From 1 Corinthians 15:55  “Where, O death, is your victory? Where O death, is your sting? NRSV

When we know who God is and that God is with us, even when we go through either death ourselves or with a loved one, we can rejoice even though we will be sad for a time. The disciples were sad and dejected until they saw the risen Christ and that is what gave them the strength to go on even though they were persecuted. None of us like persecution but we must be ready for it when we take the risk and stand up for something that is right and stand against things that are wrong. Evil things cannot continue when people won’t stand for it. United Methodist Women stand for fair immigration laws, a safe environment and we stand against human trafficking and domestic abuse in all forms. We stand with our Bishop and others who took the risk of being arrested because they asked that families not be separated due to deportation. Whose world is it anyway and can we not share space with people who just want a better life for their families? If your child had no shoes and not enough food and clothing, to what lengths would you go to find work and a better living for your family.

By the time you receive this we will have returned from Assembly where we will have celebrated with women around the world through prayer, study, and social action in Louisville, Kentucky.

We are now gearing up for Mission u. Our leaders will be going to St. Louis to be trained in the topics that will be studied. Look for the news from our Dean, Becky Heeren and invite others to attend with you. I once led a bell choir and we needed a couple more players. It had been advertised through the newsletters and the bulletins and even from the pulpit. One day while standing in the kitchen of the church one of our young women walked through and I said to her. “Have you ever thought of playing bells? She said, “I've just been waiting for someone to ask me.” A few minutes later another woman passed by and I asked the same question and I got the same response. Some women are just waiting to be asked to attend Mission u. Please, everyone start asking. Offer first time women and men a scholarship from your church or your district. If all of those are used up then ask the board of laity to grant them a 1st time attendee scholarship. Make the fall event a getaway for young women for the week-end event. Invite your pastors, they can receive continuing education credits. You who have attended before know what a good leader we have with Mary Kathryn Pearce. Let’s see if we can double attendance at district annual meetings. Remember, you have to invite!! Especially be open to newly retired women. Be a friend and include them in your fellowship, worship, study and action. Be sure and give a copy of the newsletter to your pastor, they are a member of United Methodist Women. Include them in your meetings to share their faith story, read a good book from our reading list and get to know what United Methodist Women's purpose is. When we know who God is and that God goes before us in all we do, we need not be afraid. – Rita Vallery
Make it Happen!!

This is/was the theme for Assembly 2014. Easy enough to say, but how do we do this? It all starts with a plan and a plan starts with leadership discussion and goal setting. In January your conference mission team established goals for 2014. The 2014 Goals are as follows:

1) Intentional prophetic voice to inform about human trafficking
   a) Publish monthly articles in district/conference UMC newsletter/email blast
   b) Advocate within state legislature and support district involvement
2) Connect to resources beyond the UMC and then provide those resources to the local unit
   a) Establish relationships with interfaith organizations
   b) Communicate UMW event calendar with UMC
3) Embrace our power to expand diversity and provide leadership
   a) Watch for unexpected opportunities to be heard regarding UMW priorities
   b) Encourage individuals & units to attend/participate with JFON, diversity events, etc.

Your feedback on how the Conference Team is doing in carrying out these goals is also important and wanted. As your Vice President, I hope that each of your District Officer’s have set goals for the year and that each of your local groups have also set goals for the year. It is hard to know whether you are following the right path if you don’t have the route marked on the map! God’s word and our UMW Purpose are our maps to help guide our goal setting routes.

I hope that each of you take the opportunities presented to you to be a prophetic voice to inform about human trafficking, to connect with resources beyond UMC in our interfaith organizations and to embrace your power to expand diversity within UMW and educate regarding UMW priorities. Consider attending Mission u. Consider calling or writing a Congressman. Consider inviting someone to go to a UMW meeting or sponsoring a youth to Fall Mission u. Consider attending a celebration or worship service of a different ethnic group.

After considering….make sure you... MAKE IT HAPPEN!!! – Gladys Alvarez

Secretary – Linda Blazek Gavin, 606 Phillips St., Polk City, IA  50226-2017, 515-681-1752, lindabg27@aol.com

I am just going to say it: I enjoy this time of year! Every day I see a new green plant emerging from its winter slumber. The warming breeze and gracious sunshine assist flowers and plants rise what seems like inches overnight. Recently during the Mission u CORE Team meeting, we were challenged to plant seeds (easy grow zinnias) of Faith, Hope, and Love in Action. After a few April showers, the seeds sprouted into seedlings. Watching them grow gives me the opportunity to consider where I can be “April showers” to someone else needing faith, hope, or love. Could it be at work, the grocery store, the library, on the interstate, or at my home. The possibilities are endless. We just need to be aware of the opportunities. Happy Spring! – Linda Blazek Gavin

Treasurer – Ritzanna Seaton, 1670 – 220th St., Batavia, IA  52533, 641-693-4145, rdseaton37@gmail.com

Greetings!

$46,707.96 has been sent to National toward our $600,000 pledge for 2014. I anticipate remittances will pick up as locals restart their meetings after this long winter. In this article I am emphasizing our 3 Iowa mission programs. All three are running short of funds. Please do not forget to give the minimum which is $.75 per member and if you can find extra funds to send, please do so. Bidwell has all ready had to reduce support staff and if they have to reduce more
staff, programs will need to be eliminated. Please pray for all three institutions, Bidwell Riverside, Hawthorn Hill and Shesler Hall. All do very important mission work.

Do begin to plan on your needs for next year. It is helpful to our Secretary of Program Resources to know in advance how many program books and program date books (small books) to order. Our next event coming up is Mission u and after that annual meetings. Annual meeting is the ideal time to purchase those items for the next year.

If the only readings you can do, I recommend Response. The content within reports how and where you mission money is spent. Again thank you all for the work you do. You are appreciated. Psalm 118:24 This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Blessing to you all, – Ritzanna Seaton

Membership Nurture and Outreach – Arlene Fleming, 5300 South Main Street #13, Cedar Falls, IA 50613-7422, 319-266-3322, lwfleming@aol.com

As I write this article I am looking forward to attending the Assembly of United Methodist Women in Louisville, KY, April 25-27.

The gathering is held every four years. My first experience was in 1990 in Kansas City, MO. I have been fortunate enough to attend every Assembly since then.

Again, I will stand together with thousands of my United Methodist sisters and say, "Thank You God, for giving me this opportunity." – Arlene Fleming

Mission Education and Interpretation – Shirley Pfeifer, 2471 Hwy 92, Washington, IA 52353-9337, 319-653-5283, sapfeifer@iowatelecom.net

As I write this article for the Connection, there are snow flurries in the air, but spring bulbs are up and some blooming so warmer weather will get here. Are you getting Mission Study reports yet? There is still time to get a mission study in before June 30th. The Roma study has proven to be very interesting and this is the second year for it. Encourage your district members to attend either the July or October Mission u. The people With Disabilities class is new and Mary Kathryn Pearce will be leading the Spiritual Growth study," How is it With Your Soul", the question asked in John Wesley's class meetings. On Sunday, July 13 the officer's training meetings will be held. Even if you are not a new officer, there is always something new to learn. We are looking forward to an inspirational and informative year in mission. – Shirley Pfeifer

Mission for Social Action – Rita Carter, 7218 El Rancho Ave., Windsor Heights, IA 50324, 515-979-0605, ritaac@mchsi.com

“New Life from God” – In this Easter Season we are reminded again of God’s mighty power to bring new life when there is none. With God’s power, UMW members are working in ways that lead to renewed hope and new life opportunities for our world and its people. As we study one or more of our priority areas—Climate Justice, Immigrant and Civil Rights, Human Trafficking, and Domestic Violence—always keeping in mind how the concerns for Peacemaking, Racial Justice, and Women, Children and Youth affect these, we can find ways to respond with actions that can lead to change and new life.

We celebrate the possibilities for new life in this legislative session’s Human Trafficking Bill (SF2311), which awaits the Governor’s signature at this time. It is a combination of new opportunities for survivors of sexual trafficking, particularly those under 18, and increased penalties for pimps and “johns” AND is the result of a long process beginning in January with efforts from many legislators in both the House and Senate, a number of advocates, and YOU and others who made
contacts at key times as alerts were made. **THANK YOU!** This is certainly not the end of what is needed, but it serves as a successful and positive step forward in Iowa laws against trafficking.

If you would like some ** visuals on the subject of human trafficking,** Iowa Religious Media Service ([www.irms.org](http://www.irms.org)) has several new videos for older youth and adults, including “Nefarious: Merchant of Souls” (the movie that some saw in Des Moines on Advocacy Day in January).

In April, Iowa **Bishop Julius Trimble** wrote a letter of support for a witness in Des Moines to **stop deportations** of immigrants and in support of **just immigration reform.** He said, “I believe those of us who continue to protest against continued deportations will find ourselves on the right side of history. As people of faith, we are called, and compelled, to welcome the stranger and not simply applaud justice, but **do justice,** love mercy and walk humbly with our God. . . Those who are often living on the margins, in fear of arrest, are more often than not, people who work and live all around us. Our neighbors are being deported.” He and two other UMC Bishops have been arrested in prayerful acts of civil disobedience, along with several national leaders of United Methodist Women and others, protesting the 2 million people who have been deported since 2009 at a rate of 1100 per day, tearing families and communities apart.

Be sure to watch for opportunities to experience new learnings and give supportive action in the priority areas of United Methodist Women whenever and wherever you can! Here are some possibilities:

*Contribute individually and/or through units to the **Diversity Fund for Mission u**—Ritzanna Seaton, Conference UMW Treasurer, is accepting the funds. Also **recruit applicants** to receive funds to attend Mission u.

**March for Peace & Social Justice** during Annual Conference at noon on Monday, June 9. UMW joins a number of other organizations as planner/sponsor, and theme is **“Imagine: Bridges, Not Walls.”** Participants will walk a short distance from Hy-Vee Hall for a brief program highlighting several areas of concern along with prayers & singing.

**JFON (Justice For Our Neighbors) luncheon** at Trinity UMC in Des Moines on Saturday, June 7, at noon, featuring the North Central Jurisdiction Mission Interpreter and honoring Rev. Kathleen Clark. Cost for lunch catered by Las Americas Faith Community is approximately $10—please contact Doris Knight at dorknight1@cs.com.

**Please note:** **District Officer Training Event (DOTE)** will be held on Sunday, July 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m., in Marshalltown at the Iowa Valley Conference Center prior to Mission u. All SA coordinators—**plan to attend!** – **Rita Carter**

---

**Secretary of Program Resources — Judy Beckler, PO Box 229, Tiffin, IA 52340-0229, 319-545-2867, pamab@southslope.net**

What a long winter for most of you, but I’m sure you had plenty of time to read. It was hard for me to come back to Iowa after being in Arizona and sunshine every day and average temps of 75-80. But, it is always good to get back and get in the swing of things.

It is time to be thinking about Mission u in July and do we ever have a great school ahead of us. The reading program is loaded with excellent books and the classes offered will be exciting too.

Make sure the locals get there reading recognitions lists to you so that you can get them to me for Annual Meeting recognition.

I look forward to seeing you in Marshalltown in July. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Have a great summer! — **Judy Beckler**
How Is It With Your Soul??

My soul seems to be different every day. Today it is full of love, expectation.

I am so looking forward to this 2014 Spiritual Growth study at Mission u.

- Is it “normal” for souls to be different every day???
- Are our souls supposed to stay the same?
- What did Jesus say about our “soul”?
- Did He mention souls???

Just a few questions I have for Mary Kathryn Pearce our study leader. And maybe the answers will be in the text book.

What do you know about souls??? I really find this subject intriguing don’t you? Let’s meet together July 13-16 at Mission u in Marshalltown where we will learn together new insights about “souls”.

District Spiritual Growth Coordinators, be prepared to report on your Day Apart/Retreat at District Officers Training Event(DOTE) on Sunday, July 13, 1-3 pm. Bring your second favorite Bible Verse to share.

“God Isn’t Dead!!!” Great movie...... C u n July ☺ – Rita Thatcher
In 2014-2015, United Methodist Women are CALLED to Make It Happen! We should probably determine what is "It" and how are we going to make "It" happen! On our own, "It" might not be very successful. We can start right now to prepare our hearts and minds -- to make "It" what God wants. Now might be a good time to make sure we’re firmly rooted in God’s word. Trust in God. Yield to God's plan. Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us: "He has made everything beautiful in its time." Iowans understand the partnership with God necessary for everyday creation. We plant fields and gardens, but ultimately we trust God to MAKE IT HAPPEN! Find ways to plant seeds of Faith, Hope and Love. Stay rooted in God. Celebrate the beauty of God’s creation -- in its time.

The program for Mission u this year will be fabulous! Our studies of "How Is It With Your Soul?", The Roma of Europe, and The Church and People With Disabilities will inform us, challenge us, and nudge us into restoring God's vision of a beautiful world. Our Spiritual Growth Leader, Mary Kathryn Pearce, will guide us to unforgettable encounters with our souls, each other, and God.

Register TODAY...Invite a friend or 2 or 3...Encourage your pastor...Sponsor a teen or child...Donate to the Diversity Fund...Tell someone about your Local or District Scholarship...Pray for God's blessing on those attending Mission u...Get EXCITED!

Please join me in Marshalltown July 13-16 for Summer Mission u or October 17-19 for Fall Mission u and together, we will Make It Happen!  *Becky Heeren, Dean*

---

**Nominations – Doris Howard, 5339 Filmore Road, Elgin, IA 52141, 563-426-5278, dorishoward@alpinecom.net**

Greetings to All of you,

We are into our year and work has begun for your Committee on Nominations as it has for your Conference CON. Be sure to ask for confidentiality in your conversations with potential candidates and stress that the nomination is not definite until the slate is complete. We are the stewards of the gifts, graces, talents and skills of our United Methodist Women. Keep a record of what you observe in district and local meetings, strive to get acquainted with women across your district (this is the rewarding part of our job) and plan on attending as many local meetings and district meetings as fits your schedule. Keep a record on Talent Bank sheets about the women that you meet. It is important to keep in mind the profile of your current district team; ethnicity, age, employment status, geographical area. Create a worksheet that names the number of women on your team in each group and then list those areas that your Committee on Nominations needs to stress.

Let me know of your work, your questions, or just a little bit about your team. My phone number is 563-426-5278. I live at 5339 Filmore Road, Elgin, 52141. Better yet, come to District Officers Training Event (DOTE) on Sunday 1-3pm, July 13th which will be held just before the start of Mission u in Marshalltown. I hope to see you there.

*– Doris Howard*
Iowa United Methodist Women: You are invited to create our THEME for 2015-2016. The chosen Theme will begin with Summer Mission in July 2015 and run through June 2016. It will be used for programming at the 2016 District and Conference Annual Meetings. The Theme should reflect the three Studies for the year: The Pursuit of Happiness (Spiritual Growth), Latin America (Geographic Study), and The Church and People with Disabilities (Issue Study). You may include a scripture reference and/or hymn to correspond with the Theme. There is no limit on number of theme entries per person.

Entries may be submitted at Summer or Fall Mission, the Conference Annual Meeting, or by mail/email to the Dean. Using the form below is encouraged but not required.

Let’s get creative! Deadline will be the end of Fall Mission -- October 19, 2014. The winning entry will be announced in the November Connection. A very valuable prize will be awarded to the winner!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>THEME CONTEST -- Iowa United Methodist Women</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEME</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Scripture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Hymn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submitted by  
Name  
Address  
email  

Bring entry to Summer or Fall Mission, or Conference UMW Annual Meeting, OR send to Dean:

Becky Heeren  becky@alumni.iastate.edu  
610 E. Ross St.  
Toledo, IA 52342  Deadline: October 19, 2014
### 2014 Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>Iowa Annual Conference of United Methodist Church, Hy-Vee Hall, Des Moines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>District Officer Training Event (DOTE), Iowa Valley Conference Center, Marshalltown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13-16</td>
<td>Summer Mission u, Iowa Valley Conference Center, Marshalltown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>South Central District Annual Meeting at Oskaloosa UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Southeast District Annual Meeting at Davenport - St. John’s UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Central District Annual Meeting at West Des Moines UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Northeast District Annual Meeting at Osage UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>East Central District Annual Meeting at Iowa City - First UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>North Central District Annual Meeting at Rockwell City UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Northwest District Annual Meeting at Spencer UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Southwest District Annual Meeting at Villisca UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Iowa Conference UMW Annual Meeting, Indianola First UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>17-19</td>
<td>Fall Mission u, Iowa Valley Conference Center, Marshalltown</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**United Methodist Women Gathering at Annual Conference**

Join us on Sunday June 8, 2014 during the supper break in the food court.

Find out how United Methodist Women are “Making it Happen”!

Bring your food and look for the turquoise banner.

---

**Communications – Kathy Pettinger, 1027 South J Avenue, Nevada, IA 50201, 515-382-6291, mkpettin@midiowa.net**

Please make sure to send your address changes to your District Secretaries as well as to me so we can make sure the Newsletters and any other correspondence you need gets to you. Several email addresses have failed and a few regular postal addresses have returned undeliverable. – Kathy Pettinger
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.