



Conference Gram

May 2019

Volume 68, Issue 3

Radical Discipleship: Then and Now—Mission u 2019, July 18-21



Mission u

What a time to be at Mission u as we celebrate our 150th year! Come study, fellowship, and grow together as we bring to life the heritage of United Methodist Women. As our own Mary Cheng, UMW Director of Transformative Education, shared with us: “We have chosen the theme **Radical Discipleship: Then and Now** to connect our studies and worship services. Be inspired by the vision and work of the many women who came before us. Our predecessors overcame odds, organized themselves and worked tirelessly to serve the needs of women, children, and youth in the U.S. and around the world while also advocating for deep social change.”

They were radical! This is our special 2019 study to celebrate our heritage—Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission. How do we carry on their bold vision and energetic mission work in the 21st century? **The Spiritual Growth study is Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship.** The gospel of Mark offers us a picture as we journey with daring women and men in their encounters with Jesus. Their faith and courage challenge, encourage, and inspire us to act for our own liberation and the liberation of others.

The repeat issue study this year is **What About Our Money? A Faith Response.** Author Susan K. Taylor “invites all to explore several aspects of money within the grounding of our faith, for it is here—in this connection between our faith and money—that we discover how we can live closer to God and to God’s people, even in our US culture that is so deeply defined by money.”

Let’s continue to reach out and spread the word about Mission u. Invite your pastors to attend. Let them know that Mission u is about forming disciples for the transformation of the world. Let them know that Continuing Education Units are available. As you invite new persons to attend, remember to tell them most Districts and units have a First-Timers’ Scholarship, available from District Presidents or District newsletters.

Invite youth to attend the **Resident Youth Camp** during Mission u. Youth will explore **Who Do You Say that I Am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark** by Carolyn Poling. Central to the youth experiences are fellowship, praise, worship and hands-on ministry that help to inspire community service. Please share information about the youth camp with your teen circles, MYF, and other 9th – 12th graders in your church. We encourage units to assist their youth with the cost of camp by making a donation towards the \$150.00 registration fee.



Join us as resident or overview students at Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer, NC.

You will be spiritually led, physically fed, and share great fellowship—enough said!

Pat Moore, Dean

phmoore71@gmail.com/704-502-2383

Registration forms, overviews of studies, and more information may be found at wncumw.org/events/mission-u-2019/.

Order study books online at www.umwmissionresources.org or call 800-305-9857.

Registration opens May 1; all forms must be received by July 5, 2019.

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God...

Spiritual Growth Study: Mark and Radical Discipleship



Steve

Steve Taylor joins us from the North Carolina Conference where he serves as Executive Director of Connectional Ministries and Church Revitalization. He is a Home Missioner serving in faith-based community transformation. **Otto D. Harris, III**, currently serves as the pastor of St. Mark's UMC in Charlotte, NC, and is an adjunct faculty member at Hood Theological Seminary.



Otto

Special Study: Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission



Barbara

Barbara Campbell is a retired deaconess who has spent her adult life in the service work of United Methodist Women and the Church. Two books written by Barbara are on the reading list for this year's Mission u study leaders. **Betty Durham** comes from a long line of United Methodist Women—grandmothers, mother, aunts and church women who loved her into a special group of faithful women. She is a lifelong Methodist and serves as our Conference Historian. **Tonya Lanier** is a devoted member of St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Lexington. She surrounds herself with radical, authentic, encouraging, inspirational, feisty females who are *moving*. Tonya is our immediate past Conference president. **Earonita F. Strong** is a lifelong United Methodist and a member of Simpson-Gillespie UMC. She has served UMW in the Metro District for many years including President of her local unit. **Lisa Beth White** is the founder of Sister of Hope Ministries, a pastor, and scholar. Sister of Hope Ministries provides consultations, training, and retreats for volunteers in short-term mission work. **Amy Johnson** is no stranger to United Methodist Women. She has served in various offices on the local, district, and conference level, including Conference Treasurer and Conference President.



Betty



Tonya



Earonita



Lisa Beth



Amy



Issue Study: What About Our Money? A Faith Response

Jennifer B. Lineberry is the President and CFO of Century Mutual Insurance Company in Greensboro, NC. A lifelong United Methodist, she attends and serves Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, Reidsville, NC, with her husband, Eric, who is pastor.

Youth Camp: Who Do You Say That I Am? Meeting Jesus through the Eyes of Mark



Sherry

Sherry Sink has served in various conference and district offices of UMW. She has led adult and youth mission studies, but working with youth is her passion. Sherry has led the youth camp for seven years. **Renee Hayes** is a Deaconess candidate. She has served on the local, district and conference levels for UMW. Renee is the Conference Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach and has served with the Youth Camp three previous times.



Renee

Music leaders:

We welcome back **Barbara Morehead**. Her experience includes organist, pianist, choir director, and even some work overseas with the armed forces. She inspired us last year with her musical gifts and joyful spirit. Barbara is joined by **Albertina McGirt**, whose musically gifted parents passed their talents to their seven children and nurtured them to edify God with their gifts. To McGirt, music is a universal language that is transformational and she is excited to make a joyful noise at Mission u.



Albertina

Getting to Know Your WNCC Mission Institutions: Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer

From the Historian’s Quill—Emily Prudden, Planter of Homeschools

Pfeiffer University originated from one of 15 homeschools founded by Miss Emily C. Prudden between c. 1885 and 1909. Miss Prudden spent 30 years opening educational opportunities to young people in remote regions of the Carolinas. **Having once placed a homeschool in operation, it was her practice to deed its care to a church mission society, before moving to a new area to initiate another project.**

Pfeiffer developed from the Oberlin Home and School, which began at Lick Mountain, near Hudson in Caldwell County, North Carolina. In 1903, the **Women’s Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church** agreed to assume responsibility for the Oberlin property. Following the transfer of 37 acres and 2 buildings on June 8, 1903, the Oberlin school was renamed the Ebenezer Mitchell Home and School. The Mitchell Home and School moved to Misenheimer in February 1910. A junior college curriculum was added in 1928. In 1934, the N.C. State Department of Public Instruction granted accreditation to Mitchell Junior College. **The name Pfeiffer Junior College was first used in 1935 in honor of Henry and Annie Merner Pfeiffer of New York City.**



Emily C. Prudden

Breaking New Ground, Making New Offerings



In January 2019, ground was broken for Pfeiffer’s \$16 million Health Science Center in downtown Albemarle. It will house Pfeiffer’s two new programs, Occupational Therapy and Physician’s Assistant, beginning in 2020. **Concentrations in the PA program will be offered in rural health primary care and mental health and are aimed at reducing rural health disparities that exist in NC.**

Pfeiffer’s nursing program continues to excel with licensing board test scores above both the national and state averages.

Renovations are to begin soon in the Harris Science Building on the Misenheimer campus. When completed, ten additional seats will be added to the program for a total of 30.

(Article by Betty Durham, Conference Historian, and Cathy McCauley, Conference Scholarship Chair)

2019-2020 UMW Scholarship Recipients Announced

Pfeiffer students, along with students of four other United Methodist colleges (Bennett, Brevard, Greensboro and High Point) are eligible to apply for a yearly UMW scholarship if they are a member of a UM congregation in our Conference. **The scholarship committee awarded almost \$20,000 from the General scholarship fund and several endowed scholarships for the 2019-2020 school year.** UMW units and individuals are encouraged to support the general scholarship fund. Congratulations to this year’s recipients: Brevard College—Yajaira Chavez, High Point University—Corrie Bruce and Hannah Dunlap, Pfeiffer University—Rebecca Dyer, April Martin, and Elizabeth Stribling.



... to develop a creative, supportive fellowship...

CONGRATULATIONS to our UMW Sister and New US Citizen!



Ingrid Russell, 28-year old President of Crouse United Methodist Women in the Catawba Valley District of the Western North Carolina Conference, became a naturalized citizen of the USA on April 4th in a ceremony in Charlotte, NC. Her minister Rev. Jim Sanders and UMW mother Olga were present for the celebration. Ingrid is a native of Costa Rica and writes, **“I’m so grateful to officially be a US citizen. I’ve called this country home for quite some time now. We were welcomed with open arms and have always felt so loved. Our Crouse UMC family were one of the first people that welcomed us in and made us feel home. I would not be**

here if it wasn’t for my family so I’m grateful for their support and prayers as well as family friends. I truly believe the opportunities are endless as long as you are willing to work for them and I’m eager to see how I can continue to give back to this beautiful country that has opened its arms for me. To God be the Glory!”

Zoom into United Methodist Women!

Hello, my United Methodist Women sisters –

My name is Molly Welch, and I come to you with some exciting news from the Western NC Conference of United Methodist Women. **As of January 27, 2019, the Young Adult United Methodist Women (YAUMW) leadership team has decided to form our own UMW unit!** This unit will consist of women from all over the WNCC conference who are either not part of a local unit or are looking for a way to connect with other young women who are passionate about United Methodist Women.



This unit will only meet online through the virtual meeting site Zoom. Our goal is to meet monthly on the day that best fits everyone’s schedule. This offers a convenient way for ladies to participate who have a hectic lifestyle with school, work and/or family. We plan to meet face-to-face at conference events to fellowship and participate with hands-on mission projects.

So, what does this mean for you? Well, if you are a young adult, please reach out to me; we want you to be involved! If you know of a young adult, please send her my way OR send me her contact information and I will reach out to her. I promise this unit will not take ladies away from their units. This just gives them another way to connect with young adult women who are energized about United Methodist Women.

We are very excited about this opportunity to reach young women across our conference. If you have any questions, please reach out to me

Molly Welch
Young Adult United Methodist Women Task Force Facilitator/Chairperson
336-803-1214
molly.welch9311@gmail.com



...and to expand concepts of mission through participation...

Economic Inequality and the Charter for Racial Justice

Among the most basic notions that undergird who we are as United Methodist Women is our commitment to the Charter for Racial Justice.



Perhaps, however, we need a little reminder of what it is that we say we believe. The Charter affirms “that racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, **economic**, environmental and political exploitation.” As we address economic inequality, here are some major points distilled from the National UMW website and from the Mission u study, “What About Our Money.”

- Income and wealth inequality in the United States impacts women and communities of color, which, in turn, further marginalizes those who may already be vulnerable.
- Real estate booms in many urban areas have driven up the cost of housing, while low- and moderate-income housing programs are in decline.
- **It costs a family at least \$15.84 per hour to meet the basic needs of housing, food, transportation, health care, child care, taxes, and other items such as clothing and personal care items** (\$28,829 per year for a family of four). That’s called the living wage. Those costs are even higher in large urban centers.
- Too many jobs pay minimum wage (or less for tipped workers), which cannot sustain a family. **Women make up 75 percent of these low wage workers, and they are disproportionately women of color.**
- The gap between minimum wage and living wage is a women’s issue, an economic justice issue, a racial justice issue, and an immigrant rights issue, because women, people of color, and immigrants make up the majority of low-wage workers. **Women are 46 percent of the total workforce but make up 75 percent of low-wage workers. Women of color are only 16 percent of the total workforce but make up 37 percent of low-wage workers.**
- United Methodist Women are called to act locally and in national efforts to begin to bridge the inequality gap.



So, what can we do about this? We can learn more about economic inequality and consider our role in keeping it in place. **We can attend Mission u and participate in the study “What About Our Money.”** We can share what we learn with others. We can get involved in the United Methodist Women *Living Wage for All* Campaign. We can find out who else in our community is working on these issues and partner with them. **We can DO something!**



(Article by Sandra Williamson, Northern Piedmont District President and Justice Today Committee Member)

For more information on economic inequality, refer to the 2018 index printed in the January/February 2019 **response** magazine or visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/economic-inequality.

Reading Program books:

“We Are All Fast Food Workers Now”: *The Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages* (2019 Bonus Book—counts as two books)

Class Lives—Stories from Across Our Economic Divide, 2017 Social Action

Behind the Kitchen Door, 2015 Social Action

...in the global ministries of the church.

Treasurer Tidbit\$: WNCC United Methodist Women 2018 Giving ... A Power to Behold

Western North Carolina United Methodist Women sent a total of **\$656,293** to the United Methodist Women National Office in 2018. An amount of which we can be proud!

Although we did not lead the nation in Pledge or Total Giving, the 2018 giving report from the National Office indicates that WNCC UMW **led the nation in:**

- Special Mission Recognition
- Gift to Mission
- Gift in Memory
- World Thank Offering
- Designated Gifts

Special
Mission
Recognition

Gift
To
Mission

Gift
In
Memory

World
Thank
Offering

The story told by these numbers is that we WNCC United Methodist Women give thoughtfully, integrating our giving into the events of our lives:

- Sending Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards to mark meaningful events in our lives.
- Giving Special Mission Recognition pins or donations to honor those around us whose work in support of mission we find notable.
- Joining our UMW Sisters in celebrating the joys of being a member of United Methodist Women during our World Thank Offering.
- Searching out and supporting those UMW Mission programs we find most compelling .

WNCC United Methodist Women understand Mission Giving.

Peace, Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer/nancy@reigelridge.com/828-268-0637

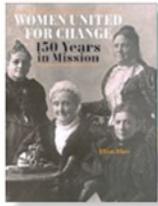
Sibyl Says..

In keeping with our stewardship of mission giving, UMW has a new format for Program Resource sales. There will be a **limited number** of 2019 Reading Program books and Mission u study books at Spiritual Growth Retreat (June 13-15). Members are encouraged to order books themselves using the information given below.

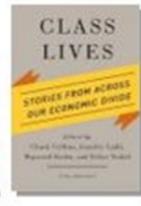
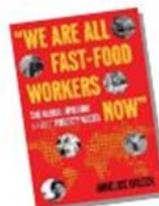
Going to Mission u? The two study books you read for that count toward a Reading Plan. You're almost halfway to finishing Plan I just preparing for Mission u.

Information about the 2019 Reading Program may be found in the December 2018 issue of **response** magazine or online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram.

Sibyl Long, Conference Secretary of Program Resources, sibyl.long@gmail.com/704-773-8678



Mission u study books



Reading Program books on economic inequality (see p. 5)

Order study books online at www.umwmissionresources.org or call 800-305-9857.

Get Reading Program books from your library or at major retailers.

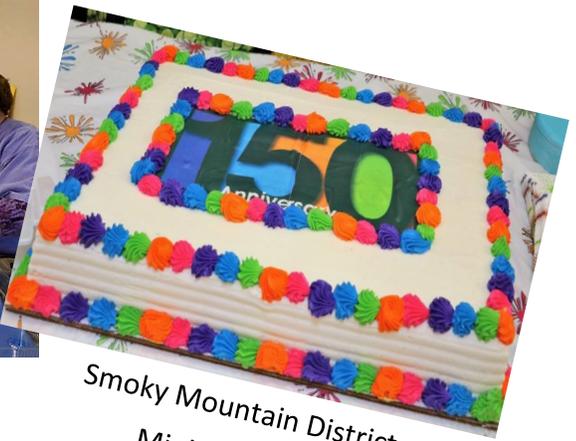
District 150th Anniversary Celebrations



Blue Ridge District
Prayer Breakfast



Catawba Valley District
Walk for Mission



Smoky Mountain District
Mini Mission u



Metro District Prayer Breakfast

Maternal Health Workshop

Date: March 23, 2019

Event: 10-12 pm
Registration: 9-9:55 am

Speakers from Health Rising and Healthy Moms Healthy Babies

Location: The Global Learning Center at Bennett College, 507 Gorrell St.

Hands-On Items: Gift cards, diapers, wipes, baskets of household items (paper towels, toilet paper, dish soap, laundry detergent, sponges, etc.), yoga mats

Our District's United Methodist Women 150th Birthday Celebration takes place at noon!

**Northern Piedmont District
Social Action Event**



Appalachian District
Prayer Breakfast



Uwharrie District Walk for Mission



Yadkin Valley District
Mission Study

**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women**

Lisa Bacon
1028 Old Cullowhee Rd
Sylva, NC 28779-6539
lisabacon304@gmail.com



UMW "to do" list...

- ✓ May 1 through July 5, register for Mission u (form in District newsletters or online)
- ✓ By June 1, nominate a UMW sister for the Annual Report Dedication (forms available from District Presidents or online)
- ✓ By June 9, register online for Spiritual Growth Retreat for only \$15 (onsite registration is \$25)
- ✓ By July 1, order Mission u study books
- ✓ By July 18, collect and pack UMCOR school kits for Mission u.
- ✓ Any time—enjoy Barbara Campbell's article about our 150th anniversary, "Turning Prayer into Deeds" (New World Outlook Fall 2018 or at wnccumw.org/turning-prayer-into-deeds/)

For more information, visit www.wnccumw.org