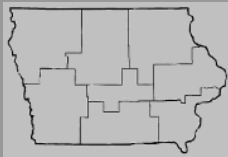


United Methodist Women Iowa Conference CONNECTION



Volume XVIII Number 1

FEBRUARY 2010

Women's Division Website:
<http://www.umwmission.org>

Mission Resource Center
www.missionresourcecenter.org

Iowa UMW website:
www.iaumc.org/umw



PRESIDENT

A UMW TOP 10 for 2010

Did you make any New Year's Resolutions this year? Did you vow to eat better, sleep more, exercise or some other worthy goal? (Those are the ones I make every year, and don't seem to follow through). Since top 10 lists are popular, I thought I would share my list of things I wish United Methodist Women in Iowa would resolve to do in 2010. You may have additional ideas to share with me. Actually, I consider the order somewhat optional, except for number one!

10. Attend Assembly (or give to Assembly offering, invite someone who did attend to share their experiences).
9. Plan programming around Mission Today goals (attend SOCM or MEE, district mission days or spiritual growth events, "Welcoming the Stranger" event,.....).
8. Complete a Reading Program plan and encourage others to join the Reading Program. Expose yourself to at least one book in each of the four mission area. Read and subscribe to *Response* and *New World Outlook*.
7. Learn about Iowa's special mission efforts in Sudan, about Elmira Sellu, what a regional missionary does and how you can be a part of it all.
6. Attend UMW Advocacy training in January, and participate in advocacy, related to justice positions, of UMW/United Methodist throughout the year.
5. Help Conference UMW membership grow by telling your story, inviting new members, nurturing present members and being a Christian friend.

4. Help meet needs of others through giving/volunteering through Iowa national mission institutions and in your local church and community.
3. Meet or exceed your 2010 pledge and other channels of giving and the gift of your time.
2. Take responsibility for looking at strengths and weaknesses in various levels of UMW as you work to overcome obstacles to mission, fellowship and growth.
1. Actively seek ways to know God and increase your relationship in worship, study and prayer. Enjoy God's promised abundant life as "whole persons through Jesus Christ" as you share your witness with others.

Linda Nicholson, 903 North C Street.
Indianola, IA 50125-1323
515-962-0289 linicholson@mchsi.com



BUS TRANSPORTATION



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O**
1. Bus pick up points should be known by the end of January and I will notify you personally about time & location.
 2. Final cost for bus should also be known very soon and those scheduled to ride the bus will notified (Estimated \$75.00)
 3. If you have not registered for Assembly, but will be registering soon, and are interested in riding the bus, please contact me immediately.

**Connie Struve, 209 N James Street,
Grimes, IA 50111
struve92@msn.com**

VICE PRESIDENT



Let's Get Together" is the theme for 2010. I'm looking forward to doing just that as I begin my term as Conference UMW vice president. I look forward to meeting you at the 2010 Advocacy Event, "Welcoming the Stranger" – a cultural awareness seminar, Iowa Annual Conference, School of Christian Mission, Mission Education Event, some district Annual Meetings and the Conference Annual Meeting. You'll be hearing more about these opportunities later. This is just my way of saying I'll be around and anxious to get acquainted with as many United Methodist Women as possible.

I wish you a happy and safe new year.

Sue Ellen Ballard
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sueellenballard@iowatelecom.net

Bible Verse for January is John 1:1-2 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD. NRSV Reading those 2 verses makes me think of new beginnings, the freshness of new calendars, of new snow, but most importantly the newness of each day in Christ. We all can have the chance to "be new" each and everyday. If we have a bad habit we want to rid ourselves of, this is the time. If we have a to-do list that is overwhelming, this is the time to check off one item a day, new start. God is with us, God's word is with us. Turning to God's word offers a comfort, an understanding, a new discipline if we are not in the habit of daily reading.

I look forward to the year 2010. I know that my new calendar is filling in quickly, but I am assured that God is with me, with us with each calendar page we turn. This is a beginning of a year of possibilities, possibilities in mission, prayer, and love.

Cheryl Weesner
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 712-366-0980 weesdc@cox.net



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Grow Notes

Happy New Year to all of you! 2010, that is a little weird to say isn't it? I had someone say to me that saying 2010 feels a little "Jetsonish", remember the cartoon show on TV in the 60's and was in reruns into my children's cartoon watching years. I remember the flying cars, the automated kitchen, and tube like elevators. I especially remember Rosie the maid, she could do anything.

2010 is a new year, a new decade, a chance to remember our newness in Christ. The UMW

United Methodist Women
 Iowa Conference
 CONNECTION

The Connection is a publication of the Iowa Conference United Methodist Women. It is printed and mailed at the Church Conference office; however, any questions and/or address changes during the year should be directed to the Iowa Conference UMW Communications Coordinator:

Kathy Byers
 Byerskathy4@aol.com
 563-326-3459

PLEASE –share with district & local officers



EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

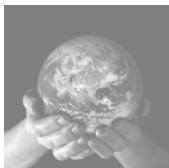
As I am writing this article the snow is blowing and it is soooo cold. Evening meetings have been cancelled so therefore it gives me an opportunity to get one of my many books out and read. I really am going to try

this year to be a part of the reading program. If you have not been involved in the reading program, I hope you will give some thought and try this year. I am really excited about attending my first Assembly. I have heard many great things about Assembly. I always enjoy the experience of fellowship, worship, and learning at our workshops and meetings that involved United Methodist Women. I encourage you at your unit meetings to look at the Mission Today forms and make sure you are capturing everything your unit is doing. Maybe we can make a goal of at least 60 units taking part this year. That would be wonderful and a goal that is very attainable.

Reading the article "Putting Families First" in the December Response magazine, reminded me how important it is for the United Methodist Women to support stronger labor laws to protect workers and for us to engage communicating with our legislators.

I hope to see many of you at the Legislative Advocacy Days in Des Moines on January 25 and 26. As we start this new year, let us remember that God has empowered all of us with courage and has given all of us the ability to transform communities. God is our guide and our strength. May you all have a Blessed New Year.

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Membership Nurture & Outreach

Greetings to all of you in the New Year. As always, I am not yet in the habit of writing 2010. Wasn't it just yesterday that we switched from 1999 to 2000? May God richly bless you in 2010 and may we together advance the cause of mission through United Methodist Women this year.

I am currently reading *Stones into Schools*, the second book by Greg Mortenson promoting peace with books, not bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan. I so admire Mortenson for his work of building schools for girls in the remote, inhospitable, and sometimes hostile environment in that part of the world. He has been hired by the U.S. military as a consultant on how to fashion better relationships with tribal leaders and village elders. We can learn from his example, as United Methodist Women, the importance of building relationships, as we strive to raise awareness of the role and status of women in our own country and abroad.

I look forward to attending Assembly in St. Louis in

late April and early May. I will be working at the UMCOR booth during Ubuntu Day April 29. The array of speakers gives me great expectation of a wonderfully exciting experience. I hope you will be there.

I want to thank Marcia Young for giving her presentation to the Conference Mission Team, about our upcoming visitation training in 2010. There will be further information forthcoming about the April 24-25 events to be held in four locations throughout Iowa. To better accommodate your schedule and make it possible for the greatest number of women to attend, it will not be necessary for you to go to the event in your own district. Perhaps a different location and /or day will suit you better and we encourage you to choose the one that best fits your needs. As part of your commitment to United Methodist Women, please mark your calendar and plan to be at one of these meetings.

As we move forward, let us resolve to make 2010 a banner year for United Methodist Women. Go, girls, go!

Shirley Kunzman. 11862 Rt. V64
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SECRETARY

Happy New Year!

Well, it is snowing again! And it is supposed to continue tomorrow! I've been using these COLD days to stay inside and get organized for the coming year of United Methodist Women activities. I still have some filing to do (ugh), but the 2010 Conference UMW Directory is at the printers! By the time you read this the district presidents should be in possession of the directories for their district and each district officer is to receive a copy. In addition to the listing of all conference and district officers, the Iowa Conference UMW Standing Rules are included in the back. You will find a listing of all of the Women's Division personnel right in the center.

As secretaries this is a good time to catch up on filing, purge unneeded papers, update mailing list, etc. You should have a list of what needs to be kept and what can be tossed – don't clutter your files. If you are a new secretary, hopefully the previous person has passed on the files to you – what a great time to familiarize yourself with what is in them. If you have not received the files please make contact with the previous secretary to get them, and if you are still having problems ask another officer to help. You are the custodian of the written history of the district. One of the items that every district officer should have is a copy of the UMW Handbook for the current quadrennium. Women's Division has published an excellent resource. If you have not looked it over, I encourage you to do so. (This book replaces the four books from the past.) Local secretaries, if your unit has not yet purchased a copy, encourage them to do so and borrow it to read through.

As the snow falls use your time wisely and be sure to mark your calendar for July 18-21 and plan to attend the School of Christian Mission.

The studies will be great and we will be holding the District Officer Training Event (DOTE) during that time. Blessings to each of you as we begin this year in Mission.

Sharon Boen, Conference Secretary
1119 Kennedy St., Ames, IA 50010-4249
515-450-5576 sharonboen@mchsi.com

HERE'S DEAN RITA ☺

Start making plans to attend the best event UMW has!!! Lots of learning, laughing, chatting, eating, fun and frolic ☺

We have begun preparation for 2010 **School of Christian Mission and Mission Education Event.**

Dates: July 18-21 SOCM; MEE October 15-17

Where: Iowa Valley Community College in Marshalltown

Studies:

Spiritual Growth: For the Love of God: I, II, III
John's letters

Geographic Study: Sudan

Social Action: Mission and Evangelism: Joy to the World; Mission in the Age of Global Christianity.

Teen Study at SOCM
Korean Study at MEE

The next newsletter will include the registration form and motel information.

Keep watch ☺ God is good!!!

Rita Thatcher, Dean
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515-887-5959 ritat@ncn.net



NOMINATIONS

Greetings!

This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it. [Psalms 118:24]

As we end 2009 and look forward to the future in 2010, I wish each of you Blessing from God.

Several of us attended Leadership Training Event held in November at St. Louis. It was a wonderful experience and a learning one too. The training reinforced the importance of the Committee of Nominations working together as a team to fill the offices with the right person in order to have UMW continue to grow and to serve God.

I would like to share this poem.

Perhaps last year brought trials, heartaches, disappointments, too It also brought real triumphs, happiness and friendship new.

Only God who knows the future, knows all that lies ahead, if we knew, our hearts might only fill with worry, fear and dread.

Let us face the year believing that he who loves us so will direct our every footsteps daily point the way to go.

Poem by -Esther L. Wilkins

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515-448-3866 pmoser@wmtel.net

FACING THE NEW YEAR

*As we stand upon the threshold, of another brand New Year
Let us breathe a prayer that always We shall have God's presence near.*

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Plan on attending this cultural awareness and action seminar sponsored by the Charter for Racial Justice Committee of the United Methodist Women (Registration form also at: www.iaumc.org/umw)

Saturday, March 27, 2010
Staves United Methodist Church
2747 E Madison Ave
Des Moines, IA
8:30 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Registration fee of \$6.00 includes lunch - Registration **deadline 3/1/2010**

Compete & Mail the following form:

NAME _____
Street Address _____
City, State & Zip Code _____
Email _____ Phone (____) _____

Mail form & check to: De Streeter, 2723 E Madison Ave, Des Moines, IA 50317-4247

A Message from your Social Action Mission Coordinator

SOCIAL ACTION

Applied Faith 101

Hear these words from Proverbs 29:

When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice;

When the wicked rule, the people groan. (2)

The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.(7)



Do you think that Social Action is just about politics? I sure hope not. Let me share words from Rev. Jim Morris' article from our January church newsletter: "'God,' someone has said, 'has a preference for the poor.' From the beginning of history, that's been true. God enters history through the poor, the homeless, through those without social standing or power. God chooses time and time again to favor the people out of favor, to lift up those who are at the bottom of the pile, to bring low those who think of themselves as mighty, and send the rich away empty-handed." (Read Luke 1:46-55 again.) Thanks, Jim!

God calls us to join in speaking up for, in reaching out to, in defending, in standing up for, the poor, the homeless, the stranger or migrant, the hungry, the powerless, the children, the survivor of domestic violence, the sick. Christmas reminds us of that young couple fleeing from King Herod to Egypt as undocumented migrants with a small baby and little in the way of money or possessions. They were helpless in the face of an empire that was all-powerful and had no interest in the little people, the powerless people, the minorities of the world.

You and I can learn from the lessons that God teaches us in the Bible—The Good Samaritan, the Beatitudes, the Sermon on the Mount. In our time and place we can speak up and speak out. We can use our resources and our technology to see that the poor, the stranger, the homeless, the hungry are considered when the powerful gather in our time and place in history, which in the United States, is the state legislature and the Congress. The conference UMW officers have selected their three focus issues for the year: economic justice, environmental justice and public education. I have added comprehensive immigration reform as a national issue on which we will see Congressional action in 2010. There is still time to contact me about attending the 2010 UMW Legislative Advocacy Event on January 25 and January 26 to learn more about these conference focus issues. Let's speak out as the righteous of the book of Proverbs would do so that justice may prevail. You may attend either or both days of our Legislative Advocacy Event. I have the schedule for you if you just email me at judykading@yahoo.com or call me at 641-740-7066.

There are three Action Alerts that came out in December. You can access those at the website www.umwmission.org if you did not receive them. Alerts are on global food security, health care update (great comparison between House and Senate version) and Copenhagen and climate change. All are informative and related to resolutions that were passed by our General Conference.

Judy Kading, 803 Golden Shores
Creston, IA 50801
641-740-7066 judykading@yahoo.com

CONNECTION SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Connection Newsletter (published 4 times each year) are available for \$5.00 per year. Make check payable to: Iowa Conference UMW

Mail checks to Conference Treasurer: Betty Posz
(include your name and address) 919 Old Denmark
Fort Madison, IA 52627-2865

KITS FOR ASSEMBLY

Those attending Assembly are encouraged to bring either a Health Kit or a School Kit with them to fill the UMCOR truck which will be located at the Assembly site—**ALL AVAILABLE HEALTH KITS AT UMCOR STATIONS ARE BEING SENT TO HAITI, THUS THERE IS GREAT NEED TO REPLENISH THE HEALTH KIT-YOU MAY DISTRIBUTE THIS LIST TO YOUR CHURCH MEMBERS WITH ENCOURAGEMENT TO ASSEMBLE MORE.**

IMPORTANT - Kit Assembly Information *(Please read carefully)*

- ◆ All items included in kits must be **NEW** items.
- ◆ All emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Since strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that **kits contain only the requested items-nothing more.**

DO NOT include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits. These things must be painstakingly removed and will delay the shipment.

HEALTH KITS *(Place these items inside a sealed one-gallon plastic bag)*

- 1 hand towel (15" x 25" up to 17" x 27", No kitchen towels)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 comb (large and sturdy, not pocket-sized)
- 1 nail file or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or toenail clippers)
- 1 bath-size bar of soap (3 oz. and up)
- 1 toothbrush (single brushes only in original wrapper, No child-size brushes)
- 6 adhesive plastic strip sterile bandages

\$1.00 to purchase toothpaste (**NOTE:** UMCOR Sager Brown is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to health kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.)

SCHOOL KIT

- ◆ 1 pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)
- ◆ 3 pads (or loose leaf) of 8 1/2" x 11" ruled paper
- ◆ 1 30-centimeter ruler
- ◆ 1 hand held pencil sharpener
- ◆ 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- ◆ 1 eraser, 2 1/2"
- ◆ 1 box of 24 crayons (**only 24**)

Prepare a 14" x 16" (finished size) cloth bag with handles and an optional closure (Velcro®, snap or button) and place items in the bag. Patterns are available from UMCOR Sager Brown or at the below website address:

<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umcor/media/reliefsupplypdfsimages/schoolbagpattern.gif>

\$\$

ASSEMBLY OFFERING

\$\$

During the year of Assembly a special offering is received. For 2010 the Assembly offering has been designated by Women's Division to fund organizations and projects that address issues of global health and environmental justice through education, advocacy and direct services on behalf of women, children and youth. UMW members can contribute through their local unit treasurers who will forward it to the District Treasurers using the regular remittance form. An offering for this emphasis will also be received at the Assembly event in St. Louis.

ASSEMBLY OPPORTUNITIES

SHOWCASE YOUR TALENT (*there is still time*)

- Do you write prose or poetry, sing or play an instrument, or do dramatic interpretation or dance? Share your talents via Word document, audio (.mp3) file, or video (.AV) file (less than 8 MB). Video files can be sent via links from YouTube, Vimeo, etc. ALL content should be original material created by the submitter and in the public domain. Application form can be found on line—deadline for application is March 1, 2010.

Please submit talents to: getinvolved2010@gbgm-umc.org



PROGRAM RESOURCES

Our Iowa winters provide an opportunity to READ. When it is too cold to go out, take some time to read a book on the 2010 Reading Program list. When you've read four books and *RESPONSE*, then you've completed Plan 1.

You may purchase the Reading Program books from the Mission Resource Center at Dallas. The list of books is available at this website:

Mission Resource Center

Phone - 800-305-9857

Fax - 214-630-0079

or

www.missionresourcecenter.org

Many of these books are available at your local library through the State Inter-library loan program.

Books from the 2005 – 2010 Reading Program list may be read for this reporting period. These book reports are due June 30, 2010 and to be sent to your District Secretary of Program Resources.

The Reading Program is a learning opportunity. It is also inspiration for action. Books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at your unit meetings.

The 2010 UMW Program Book, "Let's Get Together", has good programs for your unit meetings. Adjust the format to your unit.

Does your unit have a "Response minute"? This is a great way to share news of our sisters and brothers around the world (and it helps with "Mission Today" goal)

READ - SHARE - ACT. UMW has plenty of resources. It's our responsibility and privilege to turn the knowledge into action. May God bless you as you share your faith through UMW.

Jean Sheets
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Britt, IA 50423-8523
641-843-4582 sheetsec@ncn.net



TREASURER

Greetings from the Southeast corner of Iowa. I am excited about taking on the duties of Conference Treasurer. I had a remarkable experience at Leadership Training in St. Louis and look forward to the challenges ahead.

The Conference “askings” for 2010 are the same as last year:

Bidwell Riverside	\$.50 per member
Shesler Hall	\$.50 per member
Hawthorn Hill	\$.50 per member
School of Christian Mission	\$.50 per member
\$1.00 per UNIT for the Magazine Fund for our retired missionaries and deaconesses.	

When the Executive Committee met in November, we had the opportunity to visit Bidwell Riverside where Rev. Bob Crandall shared the challenges they face. Their focus is on early childhood development. They currently have 44 children from 18 months to 5 years of age. The kitchen, nursery and classroom have been extensively remodeled. Rev. Crandall also told us how they were affected by the flooding.

The economy has really impacted their organization. They used to help 200 to 250 families per month. Now it's 750 to 800 families. For 10 years they have been able to balance their books. In 2009 they were \$80,000 in the red. Rev. Crandall said they would like to restart the Garden of Eden and Life Skills School.

I imagine the other missions are going through similar problems. We haven't changed our Conference “askings” for a few years. There was some discussion during the Executive Board meeting that we may want to consider increasing our asking for our Iowa missions that are close to our hearts. We will give that prayerful consideration this next year.

The Special Mission Recognition pin prices remain the same: plain pin \$40.00; sapphire jeweled pin \$60.00; pin with a pearl \$100.00.

Please promote using the Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards. They can be ordered through the unit and district treasurer and will be available at district and conference meetings. They cost \$5.00—close to the cost of a card at the store; plus the money goes to mission. You can't beat that!

Thank you for all you do for mission. Keep warm!

Betty Posz, 919 Old Denmark Hill,
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319-372-5436 nposz72@msn.com


The United Methodist Church-Iowa
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Des Moines, IA 50321-3101

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*PLEASE - Read, copy & share with your
 Pastor and other UMW members*

Do you know someone that would like to subscribe to our CONNECTION newsletter - subscriptions are available for \$5.00 a year. Send your name & address along with a check for \$5.00 to our Conference Treasurer:

Betty Posz, 919 Old Denmark Hill, Fort Madison, IA 52627



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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan 25-26 - UMW Legislative Advocacy Event

Feb 5-6 - Mission Team Meeting Snow Date, Comfort Inn, Story City

March 8 - Bell Ringing Day

March 20 - SOCM Meeting, Community UMC in Ogden

March 27 - Welcoming the Stranger Racial Justice Seminar

April 16-17- Program Planning & Mission Team Meeting - Comfort Inn, Story City

April 24-25 - District Visitation Training

April 29 - Assembly optional events

April 30 - May 2 - Assembly-St. Louis

June 5-8 - Annual Conference-DSM

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