking of my grandmothers and aunts and other women in my life who helped me along the way. As a single young woman far from my own mother, I had a number of surrogates — and I still do, although I am no longer a young woman. I call these women sisters now, but I am grateful for their "mothering." I remember that Mother's Day is about the other women who care for children and youth and marginalized and elderly persons with generosity and joy and compassion. That is what Mother's Day is about.

This Mother's Day, pause for gratitude at what you have received. Let it remind you of those who mothered you. May it be a day you commit to be more compassionate and ferocious in your love for others.

Mother's Day is really not about having children or about the consumeristic celebration that media bombard

us with, but about something deeper and wider and stronger. It is about the grace of nursing soldiers on both sides of war because they are hurt and need care, as Ann Reeves Jarvis, mother of Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis, did during the U.S. Civil War. It is about imploring society not to take the call to war quietly because it will mean death and destruction for some people's (and thus all our) children. It is about seeking the attributes of motherhood, like the gift of love described in 1 Corinthians 13. It is about seeking a society in which everyone is nurtured in a compassionate and thoughtful way so that they experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, no matter who they are. It is about being who you are for whatever reasons you have and allowing everyone else to do the same. That is what I remember about my mother — unconditional love, unstoppable love, faithful and ferocious love. I will celebrate that on Mother's Day. Join me.

Adapted from the May 2015 issue of **response**.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## ORGANIZED FOR GROWTH

- In June, United Methodist Women participated in the Youth 2015 event, “Go On,” in Orlando, Florida. Greater awareness of United Methodist Women was raised among young people and others unfamiliar with the organization’s work through plenaries, workshops, exhibits, resources and a youth lounge, and new partnerships were formed.
- An online census was launched, allowing local units to input their membership count. Out of this work, more avenues connecting local organizations with the national office have been opened.



Photo by Brenda Thompson

## Read about United Methodist Women fostering growth through the Legacy Fund:

### Beginning the Anniversary Journey

*United Methodist Women members begin to celebrate 150 years in mission and secure future mission through the Legacy Fund*

By Sandy Wilder

United Methodist Women members have always understood giving as an expression of God's grace. Their faith has led them to follow the gospel and to support the mission and ministry of Jesus.

Women, children and youth are those most often left out of God's feast. They are systematically marginalized and discriminated against. United Methodist Women members commit themselves and their gifts to help relieve suffering and improve quality of life for women, children and youth. They recognize that in sharing God's grace, both the giver and the receiver are equally blessed. All resources, natural and financial, are from God, and it is our responsibility as women of faith to ensure that these resources meet the needs of *all*.

The broad and timeless conviction that all Christians are called to be in mission and grow in community requires support of mission programs, projects and personnel. God's mission, empowered by the Holy Spirit and carried out following the pattern of Jesus' ministry, involves teaching, healing, feeding the

hungry, changing corrupt systems, liberating the captives and witnessing.

Beginning now and for the next five years, United Methodist Women members are undertaking an ambitious, organization-wide challenge to provide even more resources to meet the needs of the women, children and youth who have often been left out of God's feast. In celebration and recognition of our upcoming 150th anniversary in 2019, we commit to contributing our resources now to ensure the future of United Methodist Women and its capacity — our capacity — to follow God in mission even more faithfully.

In the coming years we will celebrate the richness of our mission service and advocacy and will begin to make contributions to the Legacy Fund, which is our legacy to the future. We undertake this journey in a spirit of thankfulness and joy.

Adapted from the winter 2015 issue of *United Methodist Women News*.



Photo by Kristina Krug

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- **Funding was provided for the appointment of the first Women's Coordinator in Eurasia United Methodist Church Episcopal Area to better support leadership development.**
- **Approximately 600 members participated in leadership development at Leadership Development Days in January at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, and in November in St. Louis, Missouri, and Tempe, Arizona. Attendees were also equipped for leadership in spiritual growth, membership growth, social justice and advocacy, and program planning.**
- **In February, conference language coordinators and presidents gathered at "Voices: A Transformative Leadership Event" at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville.**
- **Virtual leadership development was provided by Distance Learning-trained members using GoToTraining and other online resources.**

**Read about one language coordinator's experience attending "Voices: A Transformative Leadership Event":**

## United Methodist Women Voices Event *A Reflection*

By Kady Herr-Yang

As a language coordinator from my conference, I was privileged to attend the United Methodist Women Voices event at the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville from February 27 to March 1, 2015.

At this event, I was reminded of the things that I already know and all the new things I have to learn. It is amazing how we never stop learning. Listening and learning about how "We Are the Church" from The Reverend Jeannie Trevino-Tedlie reminded me of the importance of language coordinators in The United Methodist Church.

Language coordinators are the voices of those who have limited English language experience. We are the language bridge. We have an important role in reaching out to one another in order to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The worship sessions were great! Leader Grace Caijuat was so full of energy and humor that she made worshipping together even more wonderful. I looked forward to the worship sessions because that's when I

cleared my mind and listened to what God was saying. The songs, litanies and prayers were all so powerful!

Grace Caijuat led us in a cultural and emotional intelligence session, which helped us talk about how we were truly feeling and expressing our feelings. We talked about effective Christian leadership in a multicultural church. I learned diversity is a reality and inclusion is a choice. I never really thought about it, but it is true. We also talked about how empathy means feeling with people. People don't seem to have much empathy lately and we need to learn how to get empathy back into our lives. I needed to be aware of becoming more empathetic towards other people.

What wonderful information we took back to our conferences! We made it happen! After all, we are United Methodist Women charged by the grace of God. Because through God, all things are possible. Amen!

Adapted from the spring 2015 issue of *United Methodist Women News*.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

- United Methodist Women scholarships enabled 53 international students to continue their educations.
- Ten jurisdictional guides brought the values of social and environmental sustainability into conference teams.
- The climate justice simulation experience and the study, *Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action*, highlighted the deep work members are accomplishing in communities and the church.
- A new Mission u training event and a dean's advisory group on conference resource development were created.
- Over 35 United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs were developed and facilitated for college students, youth and United Methodist Women members.



Photo by Guy J. Schafer

# Read about one member's thoughts on the Latin America study at Mission u 2015:

## Mission u Prompts Reflection

*Sparks memories of Native American faith journeys and stories*

By Sandra Blackbear-Galindo-Ramirez

I am a member of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. I attended Mission u in Tempe, Arizona, with my Comanche, Mississippi Choctaw, Oklahoma Choctaw, Creek and Kiowa sisters.

I was a member of Rosangela Oliveira's class on Latin America. The study was exciting. I have never been to South America or any of the Latin American countries. As I began my journey to Latin America, I kept comparing our faith journeys as Native Americans, an indigenous people of North America, to the journeys of indigenous people of Latin America. The study opened my heart, our hearts, to Latin America through scripture.

I would flash back to my grandmother's stories, hear her voice and once again hear the same losses that my Latin American brothers and sisters are experiencing—a loss of land, a loss of culture, even a loss of religion. The stories of how the early missionaries built their

churches on top of sacred places of worship, not taking the time to learn if we shared the same God, reminded me of my great-grandmother's stories.

I remembered how through the forced removal of the people, there is a loss of children and grandchildren, grandfathers and grandmothers. Without our grandfathers and grandmothers, who will tell the children about their faith journeys? Who told us about our faith journeys? Our elders are an important part of our journeys.

I also wondered, what will I do beyond the classroom? How will I — how will we — support our brothers and sisters of Latin America? How will we fight for justice on our faith journeys, globally, and here at home?

Adapted from the summer 2015 issue of *United Methodist Women News*.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

- United Methodist Women organized a forum commemorating the 15th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council (UNSCR) Resolution 1325, which called for the participation of women in all stages of peace talks.
- United Methodist Women organized a grassroots peace dialogue between 10 Russian and Ukrainian women in Istanbul in September.
- In March, United Methodist Women sent 20 delegates from 13 countries to a United Nations session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
- About 200 women attended “Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy,” the quadrennial National Seminar at the University of Illinois in Chicago, July 29–August 2.
- National Mission Institutions continued their crucial service work nationwide.



Photo by United Methodist Women

**Read about the training for social justice action during the 2015 National Seminar, “Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy”:**

## **Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy**

*United Methodist Women act for justice at National Seminar*

By Yvette Moore

In worship, workshops, site visits and actions, United Methodist Women members put feet to their prayers at the National Seminar in Chicago. Each day opened with Bible study and plenaries on the focus issues — climate change, economic injustice, criminalization of communities of color, and maternal and child health. A presentation on maternal stress and low-birth weight babies even prompted some participants to organize an action in solidarity with local physicians and the community to protest the proposed closing of the neonatal unit at a Cook County Hospital.

After two days of workshops and plenaries on the focus issues and small group and skills building sessions, the women divided into three groups and set out for a day of planned site visits and actions across Chicago. One group visited Little Village Environmental Justice Organization and toured an area being transformed from a brownfield of abandoned industrial sites into community gardens and sustainable enterprises. A second group met with members of Arise Chicago, Restaurant Opportunities Centers of Chicago and the Coalition of Chicago Housekeepers, all representatives

of low-income workers struggling for living wages, benefits and dignity. A third group visited Gallery 400, a nonprofit art gallery featuring an exhibit by artists responding to social, political and economic conditions in Chicago, including police violence, the dehumanizing of imprisoned people, and home foreclosures.

The women reunited at Hartzell Memorial/St. James United Methodist Church for a Community Renewal Society public accountability meeting designed to invite local politicians to commit to the faith-based organization’s restorative justice campaign and police accountability platform. Among other things, the community organization asked local aldermen to increase funds for incarceration prevention and re-entry support programs for people released from jail. The assembled group prayed in unison with outstretched hands out toward politicians who refused to commit to the restorative justice demands, asking “that God transform your heart and bend your mind toward justice.”

Adapted from the January 2016 issue of **response**.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Climate justice simulation experiences helped participants understand the realities and advocacy of communities closest to greenhouse-emitting industries.
- Two prerecorded webinars were produced for [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) — on the 13 steps to sustainability and on climate justice.
- The 13 steps to sustainability were reinforced across all conferences through the work of jurisdictional guides and new tools, including webinars and downloadable posters.
- Adult, children and youth studies on climate justice were produced for Mission u.
- Once again, United Methodist Women members and staff joined dozens of United Methodists and faith groups at the People's Climate March in New York City. A parallel teach-in, held at the United Methodist Women Church Center for the United Nations, brought together communities impacted by the energy industry and climate change.



Photo by Andrew Cheu

**Read a first-person account on how and why one climate justice jurisdictional guide is tackling climate change:**

## Leading the Way in Climate Justice

*United Methodist Women members from around the country serve as guides and leaders for their regions' work on environmental justice*

By Michelle Bearden

### **Ellen Lipsey, New Mexico Conference, South Central Jurisdiction**

My personal reason for getting involved in this movement is layered. I live in the desert of west Texas on the border of Mexico. Several years ago I returned to this small community where I grew up. I was trained by my parents (especially my mother, a very dedicated member of United Methodist Women) to consider the impact of my choices on others. It was also influenced a few years ago when I attended a National Farm Worker Ministry meeting in California to learn from and be in solidarity with farmworkers picking table grapes. It expanded my awareness of environmental and economic justice related to the choices we make every time we visit a grocery store. I'm excited to be part of an organization that has clout, understanding and makes the connections between justice and care of creation. Be Just. Be Green is the way to be intentional about our choices and honor those connections.

The devastation to land, water and air by the oil and gas industry is one of the current environmental concerns in my jurisdiction. The very industries that provide livelihood for so many people are contaminating our earth. Working for a just transition to other forms of energy is vital.

My biggest fear globally is the warming of the planet along with what seems like very slow action to find alternatives to the activities that harm the environment. The effects, including weather disasters, almost always disproportionately impact the most vulnerable communities, and voices from those communities must be heard.

The one impactful thing that every United Methodist Women member could do for the environment is reduce waste. Right now, my favorite inspiration to keep working in our effort to plan sustainable meetings is the song "For Livets Skull" (For Sake of Life) by Per Harling, which can be found in *Global Praise 1* published by the General Board of Global Ministries.

Adapted from the April 2016 issue of **response**.



## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Two conference training events were held in eastern Pennsylvania and Iowa, resulting in relationships between churches and local agencies serving domestic violence survivors as well as greater advocacy efforts at the local level.
- The FaithTrust Institute produced webinars that were used by United Methodist Women members to raise awareness. These webinars will continue to be available for programming and events.
- Many units, districts and conferences hosted their own domestic violence events, often partnering with agencies in their own communities to raise awareness and find ways to serve those who have suffered in violent relationships.
- The final train-the-trainer event was held at the 2015 Leadership Development Day at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Several individuals were trained to host events and organize to serve survivors in their own local settings.

Photo by Kristina Krug

# Read about United Methodist Women members addressing domestic violence issues on Legislative Advocacy Day:

## My Sister's Keeper

*United Methodist Women in South Carolina serve as the voice for the unheard during a Legislative Advocacy Day*

By Jessica Brodie

It's a sunny, cloud-speckled spring morning in South Carolina, and on the campus of Epworth Children's Home in Columbia, women of all ages and races are making their way across the lawn.

They're headed to Legislative Advocacy Day, a South Carolina United Methodist Women's event that has gone on for so long even their oldest members can't precisely recall when it started, back when it used to be called Capitol Day and was held at a church and culminated on the steps of the statehouse.

"That's what we're called to do — to advocate on behalf of those who cannot do so for themselves," said Rebecca Eleazer, member of Francis Burns United Methodist Church in Columbia, who has been coming to the annual event as long as she can remember and now pitches in as registrar. "This day is a vehicle to train women to go into the field."

Every year, United Methodist Women members embrace a different topic, like public education or

immigration, and spend a day learning all they can about it, with the idea that they will go back to their own communities armed with information and motivated to advocate. This year, with the theme "Am I My Sister's Keeper?" they tackled domestic violence, with awareness centering on lobbying for passage of state legislation, Senate Bill 3 and House Bill 3433. If passed, those bills would change how the state looks at domestic violence and hold abusers accountable on a more stringent basis.

Throughout the daylong gathering, the women heard from the director of a major domestic violence organization, a representative of the assistant attorney general's office and other experts who educated attendees on statistics, current issues and what they can do to help.

Adapted from the June 2015 issue of **response**.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING



- The 2015 Intercept the Traffickers Campaign brought awareness and education to over 33,352 people participating in 516 events between the program's inception and the end of 2015.
- The Human Trafficking Resource Guide was revised and redesigned.
- United Methodist Women achieved legislative success by collaborating with key congressional offices to pass the Justice for Victims Trafficking Act and by partnering with Living Water for Girls to pass Rachel's Law in Georgia.
- Awareness-raising events and presentations included a lecture by United Methodist Women president Yvette Richards on the Human Trafficking Initiative at Spelman Chapel, and an Asbury United Methodist Church annual Lenten event called "Advocacy for Women and Girls."

Photo by United Methodist Women

# Read what United Methodist Women members learned about the trafficking of children at an event in Texas:

## Traffic 911

*United Methodist Women of First United Methodist Church of McKinney take aim against trafficking of children in Texas*

By Rebecca Traeger

On March 26, United Methodist Women members of First United Methodist Church of McKinney, Texas, held an event intended to take aim at child sex trafficking.

“The buying and selling of children isn’t something that only happens in some far-off land. It happens in our own country, our own state, and right here in Collin County,” said Patty Froehlich, associate pastor at First United Methodist Church of McKinney.

The United Methodist Women members are working with Traffick911, a nonprofit organization dedicated to freeing American youth from sex slavery through increased awareness and education for prevention, rescue and restoration. Colette Copeland Williams, the Collin County Texas volunteer director with Traffick911, spoke at Thursday’s event.

Williams told the story of a 13-year old honors student from Irving who was lured away from her middle school gymnasium with the promise of getting a clandestine tattoo. Instead, she was sexually assaulted,

drugged and sold for sex for nine days. “She made one bad choice and it changed her life forever,” said Williams. She was lucky and made it home again. Many do not. The average life expectancy of a child sold into sex slavery is seven years.

SharedHope.org reports that human trafficking is a \$9.8 billion industry in the United States, with at least 100,000 child victims each year. “Traffickers are hiring teenage recruiters to befriend girls and boys, who are on average 13 years old, to lure them away so they can be sold for sex,” Williams said. Traffickers prey on a child’s insecurities or home life issues, all under the guise of friendship or even love. “Some masquerade as best friends, others as boyfriends. Children are meeting them online, through social media, and in person at schools, malls and movie theaters. Wherever your children are, the recruiters are too,” said Williams.

Adapted from the spring 2015 issue of *United Methodist Women News*.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

## IMMIGRATION/ GLOBAL MIGRATION

The 2015 Campaign to End Family Detention aimed to stop the United States government from jailing Central American women and children seeking refuge from violence:

- Two dozen United Methodist Women members joined some 50 United Methodists and 600 advocates at the March to End Family Detention at the South Texas Family Residential Center.
- Over 70 United Methodist Women screened the Grassroots Leadership video, “No Sanctuary.”
- On Mother’s Day and throughout the year, United Methodist Women members sent postcards to President Obama calling for an end to family detentions.

United Methodist Women’s efforts, in collaboration with a national coalition of faith, immigrant rights and legal organizations led to a reduction in the length of time and number of families in detention.



Photo by United Methodist Women

# Read about United Methodist Women's work to end family detention centers and help refugees:

## Breaking the Chains

*Faith-based social justice advocates gather in Washington, D.C., for Ecumenical Advocacy Days*

By Mary Beth Coudal

The theme of the 13th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days, held April 17–20 in Washington, D.C., was “Breaking the Chains: Mass Incarceration and Systems of Exploitation.” Hundreds of attendees attempted to address this issue, which includes ending the incarceration of immigrant families in detention centers, from a faith-based perspective.

In the exhibit hall, United Methodist Women offered a table to sign postcards to be sent to the White House asking President Obama to end family detention.

Because the words “mass incarceration” are so broad, Yer Lee Yang, social action co-chair from the Milwaukee District United Methodist Women, who stopped by the table, said advocating for families makes sense. Her postcard was one among thousands signed at Ecumenical Advocacy Days to put the White House and elected officials on notice to end the detention of families. The postcard calls for an end to these for-profit detention centers, which criminalize the “least of these,” women and children who seek asylum.

Two weeks after Ecumenical Advocacy Days, in early May, about 20 United Methodist Women members

from all over the country joined in a rally in Dilley, Texas, with 600 advocates to close the largest family detention center in the United States. The Dilley center, called the South Texas Family Residential Center, has a capacity for 2,400 women and children. However, instead of acting like a residence, the center is treated as a low-security prison, complete with a barbed wire fence and guard tower. It looks like a concentration camp with a playground.

No matter how bright the paint or how plentiful the board games, if residents are unable to come and go freely, it’s still a prison, and refugee women and children who aren’t criminals are treated like criminals. The majority of people housed at such centers — built and maintained at taxpayer expense — aren’t trying to “get away” with anything but are instead trying to be contributing members of society while following the legal process to become U.S. citizens. We would all be better served if they were released on bond or put in the care of family members or friends in the country, activists argued.

Adapted from the September 2015 issue of **response**.

# Treasurer's Report 2015



Photo by Kristina Krug

“We prepared for a fresh wind blowing in the organization and in United Methodist Women’s mission work. We cannot rest, for there is more work to do.”

IN 2015, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN across the country answered the call to give to mission. They did so to be in ministry with women, children and youth, here at home and around the world.

Working with United Methodist Women, we — you — helped to make safe, affordable child care a reality for hundreds of working women across this country. We made education possible for scores of women here at home and in other countries of the world. We made growing and harvesting crops possible by supplying farm tools, so that women can feed their families and communities. We ministered to those on the margins, as Jesus did. We advocated for fair treatment, fair laws and just considerations for thousands — all in the name of Jesus. And we will not rest.

We prepared for a fresh wind blowing in the organization and in United Methodist Women’s mission work. We cannot rest, for there is more work to do. There is always more work to do and we continually renew our strength in the Purpose of United Methodist Women. We take our strength, our courage and our determination from our faith in God and Jesus Christ’s love. We gain ever new inspiration and energy for important work from our knowledge of the ministry of Jesus and from the grace of the Holy Spirit. We are fueled by the bonds of the creative, supportive community that is United Methodist Women.

In 2015, we went deeper into United Methodist Women’s new strategic plan. We put our relationships with members, our identity as United

Methodist Women and our relationships with all areas of The United Methodist Church even more front and center.

At the very inspiring commissioning service for new missionaries in New York, Bishop Holston of the South Carolina conference talked about mission work transforming the missionary. Paraphrasing now, he said that God does not always send missionaries to a place to help the people in that location; sometimes God sends a missionary to a place because there is something the missionary needs to learn from the people there. I am sure that you, like me, know what the bishop was speaking about. When called to mission or a ministry, one often finds oneself changing. Sometimes God holds you in a place until you have learned the lesson that God intends you to learn.

In working on the endowment funds recently, I researched the history of Mission Giving back to some of United Methodist Women's many predecessor organizations. I discovered that in 1925, the Mississippi Conference of the Women's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church passed the following resolution recommending ways for each member to contribute to what is now our national mission work:

"Be it resolved:

First, that each member set a hen and give the income to the society.

Second, that each auxiliary piece a quilt.

Third, that each member give her first Sunday eggs each month.

Fourth, that the president of each auxiliary ask for free-will offerings at each meeting, or adopt any other plan [that] may help in this work."

I think that is a good plan — don't you? Not all of us still raise chickens, but surely some of us do. Not all of us quilt, but quilts and prayer shawls are still very much part of our tradition. Offerings for mission giving are still a strong tradition.

I like the 1925 Mississippi resolution because it captures my imagination about a time long past, but not so long past. It immediately makes me think of all the unique and traditional ways that our members raise funds for mission today. Surely, bake sales, yard sales, dinners and annual bazaars are a strong part of our traditions today. But speaking of chickens and eggs makes me think in a new way about the creative ways, in today's time, we engage to raise funds for mission giving.

Working with the endowments makes me think about what our predecessors' legacy left and the legacy that we will leave. In 1919, for the 40th Anniversary of the Women's Foreign Service Committee of the Methodist Protestant Church, plans were made to raise \$40,000, or \$1,000 for each year of its existence. A committee promoted the celebration and raised the money. This amount was divided into "shares" of \$20 and each region of the country was given a quota. Each area of the country exceeded its goal.

I got curious about what \$1,000 would be in today's dollars; it amounts to \$13,775.49. Further, those \$20 shares would now be \$275.51.

Each year, our foremothers stand beside us as we contribute to Mission Giving. Last year, their gifts stood beside yours to fund mission with women, children and youth. This year, our foremothers stand beside us with \$1.3 million in income from permanent and designated funds. We add this to our \$13 million in Mission Giving to make mission happen. This is a strong statement from our foremothers.

Today, we are hard at work building our own legacy for future generations. With the excitement of renewed focus on giving to the Legacy Fund, we will surely stand beside our daughters, granddaughters, nieces and great-nieces as they follow the example of Jesus Christ and make mission happen.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Martha Sherman Knight**  
**Treasurer and CFO**  
**United Methodist Women**



## Conferences That Exceeded Their Pledges Listed By Jurisdiction

**Of the 56 conferences, 28 exceed their pledge in 2015**

**1 Jurisdiction exceeded its pledge  
The Western Jurisdiction**

### North Central

Dakotas 2.15%  
Illinois Great Rivers  
8.05%

### Northeastern

Greater New Jersey  
9.28%  
New England 2.78%  
New York 6.87%  
Susquehanna 3.96%  
Upper New York 4.55%  
West Virginia 6.54%  
Western Pennsylvania  
6.26%

### South Central

Great Plains 15.48%  
Northwest Texas 6.38%  
Oklahoma Indian  
Missionary 26.88%  
Rio Texas 4.60%  
Texas 1.21%

### Southeastern

Alabama-West Florida  
1.47%  
Florida .03%  
Holston .12%  
Mississippi 10.94%  
Red Bird Missionary  
98.46%  
Tennessee .15%

### Western

Alaska 15.20%  
California-Nevada  
38.34%  
California-Pacific  
24.66%  
Desert Southwest 1.59%  
Oregon-Idaho 9.52%  
Pacific Northwest  
14.32%  
Rocky Mountain 7.88%  
Yellowstone 7.18%

**Thank you for your ministry!**

## OPERATING REVENUES \*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>CONFERENCE GIVING</b>				
Mission Giving.....	12.02	13.05	13.08	14.10
Supplementary Giving.....	0.08	0.09	0.10	0.06
Designated Giving.....	0.71	0.79	0.80	0.86
<b>Total Conference Giving</b>	<b>12.81</b>	<b>13.93</b>	<b>13.98</b>	<b>15.02</b>
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>				
Interest Income from Cash Equivalents.....	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01
Investment Income (Net of Fees).....	1.16	1.36	1.40	1.63
Bequest, Trusts and Other Long-term Gifts.....	0.54	0.58	0.94	0.86
Distribution from Endowments.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.46
<b>Total Interest Income</b>	<b>1.70</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>2.35</b>	<b>3.96</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>				
Response Magazine.....	0.38	0.50	0.39	0.73
PBD/MRC.....	1.00	1.26	1.33	1.66
<b>Total Publication</b>	<b>1.38</b>	<b>1.76</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>2.39</b>

(\*ALL FIGURES SHOWN QUOTED IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS U.S.)

## RENTAL AND SERVICE FEE INCOME

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Brooks Howell Home .....	3.82	3.56	3.36	3.07
Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN).....	2.55	2.44	2.55	2.46
Alma Mathews .....	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.33
<b>Total Rental and Service Fee Income</b>	<b>6.69</b>	<b>6.35</b>	<b>6.23</b>	<b>5.86</b>

## OTHER INCOME

Events, Seminars, Meetings.....	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02
AGI.....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.18
Benefit Trust.....	0.67	0.70	0.44	0.43
Miscellaneous Income.....	0.49	1.89	0.71	0.81
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>2.61</b>	<b>1.17</b>	<b>1.44</b>

## TOTAL OPERATING INCOME

<b>23.75</b>	<b>26.59</b>	<b>25.45</b>	<b>28.67</b>
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## OPERATING EXPENDITURES \*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
<b>PROGRAM SERVICES</b>				
<b>Programs Administered by United Methodist Women</b>				
National Mission Institutions Network .....	0.52	0.59	0.67	0.66
National Mission Institution.....	1.44	1.68	1.74	1.83
Property Management Insurance.....	1.71	0.68	0.45	1.07
Repairs and Maintenance.....	0.18	0.22	0.29	0.32
Property Management.....	0.62	0.57	0.50	0.43
International Mission Work Administration .....	2.18	1.64	1.79	1.72
United Methodist Women Membership and Leadership Development .....	1.87	2.42	2.54	2.60
Mission Education.....	0.49	0.48	0.54	0.48
Response Magazine.....	1.29	1.37	1.56	2.40
Mission Resources (MR).....	1.85	1.89	1.71	1.67
Christian Social Action.....	0.50	0.52	0.52	0.39
Deaconesses, Home Missioners.....	0.26	1.46	0.00	1.46
Office and Network.....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Other Programs Administered by United Methodist Women.....	5.71	7.25	5.94	5.95
<b>Total Programs Administered by United Methodist Women</b>	<b>12.91</b>	<b>13.52</b>	<b>12.31</b>	<b>15.03</b>
<b>PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS</b>				
<b>UNITED METHODIST ORGANIZATIONS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL</b>				
National Missions.....	2.08	2.14	2.12	2.25
International Missions .....	1.32	1.47	1.63	1.74
Ecumenical Organizations.....	0.35	0.23	0.22	0.23
Social Action Organizations.....	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Grants from Designated Funds .....	1.95	3.40	1.91	1.62
Grants from Funds Held for Others .....	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.10
<b>Total Programs Administered by Other Organizations</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>7.25</b>	<b>5.94</b>	<b>5.95</b>

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN).....	2.49	2.29	2.58	2.02
Alma Mathews Hospitality House .....	0.66	0.52	0.50	0.57
Brooks Howell Retirement Center Retired Deaconess, Missionary Home Operations .....	4.03	3.37	3.68	3.17
Retired Deaconess, Missionary Pension and Health Benefits .....	1.88	4.54	2.29	3.34
Scarritt-Bennett Education Center.....	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10
Annuity Fund.....	0.00	0.11	0.01	0.14
Organization-wide Program Support.....	0.53	0.42	0.58	1.11
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>9.68</b>	<b>11.35</b>	<b>9.74</b>	<b>10.45</b>

## TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES

<b>28.30</b>	<b>32.11</b>	<b>27.99</b>	<b>31.43</b>
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## SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General Leadership and Management.....	4.24	3.32	3.42	3.46
<b>Total Management and General</b>	<b>4.24</b>	<b>3.32</b>	<b>3.42</b>	<b>3.46</b>
Fundraising Development Office.....	0.17	0.17	0.05	0.02
Fundraising Programs (SMRs).....	0.03	0.17	0.21	0.15
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>0.20</b>	<b>0.34</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.17</b>

## TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES

<b>4.44</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>3.63</b>
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## TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES

<b>32.74</b>	<b>35.78</b>	<b>31.67</b>	<b>35.06</b>
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## EFFECT ON NET ASSETS \*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Operating Deficit.....	(8.99)	(9.19)	(6.22)	(6.39)
Appreciation/(Depreciation) in Investments.....	(2.92)	2.28	9.36	6.89
Endowment/Sale of Properties.....	14.29	3.21	0.20	(0.03)
<b>INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>(3.70)</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>0.47</b>

## NET ASSETS \*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
General Fund/Undesignated .....	16.11	11.41	10.41	11.88
Board Designated .....	5.21	6.67	9.79	7.28
Total Unrestricted .....	21.32	18.08	20.20	19.16
Temporarily Restricted .....	25.06	26.47	28.17	26.09
Permanently Restricted.....	15.85	15.31	15.17	14.98
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>62.23</b>	<b>59.86</b>	<b>63.54</b>	<b>60.23</b>

## EFFECT ON NET ASSETS \*

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Operating Deficit.....	(8.99)	(9.19)	(6.22)	(6.39)
Appreciation/(Depreciation) in Investments.....	(2.92)	2.28	9.36	6.89
Endowment/Sale of Properties.....	14.29	3.21	0.20	(0.03)
<b>INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2.38</b>	<b>(3.70)</b>	<b>3.34</b>	<b>0.47</b>

# 2016 Budget

The budget for United Methodist Women characterizes the work of each program area for the coming year and puts faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth, here at home and around the world.

## **Membership and Leadership Development**

The 2016 budget for Membership Leadership Development (MLD) reflects our efforts to nurture and support existing members/leaders, engage more women at various life stages, and equip more laywomen to lead in a multilingual, multicultural and multiracial environment.

Additionally, there are plans to expand transformative education through Mission u leadership training and social justice education through the Seminar Program. It includes strengthening the young women's initiative through ongoing support of conferences with Limitless-related resources and implementing new strategies such as a mentoring resource. We also want to relaunch and expand promotion of the Welcome Event Toolkit to broaden its reach and accessibility to more members/leaders at all levels.

The budget will focus on ongoing member-focused planning and implementation in all MLD areas. This involves equipping leaders through events such as Leadership Development Days, "Voices: A Transformative Leadership Event," Mission u and the Seminar Program, as well as expanding our reach to more members through distance learning. We will continue nurturing existing members and engaging more women for mission through the areas of membership, language ministries and spiritual growth and formation.

## **Section on Mission Opportunities**

The Section on Mission Opportunities work ensures that we would not only have funds to prepare partners for the work of mission and ministry, but to provide partners with resources other than funds that would make an impact on their communities. Our work is not totally based on funding ministry, but also on connecting partners together to resource each other. This will be accomplished by training trainers to go out to teach, reach and preach that the faith community is watching and taking action to make things happen in all places around the world.

## **Christian Social Action**

**Children, Youth and Family Advocacy:** We will continue to articulate United Methodist Women positions on various issues related to women, children and families in 2016 and support members in finding ways to become involved on state, national and global levels of education and advocacy as they feel called to do so. In the coming year, this office will focus on engaging members on the issue of maternal, child and reproductive health, as begun at the 2015 National Seminar in Chicago. A heightened awareness accompanied by real change will become evident in communities around the country as members continue to "Make It Happen."

**Environmental and Economic Justice:** In the coming year, the Be Just. Be Green. team will continue to guide the organization on living out the 13 Principles of Sustainability and engage members in specific issues of climate justice within local communities across the country, addressing toxic waste sites in indigenous communities, mountaintop removal, fracking, water contamination, etc. The United Nations meeting of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues will bring members together to learn about the experiences of indigenous peoples around the world. We hope to build sustainable relationships, bring healing and justice with indigenous peoples across the organization, and continue to build on our “acts of repentance.”

**Public Policy:** The Washington Office of Public Policy will continue to research and write detailed issue briefs and Action Alerts on realities facing women and girls in relation to the priority areas of the coming year: criminalization of communities of color, maternal and child health, climate justice, and economic inequality. It will also work closely with regional missionaries around global perspectives and campaigns. This office will resource and support national leadership development trainings.

**Racial Justice:** The goal for 2016 is to get a major training underway for the Charter for Racial Justice Committees in every conference of United Methodist Women. With a support team, the racial justice office aims to engage all levels of the organization in a deepening conversation about race and racial equity. Members will deepen awareness of the intersections of race and class/economic inequality, race and the criminal justice system; they will take individual and collective action for racial justice locally and nationally; and they will develop leadership through participation

in Leadership Development Days, advocacy events, workshops, engagement with partners and opportunities to write for (read and use tools from) the *Racial Justice Charter News* newsletter.

**Community Action:** The focus of the work in 2016 is to engage members in action for justice. Through direct service, members will explore how to engage in next steps regarding advocacy for social change. Members will become more open to engagement in action for justice; they will challenge assumptions about class, race, ethnicity and gender; and they will articulate why United Methodist Women and The United Methodist Church engage in action for justice from our Wesleyan and Christian tradition.

**Global Justice:** The work in 2016 will focus on women, gender, development and peace, and engaging members and international sisters in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UN-CSW). One of the primary goals and budget plan of the global justice office is to serve as a resource on best practices, raising awareness and disseminating knowledge to members in a way that will inform member-focused programming and events. Global justice toolkits and materials connect United Methodist Women members to social justice issues and create deeper understanding of global women’s needs while exploring the transformative actions for Christian response to the global injustice systems and policies. Jumping off the celebration of 15 years since passing United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, the office will address women, peace and security through dialogue among women leaders across Eastern Europe and Asia.

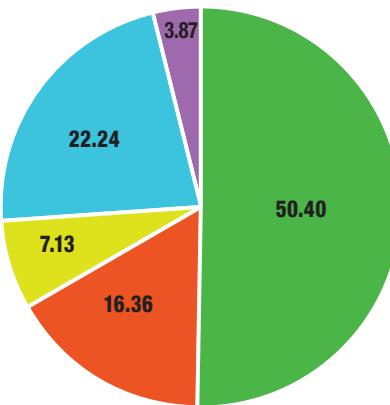
**Martha Sherman Knight  
Treasurer and CFO  
United Methodist Women**

## OPERATING REVENUE

The total operating revenues comes from †Mission Giving, sale of publications; income from interest, rentals, and service fees; events and other funds.

### TOTAL OPERATING BUDGET

approved for 2016 is \$27,528,862.00



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REVENUE CATEGORIES 2016

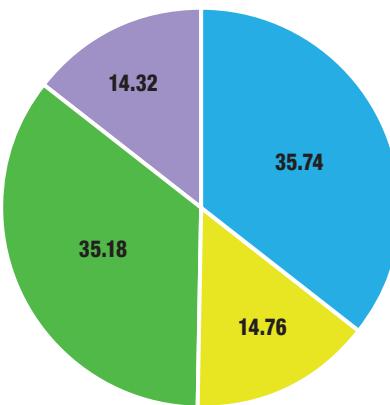
- † Mission Giving 50.40%
- Interest Income 16.36%
- Publications 7.13%
- Rental and Service Fee Income 22.24%
- Other Income 3.87%

## OPERATING EXPENDITURES

The total expenditures budget reflects services provided through programs directly administered by United Methodist Women. The budget also supports programs that reflect our mission focus but are administered by other organizations. † Mission Giving fully funds these. The remaining United Methodist Women-owned operations are self-funding.

### TOTAL EXPENDITURE BUDGET

approved for 2016 is \$32,165,356.00



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EXPENSE CATEGORIES 2016

- Programs Administered by United Methodist Women 35.74%
- Programs Administered by Other Organizations 14.76%
- Program Support 35.18%
- Supporting Services 14.32% (not listed below)

## PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

National Mission Institution Network	2.98%	Response Magazine	5.12%
Insurance (NMI Property Management)	10.96%	Mission Resources/Publications	13.66%
Repairs & Maintenance (NMI Property Management)	3.48%	Christian Social Action	15.28%
Property Management (NMI Property Management)	1.60%	Deaconess, Home Missioners Office and Network	4.55%
International Mission Work Management	7.42%		
UMW Membership & Leadership Development	19.76%		
Mission Education	15.19%		

## PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

UNITED METHODIST ORGANIZATIONS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL	
National Missions	45.15%
International Missions	30.54%
Ecumenical Organizations	7.24%
Social Action Organizations	0.21%
Grants from Designated Funds	16.33%
Grants from Funds held for others	0.53%

## PROGRAM SUPPORT

Church Center for the United Nations	* 22.03%
Alma Matthews Hospitality House	
Retired Deaconess, Missionary Home Operations	31.71%
Retired Deaconess, Missionary Pension & Health	** 38.88%
Scarritt Bennett Education Center	0.88%
Assembly & National Seminar	2.21%
Organization-wide Program Support	4.29%

† Mission Giving fully funds programs directly administered by United Methodist Women, programs administered by other organizations as well as supporting services.

\* The Church Center for the United Nations is self-funding.

\*\* The Deaconess and Missionary Pension and Health Plan are paid for with funds designated for that purpose.

# Get Involved

Opportunities to be involved with United Methodist Women are everywhere. Most United Methodist churches have a United Methodist Women's group where you can personally experience the mission and opportunities that are available to you through this organization.

Learn about opportunities for leadership development, spiritual growth and mission through your local United Methodist Women group and at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Subscribe to **response** magazine, *United Methodist Women News* and Action Alerts to be informed, inspired and ready to act on the issues that affect women, children and youth.

Make mission possible by giving to United Methodist Women through a variety of ways. To give online, visit:  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate).

# Online Resources

## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WEBSITE

### **[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)**

This is our primary website. Here you will find the latest news and information about United Methodist Women members, programs and initiatives. You'll also find promotional and educational items for download, as well as links to our other sites and our Mission Resources e-store.

## UMWONLINE

### **[www.umwonline.org](http://www.umwonline.org)**

This is the social networking site for United Methodist Women. UMWOnline is more like Facebook and is the place to connect one-on-one with other United Methodist Women members. Visit, set up your account, friend your sisters and begin networking for mission.

## FACEBOOK

### **[www.facebook.com/UMWomen](http://www.facebook.com/UMWomen)**

If you're on Facebook, be sure to "like" United Methodist Women so that our regular posts will appear on your home page.

## TWITTER

### **[www.twitter.com/UMWomen](http://www.twitter.com/UMWomen)**

Do you tweet? So does United Methodist Women! Use the link to find our Twitter account @UMWomen. Follow us, tweet with us and become part of the continuing conversation around faith, hope and love in action.

## YOUTUBE

### **[www.youtube.com/UMWomen](http://www.youtube.com/UMWomen)**

Need a video for a presentation? You'll find it on YouTube. Check out the video resources available by following the link. New videos are posted often.

## FLICKR

### **[www.flickr.com/UMWomen](http://www.flickr.com/UMWomen)**

Need a photo for your newsletter or PowerPoint? Follow this link and you'll find terrific images illustrating United Methodist Women's work.

## PINTEREST

### **[www.pinterest.com/UMWomen](http://www.pinterest.com/UMWomen)**

Pinterest is a pinboard-style photo-sharing website. You can find links to articles and images related to justice priorities, spiritual growth, infographics and more.

## INSTAGRAM

### **[instagram.com/UMWomen](http://instagram.com/UMWomen)**

## in-app: UMWomen

Instagram is a mobile social networking service for sharing photos and videos. Follow UMWomen to see photos of events, inspirational quotes, behind-the-scenes pics of the office and more!

long time ago  
that often now  
concrete walls  
else cause -

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.



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION