



# MESSENGER

## WEST OHIO

**Volume 18 Issue 1**  
**January 2014**

### **A PASSION FOR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

The United Methodist Women of West Ohio Conference will begin their year's work together with a time set aside for visioning into the new flexible structure as described in the new **Handbook**. The conference team will model for the district teams the importance of incorporating the Standing Rules, the timeline and flexibility in all our planning for 2014 and beyond.

As your newly elected leader, I will bring my passion for United Methodist Women to the table. I pray that I will be able to convey this passion to each and every one of you. In turn, I pray that each one of you will get caught up in the positive energy and strive to do your very best.

I am convinced that the conference team must work harder to equip the district teams. In turn each district team must work harder to make contact with each local organization to give them information, training and support.

Each of us has been called to be a servant of God through the organization of United Methodist Women. Like Esther, maybe, just maybe, we have been chosen for such a time as this.

Joan Johnson, President

### **TAKE A BREATH**

January is a good time for Vice Presidents and all United Methodist Women to take a big breath and organize our thoughts for missions in the coming year. We need to stop, and take time to listen to God. He is leading us in our purpose to help women, children and youth in this coming year.

What are your district's goals for 2014? Have you spent time reading and studying the Program Book: A Calling for this Time? Are you reading the [Response](#) magazine? It has lots of good articles and ideas. Have you looked at the United Methodist Women's website: [new.gbqm-umc.org/umw](http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw)? And the West Ohio United Methodist Women web site: [westohioumw.org](http://westohioumw.org)? We now have a new webmaster and if you think something should be included just let Joan Johnson hear from you? [jajumc@aol.com](mailto:jajumc@aol.com)

I've already had requests for program materials and am delighted to help in any way I can.

Virginia Scott, Vice President

## **OH—IO**

Now that I have your attention, this is NOT a cheer for the Ohio State Buckeyes. This is a way to remind you to be organized. Organization is a much needed skill that everyone needs to master but it is especially important for secretaries.

### **Only Handle It Once**

Whenever you receive a message either in the mail or email—spam or unsolicited flyers, ads or bills or even important notices, deal with it right away. Don't let items accumulate—pitch, answer, delete, or file them. This will keep your desktop (both the piece of furniture and the computer) free of clutter. I know that this is easier said than done. I find myself flagging items and then forgetting to go back and deal with them. Before I know it, I have 300 messages in my inbox. So this year, it is my goal to practice OH IO until it becomes a habit. When you see me, ask me how I am doing and I'll do the same for you. OH—IO

Tina Basinger, Secretary

## **A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER**

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women is over, and we have such good memories, which includes Mission Exploration and the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Deaconess Program. When we hear stories of where our Mission Giving goes, it gives the heart a good feeling whether it is on the other side of the globe or in our own back yard. The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration Offering was \$2,353.41, the Deaconess Suitcase Offering was \$161.00, the lunch table World Thank Offering was \$266.34 and our special Conference United Methodist Women Team Offering was \$620.00. These Mission Giving dollars help greatly to supplement the remittances of the eight districts, which have been collecting all year.

Other information: The Secretary of Program Resources sold a total of \$1948.43 in literature, so that we may educate ourselves! Then, Assembly 2014! – I registered 85 Officers from throughout West Ohio. As liaison for Assembly, I recently saw there are 4,639 total registrants so far. Keep talking about Assembly 2014. It will be a wonderful United Methodist Women experience!

As I worked throughout the end of the year processing those districts' Mission Giving, I felt the pride and power that makes us dedicated United Methodist Women. Suddenly the year ends and a new year begins. We adjust our focus, and we know God is with us, every step. Let us be joyful! Let us be joyful!

Sylvia Kempton, Treasurer

## **COOPERATIVE MISSION u SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Now is the time to advise the local units to be thinking about Cooperative Mission u. Online registration begins March 1. Each district has three scholarships for first time women and two scholarships for first time youths. Martha Scholars are assigned on a first come, first filled basis. Occasionally we get a request for a scholarship for a man; pastors or spouses for example. Those are filled with donations from the districts and local organizations. Last year we had \$400 in donations for the scholarships not funded by United Methodist Women. We are ready to start filling scholarships and look forward to any donations. Donations should be sent to me and I will record them and send them on to the Cooperative Mission u treasurer.

Jeanette Zsambok, Education and Interpretation Coordinator

## WHAT IS “NEW” IN THIS NEW YEAR?

A Membership Development Initiative is coming which seeks to equip local women in the life and work of United Methodist Women. More information on "Growing As An Organization--a fresh wind blowing" will be available in April.

If you have computer access, be sure to visit [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org). Resources listed for new members include subscribing to Response magazine and United Methodist Women News. Sign up for United Methodist Women Online and United Methodist Women Action Network.

A New Year is a good time to make a list of persons whom members of your local organization might contact to invite to become a member of United Methodist Women.

Some suggestions from 210 Ideas For Recruiting New Members are:

- Ask potential members about current involvement at home, at work, and in the community.
- Provide child care at all meetings and advertise it.
- Greet each person by name.
- Seek out visitors and new members in the congregation and get to know their interests.
- Be inclusive of your community.
- Reflect United Methodist Women's commitment to multicultural and multiracial inclusiveness.
- Visit someone who has experienced a hurt or joy.
- Be an advocate for children.
- Give praise to the sponsoring or planning group of an activity or meeting.
- Say "thank you" at every opportunity.
- Schedule meetings at times and places so that younger women can participate.

It is my hope that we can increase our United Methodist Women membership in the West Ohio Conference this year. Blessings to you as you work toward this goal.

Faithfully,

Patricia Taylor, Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

## COMMUNICATE

What a novel concept! It seems like a very basic idea. One that we take for granted every day. But how many times have you said/heard “I didn’t know that” or “I didn’t get that information”? More times than we care to count. The fact remains that we need to be in constant communication with each other. For some, it may seem like overkill. For others, it makes sure that we’ve done all we can to share information. As Conference Communications Coordinator it is my responsibility to make sure that information is being shared on a timely basis. Some of my resources are readily tapped; we work on the Conference team together. Others are not so easy to reach – you! Please send me any information regarding United Methodist Women happenings/events/news that you would like shared with the rest of the conference. We publish a newsletter 4 times a year – January, April, July and October. In our ongoing quest to save Mission dollars, most of you will be receiving the newsletter electronically. Also, the newsletter will be available for reading/downloading on our website. I know that many of us use some or all of the Social Media (Website/Facebook/Twitter, etc). This year we have a web master who will be handling our website – [www.westohioumw.org](http://www.westohioumw.org). Please send any information/photos that you would like posted on the website to Joan Johnson, President. A list of the current team members and their contact information is at the end of this newsletter.

Keep communicating!

Pam Fugett, Communications Coordinator

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2014

I'd like to recommend three books, two from the 2014 Reading Program, for your New Year's reading; all three can be used for local organization programs. The three books are the Prayer Calendar 2014, A Faithful Heart by Sally Dyck, and Strong Was Her Faith by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

I hope most, if not all of you, are using the Prayer Calendar during your personal prayer time. But don't forget, so much of this book can be a part of your local organization's programs, especially if you are a very small organization. This year's Calendar shows your mission giving dollars at work both here and abroad by the pictures and individual testimonies for each week. You can find prayers from throughout the world at the beginning of the Calendar, immediately preceding page one. You could do a prayer ministry for birthdays of Mission Interns (MI) and US-2's; these are young adult missionaries who may be away from their home state for the first time and certainly are experiencing life in new and challenging locations. Why not send a birthday card with your organization's personal comments and prayers?

The two books mentioned from the 2014 Reading Program are both from the Spiritual Growth section. You certainly will gain much insight from personal reading, but I'd encourage you to study them during your meetings throughout the year. Bishop Sally Dyck's book, A Faithful Heart, combines scripture, stories, and the faith of the biblical Mary, mother of Jesus, that will help you grow and share your heart. By the way, Bishop Dyck is one of our North Central Jurisdiction bishops. Strong Was Her Faith examines important women of the New Testament, including some who aren't often studied, such as Dorcas, Lydia, and Mary, the mother of John Mark (the Gospel writer). A discussion guide is included with questions and prayer focus for each woman/chapter. Perhaps your pastor would lead a local women's Bible study group for either of these books.

New Year's blessings for each of you and for your reading!  
Ann Greiner, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

## READING PROGRAM

Our wonderful 2013 United Methodist Women Reading Program came to a close on December 31. It is now time for the 2013 Reading Reports to be submitted to the District Secretaries of Program Resources. At the eight district spring events, certificates of participation will be distributed. Conference officers submitted their lists at their January meeting.

I look forward to reports of growing participation in the Reading Program. The books are interesting, informative and really help us to grow at United Methodist Women. Remember, the study books used at Cooperative Mission may be counted as part of your reading program.

The 2014 Reading Program brochure is available and books may be ordered through the United Methodist Women Program Resource Center. Every Secretary of Program Resources can order books for the group she is serving. Individuals also have an easy way to order online.

I would like to make a correction for information that was listed in the Annual Celebration program book. I have moved and my new home phone number is 419 690-4817. The address listed in the program book is correct.

In His Service,  
Melinda Grant, Secretary of Program Resources

**MAKE IT HAPPEN AT ASSEMBLY 2014!**

**The United Methodist Women will show the world how  
Faith, Hope and Love in Action can bring about change**

**April 25 -27, 2014, at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, KY.**

## **SOCIAL ACTION**

I read a very interesting article sent to me by Katey Zeh of Healthy Families Healthy Planet concerning child marriages in developing countries and how early marriages and motherhood affect the women/girls. I think this article epitomizes the goal of Healthy Families Healthy Planet (HFHP) and I encourage you to read it. The site is [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org) and the title of the article is "Can Child Marriages Be Stopped?" If you do not have access to internet, I encourage you to ask someone to print it for you. I found it very eye-opening. Did you know that baby deaths in Columbus and Franklin County are higher than the state and national averages (November 18 Columbus Dispatch)? From the litany that was read at Leadership Training in September, while infant mortality in the nation dropped by 11% from 2000 - 2010, Ohio's rate increased by 3%. Ohio ranks 48th in the United States with infant mortality rates, and African American rates is 49%! If this is happening here, you can imagine what it is for developing countries that do not have access to good health care, education, or family planning. HFHP is global so that all women and children, regardless of nationality, are covered by it.

I encourage you to write your representatives/senators to not disproportionately cut funding to education and family planning so that women can plan the timing and spacing of their families. This is so important to many aspects of a country such as economy, education, poverty, etc. Budget discussions will be starting soon since the budget we have now is only temporary, so please write soon.

There are many Ambassadors of Healthy Family Healthy Planet, including me, in our conference. If you would like to have one of us speak to your local unit, please let me know and I can connect you with one in your area.

In November, Alice Graveley and I met with several other women from our conference to discuss Dayton's welcoming immigrants program. Carol Barton, from the national United Methodist Women, was there, and in the course of conversation, we started talking about ways to approach social action.

Some conferences/districts use the same approach as our conference, focusing on several topics. Others focus on one topic, and still others form resource committees which pick topics, and research them in depth, and then disseminate the information. I am interested in how you would like our conference to do social action. If it is different from what we do now, please let me know. However, in your districts/units you can do it in whatever way is best for you.

Happy New Year!

Connie Pilkington, Social Action Coordinator

## NOMINATIONS NEWS

Greetings from your Nominations Chairperson. I decided that title means I get to keep the box in my closet for the next 2 years. This article is not just for you because you do not work alone. You are a team. I make the agenda, but we the team do the work. Read your handbook! Then sit with your team and map out the year, month by month. Yes, this team meets often because there are always things to do.

- Go through the existing file of potential candidates, update it and date materials kept in the file.
- Look for opportunities to distribute “Recommendation Forms” and/or “Potential Leader Forms.”
- Check bylaw requirements related to the positions and to tenure requirements.
- Determine expertise and diversity needed for next year.
- Make specific plans for finding and recruiting possible nominees.
- Send “Potential Leader Forms” to any prospective nominees who have not completed a form.
- After asking someone to be a nominee, listen to her concerns, answer her questions, and accept any input she may offer. Allow her time to reflect and prayerfully consider your request.

The Conference Committee on Nominations is here for you. Keep in touch with your questions or concerns.

Paula Nourse, Chairperson, Committee on Nominations

## IMMIGRATION

Carol Barton, a staff member with our United Methodist Women’s National Office made a quick side trip to Dayton, Ohio recently. Jane Benner arranged an impromptu gathering at St. Paul UM Church on Tuesday, November 12, 2013. Carol had read an article in the Wall Street Journal which referred to Dayton, Ohio as having an “Immigrant Friendly” policy and she was curious. Before coming to St. Paul, Carol met with a representative of the city’s “Welcome Dayton” committee. I shared with the group that while the “Welcome Dayton” policy has many political ramifications, it has improved police relations for many immigrants. People attending this roundtable discussion were Carol Barton, Jane Benner, Connie Pilkington, Beth Vanoli, Joan Johnson, Alice Gravely, Soraya Montano and me.

Our discussion moved to United Methodist Women and how to get the “Immigration” information out to the local organizations. I feel confident that “Immigration” will be one of the United Methodist Women emphases for the next four years. The need for fair and just immigration reform is a pressing issue for our nation. Let’s try to stay informed with up-to-date factual information.

Tawnya Lambert, Hispanic Language Coordinator

### 2014 West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women Issues/Areas of Emphasis for the 2014-2017 Quadrennial

- ❖ Domestic Violence
- ❖ Human Trafficking
- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Immigration

## Leadership Development Days

Joan Johnson, Tina Basinger, Ann Greiner, Pat Taylor, Paula Nourse, and Janice Deal attended Leadership Development Days (LDD) in November. We each attended workshops pertaining to our leadership positions at the conference and district levels, Bible studies, and worship services. Harriett Jane Olsen, General Secretary, was not able to attend LDD because she was attending the Council of Bishops meeting, but she Skyped with the conference presidents.

United Methodist Women is rooted in controversy because our foremothers were concerned about women having access to health care and girls having access to education. Today, we have similar concerns, and we need to continue their journey of learning, faith, action, and love. Some of that action is accomplished through national mission institutions, and we are so fortunate to have four within West Ohio Conference.

United Methodist Women is launching a new website in January. In the meantime, you can download the complete handbook for free, print a new Thank Offering box, and read the United Methodist Women In Mission Annual Report 2012. Read, study, and use the tools and resources available on the website ([www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)) for your learning journey.

As United Methodist Women, we face controversy every day. One of the Racial Justice workshops analyzed race and the media. We learned how to “pray the news” as one technique to evaluate the news. In another workshop “Standing in Our Faith” we practiced techniques (such as use of a pause, ask a question, know when to move on, challenge the source of information, and always be truthful) for handling unpopular issues. Our guides should be the Bible, the Book of Discipline, and the Book of Resolution.

The Bible studies were about radical hospitality and used the stories of Mary and Martha and the woman with the alabaster jar anointing Jesus’s feet. How do we make guests feel welcome? How do we welcome Jesus into our lives? For our leadership, Jesus is always enough. Sinful women need United Methodist Women because we are all named and unnamed and sinful.

Deaconess Clara Esther was the program speaker Saturday evening. She told her story of growing up in Memphis, being active in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, and moving to Mobile, Alabama, to work at the Dumas Wesley Community Center. She asked, “How is God leading you?” Listen, open your eyes, and Just Do It.

Janice Deal  
President, Foothills District UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### **“Where does our money go”?**

Check out these two resources:  
February 2013 Response Magazine  
The 2012 Annual Report found at  
[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

## LIMITLESS EVENT—Engaging Young Women in Mission, Service and Advocacy

West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women had a great end to 2013 with the Limitless Event held on Saturday, December 28 at Christ UMC in Kettering. We are delighted for the young women who attended and for their interest in continuing Limitless with more events in the future. The best part is we are starting to get a pulse on the young women we want to reach and discovering talented young women who are willing to help us move forward. Not only are we seeing passion for mission in the young women as they experience United Methodist Women for the first time, but those of us who have been at this for a while are finding their enthusiasm contagious. It's as if we are seeing United Methodist Women from fresh eyes and the sight is inspiring. That is the value of connecting with each other in new, refreshing ways, sharing diverse viewpoints and ideas.

This is just the beginning. We have high expectations for what is coming. We are ready to take the next step. Are you interested in beginning the journey with us? Do you know young women who want to engage in mission, service and advocacy in a cutting-edge, audacious fashion? Then keep your eyes and ears open for the next Limitless event. Come along, bring a young woman with you and share the excitement of United Methodist Women again.

To learn more about Limitless contact Beth Vanoli at [sunnysideup1956@hotmail.com](mailto:sunnysideup1956@hotmail.com). Be sure to "like" us on Facebook at MVDUMWLIMITLESS so you can stay up-to-date on Limitless happenings.



## WEST OHIO CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### MEMBERS, COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

<b>Chair, Comm on Nom</b> Paula Nourse ( <b>Class of 2015</b> )	1398 Royal Oak Dr. Lewis Center, OH 43035	<a href="mailto:kinder6595@hotmail.com">kinder6595@hotmail.com</a>	740-549-0623 614-326-9062
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<b>Class of 2014</b> Claire Richtmyer	1110 Bradford Ave Lima, OH 45805	<a href="mailto:grandmac5@hotmail.com">grandmac5@hotmail.com</a>	419-222-3196
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<b>Class of 2015</b> Joyce Giltz	2656 Elsie Toledo, OH 43613	<a href="mailto:jgiltz1970@yahoo.com">jgiltz1970@yahoo.com</a>	419-213-8029
<b>Class of 2017</b> Jane Karl	958 Franklin Townhouse Road Jackson, OH 45640	<a href="mailto:janie@jacksonchrist.org">janie@jacksonchrist.org</a>	740-978-8433
<b>Class of 2017</b> Peggy Baker Day	1017 S Fifth St Ironton, OH 45638	No email available	740-532-8953

### ADDITIONAL OFFICERS

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<b>Communications Coordinator</b> Pam Fugett	2017 Spencer Ln Middletown, OH 45042	<a href="mailto:pamela_l_harris@yahoo.com">pamela_l_harris@yahoo.com</a>	513-267-8126 c

### APPOINTED MEMBERS

<b>Language Coordinator, Hispanic</b> Tawnya Lambert	36 Vandergrift Drive Riverside, OH 45431	<a href="mailto:office@stpauldayton.org">office@stpauldayton.org</a>	937-252-4467 937-219-5659 c
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### MISSION COORDINATORS

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### DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

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Coming soon to our  
website :[www.westohioumw.org](http://www.westohioumw.org)

West Ohio Conference  
United Methodist Women  
2014 Yearbook

### UMW Ground Rules for Meetings

- 1) Be punctual.
- 2) Focus on business at hand. No cell phone or working on E-mail
- 3) Respect confidentiality.
- 4) Conduct no side conversations or business.
- 5) Make decisions as a group, not in conversations away from the meeting.

If you or someone you know would like to receive this newsletter via email, send the email address to Pam Fugett at:

[pamela\\_l\\_harris@yahoo.com](mailto:pamela_l_harris@yahoo.com) (that's a lower case "L" in the middle)



### 2014 Mission U Ohio Northern University

Four-Day Program: July 7-10

Weekend Event: July 11-13

Day Sampler: July 12

#### TOPICS:

- *How Is It with Your Soul?*
- *The Roma of Europe*
- *The Church and People with Disabilities*

*Course materials may be purchased in advance by calling the Mission Resource Center at 800-305-9857 or visit [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org).*

#### REGISTRATION:

Register at [www.westohioumc.org](http://www.westohioumc.org), click on "Register for Events." Registration opens March 1-June 15, early bird discount through April 15.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** A limited number of scholarships are available for first time adult and youth attendees. Scholarships will be awarded as applications are received. Deadline for scholarship requests is April 15.

**If you do not have computer access or need help registering, contact:**

Peg Addington, Registrar  
614-877-4200  
[maddin0952@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maddin0952@sbcglobal.net)

West Ohio Conference-UMC

United Methodist Women

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### *PURPOSE*

*The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

Please feel free to make copies of this newsletter and share it with other United Methodist Women.

Communication goes a long way!

### **West Ohio Conference UMW Dates To Remember**

**Feb. 8, 2014 – District Presidents/Treasurers – Conference Center**

**April 25-27, 2014 – Assembly 2014 – Louisville, KY**

**July 7-13, 2014 – Mission u – Ohio Northern University**

**Sept. 13, 2014 – District Officer Leadership Training**

**Nov. 7, 2014 – Mission Exploration**

**Nov. 8, 2014 – WOC Annual Celebration**