

MISSION PROGRAM INITIATIVES:

The entire program of United Methodist Women and the Women's Division focuses on mission. The program includes individual growth, spiritual enrichment, education for mission, social issues awareness, leadership development, schools and workshops, and financial support for mission programs and projects throughout the U.S. and around the world.

Spiritual & Theological Development

The Women's Division provides resources that support United Methodist Women members in their spiritual lives through spiritual growth web sites; Bible studies at events and online; yearly reading lists; and training events to explore reaching United Methodist Women through retreats and inspirational events.

Leadership Development

The Women's Division provides and supports leadership development of its members to give women of all racial, ethnic, language and economic groups the opportunity to realize their full potential and to participate in the life of the church and society.

Mission Education

The Division believes that mission needs to be carried out with education, preparation, action and advocacy, and mutual learning and partnerships.

- The Division's *Ubuntu Explorers* program enables women in the United States to partner with women around the world to experience others' lives on a short-term basis.
- The Division sponsors Schools of Christian Mission that educate 25,000 United Methodists each year. Books published by the Division educate members on spiritual growth, social issues, and geographic areas.
- The Division also offers a reading program with thought-provoking books for reflection and discussion and plans several national events incorporating education and action for lay women, including the quadrennial Assembly, legislative events, national seminar, a public education summit and more.

Membership and Nurture

The Women's Division is committed to finding new ways to invite and involve women in our 135-plus year old organization with nearly one-million members. We work to ensure inclusiveness and racial/ethnic diversity at all levels of the organization; resource Hispanic and Korean-American members and other emerging language groups; and nurture teen and college/university women. Crossing geographic, demographic, and time boundaries, the Division will introduce an online community in summer 2006.

Racial Justice

Recently, we have witnessed an escalation of hate crimes and the incarceration and execution of a disproportionately high number of racial-ethnic prisoners relative to the total population. In a climate of increased racial hostility, distrust and discrimination, the Division has remained steadfast in its commitment to the eradication of all forms of racial injustice. Our efforts to build a community of women without racial barriers have led us to expand existing programs and assist United Methodist Women in implementing General Conference resolutions that address racial justice; covenant groups and self-monitoring processes within the Division; and racial justice emphases at all levels of the organization.

International Ministries

The International Committee on Women, Children and Youth established the following funding priorities for 2005-2008: leadership development; health, nutrition, and nurture; alleviating violence; church and gender issues; economic development; refugees and displaced persons; education, particularly of the girl child; exploitation of children; poverty; children of war and refugees; and networking and organizing youth movements.

National Ministries

The Committee on National Ministries with Women, Children and Youth focuses primarily on the nearly 100 National Mission Institutions. United Methodist Women are making a difference in the lives of millions of women, children and families served by these institutions through grants to community centers, women's residences, schools and colleges, residential child care centers, health care and counseling centers, student leadership development, and community ministries..

Social Action/Advocacy

The Women's Division interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." The Division will continue its advocacy work on peace and justice, education, racial justice and immigrant civil rights, the environment, economic justice, women's health, the rights of children, media monitoring, human rights, and farm workers' rights, to name a few. environmental justice with Conference Green Teams made up of United Methodist Women from across the country; public education advocacy; advocacy for peace; and many more issues as they arise..

United Methodist Women



Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
106 Walnut Street
Natick MA 01760

2009 Officers

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| President | Marcia Hoyt |
| Vice President | _____ |
| Secretary | Janis Cail |
| Treasurer | Sherry Culver |

Four Mission Coordinators:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Education / Interpretation | Barbara Beekman |
| Membership, Nurture and Outreach | _____ |
| Social Action | Elizabeth Coates |
| Spiritual Growth | Janis Townsend |
| Program Resources | Winnie Sinclair |
| Nominating Chairperson | Debbie Friscino |

Circle Meetings



Anyone is welcome to visit or attend either circle. We also encourage a group of women to begin a new circle... suiting their schedule and activities.

Hannah Circle ----- 2nd Tuesdays at 12 noon

Susanna Circle – 2rd Wednesdays at 7:30pm



The Purpose of United Methodist Women

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

Contact information:

Church office 508-653-1674

Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077



Summer / Fall 2009

Schools of Christian Mission—these are cooperative schools (shared programming) with the New England Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Summer...

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|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Spiritual Growth Study: <u>Food and Faith</u> | |
| 2. Geographic Study: <u>Sudan</u> | |
| 3. Social Study: <u>Giving Our Hearts Away: Native American Survival</u> | |
| July 17-19, 2009 | Univ. of Maine, Farmington |
| July 24-26, 2009 | So. NH University |
| Sept. 17-19, 2009 | Camp Aldersgate, RI |

Fall...

September 20 Sunday
 Children's Sabbath Service
The Children of our World
 Luncheon and business meeting following worship for all women interested in Missions

October 2-3 Friday-Saturday
 A Women's Retreat
 St. Benedict's in Harvard MA
Finding Your Spiritual Path: Living and Growing with Life's Challenges
 Leader: Gwen White

October 4 Sunday afternoon or evening
 Dr. Belinda Forbes will be at Fisk to talk about her Missionary work in Nicaragua.

October 17 Saturday
 YARD SALE 9-12noon

October 24 NECUMW in E. Greenwich RI

November 14 Saturday
Annual Fall Fair for Missions

November 29- December 6
 Alternative Christmas

December 8 Tuesday
 Christmas Candlelight Dinner

Each Friday at 10:00—UFO / Crafts Group
 Fourth Thursdays at 10—Book Group