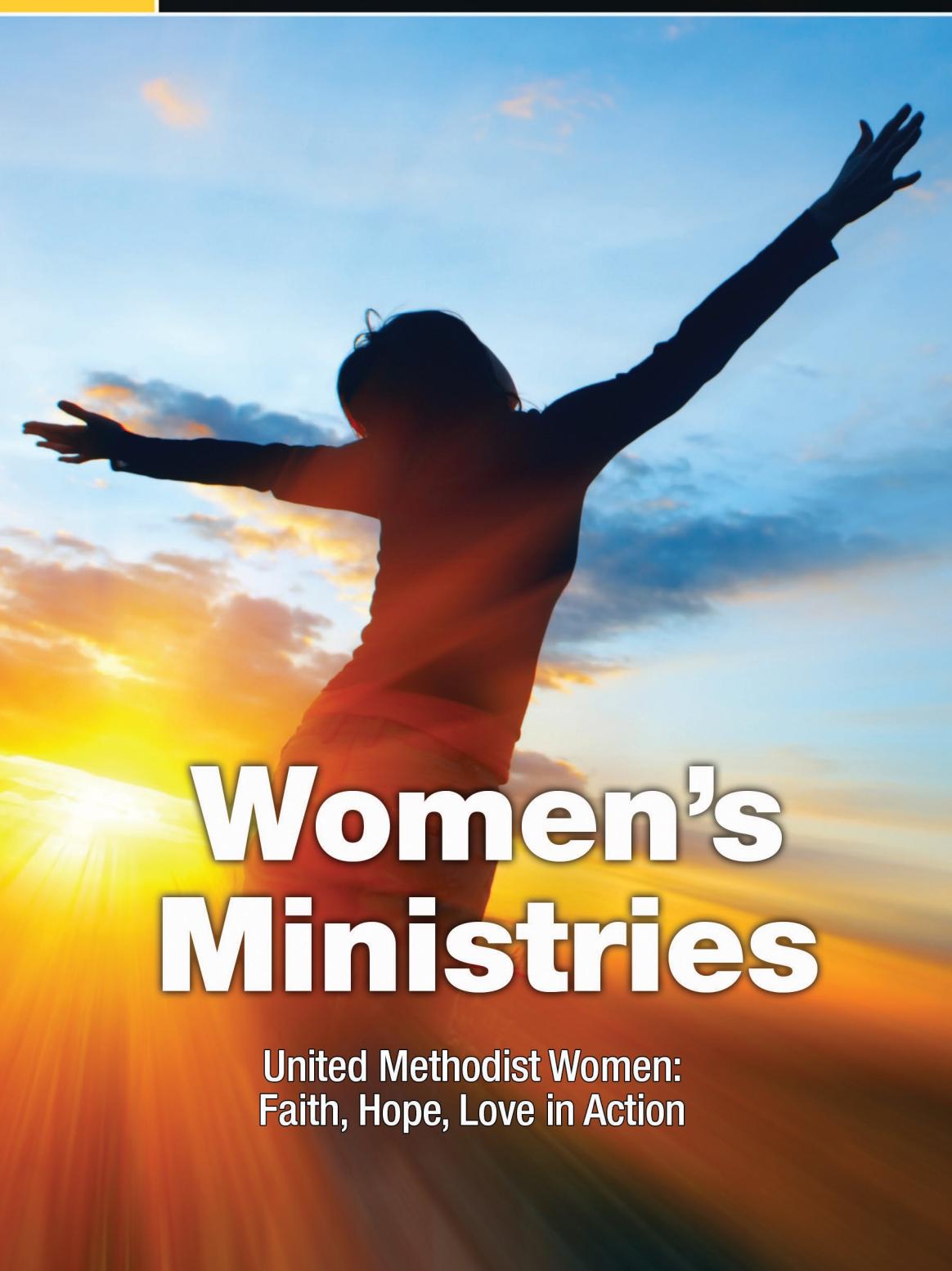




G U I D E L I N E S



# Women's Ministries

United Methodist Women:  
Faith, Hope, Love in Action



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Faith, Hope, Love in Action

United Methodist Women

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

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### **Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

*This book is printed on acid-free paper.*

ISBN 978-1-5018-3002-0

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# Blessed to Be a Blessing

If you are reading this Guideline, you have said yes to servant leadership in your church. You are blessed to be a blessing. What does that mean?

By virtue of our baptism by water and the Spirit, God calls all Christians to faithful discipleship, to grow to maturity in faith (see Ephesians 4). The United Methodist Church expresses that call in our shared mission “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, or the *Discipline*, ¶120). Each local congregation and community of faith lives out that call in response to its own context—the wonderful and unique combination of God-given human and material resources with the needs of the community, within and beyond the congregation.

The work of servant leaders—your work—is to open a way for God to work through you and the resources available to you in a particular ministry area, for you are about God’s work. As stewards of the mysteries of God (see 1 Corinthians 4:1), servant leaders are entrusted with the precious and vital task of managing and using God’s gifts in the ongoing work of transformation.

In The United Methodist Church, we envision transformation occurring through a cycle of discipleship (see the *Discipline*, ¶122). With God’s help and guidance, we

- reach out and receive people into the body of Christ,
- help people relate to Christ through their unique gifts and circumstances,
- nurture and strengthen people in their relationships with God and with others,
- send transformed people out into the world to lead transformed and transforming lives,
- continue to reach out, relate, nurture, and send disciples…

Every ministry area and group, from finance to missions, engages in all aspects of this cycle. This Guideline will help you see how that is true for the ministry area or group you now lead. When you begin to consider all of the work you do as ministry to fulfill God’s mission through your congregation, each task, report, and conversation becomes a step toward transforming the world into the kingdom of God.

Invite Christ into the process to guide your ministry. You are doing powerful and wonderful work. Allow missteps to become learning opportunities; rejoice in success. Fill your work with the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

God blesses you with gifts, skills, and experience. You are a blessing when you allow God to work through you to make disciples and transform the world. Thank you.

(Find additional help in the “Resources” section at the end of this Guideline, in *The Book of Discipline*, and through <http://www.umc.org>.)

# United Methodist Women in Mission



"I now remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you."

—2 Timothy 1:6 NEB

The work of United Methodist Women is focused on growing spiritually as we respond to God's invitation to participate in God's work in the world, as expressed through our Purpose and lived through our vision since our founding nearly 150 years ago.

United Methodist Women is specifically charged to "support ministry with and advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth" (*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, 2012, ¶1319). The national office provides resources and opportunities for members to work alongside women, children, and youth nationally and internationally through advocacy and direct service.

This Guideline provides information about how women in United Methodist congregations can grow in service through United Methodist Women, how we are engaged in God's mission through a variety of channels, and ways you can be a part of it. More information on all of these topics is available online at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian service, social action, turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me.  
He has sent me to preach good news to the poor,  
to proclaim release to the prisoners  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to liberate the oppressed.

Since its inception, United Methodist Women has been serving others and growing while challenging injustice. United Methodist Women advocacy work promotes peace and justice, women's empowerment, education, racial justice, immigrant rights, the environment, economic justice, women's health, the rights of children, human rights, farm workers' rights, climate justice, and maternal and child health, to name a few.

In all advocacy efforts, United Methodist Women roots its work in the Bible and our learning and growing in Christ. It follows the denominational mandates in *The Book of Discipline* and *The Book of Resolutions* of The United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Women works in partnership and coalitions with others on many justice issues to extend its impact.

### **“Missions became my thing.”**

In the 1960s, when Melissa Trawick was a young wife and working mother living in what was then small-town Mandarin, Florida, she wanted to be part of something. She wanted a social outlet, but she also wanted an outlet to help other people. While attending the community’s Methodist church, she heard other members talking about the church’s chapter of the Women’s Society of Christian Service, which a few years later would become United Methodist Women.

“I was looking for the camaraderie of other women. I was looking for the chance to make friends,” Ms. Trawick said.

But she got more. Nationwide, United Methodist Women focuses on mission, particularly outreach programs for women, children and youth, locally and worldwide. That got Ms. Trawick hooked. In 2014, as the Mandarin group marked its 50th anniversary, she remained hooked.

“Missions...became a part of me,” she said. “Missions became my thing.”

—Excerpt from an article by Beth Reese Cravely in *United Methodist Women News*, Spring 2015.

## **The Foundation of United Methodist Women**

United Methodist Women members are in mission in response to God’s grace. Their foundational goals—to know and worship God, grow as disciples in community with other sisters, and engage in and equip for mission to extend wholeness to all—are key to United Methodist Women’s Purpose.

The United Methodist Women Vision and Living the Vision statements sharpen the Purpose of United Methodist Women for mission in the twenty-first century.

### **The Vision**

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

### **Living the Vision**

We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ, and put faith into action.

We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments, and churches.

We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

# What Does It Mean to Be a Member of United Methodist Women?

## The Purpose

The Purpose provides the foundation for the work and witness of United Methodist Women. These words give reason for our being—an organization of laywomen mobilized for mission.

“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.”

## Membership Joys

United Methodist Women members are always learning, growing spiritually, and training for leadership. They experience a sense of belonging and purpose as members join together locally, nationally, and internationally to help others. When you join a local group of United Methodist Women, you experience many joys of membership in your personal and corporate life.

- **Joining through membership.** Become a member of the official women's mission organization of The United Methodist Church.
- **Growing in faith.** Experience personal transformation as you deepen your relationship with Christ through prayer and study, and participate in spiritual retreats.
- **Participating in mission.** Engage in local mission with your time, talent, and gifts.
- **Educating for mission.** Learn and grow in understanding of mission, including mission as advocacy for justice.
- **Training for leadership.** Lead and serve at local, district, conference, and jurisdictional levels. Receive face-to-face and online training. Draw on your training to serve your local church.
- **Spending time in fellowship.** Enjoy friendship and the support of other sisters in Christ through participation in meetings, Bible studies, events, and projects.

- **Supporting mission.** Pledge financial support for work with women, children, and youth, and discover how your dollars make a difference in your neighborhood and around the world.
- **Partnering with others.** Become a part of a community of women in mission with women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world.
- **Networking for social action.** Get involved in working for justice on climate change, maternal and child health, racial and economic inequality, and women's empowerment.
- **Engaging with mission resources.** Use mission studies, **response** magazine, the Program Book, and Prayer Calendar to engage in mission.
- **Participating in the Reading Program.** Participate in the Reading Program and read member-reviewed books to challenge your thinking about current issues and deepen your understanding of mission.
- **Reaching out to others.** Use tools such as brochures and booklets for outreach.
- **Connecting with others for mission.** Network with mission partners, ecumenical groups, including Church Women United and international women's groups, through United Methodist Women's work at the United Nations and Church Center for the United Nations, Mission U, and other mission initiatives. All United Methodist Women members are also members of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.
- **Experiencing community online.** Enjoy friendships, discussions, and ideas on United Methodist Women's online community ([UMWOnline.org](http://UMWOnline.org)), Instagram, Pinterest, Facebook, and Twitter.
- **Making a Difference.** Help transform the places we live into antiracist, multicultural, multilingual, and multiethnic communities that support and respect all people.

## **Organizing for Mission**

The total program of United Methodist Women is mission that is carried out in many ways. As United Methodist Women members give voice to the unheard, raise up women leaders through education and leadership development, engage in fellowship, and perform acts of service, they are engaged in mission.

### **Connected on All Levels**

United Methodist Women is organized to live out the Purpose. United Methodist Women's flexible structures offer local, district, and conference groups freedom to organize in ways that best fit their contexts and enable them to participate in God's mission.

United Methodist Women, like The United Methodist Church, is connectional. The major relationships of United Methodist Women are through:

- the local unit,
- the district organization,
- the conference organization,
- the jurisdiction organization, and
- the national organization.

Every level of the organization is involved in mission as members live out the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

Each jurisdiction, conference, and district has a corresponding level of United Methodist Women organized in accordance with the program and policies of the national organization of United Methodist Women.

District and conference United Methodist Women elect a leadership team, including, at least but not limited to, a president, a treasurer, a secretary, and a Committee on Nominations.

Districts and conferences also organize mission team members, task forces, and committees they decide will help them to fulfill the Purpose.

### **A Growing Organization**

Inviting members and leaders to consider the Purpose, to think about new ways to do the work of education, spiritual growth, leadership development, and connecting our service with our advocacy is what helps us to be a growing and fruitful organization—an organization for women of every age, race, ethnicity, culture, first language, and economic status who want to be involved in mission.

Join a local organization today, or start one in your church and be a part of the ever-widening circle of United Methodist Women! Contact your district president of United Methodist Women for guidance. Check your conference United Methodist Women website, or call the district office of The United Methodist Church. Also, order or download the New Unit Starter Kit at [www.umwmissionresources.org/sp/downloads](http://www.umwmissionresources.org/sp/downloads).

# United Methodist Women

## History and Identity

### History

From the beginning, women's mission work has been visionary and dedicated.

### Beginnings

In the late 1800s, the women of the Methodist, Evangelical, and United Brethren traditions each came to realize that they needed to organize for service to others during this period when women and children were considered nonpersons in the society.

The beginning of United Methodist Women can be traced to an 1869 meeting of eight women in Boston. They gathered to learn about women's health and education needs in India from missionary wives on itineration there. These same eight women organized the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and sent two missionaries, Isabella Thoburn, an educator, and Clara Swain, a doctor, to India later that same year.



*Six of the Boston eight*

This was the beginning of service and mission work of United Methodist Women predecessor organizations, which over the years has expanded from:

- two missionaries in India to work in more than 80 countries,
- \$300 raised for mission in the 1890s to millions of dollars for the program of United Methodist Women today,
- eight women gathering in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1869 to more than 6,000 gathering in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2014 to celebrate and affirm the work of United Methodist Women at Assembly.



*Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference women at United Methodist Women's Assembly,  
St. Louis, MO, 2014—Paul Jeffrey*

## Mergers

The Ladies Aid Societies, which had existed for many years, were incorporated into the missionary societies in the 1940s. Through reorganization and denominational mergers, these various groups were brought together. In 1973, United Methodist Women became the women's mission organization of The United Methodist Church.

## Leaders

The organization of United Methodist Women has been influenced by the strength and spirituality of courageous women in what has become The United Methodist Church.



*United Methodist Women Language Ministries Voices Event, Nashville, TN, 2015—Kristina Krug*



Clementina Butler



Lois Parker

### Clementina Butler and Lois Parker

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1869, at the motivation of Clementina Butler and Lois Parker, wives of two missionaries serving in India.



### Lizzie Hoffman

Lizzie Hoffman was instrumental in helping organize the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church. In 1875, Ms. Hoffman and a group of concerned women got together in Dayton, Ohio, and issued a call for a Woman's Missionary Convention. Out of that meeting the Woman's Missionary Association was formed.



### Virginia Laskey

Virginia Laskey served as the fourth national president of the Woman's Division of Christian Service from 1964 to 1968. At the end of her presidency, the Woman's Division established a \$50,000 scholarship fund for theological education for women in her honor. Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee, now Scarritt-Bennett Center, also honored her by naming its library the Laskey Library. She was an outspoken advocate of a just society and a racially inclusive church.



### Mai H. Gray

Mai H. Gray grew up in Jackson, Tennessee. She was a member of the "Committee of 24" that proposed the organizational structure for United Methodist Women in 1972. Also in 1972, Ms. Gray was elected a member of the Women's Division board of directors. From 1976 to 1980 she served as the division's first black president. The division honored her presidency by establishing the Mai H. Gray Education Grant to Women and Children in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa.



### **Thelma Stevens**

A native of Mississippi, Thelma Stevens graduated from State Teachers' College at Hattiesburg, Mississippi, now the University of Southern Mississippi. In 1926, Ms. Stevens entered Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tennessee, completing a master's degree in 1928. From 1928 to 1940, she served as director of the Bethlehem Center in Augusta, Georgia. Ms. Stevens held the position of executive secretary for the Department of Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities with the Woman's Division—which later became the *Women's Division*—from 1940 until her retirement in 1968. Ms. Stevens is best remembered for her untiring efforts toward the elimination of racism in the church and society.



### **Theressa Hoover**

A native of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Theressa Hoover attended Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas. Upon graduation, Ms. Hoover accepted the position of associate director with the Little Rock Methodist Council. In 1948, she went to work for the Woman's Division as a fieldworker. For 10 years, Ms. Hoover traveled among the woman's societies, attending and resourcing districts, conferences and jurisdiction meetings, and maintaining contact with leaders across the connection. Ms. Hoover moved to New York City in 1958, when she became staff member of the Woman's Division's Department of Christian Social Relations. In 1965, she became assistant general secretary, Section of Program and Education for Christian Mission, Woman's Division. In 1968, she was chosen to head the Women's Division as its deputy general secretary, a position she held until her retirement in December 1990.

Today, United Methodist Women continues to be led by dedicated and capable lay women leaders. Harriett Jane Olson, general secretary, and Yvette Kim Richards, president, led the United Methodist Women during the 2012–2016 quadrennium.

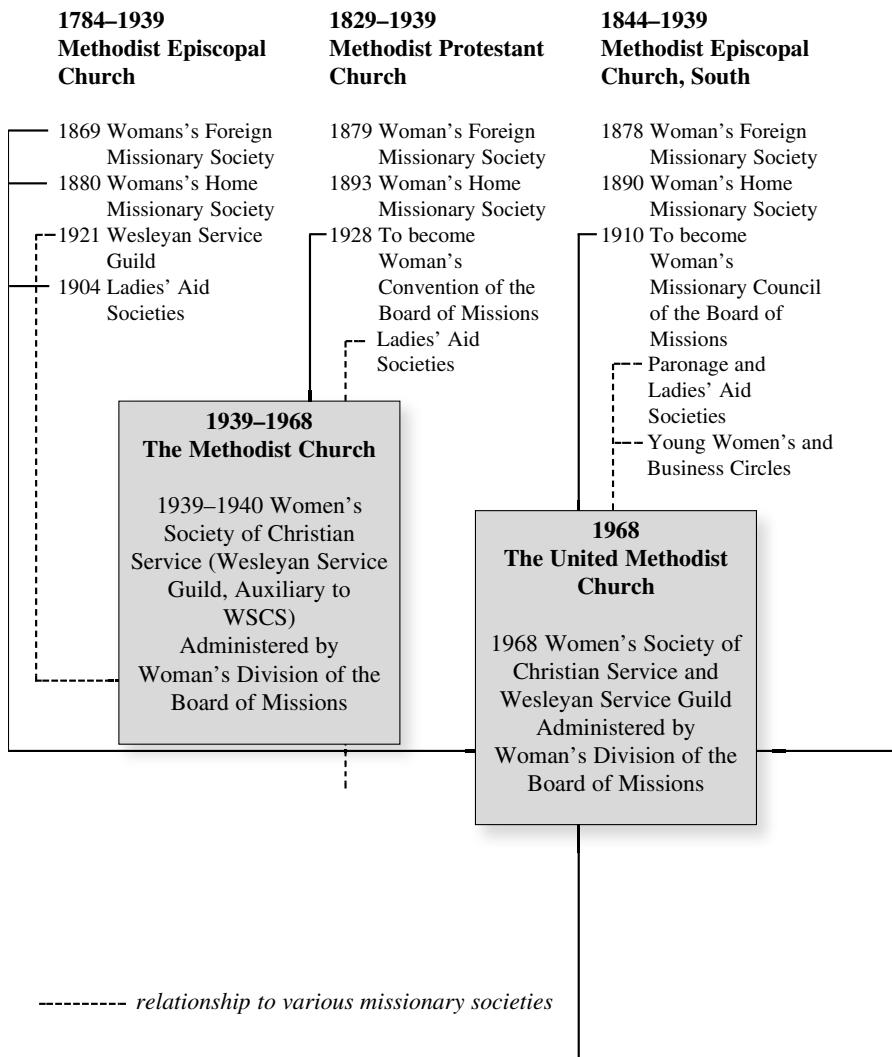


*Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary and CEO*  
—Kristina Krug

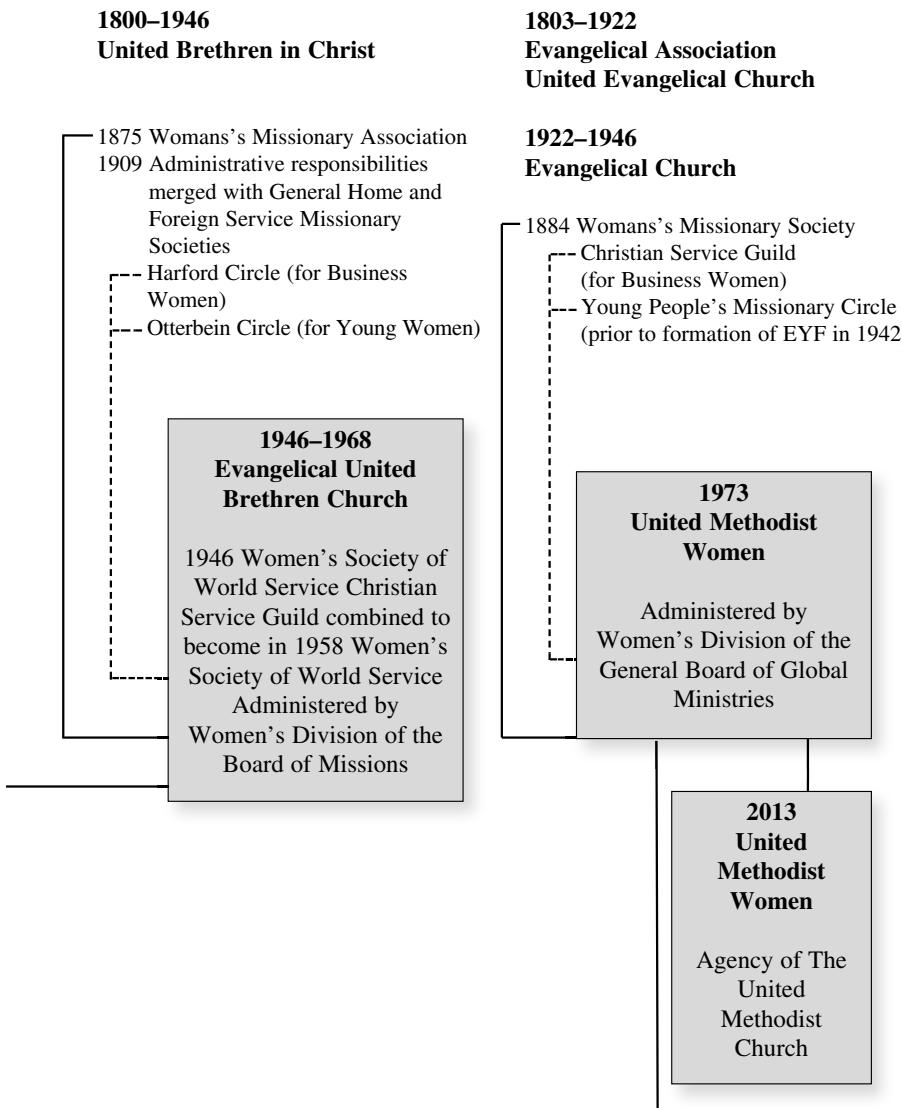


*Yvette Kim Richard, National President*  
—Kristina Krug

## HISTORICAL CHART OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



## HISTORICAL CHART OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



## **Structure**

The United Methodist Church through its General Conference envisions an organization of United Methodist Women in every local church. *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church*, ¶256 states: “In every local church there shall be an organized unit of United Methodist Women.” If your local church does not currently have a United Methodist Women’s group, then you can organize one, become a member at another local church, or join or organize a group at the district level.

United Methodist Women elects its own leaders to a board of directors, and the national organization is incorporated as a nonprofit organization. United Methodist Women raises funds every year for mission, including mission education. This is also authorized in *The Book of Discipline*.

The 25-member board of directors is responsible for managing the organization’s program policies, finances, property, and its chief executive. The board confers with an 80- to 90-member Program Advisory Group composed of United Methodist Women members and mission partners. Every conference is connected at the national level through this Program Advisory Group.

### **Teen Circle Formed in Indiana**

Arlington United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Indiana, celebrated the birth of a teen circle of United Methodist Women this past year. One afternoon four teens and two adult leaders gathered to make prayer shawls for Assembly 2014, and during our time together the adult leaders shared that United Methodist Women embraces women of all ages as members. We read through the United Methodist Women brochure “We Are United Methodist Women,” and the teens learned the United Methodist Women Purpose and of the support that membership provides them to pursue their individual calls to mission. The brochure offered a ready-made tool to introduce the multicultural and multigenerational faces of United Methodist Women. Through reading it they learned who is welcomed in membership, how United Methodist Women is supported, and how to connect with United Methodist Women through social networks.

The adult leaders gave each teen a Pledge to Mission card and offered them an invitation: Would they consider becoming members and forming a circle of their own? They graciously agreed. As with any birth, naming was a meaningful next step. “Esther Circle” was suggested by one teen and chosen by all. With this new identity these brave young women are stepping out in mission. We United Methodist Women members anticipate the joy of our other circles partnering collaboratively with Esther Circle and the fruit of intergenerational bonds, and we look forward to fellowship together as an expanding community of United Methodist Women. We accept a call to nurture their growth through education: at Mission U, through the Reading Program, and through **response** magazine. We are privileged to support them, partner with them and witness their legacy of new beginnings.

—Adapted from an article by Mary Thomason-Smith in the June 14, 2014, issue of **response** magazine.

## Work

### Spiritual Growth

Spiritual growth and theological development are at the core of United Methodist Women. As a result, we provide a variety of resources and channels for study and growth:

- Annual spiritual growth studies (presented at Mission u)
- The United Methodist Women Bible
- Prayer Calendar
- Program Book
- Bible studies in **response** magazine
- Retreats and services
- National Seminar

“National Seminar was the most intense and energizing stop on my spiritual journey to date. After the event, I knew I needed to find my role in helping my conference, district, and local United Methodist Women ensure justice for women, children, and youth. Learning that we have a duty to educate our communities on issues like immigrant rights, climate change, human trafficking, and domestic violence, I realized that a spiritual journey is not only an individual process, but also one that is shaped by the other individuals involved. United Methodist Women is what has shaped me into the woman I am today.”

—Stephanie Greiner, president of United Methodist Women at Wesley United Methodist Church in Jefferson, Missouri, and coordinator for social action for the Mid-State District of the Missouri Conference United Methodist Women.

### Advocacy and Service

Advocacy allows us to be agents of transformation by calling us to change the systems that exclude women, eliminate barriers to women’s progress, and to be proactive in our efforts. Compassionate service takes us to where the hurt and pain are and gives us a glimpse of God’s image in all God’s people.

The Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN) is an important part of this work on behalf of those who may not have a place at the table. Owned by United Methodist Women, CCUN serves as a door of access to the United Nations for the denomination as well as for other nongovernmental, ecumenical, and interfaith organizations. We work closely with the organization, Ecumenical Women, to organize parallel events and host delegations, particularly for events like the annual Commission on the Status of Women.

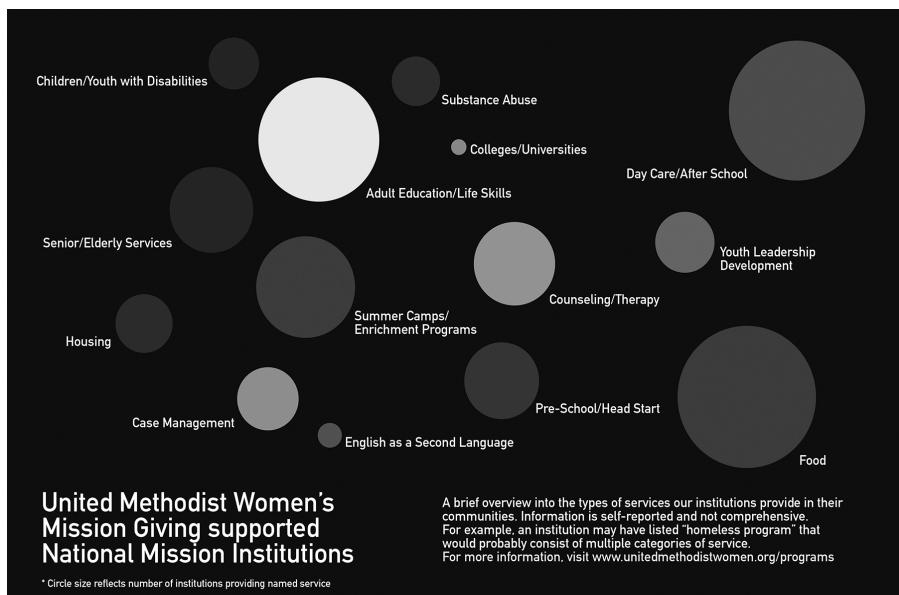
**Christian Social Action.** United Methodist Women focuses on social issues that affect women, children, and youth. At this time, climate justice, economic inequality, maternal and child health, and criminalization/mass incarceration are special emphases for United Methodist Women.

- **Action Alerts** keep interested individuals informed about important legislation and policies regarding issues of particular concern for United Methodist Women and its members and encourage social action on these issues.

## Ministry Opportunities

United Methodist Women members are engaged daily in mission in the United States, including Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

**National Mission Institutions.** United Methodist Women, through Mission Giving and service, supports 97 National Mission Institutions across the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They serve as community centers, women's residences, treatment centers, colleges, schools, and more.



**Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner.** As servants of the church in the world, deaconesses and home missionaries commit to a lifetime of professional vocation led by the Spirit of God in ministries of love, justice, and service. Their ministry is often with those who are the most marginalized by society, representing the love and concern of the believing community for the needs of the world.

**International Ministries.** United Methodist Women members' Mission Giving supports mission partners worldwide that address the needs of women, children, and youth.

# How are United Methodist Women's international projects funded?

Two ways:

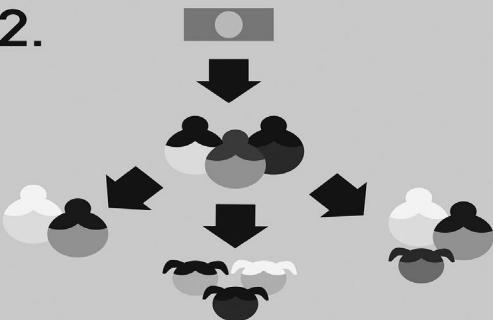
1.



Some grants go directly to specific projects.

These can include schools, hospitals, agricultural projects, youth networks and more.

2.



Some grants go to Methodist Women's Societies in other countries.

This way, the women can make their own decisions about what projects in their own country need funding.

They fund the same types of projects—schools, hospitals, networks, justice & advocacy initiatives, etc.



United  
Methodist  
Women

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To help fund these projects and more, visit  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Give](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Give)

**Global Justice Volunteers.** This program for young adults is operated in cooperation with the General Board of Global Ministries. It enables young adults 18–30 years old to have short-term mission experiences, living and learning alongside people whose lives are shaped by justice work.

**Bible Women Program.** The Bible Women Program brings leadership training and development to women and youth in rural and urban areas in developing nations. Women work with trainers on Bible study, literacy, health, nutrition, economic development, and women's rights.

**Regional Missionary Initiative.** Regional missionaries work in their assigned areas to assist women, children, and youth. They work in solidarity with women in their regions on specific issues and develop projects and programs that meet their expressed needs and priorities. They also build relationships with Methodist, United Methodist, ecumenical, and grassroots programs that focus on the issues of health, women's equality, and elimination of violence against women and support for uprooted and marginalized people.

## **Where Regional Missionaries Serve:**

- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Asia
- Latin America
- The Caribbean

**Ubuntu Journeys.** These short-term mission-learning opportunities give members of United Methodist Women opportunities to meet, share, worship, and work alongside mission partners. On these journeys, women of faith come together through shared mission to address social issues and discover new ways of working together, supporting one another, and growing spiritually.

**Grant Opportunities.** United Methodist Women offers a number of grants to support national and international ministries.

### **Transformative Education**

United Methodist Women provides educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world. Mission needs to be carried out with education, preparation, action and advocacy, and mutual learning and partnerships. With this in mind, United Methodist Women provide many opportunities for mission education through events, programs, and personal study.

**Mission u (formerly Schools of Christian Mission).** Three mission topics are selected annually for these events, which are attended by more than 20,000 people each year. Mission u events take place across the country and are organized by the conference organizations of United Methodist Women, sometimes in cooperation with the conference. Conference Mission u's help participants increase their understanding of mission and prepare to lead the studies themselves in local or district settings.

**Reading Program.** Every year the United Methodist Women national organization recommends a diverse range of books to broaden exposure to a variety of concepts. They are organized into the following categories:

- education for mission,
- nurturing for community,
- social action,
- spiritual growth, and
- leadership development.

**National Seminar.** This quadrennial event equips United Methodist Women members to act on their commitment to know God and to join in the local and global mission of justice and advocacy through Bible studies, workshops, forums, service opportunities, and advocacy actions alongside members of local organizations.

**Seminar Program on National and International Affairs (Seminar Program).** The Seminar Program on National and International Affairs allows United Methodist Women groups and others to study complex social issues from a perspective of faith. Some examples of seminar topics include economic justice, human trafficking, immigration, environmental justice, poverty, racism, and human rights. This program enables participants to acquire a global education in light of biblical and theological reflections.

## Leadership Development

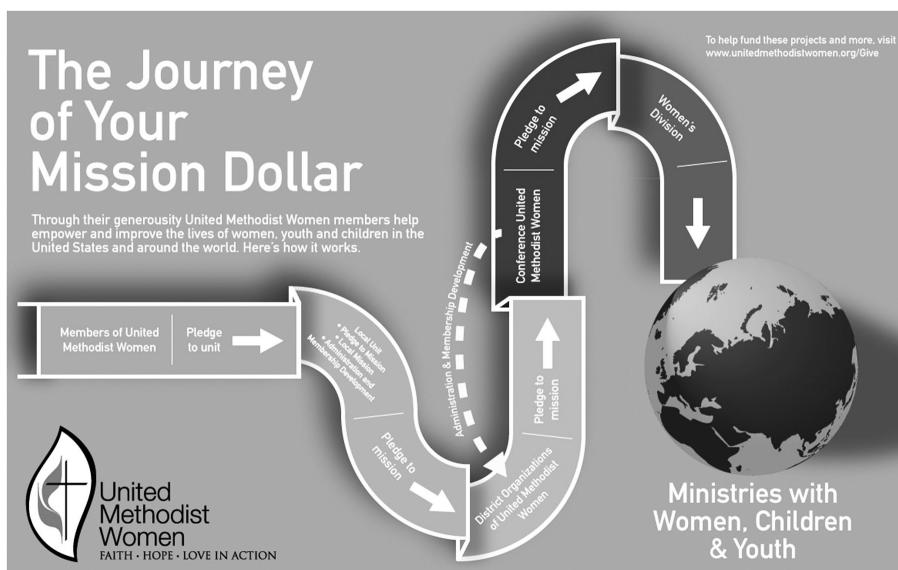
Leadership training is central to our mission. Every year, United Methodist Women members participate in training with the unique focus of expanding their skills, knowledge, and abilities for a deeper understanding of mission and service.

Training for the members of United Methodist Women is available in a variety of contexts. Training is developed specifically for officers, persons in leadership positions in the organization who want to hone their leadership skills through face-to-face and distance-learning sessions. Check [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) for information on training events.

**Scholarships.** International and national scholarships are provided to students who meet specified criteria to pursue a degree in higher education.

## Funding the Mission

Mission Giving, which is mission money raised by United Methodist Women members, allows the work of United Methodist Women to reach far beyond our church walls and into the lives of women, children, and youth who are often outside the bounds of our traditional ministries.



## Pledge

Women prayerfully make financial pledges to their local organization or district each year. Their Pledge to Mission is the primary way United Methodist Women raise what is known as Mission Giving, which funds local mission, spiritual formation, programs for membership development, and outreach in the community, as well as national and international ministries. For most members, making an offering to her unit's Pledge to Mission is a way of supporting the organization and expressing her commitment to mission. However, a pledge or financial gift is not a prerequisite for membership.

The pledge starts at the local unit and designated portions journey to the district and the conference organization. It then goes to the national office and is budgeted for U.S. and international ministries with women, children, and youth.

## First Saturday Breakfast Fundraising Helps Campers

There's a taste-tempting reason to take a trip out to Smithwick, South Dakota, on the first Saturday morning of every month. A grand breakfast buffet, prepared by members of the Prairie View United Methodist Church, awaits those who venture out that way.

The First Saturday Breakfast was started in 2006 by three women who were members of the Buffalo Gap United Methodist Women's group. They were looking for a way to support the United Methodist camping program and to pay for children to attend the camps, when they cooked up the idea of having a monthly breakfast. With the help of a number of other members of the church, the idea was off and running. Today, an average of 140 people from all over the local area come for breakfast each month.

All the net proceeds from the breakfasts are used to send children and adults to local camps.

—Adapted from an article by Cathy Nelson in *United Methodist Women News*, Fall 2014.

## Budget

Decisions about budgets and giving are based on a strong belief in mission education, leadership development, and the centrality of the needs of women, children, and youth.

The United Methodist Women's budget is voted on and approved by a volunteer board of directors who are United Methodist Women members, elected from the jurisdiction organizations of United Methodist Women.

United Methodist Women National Office acts as a steward of United Methodist Women members' Mission Giving, which is disbursed according to its budget. In addition, gifts specified for special projects are routed directly to the places for which they are designated. Pledges to mission and specific mission gifts are sent to the national office to fund the entire program of mission and leadership development.

## **Five Channels of Giving**

Not all United Methodist Women members can travel the world, but their mission dollars can and do, through the five channels of Mission Giving:

- Pledge to Mission
- Special Mission Recognition
- Gift to Mission
- Gift in Memory
- World Thank Offering

**Supplementary Giving:** United Methodist Women members also give special offerings that support special grants including:

- Brighter Future for Children and Youth
- Call to Prayer and Self-Denial
- Assembly offering

**Major and Planned Giving:** A member of United Methodist Women can ensure that the mission work she passionately cares about continues by naming United Methodist Women in her will or using another approach to major or planned giving.

Major gifts are significant donations made on an occasional or one-time basis. Major gifts may be paid out over a period of years. A planned gift is often deferred, meaning that the gift, such as a bequest, life insurance policy, or pooled-income fund, is not available for the organization to use until a future time.

**Legacy Fund:** United Methodist Women is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2019 by strengthening and passing on its mission inheritance with the Legacy Fund. This forward-looking permanent endowment will provide a firm foundation for future generations of United Methodist Women members as they engage in mission with the women, children, and youth of their day. More information about the fund is online at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund).

# Who We Are within The United Methodist Church

United Methodist Women is an integral part of The United Methodist Church. It not only provides advocacy and service on behalf and with women, children, and youth, it also takes a lead role in expanding concepts of mission for the whole church. A United Methodist Women conference president is a member of her annual conference and often serves on a variety of committees. The local organization president is a member of the church administrative council.

The local United Methodist Women member usually serves in a variety of ministries, such as Sunday school, choir, prayer services, Bible studies, church lunches, homeless shelters, or soup kitchens, and many other activities. United Methodist Women provides her with training to equip her for leadership in her church and in her community.

On the national level, United Methodist Women is the women's mission agency of The United Methodist Church, a status made possible when the 2012 General Conference approved United Methodist Women's separation from the General Board of Global Ministries. Before 2012, United Methodist Women operated as a division of Global Ministries, albeit with our own board of directors and raising our own funds. Now, we are sister agencies each relating directly to The United Methodist Church General Conference.

We work in mutually supportive relationships with United Methodist Women organized in Central Conferences (outside the United States) and with Methodist Women organized for mission across the Methodist family.

## United Methodist Women Helping Women in Côte d'Ivoire

Micro-loans from United Methodist Women in the Côte d'Ivoire Conference help local women start their own businesses.

Eugenie Sowan Erse N'Ghessan is bent over her loud, blue, industrial sewing machine in the back corner of a small room she shares with three other tailors. She works from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and she is happy and feels blessed because she is earning a living for herself and her seven children.

Surrounded by multicolored fabric and thread, N'Ghessan also keeps a folder nearby. Inside is the paperwork that shows she completed training and owns the machine she is using. She is one of 48 women who received a micro-loan from the

United Methodist Women in the Côte d'Ivoire Conference. That loan started her business.

N'Ghessan's success is exactly what Dorcas Adou was praying for when she approached the international United Methodist Women office in New York three years ago and asked for \$20,000 to start a program to help women become independent business owners.

"We could see what was around us, the misery, the poverty, so we discussed amongst ourselves, 'What can we do to help these women?'" said Adou, president of United Methodist Women in the Abidjan District. "My greatest pride is to see these women in their situations assuming responsibility for their family, their business. It puts these women into a position of dignity," Adou said.

—Adapted from an article by Kathy L. Gilbert that was originally published by umc.org.

# Connection Worldwide

**M**utuality is basic to the mission of United Methodist Women as we collaborate with organizations worldwide that address the condition of women, children, and youth around the world. By working with other faith-based groups and groups that share concerns similar to United Methodist Women, we amplify what we are able to do to end oppression, discrimination, injustice, abuse, and violence in the world.

We are connected to:

- Church Women United
- Church World Service
- The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women
- Ecumenical Women
- General Board of Global Ministries
- JustPeace Center for Mediation and Conflict Transformation
- National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches
- National Justice for Our Neighbors
- United Methodist Committee on Relief
- United Methodist Global AIDS Fund
- World Day of Prayer
- World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
- U.N. Women

Speaking of the role of United Methodist Women, Harriett Jane Olson, general secretary and CEO, summarized: “As a movement of women organized for mission, United Methodist Women and our predecessors have been engaged in change throughout our 150 years of service and advocacy. Through it all, we have been engaged in spiritual growth, leadership development, and transformative education.

“We are an organization that has seen needs in our neighborhoods and in all the places where we serve and found resources to respond to those needs and to help others respond. It is the love of God that moves us—our work is an expression of discipleship. We know ourselves to be loved, and we know that God’s amazing love extends to the whole world. It is the hope that we have in God’s good will for the world, and it is our faith in God through Jesus Christ that impels us into action, shaped and reshaped to respond to the needs of members and others around the world.”

# Resources

## United Methodist Women's National Office

Membership and Leadership Development  
475 Riverside Drive, Room 1501  
New York, NY 10115  
(212) 870-3900

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

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

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

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

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

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/umwomen/](http://www.instagram.com/umwomen/)

**Pinterest:** [www.pinterest.com/umwomen/](http://www.pinterest.com/umwomen/)

## Opportunities to Give

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

**Mission Giving Form:** [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/give/forms](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/give/forms)

**Legacy Fund:** There are many ways to contribute to the legacy fund:

- Online at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund).
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST, M–F).
- By check to Office of the Treasurer, United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115. Please mention “Legacy Fund” in the memo line.
- Text “Legacy150” to 41444 on your mobile device.

## Printed, Audiovisual, Online Resources

United Methodist Women offers many printed, audiovisual and online resources. Go to [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) to find current resources.

### For Elected Leaders

*The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, 2016.* *The Book of Discipline* includes the constitution of United Methodist Women. (Available from Cokesbury; [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com); 1-800-672-1789).

*The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, 2016.* *The Book of Resolutions* lists official United Methodist Church position statements on a variety of social issues as approved by General Conference. (Available from Cokesbury.)

*United Methodist Women Handbook 2013–2016.* (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.) The handbook provides information about organizing for mission at the local, district, conference, and jurisdictional levels. It includes guidelines about roles and responsibilities of leaders and relationships to other United Methodist organizations. The constitution and bylaws of United Methodist Women is included in this handbook.

New Unit Starter Kit. This kit will help you get started in organizing a local organization of United Methodist Women. In this kit, you will also find resources to enrich your programs and information about online communities to stay connected with other sisters in mission.

New Member Packet. Get practical tips on how to become a member. The New Member Packet includes the following items: Sample response magazine, Charter for Racial Justice, We Are United Methodist Women brochures (in English, Spanish, and Korean), current resources catalog, and United Methodist Women in Mission booklet.

United Methodist Women Purpose Poster. (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.). Words of the Purpose of United Methodist Women are printed on a 24" x 36" full color, two-sided poster for display. One side is printed in one language, choose from English, Spanish, or Korean, and the other side is trilingual in English, Korean, and Spanish.

*Program Book for United Methodist Women* (published annually). The Program Book is a collection of monthly programs and special services for United Methodist Women members.

Resource Catalog. Provides a list of publications, promotional materials and gifts.

Welcome: Welcoming Event Toolkit

## **For Members and Friends**

*Holy Bible: United Methodist Women* (NRSV). Featured are a presentation section for personalizing as a gift, a section with prayers and reflections on scripture passages through a mission lens, and journaling suggestions and practical study ideas. Beautifully bound, including a satin ribbon marker.

On a Path for Mission. This booklet tells the story of United Methodist Women in mission, including our history, work, place in the church, worldwide connection vision, and how we fund mission. A great resource for current, new, and potential members who want to learn more!

Spiritual Growth Study (published annually). (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean). This book is one of the three annual mission studies, written especially for United Methodist Women members. It includes a study guide.

Mission Studies. United Methodist Women produces printed and audiovisual materials on a geographical mission theme and on a general mission theme. These are introduced in our denomination through Mission u. Check United Methodist Women's website [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) for current titles and descriptions.

*Prayer Calendar* (published annually). A daily guide to prayer for mission workers and mission projects in the United States and around the world. Includes names, addresses, birthdays, special prayers, daily Scripture readings, testimonies, and colorful pages showing mission projects around the world.

**response** magazine (published 11 times a year). **response** is the voice of women in mission. Monthly Bible studies, stories of faith, and mission opportunities are just part of what you'll find within its pages. Call 877-881-2381 or visit [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response) to subscribe to the glossy print or digital magazine.

Charter for Racial Justice Policies. (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.) Contains the Charter for Racial Justice Policies for United Methodist Women, which also has been adopted as a resolution for The United Methodist Church.

Why Should I Get Involved in Social Issues? (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean) Learn in this booklet how United Methodist Women in mission have been actively involved in social justice issues at the national and international levels for more than 140 years and how you can get involved.

Reading Program Catalog (published annually). This free catalog describes Reading Program plans and books. Books are listed under each of the five mission emphases.

We Are United Methodist Women. This basic brochure describes what United Methodist Women is, what it does, and how it works. Great for new and prospective members and friends!

Mission Giving. (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.) Read in this brochure how you can be a part of the ever-growing mission of United Methodist Women locally, nationally, and internationally through the five channels of Mission Giving.

Major and Planned Giving. This brochure invites you to invest in the future of women, children, and youth through long-term giving.

Deaconess and Home Missioner. (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.) For laity in The United Methodist Church who feel called by God to a full-time vocation in service with those who are marginalized and in need in the world today, there is an opportunity to be part of a supportive community in connection with The United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs. (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.) United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs are committed to expanding concepts of mission through various educational sessions and hands-on experiences to provide deeper levels of understanding of important issues.

*United Methodist Women News*. This is the quarterly newsletter for United Methodist Women ([www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/umwnews](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/umwnews)).

United Methodist Women in Mission. (Available in English, Spanish, and Korean.) This is a resource for new members, pastors, and all United Methodist Women members, and includes the biblical basis for our long heritage of mission, our Purpose, ways of giving, equipping for leadership, and engagement in social issues.

## **Audiovisuals**

**response** magazine on cassette, CD, or electronic audio: Highlighted articles from each issue available on a subscription basis. Call 877-881-2385 or visit [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response) to subscribe.

*A Century+ In Mission* (CD). *A Century+ in Mission* is a multimedia presentation of the people, events, places, and actions of women organized for mission in the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren traditions for 135 years.

*10 Best Books of United Methodist Women History* (CD). This is a collection of 10 outstanding books on the history, programs, outreach, and personalities of millions of United Methodist Women involved in ministries with women, children, and youth for more than a century.

*A Journey in Mission* (DVD). This DVD introduces United Methodist Women and the organization's mission work with women, children, and youth. Provides resources required to communicate mission stories.

*United Methodist Women: Faith, Hope, Love in Action*. Whether you are a new or longtime member, are considering joining, or know nothing about the organization, this membership video gives you a sense of the dynamics of United Methodist Women in mission. Also available: *The Assembly of United Methodist Women 2010, Live Joy and Mission Giving*.

*Deaconess: Is This a Calling...* This 18-minute DVD illustrates the call, life, and varied ministries in both church-related and helping professions of the modern deaconess.

*God's Transforming Mission*. The 21st century presents major mission challenges for Christians, including working with the world's poor, the impact of globalization, reconciliation among nations and peoples, and ongoing ministry to children and youth.

*Resurrection Road* (with study guide). Resurrection Women are those who have chosen to follow the Risen Christ, in biblical times and today. This DVD offers individual and collective stories of Resurrection Women in the life of United Methodist Women in mission and includes a study guide.

*Through the Corridors of Mission*. This essential DVD tells the story of mission, with its triumphs and pitfalls, joys and missteps, urging the faithful to continue to be gospel-bearers, participating in God's passionate task of transforming the world.

Online Videos: United Methodist Women-produced videos can be seen online at [www.youtube.com/user/UMWomen](http://www.youtube.com/user/UMWomen).

## **UMC Agencies & Helpful Links**

General Board of Church and Society, [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org), 202-488-5600; Service Center, 1-800-967-0880

General Board of Discipleship (d/b/a Discipleship Ministries), [www.umcdiscipleship.org](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org), 877-899-2780; Discipleship Resources, <http://bookstore.upperroom.org>, 1-800-972-0433; The Upper Room, [www.upperroom.org](http://www.upperroom.org), 1-800-972-0433; email: [info@umcdiscipleship.org](mailto:info@umcdiscipleship.org)

General Board of Global Ministries, [www.umcmission.org](http://www.umcmission.org), 1-800-862-4246 or 212-870-3600; email: [info@umcmission.org](mailto:info@umcmission.org)

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, [www.gbhjem.org](http://www.gbhjem.org), 615-340-7400

General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, [www.gbophb.org](http://www.gbophb.org), 847-869-4550

General Commission on Archives and History, [www.gcah.org](http://www.gcah.org), 973-408-3189

General Commission on Religion & Race, [www.gcorr.org](http://www.gcorr.org), 202-547-2271; email: [info@gcorr.org](mailto:info@gcorr.org)

General Commission on the Status & Role of Women, [www.gcsrw.org](http://www.gcsrw.org), 1-800-523-8390

General Commission on United Methodist Men, [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org), 615-340-7145

General Council on Finance and Administration, [www.gcfa.org](http://www.gcfa.org), 866-367-4232 or 615-329-3393

Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies/Scouting (General Commission on United Methodist Men), [www.gcumm.org](http://www.gcumm.org), 615-340-7145

The United Methodist Publishing House, [www.umph.org](http://www.umph.org), 615-749-6000; Curric-U-Phone, 1-800-251-8591; Cokesbury, [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com), 1-800-672-1789

United Methodist Communications, [www.umcom.org](http://www.umcom.org), 615-742-5400; EcuFilm, 1-888-346-3862; InfoServ, email: [infoserv@umcom.org](mailto:infoserv@umcom.org); *Interpreter Magazine*, [www.interpretermagazine.org](http://www.interpretermagazine.org), 615-742-5441

United Methodist Women, [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org); 212-870-3900

**For additional resources, contact your annual conference office.**