CHANGE IS GOOD

44th Annual Celebration
September 29-October 1, 2017

Celebrating 148 Years in Mission

Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women
Lake Junaluska, NC
ARTICLE X: RULES OF ORDER

Section 1: Rules Of Order For Annual Celebration Of The Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

A. General Information
   1. Celebrations shall open and close at the times stipulated in the official program.
   2. Members and guests shall wear nametags at all times to all functions to indicate delegate status.
   3. During voting sessions (business sessions) delegates shall be seated within a designated voting bar.
   4. Members and visitors not designated as delegates shall be seated elsewhere.

B. New Business
   1. All new business that has not been considered by the Executive Committee of the Conference shall be presented in writing to the Secretary twenty-four (24) hours prior to being considered by the voting delegates.
   2. Proposed Resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Conference President sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of the Conference Annual Celebration.

C. Motions
   1. All motions except on matters of procedure shall be written and signed by the maker and furnished to the Chair before action is taken.
   2. The Secretary, unless directed otherwise, shall not record motions ruled out of order, points of order on which no appeal is taken, or trivial matters of privilege.

D. Debate
   1. In seeking recognition from the Chair, a member must stand to address the Chair and, upon being recognized, state his or her name before making comment or motion.
   2. The maker of a motion in preference to any other delegate shall be entitled to the floor immediately after the motion is stated.
   3. Debate shall be limited to fifteen (15) minutes per topic.
   4. No delegate shall speak to a motion a second time until all others have been given the opportunity to speak.
   5. No delegate shall speak more than twice on the same question on the same day, nor more than two (2) minutes at one time without consent of the body.
   6. General consent shall be required if additional time is to be given.

E. Voting Membership
   The voting body of the Conference organization shall be composed of the following persons:
   1. One representative of each local unit of fifty (50) members or less, with one additional representative for each additional fifty (50) members in the unit.
   2. All District officers and chairpersons of District Committees.
   3. Past Presidents of the former Western North Carolina Conference Woman’s and Women’s Societies of Christian Service, Past Presidents of the former North Carolina-Virginia Conference Women’s Society of Christian Service, former Secretaries of the Wesleyan Service Guild, and Conference Past Presidents of the United Methodist Women now living within the bounds of the Western North Carolina Conference (the Conference organization assumes no financial responsibility for this group).
   4. District Presidents, as members of the Conference Executive Committee.
   5. Conference officers and chairpersons of committees.
   6. Any member of the United Methodist Women National Office or of the Jurisdiction organization residing within the bounds of the Conference.
   7. The resident Bishop.
   8. The President of the Jurisdiction Deaconess Association if residing within the bounds of the Conference.
   9. All elected members-at-large.

F. Delegates For Quorum
   A quorum shall be a simple majority of the delegates registered for the Celebration.

G. Parliamentary Authority
   1. Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority.
   2. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates is required to suspend or amend these rules.
44TH Annual Celebration
United Methodist Women
Western North Carolina Conference
September 29, 30, October 1, 2017
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

Tonya Lanier, President
Julia Willis, Vice President
Chair of Program Committee
Deborah Ray, President
Hostess District—Smoky Mountain

2017 Program Committee
Julia Willis-Chairwoman, Tonya Lanier, Linda Young, Nancy Reigel, Martha Efird, Renee Hayes, Linda Greer, Jatana Royster, Sibyl Long, Dianne Beam, Deborah Ray and Lorraine Burns

Visit our Conference Web Site, www.wnccumw.org
You can find lots of information at our conference web site. Conference event information, registration forms, Mission Today resources, the Conference Gram, and links to many resources available on the National Office web site are just a few of the things you can find there.

Join Our Conference Email List!
If you are interested in receiving email with Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist information, updates, the Conference Gram, go to the website and sign up. Also, find us at www.facebook.com/wnccumw, at www.twitter.com/wnccumw, and at www.youtube.com/user/wnccumw. Join now!

NAMETAG NOTATIONS: The colored strip on the bottom of your nametag indicates your district. Look for YOUR district members!
Appalachian...Red  Blue Ridge...Blue  Catawba Valley...Orange
Blue Ridge...Blue  Northern Piedmont...Green  Smoky Mountain...Hot Pink
Catawba Valley...Orange  Yadkin Valley...Aqua  Guest/Others...Black

***Very Special Appreciation***
The Program Committee would like to thank the following:
♦ All the United Methodist Women who joined us at Lake Junaluska this weekend
♦ Deborah Ray, Smoky Mountain District President, and her ladies who served as Hostesses & Pages
♦ Members of the Conference Executive Committee and volunteers from the District Teams
♦ Our National Office for providing our speaker, Shannon Priddy
♦ Carrie Wright & Rhonda Smith for sharing their musical talents
♦ Deaconess Cameron Kempson for her Mission Message and facilitating an “Afternoon with a PURPOSE”
♦ Jalen Lawson for her “Afternoon with a PURPOSE” session
♦ Those who enjoy singing and became our UMW Choir
♦ Volunteers who hosted our special guests for lunch
♦ Shirley Hickok, Dori Thurman and Rebecca Dyer for their rendition of “exercise”
♦ Harrell Center Display providers
♦ Rev. Randolph Harry and Rev. Alec Alvord as Communion Celebrants
♦ The Lake Junaluska Staff who have been so helpful in planning this event
♦ Tim Nelson of PIP in Asheboro for his help in the printing of this program book

If using cell phones or tablets for scripture reading or note taking, please make sure your device is silenced. Thanks!
FRIDAY EVENING - Stuart Auditorium
“Two Cents a Week and a Prayer”

Gathering Music — 6:45 P.M.  
Rev. Carrie Wright & Rev. Rhonda Smith

We Gather for Welcome — 7:00 P.M.  
Rev. Carrie Wright & Rev. Rhonda Smith

Processional - Pennies from Heaven  
(remain seated)  
Rev. Carrie Wright & Rev. Rhonda Smith,  
“All Hail the Power of Jesus Name” Piano/Organ Duet  
Arr. Joel Raney

Call to Annual Celebration  
Tonya Lanier, President

Greetings from Lake Junaluska  
Dr. Jack Ewing  
Executive Director & CEO, Lake Junaluska

Greetings from Host District President  
Deborah Ray, Smoky Mountain District President

Greetings from Host District Superintendent  
The Reverend Randolph Harry  
Smoky Mountain District Superintendent

Announcements, Presentation of Guests & Program Participants  
Julia Willis, Vice President

Litany **  
Deborah Ray, Smoky Mountain President

Leader: When God chose them, Zechariah and Elizabeth were very old, but Mary was very young.

All: We are never too young and we are never too old to be chosen by God.

Leader: Shepherds and wise men were told of Christ’s birth.

All: Whether we are rich or poor or somewhere in between, God may speak to us.

Leader: Jesus attended synagogue, as was his custom.

All: No matter how righteous we may be, we still need corporate worship.

Leader: Jesus chose ordinary people to be his apostles.

All: God can use each one of us.

Leader: Jesus withdrew from the crowds to pray.

All: No job is more important than regular time with God.

Leader: Jesus taught and healed all kinds of people.

All: No criteria must be met for entrance through the church doors.

Leader: The lives of the Apostles and all those touched by Jesus were CHANGED dramatically.

All: As disciples, we must expect and accept CHANGE and be willing to accept the CHANGE in others.

Leader: Jesus said, “Follow me.”

All: Discipleship has no time limits. It is for a lifetime, not just a few weeks or months.

Leader: The Holy Spirit came upon a crowd.

All: Pentecost was not an individual matter. People who speak a language different from our own share equally with us in the gift of Pentecost.

** Millie Horlacher, Seasons of Salt (Bloomington, iUniverse, 2009), 217-218
**Theme Song**  “Change My Heart, O God”  TFWS #2152

**Prayer Calendar/Evening Prayer**  Jatana Royster, Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator

**Scripture**  Mark 12:41-44 (NRSV)  Jalen Lawson, NP Secretary of Program Resources  Widow’s Two Copper Pennies

**Introduction of Speaker**  Julia Willis

**Message**  Change is Good  Shannon Priddy, National UMW President

**Hymn**  “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”  TFWS #2223

**Benediction**  Renee Hayes, Social Action Coordinator

**Postlude**  * Please stand, in body or in spirit

(Note: UMW Choir practice in Stuart Rehearsal Room behind stage immediately following benediction)

---

**SATURDAY MORNING-Stuart Auditorium**

“CHANGE got us here!”

**Gathering Music—8:30 A.M.**  Rev. Carrie Wright & Rev. Rhonda Smith

**We Gather with a PURPOSE—8:45 A.M.**

**Hymn**  “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”  TFWS #2153

**Prayer Calendar/Opening Prayer**  Micheline Mathews, Metro President

**VOTING DELEGATES SHOULD SIT IN SECTIONS 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 (A-L) OR ON STAGE**

**BUSINESS SESSION**  Tonya Lanier, President  Linda Young, Secretary  Irish Spencer, Parliamentarian

**Devotion and Motion**  during stage reset  Shirley Hickok, Dori Thurman, Rebecca Dyer  Metro District

**Celebrating Our Districts**  Conference Officers

~There will be a brief intermission—Please reserve Section 6 for our guests~

*Please feel free to visit the restroom or move around while we reset the stage for the next part of our session.*
**SATURDAY MORNING-Stuart Auditorium**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Performer/Coordinator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Convener</td>
<td>Linda Greer, Mission Education &amp; Interpretation Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Guests</td>
<td>Active &amp; Retired Mission Personnel, Church &amp; Community Workers, Deaconesses, Home Missioners and Other Special Mission Guests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Special Guests Processional</em></td>
<td>Rev. Carrie Wright &amp; Rev. Rhonda Smith, Piano/Organ Duet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welcome of Guests</td>
<td>Linda Greer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy 150</td>
<td>Lynne Gilbert, Legacy Committee Chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pledge Service</td>
<td>Nancy Reigel, Treasurer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love Offering</td>
<td>Nancy Reigel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offertory Music</td>
<td>Rev. Carrie Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Offertory Response</em></td>
<td>TFWS #2036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hymn</em></td>
<td>UMH #582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Lisa Bacon, Mission u Dean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Address</td>
<td>Cameron Kempson, Deaconess</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hymn</em></td>
<td>UMH #569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recession of Guests</td>
<td>Rev. Rhonda Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Hymn</em></td>
<td>UMH #569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Benediction</em></td>
<td>Lynne Gilbert, Web Master</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postlude</td>
<td>* Please stand, in body or in spirit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** 1:00 P.M. UMW Choir Practice in Stuart Rehearsal Room behind stage
SATURDAY “AFTERNOON with a **PURPOSE**”

*Getting Your PENNIES Worth…*

**Harrell Center Auditorium-(Ground Level 1)**

Gathering—1:45 P.M.  *Mission Today PowerPoint Presentation*

Convener  Renee Hayes

Session 1: 2:00-3:30 P.M.

**Just Be: Taking Time for Self-Care and Sacred Space**

**Presenter**: Cameron Kempson

**Cameron & Daisy**

Session 2: 4:00-5:00 P.M.

**A Look at Millennial UMW…the Age of Change!**

**Presenter**: Jalen Lawson

**Jalen**

---

**The 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.
SATURDAY EVENING—Stuart Auditorium  
“Be the CHANGE You Want to See in the World”

Gathering Music—6:45 P.M.  
Rev. Carrie Wright & Rev. Rhonda Smith

A Time of Recognition & Honoring—7:00 P.M.

Evening Prayer  
Deborah Matthews, Uwharrie President

Announcements & Reports  
Select Conference Officers

Dedication of the Annual Report Book  
Linda Young, Secretary
(see page 18 for nomination details)

Time of Appreciation-Honoring Outgoing Officers  
Tonya Lanier & Nancy Reigel

Installation of Officers  
Dixie Liggett, National Program Advisory Group Member

Hymn  
“Since Jesus Came into My Heart”  
TFWS #2140

Scripture  
John 2:1-11 (NRSV)  
Jesus Changes Water into Wine  
Betty Durham, Committee on Nominations Chair

President’s Address  
Tonya Lanier, President
Change: God’s Opportunity to Bless

*Hymn  
“This Little Light of Mine”  
UMH #585

*Benediction  
Darlene Gardner, Yadkin Valley President

Postlude
* Please stand, in body or in spirit

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES…(Saturday Night Entertainment)
“Decades of Change”
Immediately following the Saturday Evening Session until 10:30 P.M.
Coordinated by Jatana Royster, Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach and Sherry Sink, Scholarship Chairperson
Harrell Center Auditorium—Ground Level
The Lake Junaluska shuttle service will run until 11:00 P.M.
Gathering Music—8:45 A.M.  
Rev. Carrie Wright & Rev. Rhonda Smith

We Gather to Praise and Glorify God—9:00 A.M.  
Rev. Carrie Wright & Rev. Rhonda Smith

Announcements  
Julia Willis

*Call to Worship Litany**  
LaDonna Butts, Mission u Business Manager

Leader: Like the Wise Men who came from the East; we come bringing gifts for the service of Christ.

All: We come from the East  
Leader: We come from the West

All: We come from the North  
Leader: We come from the South

All: Each bringing a different gift  
Leader: Each bringing a needed gift

All: We come, bringing gifts for the service of Christ. Loving God, receive our gifts and use them as you will. Amen.

** GBOD, 5 Devotions for the Local Church

Special Music  
“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”  
UMW Choir  
Arr. Hal Hopson

Prayer Calendar/Opening Prayer  
Molly Welch, NP Social Action Coordinator

Presentations  
Tonya Lanier & Nancy Reigel

Hymn  
“Hymn of Promise”  
UMH #707

Memorial Service  
I Have Changed  
Martha Efird, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Scripture  
2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (NRSV)  
Living by Faith  
Linda Young, Secretary

Message  
Change and Faith Go Hand in Hand  
Shannon Priddy

Holy Communion  
Rev. Randolph Harry, Celebrant  
Rev. Alec Alvord, Celebrant Assistant

Music Medley  
Rev. Rhonda Smith

Let your smile change the world,  
but don’t let the world change your smile.
Dedication of Gift to Mission Cards & Prayer Requests

Linda Greer

All: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the ladies who have given gifts to mission in honor of friends and family and for those who have given gifts in memory of loved ones. We pray that the recipients of these cards as well as those who will benefit from the gifts to mission and memory will feel the love that is sent with each gift. We dedicate these gifts to Your service to enrich the lives of women, youth and children both in our country and around Your world. Almighty Father, You know the prayers that are on our hearts and You have seen the written prayer requests. In humility, we pray for Your answers for these prayers and for peace. We ask for Your guidance as we walk humbly with You while we boldly profess our faith. We pray this prayer of dedication in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

*Hymn “Many Gifts, One Spirit” UMH #114
(Women’s Division commissioned this hymn from Al Carmines for the 1974 Assembly in Cincinnati, OH; 1st United Methodist Women Assembly after the merger)

*Blessing & Sending Forth

Tonya Lanier

Postlude

* Please stand, in body or in spirit

---

Upcoming 2017 Events

Ubuntu Day of Service (Bethlehem Centers Charlotte & Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, Pfeiffer University) —October 14th, 2017, 9:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
On-line registration through Sunday, October 1st at www.wnccumw.org (no fee)

Leadership Development Day (LDD) for District Officers
“Change from Dealership to Leadership”
First United Methodist Church, 1400 NC Hwy 16, Taylorsville
October 21st, 2017
Registration/Program Resources 8:00 A.M.; Training 9:00 A.M.-12 Noon

---

Many little people,
In many little places,
Taking many little steps,
Can CHANGE the face of the World!
* African Proverb*

Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action, pg 21
Program Participants

Keynote Speaker: Shannon Priddy

Shannon is originally from northern Illinois and graduated from Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. After college she became a flight attendant for Delta Airlines in Boston, MA, retired in 2005 and started graduate school at Harvard University while working in retail management. She left Boston in 2008 to transition into the Peace Corps, where she served in Armenia from 2009-2011, working for a women’s resource NGO setting up organizational structures and building capacity for them to grow. Upon her return to the U.S., she settled in Indianapolis, IN and since 2014 has worked for Keep Indianapolis Beautiful, Inc. as the Individual Giving and Annual Fund Manager.

In 2016 Shannon was elected as a Director from the North Central Jurisdiction and elected to the position of President by the Board of Directors at the organizational meeting held in August 2016. She is one of the youngest members to serve in this role.

Organist/Pianist: Rev. Rhonda B. Smith

Rhonda began the study of piano at age 5 and has never stopped. She has performed as a soloist and accompanist in venues from gospel choir to Big Band. She has studied jazz piano, gospel piano, classical piano, and classical organ. Rhonda is a Colleague in the American Guild of Organists, a Certified Music Teacher with the American College of Musicians, and holds membership in the The Choristers Guild, and the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers. She is President of the Western North Carolina Chapter of The Fellowship of United Methodist Musicians. Her degrees include a BA in Music Education/Bible (HSBC), a MA in Sacred Music (BJU), a MA in Liberal Studies (UNC-G), an EdS in Higher Education/Music (ASU) and a Graduate Certificate in Christian Studies (Asbury Theological Seminary). She was Commissioned as Provisional Deacon of the United Methodist Church in June 2013. She has served First UMC, Hickory, NC since 2006 as Minister of Music.

Music Director: Rev. Carrie A. Wright

Rev. Carrie A. Wright is an ordained Deacon in the Western North Carolina Conference serving as Minister of Worship Arts/Associate Pastor at Hawthorne Lane UMC in Charlotte. Carrie has a B.S. Ed from Western Carolina University in Music and a Master of Sacred Music from Southern Methodist/Perkins School of Theology. Carrie is passionate about leading the church in worship and song, helping each worshipper bring his/her best into the presence of the Holy. Carrie leads both contemporary and traditional worship but has a heart for blending the old and the new making a creative mix of ancient ritual and emerging worship practices. In her free time she loves spending time with her family – husband Clay, their 4 children and 3 dogs!
Mission Address & Saturday Afternoon with a PURPOSE

Cameron Kempson

Cameron is a native of Asheville, North Carolina and a lifelong United Methodist. She was commissioned as a deaconess in 2009 and currently serves a dual appointment in the WNC Conference. She is currently the Director of Education at SimplyHome, LLC and Spiritual Director at Growing Grace Farm, her suburban farm in Arden. Here, she connects people with God through creation care, gardening and spiritual direction. Previously, she served as Director of Marketing at Brooks-Howell Home. Cameron has one daughter, Hayley, who is a freshman at UNC-Greensboro studying to become a music educator. In her self-care time, Cameron enjoys hiking with her daughter, gardening with her chicken, and doing yoga in her meditation room.

Saturday Afternoon with a PURPOSE

Jalen Lawson

Jalen Lawson is a native of Greensboro, NC. She is a recent graduate of Bennett College. During her matriculation she studied in Journalism/Media Studies with a minor in Global Studies. She is the 9th graduate in her family from Bennett College. Her 1st year she was inducted into the “Society for Collegiate Journalist”, and finished her first and second year as Most Outstanding Student in her department. She is a lifelong member of The United Methodist Church.

During her collegiate years she received $60,000 dollars in scholarships with The General Board of Higher Education of the United Methodist Church and Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women. Ms. Lawson has a passion for being involved in the Bennett College Community. She held several leadership positions during her 5 years in college. She was Bennett College Miss United Negro College Fund and The Black College Fund Student Ambassador Representative. She volunteers over 150 community service hours. Her favorite moment of college was when she went abroad to Seoul, South Korea. At an early age she knew she wanted to travel the world. Her favorite hobby is to travel to new places and learn different cultures in Asia, Europe and Africa.

Jalen is currently the Secretary of Program Resources for the Northern Piedmont District of United Methodist Women and has recently been accepted into the Masters of Strategic Communication program at High Point University. Her favorite quote is “I rather do what is right instead of what is popular.”

“CHANGE the way you look at things and things you look at will CHANGE”
Report of the Treasurer

Western North Carolina United Methodist Women continued our tradition of *Making Mission Happen* with TOTAL Mission Giving of $867,997 during 2016. Giving turns faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

The 2016 giving report from the National Office indicates that Western North Carolina United Methodist Women for the 16th consecutive year led the nation in:
- Gift to Mission
- Gift in Memory
- World Thank Offering

Our 2016 Total Giving of $735,297.08 was sent to United Methodist Women National Office. Even though we did not meet our Pledge and led the nation in fewer categories, this is still cause to celebrate because we are making mission possible!

The members of the WNCC UMW made the following happen for Mission in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Giving through the 8 districts from local units</td>
<td>$867,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Love Offering &quot;In Honor of Bishop Larry and Deborah Goodpaster&quot;</td>
<td>$17,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walk for Mission</td>
<td>$12,803</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual Growth Retreat Love Offering</td>
<td>$5,929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission u Love Offering</td>
<td>$1,917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Offerings from Conference Committee Meetings</td>
<td>$806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undesignated Mission Giving sent to UMW National Office</td>
<td>$664,653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>($60,347 short of our 2016 Pledge of $725,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacy Funds given through the Conference (New in 2015)</td>
<td>$28,357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Designated Giving to UMW National Office</td>
<td>$70,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(includes Call to Prayer &amp; Self Denial, general, national, international &amp; UMCOR)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations to other local projects</td>
<td>$7,060*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Indicates increase over previous year

Although these results are stated in terms of dollars, what they really represent is Mission...Mission YOU made happen and Mission in action around the world because of YOU.

*Nancy F. Reigel*, Conference Treasurer

*"The sun never sets on United Methodist Women's giving. The sun is always shining on some place we gave dollars."

---

Report of Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee met at Pfeiffer University March 26, 2016. We interviewed nine scholarship applicants. We awarded $19,050.00 to the eight eligible students.

We have four (4) new students, April Martin (Pfeiffer), Amy Lambert (Pfeiffer), Cathy Morrison (Bennett) and Yajaira Chavez (Brevard). The returning students were McKenzie Gary (Pfeiffer), Dana Keeran (Pfeiffer), Kylie Spencer (Pfeiffer), and Jonathan King (Greensboro College).

We have a young lady, Yajaira Chavez that is attending Brevard College. According my paperwork, this is the first time we have had a student attend Brevard.

Scholarships are available to students that are attending one of the five Methodist colleges or universities in our conference: Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, and Pfeiffer University. The Scholarship Committee meets every March and interviews scholarship applicants and then determines the allocation of funds. Information on scholarships and how to apply are on our web site.

*Sherry Sink*, Scholarship Chair
Report of Communications

The Conference Gram, our Conference newsletter, is published four times a year to highlight Conference events and officer reports.

In 2016, a total of 12,800 Conference Grams were printed and 12,520 were mailed for a total cost of $8,213.26 which includes printing, mailing/postage. Mailed issues are available for conference officers, district officers, and local unit presidents, vice presidents, secretaries, treasurers, and circle chairs. An email version is sent to over 5,000 members on the email list, and is posted on the conference website www.wnccumw.org in order to be accessible to everyone. Electronic communications are also shared via Facebook (over 1,400 members) and Twitter (1,500 members), thanks to our webmaster/guru, Lynne Gilbert!

Early in 2016, I discovered that though we had been paying to have the Conference Gram printed and mailed, that did not include postage as I had thought. I went to the printer and obtained invoices and documentation to correct the error. We paid $3,328.54 in 2016 for postage that was used in 2015.

Thanks to Lynne Gilbert, we discussed with the printer how to correct this going forward. We have worked out a new way that the invoices will be itemized and this issue will not happen again. I apologize to the WNCC UMW for this error.

On Leader Development Day, this past October, we had four of the district communication officers in our training. Two of them brought their computers. We had a wonderful exchange of ideas and sharing and came up with some great things to do in the future. Most of all, all of us benefited just from talking and sharing thoughts and ideas.

This completed my 2nd year as the conference communications coordinator. I just now feel like I know all the ins and outs and feel that next year will be a great year for the communication coordinators.

I appreciate all the help you have provided in getting your articles in on time. I especially appreciate Tonya Lanier and Lynne Gilbert for being my proofreaders. They are AWESOME!!!

Dianne Beam, Conference Communications Coordinator

Report of Membership Nurture & Outreach

We added 1,008 new members in 2016. That is something to celebrate! Two districts added more members than they lost and two other districts almost did the same. Our total membership as of December 31, 2016 was 22,218. We have 688 units. In 2016, 344 Local Unit Visits (LUV) were made. This is 80 less visits than in 2015. Please remember to invite district or conference officers to your units. It is important that we build relationships with our local units. YOU make mission possible! Our first “Feel the LUV from United Methodist Women” campaign was held. Each district had one unit chosen at random to receive a goody bag filled with resources. Ninety nine (99) people served on our 4th Ubuntu Day at the five national missional institutions in our conference. You raised $12,802.69 for our Walk for Mission. Registration began for myUMW so our National Office will have important information about each of our members. If you have not registered yet, do so at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and print your membership card.

Jatana Royster, Mission Coordinator Membership Nurture and Outreach
Report of Mission Education & Interpretation

The Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church thanks God for your sincere dedication and commitment to the needs of others, especially women, children and youth. You continually work to provide assistance to others around the world. Your support reflects the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in your hearts. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of United Methodist Women. It is our honor to report to you the collective response from conference and district events hands-on projects for 2016.

UMCOR Kits from Conference Events:
- Spiritual Growth $29,247.00
- Mission u $5,873.00
- Annual Celebration $28,064.00

UMCOR Kits from District Events
- Ubuntu Day (Items for Bethlehem Centers, Bennett College, Brooks-Howell Home, Pfeiffer University) $1,242.00

Total $71,977.00

Thanks to the ladies all over the conference for your “extra mile” efforts in making the School Bags collected at Annual Celebration. What an awesome experience!

We acknowledge your efforts on behalf of Project AGAPE in preparing Christmas Shoe Boxes and donating useful items for Armenia. God bless you. Project AGAPE continues to have a special place in the hearts of the people of the Western North Carolina and North Carolina Conferences.

Rebecca Wright, 2016 Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation

Report of Social Action

“And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” ~Esther 4:14

2016-2019 Social Action Priorities
- Climate Justice
- Maternal & Child Health
- Economic Inequality
- Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color

2016 was a year of tremendous growth and learning throughout our conference.

Our partnership with WNCC United Methodist Men enabled us to offer a conference-wide opportunity in April at Aldersgate UMC, Shelby. Multiple district events have highlighted the need to continue advocating for survivors of Domestic Violence and, led by the Northern Piedmont District, a petition has been submitted to the Bishop’s Office, requesting that DV training be provided for all conference clergy. Materials have been donated for that purpose by FaithTrust Institute. Our goal of creating district teams to work in partnership with local family crisis agencies within their communities is on-going.

At the Spiritual Growth Retreat, Mission u, and several district events, United Methodist Women had the opportunity to advocate for clean energy initiatives at the state and federal levels by signing postcards and letters addressed to the White House, Senators Burr and Tillis, and then-Governor McCrory. Units, districts, and our conference team are urged to continue implementing sustainable goals for meetings and events through our UMW Be Just, Be Green initiative.

Voting Rights Toolkits were made available to all districts in advance of the 2016 Elections, as well as talking points for our social action priority issues, courtesy of the National UMW website.

As WNCC UMW look forward to 2017, much work remains to be done as we equip ourselves “for such a time as this.”

Renee Hayes, Mission Coordinator for Social Action
The Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Women held Mission u on the campus of Pfeiffer University July 21-24, 2016. The total number of participants registered was 248, compared to 274 for the 2015 Mission u and 271 for the 2014 Mission u; 243 actually attended. There were 144 full time students and 99 one day overview participants. The exciting news was that there were 55 first timers. The third full time youth camp/study had 13 participants—down 2 from 2015. In addition the camp had two study leaders, two college helpers and one adult helper. Rev. Sherri Barnes continued to help with planning and implementation of special activities for the youth even though she has had a change in position at Pfeiffer. The youth had a wonderful time participating in various activities dealing with the impacts of Climate Justice and did an excellent job in presenting their experiences to the adults Saturday evening.

Our spiritual growth study was “The Bible and Human Sexuality.” The geographic study was “Latin America” repeated from last year. The social issue study was “Climate Justice.” The youth and children’s studies focused on “Climate Justice” as well.

Study leaders received high ratings and positive comments. Excellent music was a part of each gathering and related to the studies. Morning Praise continued to be a very meaningful part of the Mission u experience. Pfeiffer University staff go out of their way to be welcoming and accommodating to our needs. Everyone was especially excited about the new soft serve ice cream dispenser!

This year a workshop and panel discussion were offered Friday and Saturday afternoons. Participants had the opportunity to attend a workshop on “Deconstructing White Privilege” or a workshop for Leaders of Children dealing with the Climate Justice study. Both workshops were well attended and were given positive evaluations.

A special opportunity was afforded Mission u this year when Rev. Jonathon Brake volunteered to come and speak to all the Climate Justice participants Saturday afternoon. Rev. Brake was recently elected onto the Conference Justice & Reconciliation Team as the first participant to focus on Creation Care/Eco-Justice issues. At Annual Conference, he officially launched “Creation Care of the WNCC.” He gave excellent information on the conference’s plans to be pro-active in this area and he was well-received.

Participants offered suggestions for improvement. Some dealt with the facilities and will be addressed with Pfeiffer University. The other most frequent suggestion had to do with limiting discussion and comments during the large group study in the chapel. This info will be shared with future study leaders. Costs continue to be a concern but we continue to work on ways to reduce expenses, to address future costs and be good stewards with all funds.

Thirty-one Mission u participants completed the requirements to earn Advanced Lay Servant certification and their districts will be notified. Six participants earned Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Many comments were made complimenting the Mission u team for their hard work. This is a team effort and many worked behind the scenes to make Mission u 2016 a success. I especially want to thank Lisa Bacon, Virginia Robinson and Sandy Letchworth for their hard work and support. It has been a pleasure working with them.

Lynda Morris, 2016 Dean, Mission u
Report of Spiritual Growth Retreat

United Methodist Women from across the conference gathered at beautiful Lake Junaluska on June 10-11, 2016, for the annual Spiritual Growth Retreat. The Reverend Holly Adams, senior pastor at Hudson United Methodist Church delivered the message during the three retreat sessions. Our 2016 retreat theme was PRAY and Rev. Adams developed the theme with her message: Praying Pregnant – Take Risks; Fight the Urge N.C.I.S; and Pray Boldly. Rev. Adams acted as the communion celebrant assisted by Deaconess, Linda Young.

Stuart Auditorium was filled with music by song leader Dr. Charlesetta Dawson and accompanied on the keyboard by Carolyn McLean, both from Northern Piedmont. The music was an effective blend of hymns, gospel and contemporary pieces.

The retreat incorporated the “Sweet Hour of Prayer” an hour between our Friday session and the traditional performance of The Lake Junaluska Singers. During the “Sweet Hour of Prayer”, ladies participated in making prayer rings, walking the prayer labyrinth, praying in the chapel, or helping to compose a prayer specific to their district.

Many of the 632 ladies in attendance contributed to the hands-on project by bringing UMCOR Health Kits. The Mission Response Center truck was full of various kits valued at $29,247.00. The value was a slight increase over 2015 value. These kits go to support the work of UMCOR.

The district presidents undertook a great feat coordinating the sewing of almost 1000 fabric UMCOR School Kit bags. The bags were used as the Spiritual Growth Retreat program/attendee bag with instructions for assembling a School Kit. Assembling School Kits was the “Hands-On” Mission Project for Annual Celebration.

The retreat Love Offering totaled $5,929.00 falling about 19.5% below 2015 giving. Dedicated in honor of Bishop Goodpaster and his wife, the funds were directed to undesignated Mission Giving.

Ladies left the retreat with a strong desire to take risks and to pray boldly while celebrating their time of worship, study, prayer and fellowship at the lakeshore. The 2017 retreat date of June 16-17 was announced. The 2017 retreat theme S.M.I.L.E. – See Miracles in Life Everyday was announced at Annual Celebration.

The 2016 Spiritual Growth Committee consisted of Martha Efird (chairperson), Lynn Alexander, Renee Hayes, Tonya Lanier, Sibyl Long, Deborah Ray, Nancy Reigel, Jatana Royster, Joanie Strohm, Julia Willis, and Rebecca Wright. The Spiritual Growth Coordinators from the eight districts contributed significantly to the success of the retreat as well as Annual Celebration.

Report of Program Resources

The United Methodist Women’s Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. One hundred ninety-one (191) local units reported participation in the UMW Reading Program (20%). A total of eight hundred fifty-two (852) members read in Plan 1-Plan 4. This means 29% of members are reading. There were sixty-nine (69) total children readers. Total number of readers increased by four (4) readers over 2015.

Sales of all Program Resources for 2016 totaled $8,875.30, an increase of just over $2,700.

Sibyl Long, Secretary of Program Resources
Annual Report Dedication

Each year an Annual Report Book is created highlighting the activities of the conference and districts, officers, financial reports, etc. This book is dedicated to honor a United Methodist Women member from our conference.

The honored recipient is presented a diamond-studded Special Mission Recognition Pin and a $1,000 donation is given in her honor to undesignated Mission Giving through the National Office by the conference. Often her family is invited to share in the presentation celebration. Upon completion of the Annual Report Book with her photo & dedication, she is given copies to share with friends and family.

A written nomination form is required along with reasons for the recommendation. See your district president or district and conference newsletters for an application form. A conference committee of five persons appointed by the president receives these written nominations by June 1st or other specified date.

Criteria for the nomination per Standing Rules Article V, Section 8, E (1)-(5):
   (a) Nominee shall have served on local, district & conference levels of UMW
   (b) Nominee must demonstrate leadership ability and work well with peers
   (c) Committee members may be considered
   (d) A person may receive this honor only once

Partial List of former recipients:


Dedication

Congratulations to this year’s recipient.___________________________
The Legacy Fund

Celebrate United Methodist Women! 150 Years and Counting...

Our foremothers left us a legacy of innovative mission, and we continue that legacy by being the organization the world needs today.

Until poverty, violence, inequality, racism, preventable deaths cease, until women and children are no longer marginalized, until we live in a world in which all thrive, women need to be organized for mission.

In the 21st century, the church and the world need United Methodist

Where can I get more information about The Legacy Fund?

Visit our website at:

wnccumw.org/legacyfund/

You can also contact any of our Legacy Campaign / 150th Anniversary Committee members, your District President, or your District Treasurer.

Information available on the website includes:

- Legacy/150 Campaign Commitment Form & FAQs
- Instructions about how you can make your gift(s) to The Legacy Fund
- PowerPoint - Introduction to the Legacy / 150 Celebration
- Legacy / 150 Logo
- Links to more information on the United Methodist Women National Office website

Mission Today Criteria:

#12. The unit will contribute $186.90 or more to the Legacy Fund.

#26. 100% of the unit’s active members will make a gift of at least $18.69 to the Legacy Fund.

Our Conference Legacy Campaign 150th Anniversary Committee:

Contact us! We are happy to answer your questions, and to come and share information with your local unit!

Lynne Gilbert, Chairperson
lynnegilbert@bellsouth.net
336-207-3479

Barbara Campbell - charlie585@msn.com

Mildred Carter - mildredcarter@earthlink.net

Tonya Lanier - sonshiners@lexcominc.net

Betty Letzig - letzig@msn.com

Dixie Liggett - lliggett13@charter.net

Martha Phillips - mcwphillips@gmail.com

Nancy Reigel - nancy@reigelridge.com

Kim Shafer - kinnette@att.net

Doris Vincent - callan1@aol.com

Julia Willis - jawillis1@aol.com

District “Energizers”

Appalachian-Beverlee Scott
Blue Ridge-Dixie Liggett
Metro-Kris Peurifoy
Northern Piedmont-Betty Durham & LaQuita Barbee
Smoky Mountain-Julie Leatherwood
Yadkin Valley-Rhita Newcomb
2017 Conference Officers

President     Tonya Lanier
Vice President Julia Willis
Secretary     Linda Young
Treasurer     Nancy Reigel
Secretary of Program Resources Sibyl Long
Communications Coordinator Dianne Beam

Mission Coordinators:
- Social Action: Renee Hayes
- Spiritual Growth: Martha Efird
- Education & Interpretation: Linda Greer
- Membership Nurture & Outreach: Jatana Royster
- Chair, Committee on Nominations: Betty Durham (17)
- Members, Committee on Nominations: Faye Everhart (17), Brenda Alston (18), Doris Vincent (18), Peggy Wilkerson (18), Elizabeth Lookabill (18), Maureen Carr (19), Kathy Chadwell (19), Martha Phillips (20)

Historian: Carolyn Payne
Parliamentarian: Irish Spencer
Chair, Scholarship Committee: Sherry Sink
Web Master: Lynne Gilbert
Dean, Mission u: Lisa Bacon
Resident Bishop: Bishop Paul L. Leeland

2016-2017 Mission u Officers

Dean          Lisa Bacon
Assistant Dean Patricia Moore
Housing Manager Sandy Letchworth
Business Manager LaDonna Butts

2017 District Presidents

Appalachian    Lorraine Burns
Blue Ridge     Joanie Strohm
Catawba Valley Janet Reep-Morgan
Metro          Michelene Matthews
Northern Piedmont Lynn Alexander
Smoky Mountain Deborah Ray
Uwharrie       Deborah Matthews
Yadkin Valley  Darlene Gardner
### Nominees for Conference Offices

#### Nominees for a two-year term 2018-2019

- **President**: Julia Willis (NP)
- **Vice President**: Joanie Strohm (BR)
- **Secretary**: Linda Young* (ME)
- **Treasurer**: Nancy Reigel* (AP)
- **Secretary of Program Resources**: Sibyl Long* (ME)
- **Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth**: Martha Efird* (ME)
- **Mission Coordinator for Social Action**: Carolyn Payne (YV)
- **Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach**: Renee Hayes (NP)
- **Chair, Committee on Nominations**: Martha Phillips (AP)

* indicates a second 2-year term

#### Nominees for a four-year term 2018-2021 (or Class indicated **)  

- **Member, Committee on Nominations (Class of 2019**)**: Elizabeth Lookabill (YV)
- **Member, Committee on Nominations (Class of 2020**)**: Micheline Mathews (ME)
- **Member, Committee on Nominations (Class of 2021)**: Velma Zeek (SM)

#### Committee on Charter for Racial Justice (2018-2020)

- Lisa Bacon
- Lucy Earls

#### 2018 –19 District Presidents

- **Blue Ridge District**: Fran Jordan
- **Metro District**: Lynda Morris
- **Catawba Valley District**: Belinda Worsham
- **Yadkin Valley District**: Martha Isenberg

### 2018 Calendar of UMW Events

- **Jan 6**: Presidents/Treasurers Workday (Monticello UMC, Statesville)...snow date Jan 20
- **Feb 10**: Fin/SG/LDD/Prog Committee/CON—Crossnore School & Children’s Home, Winston-Salem
- **Feb 11**: Executive Committee—Crossnore School & Children’s Home, Winston-Salem
- **May 17**: Assembly 2018 Ubuntu Day of Service, Columbus, OH
- **May 18-20**: Assembly 2018, Columbus, Ohio “The Power of BOLD”
- **Jun 15-16**: Spiritual Growth—Lake Junaluska—all UMW Members
- **Jun 21-24**: Annual Conference—Lake Junaluska
- **Jul 19-22**: Mission u, Pfeiffer University—all UMW Members
- **Aug 11**: Finance/SG/LDD/Program Committees—Brooks-Howard Home, Asheville
- **Aug 12**: Executive Committee—Brooks-Howard Home, Asheville
- **Sept 14-16**: Annual Celebration—Lake Junaluska—all UMW Members
- **Oct 13**: Leadership Development Day (LDD)—First UMC, Morganton (District Officers)
- **Oct 20**: Ubuntu Day of Service (various locations)
- **Nov 9**: Orientation Session for New Conference Officers—Brooks-Howard Home, Asheville
- **Nov 10-11**: Executive Committee Meeting—Brooks-Howard Home, Asheville
2016 District Recognition

Gift to Mission cards are presented to Districts for the following categories. Please make note of the recipients as the awards are presented during the Saturday morning session.

Largest % of increase in undesignated Mission Giving

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Highest per capita in undesignated Mission Giving

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Highest % of Justice Today Units

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Highest % of Units participating in the Reading Program

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Highest # of readers participating in the Reading Program

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Highest # of participants completing Plan 4

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Highest # of participants in the Children’s Reading Program

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Mission Today Units

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Five Channels of Mission Giving

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Mission Studies

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Highest % of Local Units Visited (LUV)

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Largest amount of Walk for Mission Funds

____________________, ____________________, ____________________

Most new members added

____________________, ____________________, ____________________
CELEBRATION REGISTRATION:
Friday: 2:00-6:00 PM  Susan Todd Lounge in Harrell Center (street level)
6:30-7:00 PM  Stuart Auditorium (lobby)
Saturday: 8:15-9:00 AM  Stuart Auditorium (lobby)

PRAYER ROOM:  Memorial Chapel (Open 8AM-10PM)

PROGRAM RESOURCES: Harrell Center HC202 (street level)
Friday: 2:00-6:30 PM
Saturday: 7:30-8:30 AM, 12:45-1:45 PM

SATURDAY AFTERNOON WITH A PURPOSE: Harrell Center Auditorium
1:45 PM — Gathering: Districts Mission Today PowerPoint
2:00-3:30 PM — Just Be: Taking Time for Self-Care and Sacred Space
4:00-5:00 PM — A Look at Millennial UMW— The Age of Change

MISSION RESPONSE CENTER TRUCK: Outside The Terrace Hotel
Friday 2:00-6:30 PM; Saturday 7:30-8:30 AM, 12:45-1:45 PM
(manned times may vary as intake will not be attended during meetings;
leave kits on table under the tent; don’t forget to bring your shipping money when
truck is manned or give to Linda Greer. Make checks payable to “UMCOR Sager
Brown.”)

MEAL SCHEDULE at The Terrace & Lambuth Inn: Please allow Program
Participants, Pages & Program Committee members to break line since they have
responsibilities that limit their time. They can be identified by the gold ribbons
underneath their name tags.

BREAKFAST 7:00-8:30 A.M.  LUNCH 11:45 A.M.-1:30 P.M.  DINNER 5:30-7:00 P.M.

THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES…(formerly Late Night):
Immediately following the Saturday evening session...until 10:30 P.M.
Harrell Center Auditorium (lower/ground level)

NAMETAG NOTATIONS: The colored strip on the bottom of your nametag indicates
your district. Look for YOUR district members!
Appalachian...Red  Blue Ridge...Blue  Catawba Valley...Orange
Metro...Golden Yellow  Northern Piedmont...Green  Smoky Mountain...Hot Pink
Uwharrie...Purple  Yadkin Valley...Aqua  Guest/Others...Black

Members of units meeting the MISSION TODAY criteria in 2016 have smiley
faces on their name tags. Congratulations!

Persons attending Annual Celebration for the first time have STARS on
their name tags. We are glad that you are here!

Voting Delegates have HEARTS on their name tags.

Complimentary Assistive Listening Devices are available in the
Media Office of Stuart Auditorium.