A lot of us do not like change, especially leaving one's home for somewhere unknown. It is different if it is your idea or decision but if it is God who asks you to go then there is a sense of being lead. Our missionaries have been lead to where they are and what they are doing. The women who started work in India with women and girls back in 1869 were lead to begin what has become a tremendous outpouring of love and support in over 200 institutions and programs. Thousands and thousands of lives have been changed by what we do in education, health, and other ministries of United Methodist Women. Where will God lead us in the next 146 years? We must have a vision and an understanding of how we will get there. Some units have lost the vision. They want to have fellowship and do their own thing. Yes, that is easy and it is comfortable and not as much work, but is it what God wants us to do? It is very clear in both the old and new testaments that we should treat the poor with love and concern. If we did not have Hawthorn Hill in Des Moines who would take in the mother with children and make sure they were safe and had help in getting their lives together? If Bidwell Riverside did not have a day care and a food and clothing distribution center which church or churches in Des Moines would step forward to do that kind of a ministry with so many people. Most churches have a small program ministering to the poor, but the larger cities have areas of town where rent is cheaper where the lower economic folks live. If we did not have Shesler Hall in Sioux City who would care for the disabled women, some of whom have found themselves with no home for years. We cannot be like the priest and the Levitt who closed their eyes and pass on by. Please, read Response magazine and catch the vision of what wonderful things are done in this country in ministry to the poor. Did you all read about the families who live in cemeteries in the Philippines? What would force anyone to have to live in a cemetery? I think God is calling us to continue the wonderful work that we have been doing, but we need all women in every church to catch the vision. If you do not have a United Methodist Women's unit please let me know so we can visit about how we can start a group. I am asking each pastor to prayerfully consider the challenge. In 2016 there will be eight seminars on Domestic Violence. In January there will be a legislative event in Des Moines. Everyone is invited to attend all United Methodist Women's events; Pastors, lay leaders, United Methodist Men and Women and youth. We have made great strides in the legislature to get the funds to support programs to get young girls out of Human Trafficking. Many of the topics we wrestle with are not comfortable topics but if we do not address these issues, who is going to do it? I'm not asking you to leave your home or country, but I am asking you to get on board with United Methodist Women and continue to help support great programs that God cares about.

On a closing note, I would like to thank the Broadway United Methodist Church for hosting our Conference Annual Meeting. We had over 25 women who had never been to an annual meeting before. We had wonderful music and great break-out sessions, our speakers were informative and challenging and the sanctuary was lined with all kinds of Children’s books for Justice For Our Neighbor clinics. We were so blessed by the women at Broadway who went out of their way to make it a wonderful day. –Rita Vallery
The Iowa Conference United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting at Broadway UMC was AWESOME! The church was beautiful with its stained glass windows and decorated with 130 children’s books for JFON clinics. A total of 179 books were collected that day!!! Thank you to those who came. We had over 25 first time attendees to Annual meeting!! The music was beautiful and very diverse; piano and trumpet in the morning, acoustic electric guitar and piano in the afternoon. The Northwest District D.S., Tom Carver shared words of inspiration on change, gave the special Mission Recognition Pins and installed our 2016 Conference Officers. Pastor Lanette Plambeck and Pastor Chris St. Clair ended our day with a beautiful communion service. If you couldn’t make it, you missed something special on the western side of the state.

Remember, next year we are in the Northeast District at Decorah U.M.C. on October 8, 2016. Come see the beautiful fall colors and be refreshed with the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

– Gladys Alvarez

Greetings Secretaries!

First, I want to thank all of my District Secretary friends for getting me their 2016 rosters. All were timely, legible, and accurate. The information has been included in the 2016 Conference Directories, which were handed out to District Presidents at a recent Leadership Team meeting. You will be getting your very own copy soon! I couldn’t have finished this by the deadline without your cooperation. I really appreciate you! As changes or corrections do happen throughout the year, I will be tracking the updates quarterly.

As the end of the year is approaching, this is a great time to get your files in order. It is time to purge some of those pieces of paper you don't really need. Remember, only keep documents and items of historical value. If you are completing your term as Secretary, please take a bit of extra time to organize your files. The next Secretary will thank you. Also, any friendly advice to her helps with the transition. If you are continuing as Secretary, it is a good idea to keep a set of 2015 minutes handy. They are good for a reference and starting point for 2016.

I'm sure you've heard that you can't believe everything you see on the internet. A recent experience brought that fact to light. I was compiling the Directories and sent an email to a business we had worked with in the past. After several hours of no reply, I went to Google to check them out. The page said "Business Closed". So, I searched for a different business for my project. After placing my order with the new place, I received a reply from the old one. I apologized for changing companies and told them what I found on Google. They later contacted me and thanked me for alerting them to this mistake. While it was too late to get my business, at least their information on the internet is now correct. We all make mistakes. As Secretaries, we try as much as possible to be accurate, but corrections will always be part of this job. Thankfully, United Methodist Women are forgiving and supportive so we can carry on in good faith. It's also comforting to know there is one source – The Bible, God's Holy Word – that we can always believe.

Shalom, – Becky Heeren
Annual Meeting Game

Some of you inquired about the simulation game that was played at Conference Annual Meeting in one of our break-outs. It is called "In Her Shoes" and can be obtained from Iowa Religious Media Service in Des Moines. If your church contracts with them the only cost to you is the cost of mailing it back to them. If you do not have a contract with them you will have to visit with them and see if they loan it out some other way. We will be using the game at the eight meetings we will have in 2016 around the state. Encourage all of your members, pastors, lay leaders, United Methodist Men and Women and youth to attend one of these events. We need to let everyone know how to reach out to people who are being abused and prepare pastors so women will go and visit with them. In the past, as said by numerous women at the Seminar, the church was the last place they would go for help. Most pastors I have talked to said they have had no training in seminary to deal with that topic. Look for Lynn Calverts article on dates and places where seminar’s will be held. Rita Vallery.

150th Anniversary - 1869 – 2019

On March 23, 1869, eight women gathered in Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, to organize for mission focused on the needs of women and children. They started the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society, a predecessor organization of United Methodist Women. The women raised money to send Clara Swain, a doctor, and Isabella Thoburn, a teacher, to India as missionaries to serve the nation’s women and girls.

On March 23, 2019, United Methodist Women will celebrate 150 years as a mission organization serving women, children and youth around the world.

Since 1869 United Methodist Women and our predecessor organizations have been taking up the charge that Jesus gave to his disciples when he was teaching the multitudes, and his disciples suggested that Jesus let the people go so that they could get something to eat. Jesus response was – “You Feed Them”.

Whether advocacy for education, domestic violence, human trafficking, economic justice, health care, our environment, immigration or social justice. United Methodist Women have been working locally, and globally to answer Jesus call – “You Feed Them!”

There is still much more mission work to be done:

- Almost 16,000 children die from hunger-related causes every day.
- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- There are more slaves than at any other time in the world.
- Women head 84 percent of homeless families.
- Climate change and carbon economy are responsible for five million deaths per year
- The more hours of television a girl watches, the fewer options she believes she has for her life.

United Methodist Women have been putting faith, hope and love into action with ministries with women, children and youth for almost 150 year. And now it is up to each of us to make sure we do the same for the next 150 years.

To do this, National United Methodist Women has started an endowment call The Legacy Fund. The celebration of the 150th anniversary will involve the organization at all levels, and will raise contributions to the Legacy Fund to permanently sustain our ongoing mission with women, children, and youth.

The Legacy Fund’s income will ensure a regular source of support for the core expenses of being in mission. It will provide for administration of United Methodist Women grants, scholarships, mission personnel, membership nurture, and leadership development, as well as enable the organization to make much-needed technological updates to its data and communications operating systems.

Our hope is that our legacy will liberate our daughters and granddaughters from having to raise funds for administrative costs. We’d like covering those expenses to be our legacy to them.

The campaign, officially launched at Assembly 2014, will be celebrated at Assembly 2018, and will culminate in 2019, the 150th year.

As always, those who have gone before us are leading us. The Legacy Fund Campaign has already received almost $400,000, over half of which has been as challenge gifts from the generous retired missionaries and deaconesses at Brooks-Howell Home and in honor of the life and work of Theresa Hoover.

Those visionary women left a legacy that has moved generations of women for almost 150 years to engage in mission focused on women, children and youth. In the twenty-first century, United Methodist Women still need to lead the way in being organized for mission.

Marcia Young 150 Anniversary Chairperson
Iowa Conference United Methodist Women 563-580-9650 msy49@aol.com
IOWA UNITED METHODIST

ADVOCACY DAY

Thursday, January 28, 2016

Wesley UMC
(800 E. 12th St, Des Moines)
and
Iowa State Capitol Building
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Lunch provided (for donation)

featuring
Trauma Issues for Women & Children Discussions
and
Legislative Visits

Who should attend?
United Methodist Women Members, Officers, Social Action Coordinators; United Methodist Church Members & Pastors; others interested in advocacy work

Sponsored by Iowa Conference United Methodist Women & Iowa Conference United Methodist Legislative Advocacy Team

Watch the Iowa Conference UMC website for more details or contact Rita Carter, 515-979-0605, or ritaac@mchsi.com for reservations to attend!
Greetings to Iowa United Methodist Women,

President Rita Vallery’s article in the August Connection, speaks so well about UMW. We are organized for mission care whether close to home or afar. We must remember like the Samaritan on the road not to pass by those who are injured. I thank those women and yes a few men at Summer and Fall Mission u for the support they gave to our three National Iowa institutions. A total of $5,431.50 was collected in our special collection to be divided equally among Iowa’s three National Institutions, Bidwell Riverside, Shesler Hall, and Hawthorn Hill. Miss Piggy collected a total of $279.63 at Mission u. This mission money will go toward the Conference Pledge. If you don’t know Miss Piggy, come to Mission u to meet her.

The Iowa Conference United Methodist Women pledge for 2015 is $615,000. We have little time left in the year to contribute $275,076.69 to meet the goal. Being the awesome group we are, I am positive we can meet it.

I also need to mention the North Central Jurisdiction meeting will be in Grand Rapids, MI June 24-26, 2016. The Conference needs to know very soon the number of people planning to attend. We are planning to hire a bus, but we will need to know in advance if there are enough people interested to fill a bus. If interested contact Rita Vallery or myself via telephone or e-mail.

Thank you for your support and Blessings,

– Ritzanna Seaton

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

As we hear about all the problems in the world, Mission Education seems more important than ever. Consider having a study in the local church on Disabilities and/or Latin America. If your district has already held a Mission Day, there will be ideas and resources for a local study. In many communities there are people knowledgeable about immigration who could be asked to speak on the topic and also on Justice For Our Neighbors for the legal view. The Social Action study for the next year is on Climate Change. As this is written, there is an international conference being held in Paris dealing with this subject so there will be a lot of information to be collected for future use. Have a happy Christmas and make a New Year’s Resolution to educate your United Methodist Women and local church on these important concerns. – Shirley Pfeifer

Spiritual Growth – Rita Thatcher, PO Box 255, West Bend, IA 50597-0255, 515-887-5959, ritat@ncn.net

2016 Theme: A Fresh Wind Blowing-Come Soar With Us.

Bible Verse: John 3:8 “The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” NRSV

Song: “Spirit of God” #2117 in TFWS

BIBLE VERSES FOR 2016

The Bible verses are in this Connection, are in the Directory, on the website, in the District President’s packet and Local President’s packet.

Use a verse for your Devotions. Encourage the local Units to print in their program books and use for a Devotion.

November 2015 Bible verse: Genesis 12:1. God told Abram: “Leave your country, your family and your father’s home for a land that I will show you.” Message

What does this scripture say to you? How can you apply it to your planning devotions in 2016? Spend some time with Jesus, meditate on the scripture, listen, obey, apply. 😊 You must BE with Jesus before you DO with Jesus!!!

P.S. Linda Stauffer is the new Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator. She will be introducing herself in the January Connection. 😊 – Rita Thatcher
Save the Date
March 23, 2016
2nd Annual - Day of Giving

The March 23 Day of Giving honors the day in 1869 when a small group of women braved a legendary torrential rain to gather at Tremont Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, Massachusetts, and organize for mission. The women established the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society, a predecessor of United Methodist Women, and galvanized women around the country to raise money to send a doctor, Clara Swain, and a teacher, Isabella Thoburn, to India as missionaries to serve the women of that nation.

A Day of Giving gifts go to The Legacy Fund, a permanent endowment that will support the mission outreach of future generations of United Methodist Women as they address the needs of women, children and youth of their day. Members in every conference participated in the first Day of Giving in 2015, giving more than $100,000 through online gifts, toll-free calls, smartphone texting and mailed-in checks.

A Day of Giving will be a 24-hour giving festival. Members and friends may give:

- Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, Monday-Friday).
- Text Legacy150 to 41444.
- By check to Office of the Treasurer, United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.

Write “The Legacy Fund” in the memo section.

Conference United Methodist Women Liaisons will be notified of contributions from women in their area — but the amount of the gift will always remain confidential.

United Methodist Women members and friends may consider giving $15 or $150 or even $1,500, in recognition of our upcoming 150th anniversary, or $18.69 or $186.90 or even 1,869, in recognition of the year of United Methodist Women’s founding.

A Day of Giving gifts are 100 percent tax deductible. Contributors will receive an immediate thank you and a printable tax receipt for 100 percent of their donation.

Spread the word! As with our foremothers in 1869, in the 21st century, women still need to organize for mission.

Make it happen with a gift to The Legacy Fund on March 23, A Day of Giving.

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Iowa Institutions News

We are happy to report Kris Dam is the new Director of Shesler Hall in Sioux City. They held a sleep out and a concert by the Triumphant Sound Quartet to raise funds. Shesler received a grant from National for two computers. There are currently 14 residents.

Bidwell is currently searching for a full time director. Tim Shanahan from Hawthorn Hill is filling in at the present time. If you are interested in helping with a toy distribution at Bidwell e-mail Missy Reams at mreams@bidwellriverside.org or call 515-244-6251.

If you want to adopt a Hawthorn Hill Family for Christmas please e-mail Melanie at melanie@hawthornhill.org or call 515 -244-9748 We are hoping everyone will give an alternative gift at Christmas time to one of our institutions in Iowa. We’d like to see them all end the year in the black. Remember all gifts through United Methodist women need to go through your district and then conference.

Rita Vallery
“CALLS and RESPONSES”

God told Abram: “Leave your country your family, and your father’s home for a land that I will show you.”

Genesis 12:1 (Message)

Our Bible verse for November calls for a man to leave the land of his birth. But he and his wife would have a son at an old age, and (as Abraham) become the “father of many nations.” eventually leading to Jesus—all because of a faithful response he gave to God! Advent is a time of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the coming of Jesus into the world; and after Mary responded to the call to bear God’s son, she had a time of waiting and preparation. Jesus was born, and the shepherds heard a call and responded. The visitors from the East also responded to calls, as did Joseph, which made all the difference—the life of Jesus was at risk! But Jesus was spared as he and his family fled to Egypt, where they sought safety and became immigrants in a new land.

The Christmas story provides a connection for me to undocumented persons who are coming as immigrants to our country. Many of them are fleeing violent conditions, domestic abuse or sexual assaults, and gangs—who recruit teens and even young children by using threats or intimidation or violence. In some cases climate change has affected a family’s ability to raise crops and survive as farmers on their land. Just as Jesus and his family were called to a new land of safety, migrants from many places in the world seek that same kind of survival and chance for a new life, even a faithful life.

For fifteen years Justice For Our Neighbors has worked in Iowa as part of national JFON, a ministry of The United Methodist Church, to help newcomers from all over the world navigate our complicated immigration laws as they seek safety and opportunities for new lives. Several attorneys—including Brynne Howard, a UMC Church & Community Worker—serve free legal clinics at six sites in Iowa (Decorah, Columbus Junction, Cedar Rapids, Ottumwa, Des Moines, and Storm Lake). In addition, Laura Mendoza assists domestic abuse/sexual assault clients; Laura gave a presentation to participants at the August Domestic Violence Awareness Training about her work. There are many ways United Methodist Women can connect with JFON and respond in ways that can make a difference, even if you don’t live near a legal clinic site. Please contact me for a list of ten different suggestions from Judy Kading to help show that Iowans respond in welcoming ways!

Iowa JFON received a one-time grant in 2014 from National United Methodist Women, which has been used to hire an attorney to specialize in work with unaccompanied minors in Iowa. At a November JFON fundraiser, April Palma (who also spoke at the Conference UMW Annual Meeting) gave an update about her work with children seeking asylum under Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS), a process that can take from eight months to two years for each child. Over 400 immigrant children will be in Iowa by the end of the year; Iowa JFON has surpassed its goals for interviews and has taken over 40 of their cases. April noted a recent successful outcome for two sisters who fled El Salvador, which has a very high homicide rate and where they had lived with their grandmother. When they were targeted by a gang and the older girl was raped, they quit school and stayed inside, but when the younger one was also threatened, they made their way to the U.S. to join their mother in Iowa. This case and others can only be won if children are allowed representation by an attorney like April. Without representation, children appear alone before a judge, and nine out of ten are deported. Our dollars, our words of support, and other responses help these children know that they are precious in God’s sight—and in ours!

United Methodist Women has also been working to end family detentions, particularly in two private prisons in Texas. There are over 2,400 women and children facing situations similar to the unaccompanied minors in Iowa—and they often lack legal assistance that could make a difference and set them on a path toward a new life. More info is available!

UPDATE: The simulation game, “In Her Shoes,” that was used in a Domestic Violence breakout at Annual Meeting, is available at IRMS for loan (www.irms.org). It will be included in the March or April 2016 meetings in each district.

– Rita Carter

UMW/UMC LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY DAY: Thursday, January 28, 2016, at Wesley UMC, 800 E 12th St., Des Moines, from 9:00 – 3:30. Learning sessions on trauma issues. Freewill donation for lunch—reservations to me by Jan. 25th.
THE FAITH COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FaithTrust Institute in conjunction with United Methodist Women trained 25 men and women in the faith community’s response to domestic violence. Teams are now preparing to share this information in each of the districts.

These events will help all of us—clergy, laity, men and women—better understand the dynamics of domestic violence and religious issues for victims, survivors and abusers. We will also help create a toolbox of resources to take action.

The events will be in March and April of 2016. Not all sites have been confirmed at this point but you will be notified when they are finalized. Please encourage your Pastor, friends, husbands, brothers and sisters-everyone-to attend. Please contact Lynn Calvert lyksmc@aol.com with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. A registration form will be available in early 2016. There will be a fee of $15.00 for one person, $10.00 per person for two or more from the same church. This will cover lunch and materials.

March 3  ECD St. Paul’s UMC Cedar Rapids
March 8  NWD Cherokee UMC
March 29  CD Aldersgate in Urbandale
April 5  SCD Pending
April 12  SWD Atlantic First
April 19  NED Toledo
TBD  SED Libertyville
April 21  SED Burlington First
April 28  NCD Pending

– Lynn Calvert

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

Another year almost gone! It was a really busy one for me as I’m sure it was as well for some of you folks.

There are some changes in ordering that I want to bring to your attention if you haven’t already heard of them.

Mission Resource Center has changed the ordering and return times of consignment orders.

PLACE THE ORDERS “Two (2) weeks prior to your event, with no more than three (3) days added for delivery. The RETURN TIME after an event will be, “Return within one week, or two weeks after consecutive meetings.”

The other notice was an error in the reading program catalog. Checks are to be made out to “United Methodist Women”, not UMW Resources.

Prayer Calendars are now available for 2016. The 2016 study books are to be available in December. It is best to call ahead to get that information before ordering. Since shipping costs are increasing, I suggest that it is a good idea to have Districts or Locals make one order instead of individual orders. Also, resources are no longer available for preorder, but supplemental consignment orders can be made if there is enough turn-around time between events. No orders for individuals or local units should be included as a part of the consignment orders.

Hopefully, these changes will make things go more smoothly in 2016 so that resources will be more readily available.

Have a great New Year!  – Judy Beckler

North Central Jurisdiction, June 23 - 26
Scholarships and General Information:

North Central Jurisdiction is offering scholarship money in the amount of $450.00. The Iowa Conference Leadership Team has decided to split that amount into two scholarships. Each person chosen will receive $225.00 from North Central Jurisdiction.

People who are first time attendees will be considered. I am appointing Ritzanna Seaton, Doris Howard, and myself as the committee who will decide the recipients. Please send your name, which United Methodist Women’s unit you attend, your phone number, home and cell if you have one, your email address if you have one, your address, and why you would like to attend North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting. Send your application to Rita Vallery, 2818 Eisenhower Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010 by March 1st.

(Continued on next page)
By March 15th we will decide who receives the scholarship money.

For Everyone who Plans to Attend:

Registration is $150.00 until May 13 and then it goes up to $195.00. Register on line at http://www.ncjumc.org/ncj-united-methodist-women/.

Rooms for three nights is $92.00 for the 23, 24 and 25 plus tax. After you find a roommate or two decide which one of you will call the hotel itself and make your reservation. If someone decides not to go at the last minute you are responsible to make any cancellation. Call Doubletree Hilton Hotel, Grand Rapids, MI at (616) 957-0100. Mention United Methodist Women so you will get the special price. The block of rooms will be released May 22 after which the rate goes back up to $170.00 a night. The event is all on one floor and is handicap accessible. Child care is available for 1- to 7-year olds. It is $75.00 per child. Snacks are not provided and parents are responsible for child's meals. There will be an offering taken at the meeting or on line when you register. Each person take a water bottle and a tote bag for papers. Iowa Conference plans to take a bus on the 23rd. There is a tour on Friday morning of the Van Andel Museum and U.M. Community House from 8 to 12 for the cost of $30.00 with lunch and fee for bus and museum included. There is a special event for young women during off hours and you will be contacted with information. You will choose three workshops and will be assigned to attend two of your choices. For questions or cancellations contact registrar at dawnfriends@yahoo.com. Refund: if received by June 17 via email, refunds minus a $75.00 cancellation fee will be made. Transfer without penalty to another attendee not already registered, provided an email or a hand-carried letter request for transfer is received by the registrar prior to event. Donation: If you find you have no one to whom you can transfer your registration, you may email dawnfriends@yahoo.com to request your seat be transferred in total to a local women with our thanks. Iowa Conference plans to take a bus. By April we will know the route we will take and where the stops will be. If you plan to attend and ride the bus I need your name, address, phone, cell and home, email if you have one. Because of bus contracts, I need to know by May 10th. If we have more than can ride on one bus we will also plan car pools. Depending on the number who attend you will receive a set amount for expenses. Rita Vallery

Mission u – Linda Peters, Dean, 380 12th Avenue SW, Mt. Vernon, IA 52314-1008, 319-895-8714 (H), 612-802-4260 (Cell – it is not always with me, so the home phone should be your first choice in trying to contact me.), Lpeters8714@msn.com
(I read my e-mail several times a day, so it would be a good choice also.)

Save the Date — Mission u 2016

Summer Mission u: July 17-20
Fall Mission u: October 21-23
Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, Marshalltown

Spiritual Growth Study – The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God’s Good Gift
Issue Study – Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action
Geographic Study – Latin America: People and Faith

Registration Forms and Brochures will be published in March. Watch your mail or your inbox.

Local and District Scholarships / CEU’s Available
Latina, Korean, Youth and Children’s classes at Fall Mission u
Contact me for information on the Diversity Fund
“Like” us on Facebook – Mission u Iowa

– Linda Peters, Dean
Greetings from your Conference Committee on Nominations, Chair Doris Howard:

And what a lovely fall day we are having, a late summer I think, because I have flowers blooming still. Our minds turn to the end of our year now and evaluations and planning for next year. New CON members accept materials from outgoing members. Each should have the 2013-2016 Handbook. Each member of CON needs blank forms, “Recommendation to the CON” or “Talent Bank”. If your district does not have a committee of five you may still want to be asking potential leaders to accept the task of serving on your Committee on Nominations. The Committee on Nominations is a good place to serve because one always is working with a close team of women committed to the same task; that of selecting the leadership for your district. Consider yourselves as the stewards of the gifts, graces, talents and skills of United Methodist Women members in your district. Get to know one another and commit to doing your work together. Communication is key; always working together by making assignments, reporting on results, getting excited over your newest adventures relating to women across your district. Do some work together in studying and understanding each job description so while making a contact you can be clear about what you are asking her to do. And now is the time to begin setting a timeline; what do you need to accomplish? When does it need to be finished? What are the local meetings and events and who can attend? Finding qualified leaders takes a concerted effort and the reward is in the relationships you form.

What is good leadership?

- Organized with good time management.
- Active thinker. Creative.
- Good listener. Good communicator.
- Flexible.
- Can manage conflict.

Our leaders must be ready to continue the work of advocacy, mission education and action; continually growing in Christian faith and understanding while living creatively within our supportive community. Take a look at “The Vision of United Methodist Women” found on page 6 of our Handbook. Then read it, meditate on what it means to you, and slowly reread it. It holds meaning for us and informs our mission today and in the near future. These next years will be a special time of preparations for our Legacy Celebration – 1869 to 2019 – 150 years of women in mission!

I have enjoyed my relationship with you and hope to continue seeing you at Mission u, at Annual meeting and at other events where our paths may cross. – Doris Howard

United Methodist Women are preparing for the church’s 2016 General Conference in May. One prayer ministry activity planned is to offer quilted finger prayer labyrinths for the delegates and guests.

We are seeking UMW members that enjoy quilting to assist us. If you are interested in helping go to GCprayer@unitedmethodistwomen.org with an estimate of how many you might be able to make and to receive instructions for making and for shipping the completed labyrinths by the deadline of January 15, 2016. This is a project of National U.M.W. Hope you can participate.

Rita Vallery
BIBLE VERSES FOR 2016

January  
**John 15:11**  NRSV  “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

February  
**Jeremiah 29:13**  The Lord declares, “You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart”.

March  
**Psalm 36:7**  How precious, O God, is your constant love! We find protection under the shadow of your wings.

April  
**Galatians 6:9**  “Don’t get tired of doing what is good. Don’t get discouraged and give up, for we will reap a harvest of blessing at the appropriate time.”

May  
**Hebrews 11:1**  “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

June  
**Psalm 25:4**  NOB  “Make me to know your way, O Lord; teach me your paths.”

July  
**Philippians 4:6**  TLB  “Don’t worry about anything; instead pray about everything; tell God your needs and don’t forget to thank him for His answers.”

August  
**Jeremiah 29:11**  “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and hope.”

September  
**Joshua 24:15**  “Choose today whom you will serve...but as for me and my family we will serve the Lord.”

October  
**Proverbs 15:4**  NRSV  “A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.”

November  
**John 3:16**  NRSV  “For God so loved the world that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

December  
**Luke 2:39-40**  NRSV  “When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.”
## 2016 — Calendar
### United Methodist Women

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 11</td>
<td>Human Trafficking Awareness Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 28</td>
<td>Advocacy Day, Des Moines</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – Cedar Rapids, St. Paul’s (EC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>World Day of Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>International Bell Ringing for Women’s Rights</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – Cherokee (NW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – Urbandale Aldersgate (C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – Cherokee (NW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 9</td>
<td>Laity Day with Bishop Trimble, TBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – Atlantic First (SW)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – Toledo Christ (NE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 21</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – Burlington 1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; Libertyville (SE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Faith Community Response to Domestic Violence – TBA (NC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>May Friendship Day (Church Women United)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4-6</td>
<td>Iowa Annual Conference of United Methodist Church, Hy-Vee Hall, Des Moines</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>United Methodist Women Gathering at Annual Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 24-26</td>
<td>North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial, Grand Rapids, MI</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17</td>
<td>District Officer Training Event (DOTE), 1-3 p.m. Iowa Valley Conference Center, Marshalltown</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 17-20</td>
<td>Summer Mission u, Iowa Valley Conference Center, Marshalltown</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2</td>
<td>Human Relations Day (Church Women United)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 17</td>
<td>East Central District Annual Meeting, Cedar Rapids Lovely Lane</td>
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<td>September 17</td>
<td>South Central District Annual Meeting, Knoxville</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 23</td>
<td>Northeast District Annual Meeting, Fayette</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Central District Annual Meeting, Altoona</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>North Central District Annual Meeting, Ogden</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Northwest District Annual Meeting, Laurens</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Southeast District Annual Meeting, Burlington First</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>Southwest District Annual Meeting, Burlington First</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 8</td>
<td>Iowa Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting, Decorah</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 21-23</td>
<td>Fall Mission u, Iowa Valley Conference Center, Marshalltown</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 4</td>
<td>World Community Day (Church Women United)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Leadership Development Days, St. Louis, MO</td>
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