

For

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Detroit Conference News – Winter 2018

PRESIDENT

COMMUNICATION!!!

Communication! Communication is the new buzz word for many things. More importantly, the lack of communication is the reason for many things gone wrong. It is a fact, our world has changed drastically, and especially the way we communicate with each other. Most of us would agree that technology has caused this dramatic communication change in our lives. It has allowed us to communicate to most of us a lot faster and to more people at one time. However, some people would even say that the many forms of communication technology are a little scary in the way we communicate and build relationships with each other these days. Let's look at some of the ways. What are your thoughts about how we communicate with each other? Do you use any or all of these technological forms? Or, do you use the telephone and the U.S. Mail only? Please review the partial list below. Note: I have included the definition of each form of communication because some are forms that I do not use.):

- Emailing (messages distributed by electronic means from one computer user to one or more recipients via a network)
- Texting (sending a written message through your phone or notepad device)
- Skyping (have a spoken conversation with (someone) over the Internet using the software application Skype, typically also viewing by webcam)
- Facebooking (the act of logging on and using **Facebook**, a popular social media website. Facebooking can include making status updates, posting videos, photos or links or commenting on posts made by the user's Facebook friends.

- Tweeting (updating what you are doing which can be helpful to friends, family and even co-workers. Tweeting is when you write what you are doing in box.

As the merger efforts for the Michigan Area United Methodist Women (both the Detroit Conference and West Michigan Conference UMW) continues, we would like to communicate with every church and local and district UMW unit in the state of Michigan. We would like to do this by using everyone's communication form, style and method that is available to all of us. So, that might mean that we communicate by some of the new and

What's in This Issue

President	Pages..1-2
Vice President	Page.....2
Secretary and Social Action	Page.....3
Treasurer & Membership	Page... .4
Program Resources & Nomin.	Page.....5
Legacy & Spiritual Growth	Pages.....6
Education & Interpretation	Page.....7
District Presidents	Pages.8-12
Mission u Message	Page.....13
News from Community House	Page....14
2018 Officers	Page.....15
Back Cover	Dates to Remember

improved technological forms, but also, we may have to use some of the old methods that have been around for years (for example; telephone calls, U. S. Mail, and face to face conversations). In any case, the UMW teams want to make sure that we have a mission relationship with everyone that understands the importance of the "PURPOSE" of United Methodist Women as we work for the betterment of women, children, and youth. We want everyone to know what UMW is doing and where we are going. We want you to know that UMW teams, statewide, are connected to all of you!!!

I am asking everyone to please make sure that you contact with any team member of your UMW district and/or conference. Let us know your name, address, phone number, email address, etc. (if you have one and that is the way you want to be contacted or be informed.). There is always a list of the various teams in the back of your district or conference newsletter.

I know that by the time you receive this newsletter, many of us would have spent time together at the 2018 UMW Assembly in Columbus OH. I am excited that I would have had a chance to meet some of you, in addition to, being a part of a sisterhood that includes women around the world.

Also, many of us will be at the Michigan Area Annual Conference at Traverse City (May 31st - June 3rd, 2018). I hope that you have signed up for the UMW Luncheon, which is scheduled for June 2nd, 2018, at Traverse City.

There are other UMW events that are coming up, so make sure that you take a few minutes to review the dates listed in this newsletter.

The Detroit and West Michigan UMW

Conferences would have started our conversations about the "A Way Forward" topic that has been outlined within the United Methodist Church. Please continue to look forward to receiving information and having these conversations that we will be having throughout the Conferences during this year.

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VICE PRESIDENT

What talents do you have that are lying dormant, rather than being used for the sake of others? The start of a new year is the perfect time to begin an attitude of joy and sharing. Signing up for UMW events is a great start.

I attended the Renaissance District Meeting and also Women's Day at Beverly Hills UMC. Taylorie Bailey was the guest speaker.

I registered for the UMW lunch scheduled for June 2, 2018 at Traverse City Resort and Spa during Annual Conference week. I am also registered for Detroit Renaissance District workshop at Clawson UMC on March 10, 2018.

So excited Detroit Conference is still in first place for Assembly registration, have you registered? Feel the power of "Bold".

The 2018 Reading program is packed with awesome selections! A couple of my favorites are: 1) From the children's list "**Stick Up For Yourself**" and 2) From the regular list "**50 Women Every Christian Should Know**".

I hope to see everyone at some or all of the upcoming events. Please remember these words; I Choose an attitude of Joy.

Best regards,
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SECRETARY

Ladies of the United Methodist Women of The Detroit Conference: Today is the first day of the rest of your life and it is a good day because God made it and He made you!

May 17-20 was the United Methodist Women Assembly and it was held in Columbus, Ohio. For those who weren't there you missed a great experience.

This year both conferences of the UMW will be having a lot of meetings together and some will be with their perspective conferences. In 2019 we will be one, the Michigan Conference 😊.

Please remember God made each of us with a unique character and personality! And we each will bring them to God's table.

Toni 😊

Toni Grimmatt

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Leadership Development Days in St. Louis

Both sides of Michigan Conference were present!

SOCIAL ACTION

Save Our Children, Save Our Climate, Dream with the Dreamers

Ladies so much has happened since last we were together. It is not possible to address all the social issues of the world but we must make mention of as many as we can. Children are dying from gun violence. They do not feel safe in school and they need to know that we stand with them in their right to be safe. We work for justice and advocate for change. They are our children. We must call and make contact with our Senators and Congressional Representatives. Call 202-224-3121 and ask for your representative's office. Space will not allow me to tell you all the things you can do to help save lives in schools but try on March 24th 2018 to support the students in a "March for Our Lives" Rally in Washington D.C.

The climate deserves our attention. There is a Bill H.R. 4932 that really needs your support. It affects the air we breathe. The animals are confused. The president is threatening to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. Should this happen, we will be the only country in the world not signed up to protect our planet. Climate Change is real ladies.

We must speak up with compassion and justice for Dreamers. This is the only country these young people know. The present Administration has been and continues to be wishy-washy about the fate of the Dreamers. We stand with these vulnerable young people and again we must call our U.S. Senators and Congressional Representatives. I took the opportunity to march with Dreamers, Paul Perez, Pastor Zundel, Pastor Huseltine and many more United Methodists. We marched from Central United Methodist Church to Debbie Stabenow's Office. As I end, let me thank all United Methodist Women for standing in the Red Zone for our final Human Trafficking Campaign Event. We have worked to raise awareness since 2008. While we end the focus, the impact of your work continues. Today every state has at least one anti-trafficking law. You wore your red to bring awareness and I know that more laws will come into play. Now our focus will shift to other missions and I know we will be just as successful.

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TREASURER

As we work our way through this year of change it is exciting and challenging. Hopefully if you have any questions you will make a telephone call or send an email off to a district or conference officer to get answers. We are here to help. By now you may be aware we have changed our focus to help support programming at United Methodist Community House in Grand Rapids as the ownership of the building has been handed over to the directors. This takes a huge burden off United Methodist Women as the building has many repair needs. We hope you will continue to support their programming as it is much needed in the area where it is located. Please still send all donations for the UMCH to the district treasurer who will submit them to National.

You will continue to mail all your pledges, 5 Star donations and SMRs to the district treasurer that you have in the past through November 2018. As we close out year end it will be vital to have all money sent in to district by early November as treasurers may be changing districts or completing tenure.

I encourage you to give to the Legacy Fund the requested \$150.00 per unit plus \$18.69 a member as you are able. This will help attain the goal set by National for 2019 as we work to secure our organization and its work for years to come. **Remember as units or individuals to always send your donations directly to the National address: United Methodist Women-Attn: Development, Legacy Fund—475 Riverside Drive, 15th floor—New York, NY 10115 or online to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org**

This is an important time to attend district and conference events to get acquainted with new members of your new district. All districts will experience some changes and this is a great opportunity to meet new UMW sisters in Christ.

Don't forget to read from the Reading Program lists and Response magazine to learn more about where our money goes.

I John 4:7 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. NIV

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MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Now that membership counting has concluded, it is time to emphasize the other two areas of responsibility: nurture and outreach. Many units and the Districts are having Spring Gatherings which are inviting to new members. Our weather this year has been erratic. It is great to see the passing of another winter and birds returning. Spring flowers are blooming and summer flowers are coming forth. Some units have grown greatly as new and exciting programs are introduced.

Now is the time to schedule spring teas, nature walks and wild flowers excursions. You can participate in UMW book reporting and exchange, learning and sharing information, and getting ready for Annual Conference are a few ideas and suggestions to keep the momentum growing.

Educational exchanges such as reading a Mission study and talking about what you have learned is important – get prepared for summer learning adventures. Keep up the enthusiasm and spread the word. As you are starting new programs or exploring new ideas, remember nurturing is part of the Coordinator's responsibility. Do something special for your members to show how much you appreciate their participation. Do not forget to welcome back the "Snow Birds" and find out if they might have new program ideas gleaned from other parts of the country. Keep up the enthusiasm and spread the word.

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SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

As a former teacher, I always looked forward to March is Reading Month. Various volunteers came to the classroom to read to or with our elementary school students. We had community members, politicians, NFL and NBA Athletes, and other professional role models. Reading is Fundamental is the theme all over the country. This is the first step to making young children appreciate reading and what they can gain from it.

Now, what have you read lately? Are you working on the Reading Plan with the United Methodist Women? Are you keeping records and will be ready to report in September which plan you have accomplished?

I am in a book club, so I can share books from our Reading Programs. They truly loved Miss Brenda and the Loveladies” by Brenda Spahn and Irene Zutell (2016 Nurturing for Community). What book have you shared with someone? We must take opportunities to get others involved in Reading.

As you read the news articles from the District Teams, many of them are sharing the books from the Reading Program. Every event, we are promoting the Reading Program. At Mission u, we have Books Talk and Book Discussions. Several units purchase books for their units and set up lending libraries. Other units are getting children and youth involved in the Reading Program. Also, all books are counted in the Reading Program. Who is John Ray Lynch? How do we deal with family members who are mentally ill? What Social Issues are you concerned about? There are books that address these issues. March is Women’s Month, have you read the “50 Women Every Christian Should Know” by Michelle De Rusha (2018 Leadership Development}. This is to whet your appetite for Reading or continue in the Reading Program. You can borrow the books also from your public library.

The **Bible Study** in January 2018 issue of **Response Magazine** refers to Bold women, where community and support can set paths for justice. Can that help with the “Me Too” movement? United Methodists are known as supporters for a stand against injustices against women, children, youth. The “**Bright Light**” section highlights Faith, Hope and Love in Action.

We are still upset about prayer being taken out of the school and many public places, but **The World Outlook Magazine Winter 2018** edition is dedicated to “**Praying, the Heart of Mission Ministry**”. Check out Prayer Over Time and Circumstances page 40-42; or **Children’s Prayer from Around the World**, pages 34 – 39. The Power of Prayer is one of the ways we can show Faith, Hope and Love in Action.

Everything mentioned is part of the **Reading Program Plan** which enlightens us about the Purpose of the United Methodist Women and how we can impact our society as we deal with the turmoil, confusion and uncertainty each day. John 10:10

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NOMINATIONS

Hello great friends! What an amazing time to be involved in United Methodist Women! There are so many new things happening in the state of Michigan.

So far this year, I have been mainly involved in putting together a list of officers for our new Michigan Conference to be voted on at our first Annual Celebration together this fall. I am working with my counterpart from West Michigan, Sue Emmons. Thanks to Loretta DeLoach, Linda Brown, Pat Engelbrecht and Patti Steinberg for their help in phone and internet work. And more to come!

Right now, we are discovering who belongs to what district. Do you know yours? It is a big project to bring us all together in Love, Faith, and Action.

This has been my main activity as Nominations Chair at this point. May God bless all of you during this exciting time!

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LEGACY FUND

Top 10 Ideas to Continue our Legacy

10. Do your part to support the Legacy Fund by . . .
9. Learning about how our history has changed us as women, our church, our nation & the world!
8. Understanding how you can continue this powerful legacy by . . .
7. Using a Legacy video in your local unit (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150)
6. Pledging at least \$18.69 (the year of our beginning) each year &
5. Urging your local unit to pledge \$150 (our age in 2019) each year
4. Honoring someone with a limited edition 150th Special Mission Recognition Pin (\$150) (see www.umwmissionresources.org)
3. Honoring someone with a 150th Necklace & Pendant (\$50) (see above)
2. Sharing YOUR LEGACY about what United Methodist Women means to you
1. Be ready to celebrate 150 years of United Methodist Women & its Legacy Fund to insure Love in Action for the next 150 years!

Give to the **LEGACY FUND** at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

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SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Lenten and Easter Blessings My Friends! I trust you are enjoying this Lenten Season and have spent much time in reflection of the drama and majesty of Our Risen Lord. May you feel His love for all of us during this season.

I have been very wrapped up in the tragedies we read and hear about in the news the past several weeks. There has been violence and fear and danger and unspeakable acts to God's children all over our country, but also right here in Michigan, that brings me to tears. Innocent children have lost their lives, parents have died at the hands of their own children and there is grief everywhere around us.

How blessed we are that Jesus suffered and died for each of US on the Cross, all of us, even those we may not feel are at all worthy, but they too are children of God. So please, dry your tears and lift your hearts and voices in prayer to ask our Father to give us love and strength to endure our sad world and for Him to protect and comfort the families that have been victimized and also those responsible for the tragedies.

God loves ALL his children and for that we are truly blessed by His grace. Amen

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MISSION COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

It's March! For me, that means it is time for Prayer and Self-Denial.

Each year I look forward to the Response magazine issue that so beautifully depicts the many missions and projects that receive support from our efforts.

The maps show how far and wide our efforts and our seeds of love are sown. The write-ups telling of the specific types of programs that we have helped fund tell of the tremendous diversity of our efforts in reaching out to enable others to "Hear the Word" and receive help, education and training.

I am blessed to have several family members and numerous friends who, over the years, have participated in a variety of mission trips. The personal stories that they share upon returning home are such a blessing. The joy reflected in their faces as they recall people they met and events they participated in brings their work and those people to life. The places and the people become real to me, as opposed to being mere numbers in a report.

The articles in our Response magazine and the pictures also bring a sense of joy and reality as we hear about people we may never meet and learn about how their lives have been impacted by our efforts and they relate how very much they appreciate our support.

At this stage in my life – I doubt I will have the opportunity to personally participate in an overseas mission. I will, however, enjoy sharing the stories about various projects and missions with my Circle as each year I present the Prayer and Self-Denial Program to them.

The role that many of us play in supporting the Prayer and Self-Denial Program reminds me of a saying that was very popular back during World War II. The saying was, "They also serve who sit and wait." The saying is a paraphrase taken from a John Milton poem.

To put this in terms of what we as United Methodist Women do – I would say – "They also serve who pray and wait."

God has a job for each of us to do – in HIS time HE reveals it to each of us. While we may not think of ourselves as missionaries in terms of going overseas or to a different country to perform a service – our mission is to trust HIM and be patient – rely on his promise found in the book of Jeremiah, Chapter 29, verse 11 – "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

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A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2018

Learning for a Lifetime: Developing Leaders