

Connecting To The Heart Beat of God

SPRING RETREAT FOR UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

APRIL 20 (THURSDAY) 2017

CAMP COMECA 75670 ROAD 417 COZAD, NE 308-784-2080

9:45 AM TO 3:00 PM

REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS 9:00 A.M

- “Connecting to the Heart Beat of God” | Pastor Anne Gahn, Lexington
- “Music Beats” | Pastor Kelly Karges and Pastor Todd Karges
- “Journey To Action” | Kathy Mann, Journey in Action Gateway UMW
- “Let’s Make a Barn Quilt Block” | Mildred Dittmar and Iona Pflaster
- Epworth Village and Della Lamb Reports
- “Journey to the Cross and Communion” | Pastor Anne Gahn

MISSION U SCHOLARSHIPS—APPLY NOW!

Gateway District UMW will give two \$200 scholarships to be used for attending the Mission U, July 28-30, 2017 at Kearney Holiday Inn. Apply by April 14, 2017. Send contact information to Shirley Pierce, 42906 HWY 40, Oconto NE 68860, by email to marlene.boysen@gmail.com, or apply at the Spring Retreat.

SPECIAL PROJECT:

Bring a donation of clothing and personal care items for the Central Nebraska Human Trafficking organization. Suggested clothing includes sweat pants, underwear (must be new), and socks. Also needed—reams of computer paper.

Registration and fee due Monday April 10. Mail registration form below and \$15.00 check payable Gateway District UMW to Shirley Pierce, 42906 HWY 40, Oconto NE 68860 (308-325-3936). Names of first-time attendees will be placed in a drawing for refund of their registration fee.

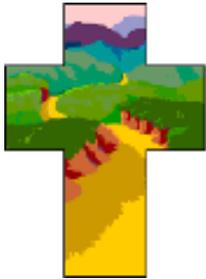
—REGISTRATION FORM—GATEWAY DISTRICT UMW SPRING RETREAT—\$15.00

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

Please note here any food allergies or accessibility needs:



Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Retreat

ON THE PATH HOME

Spiritual retreat based on the lives of the five women in the lineage of Jesus
 Led by: Carol Van Gorp, National Office of the United Methodist Women

APRIL 28 – 30, 2017

Camp Comeca and Retreat Center, 75670 RD 417, Cozad NE 69130

On-site Check-In: Friday, Apr 28, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Friday dinner at 6:00 p.m. and session begins at 7:15 p.m. with opening worship.

Saturday sessions throughout the day and an evening of fun and a visit from a UMW Friend, Frieda Mae.

Sunday morning closing session and worship. Dismissed by noon (lunch on your own).

All Women and Their Friends in the Great Plains Conference are Welcome to attend!

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ Tel: _____

Accommodation Choices: Includes 2 nights lodging, Friday-dinner, Saturday-3 meals, Sunday-breakfast.

_____ **Overlook Lodge: \$140.00/person plus \$25.00 non-refundable fee** (Add \$100 for private room)
 (Motel type rooms – 2 or 3 beds/room). Very few rooms on 1st floor. Rooms on 2nd floor—no
 elevator.

First floor required due to health _____ (check line if applicable)

_____ **Dormitory: \$120.00/person plus \$25.00 non-refundable fee.** First floor.
 Bunk beds (will use bottom bunks only) with bathroom facilities.
 Bring your own bedding and towels.

_____ **Cabin: \$100.00/person plus \$25.00 non-refundable fee.** First floor.
 Bunk beds (will use bottom bunks only). Toilet and sink only.
 Showers in a separate shower house. Bring your own bedding and towels.

_____ **Commuter: \$60.00/person plus \$25.00 non-refundable fee. No lodging provided.**
 If motel desired, there is a Rodeway Inn, 809 S. Meridian Ave., Cozad. Tel: 308-784-4900.

Roommates desired - list names on reverse of this form (Lodge—1 or 2; Cabin—up to 6; Dorm—up to 7).
 If no roommates, roommates will be assigned.

Special Dietary Requirements: _____

For the Saturday “Night of Fun” I will share (poem, song, jokes, etc): _____

Register by Friday, April 14, 2017

Register by submitting this completed form with a \$25.00 non-refundable fee to Rena Conner, PO Box 683, Alma NE 68920. The remaining amount is due by mailing a check to Rena by April 14. There will be no refunds after April 14. Checks payable to Great Plains Conference UMW. The earlier you register, the more likely you are to get the lodging desired. Questions: Contact Rena at rc68920@gmail.com or 308.928.9231.

GATEWAY DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2017 Calendar of Events

February

2 MET Tour Registrations

11 Ecumenical Legislative Day,
Lincoln

March

23 A Day of Giving: 150th Year
Legacy Fund

30 Local Unit Membership
Census Due to National UMW

April

19 District Ex. 6 p.m.

20 Gateway Spring Retreat @
Camp Comeca

28-30 GP UMW Spiritual
Retreat @ Camp Comeca

May

28 MET Tour begins

June

7-10 GP Annual Conference @
Grand Island

July

28 District Executive 5 p.m.

28-30 Mission U, Kearney

September

29-30 GP UMW Annual
Conference, York

October

12 Gateway District Annual
Meeting, Minden

Featured Events

Gateway District UMW Spring Retreat:

The Heartbeat of God

April 20 at Camp Comeca.

Flier and registration—page 6

On The Path Home

Great Plains Conference UMW Spiritual Retreat

April 28, 29, 30 at Camp Comeca.

Flier and registration—page 7

Mission U: July 28-30, Kearney

2017 studies

—*Living as a Covenant Community*

—*The Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States.*

Registrations available at Conference website after March 1

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Gateway UMW President's Message

Doris Whitacre

John 17:13 But now I am coming to thee; things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.

I hope all of you local units are organizing for 2017. Membership Reports are due to National by March 30. Look for website info in this news letter.

April will be a busy month for our District. Gateway District Retreat is April 20 at Camp Comeca. Great Plains Spiritual Growth Retreat will be April 28-30, at Camp Comeca. This will be a lot like Mission U. Registrations for these retreats may be found on page 6 and 7.

Unit sisters are listed in this letter. Our hope is to have good communications with the local units. We are hear to help you, please contact us.

It is a joy to be with the District Officers and work with you local units. There is a lot of information in this news letter, please share with your unit.

God Bless each of you, Doris

Journey in Planning Leader (Vice-President), Rita Skiles

I like the title, "Journey in Planning Leader" because it explains what the office of vice president is all about. Each year we begin a new journey as members of UMW, and if we plan carefully for the journey, the year's outcomes will be positive and take us in new directions, with opportunities to learn new things, accomplish new goals and discover ways to become closer to God as we serve his people.

Several events are being planned to make each unit's journey a great one in 2017. The Gateway District Spring Retreat will be held at Camp Comeca on April 20th. April 28-30, we return to Camp Comeca for the Great Plains Spiritual Growth Retreat. Mission U, the Spiritual Growth study, will be held July 28-30 in Kearney. And make plans to attend the Gateway District Annual Meeting on October 12th in Minden, where the President of Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women will be the guest speaker and will tell us how to find the joy in the journey.

The trip is planned. Make plans with your members and come along for a fantastic journey in 2017!

Treasurer's Report

To Gateway Treasurers and Units:

First of all I want to congratulate you on Gateway's accomplishments in 2016 in making 99.61% of the pledge for the conference. We were hoping for 100% and we were really close. In fact I received some money in January but too late to count towards 2016 so in the future be sure to get your contributions to me NO LATER THAN December 20 to fulfill our 2017 pledge.

Speaking of pledges - your 2018 pledge is due to me by April 15. Good timing for Gateway Executive committee to work on the budget at our Spring Fling at Camp Comeca for 2018 in order to make our deadline of May 1 to conference treasurer. I know how hard each of you work towards meeting your pledge and keeping Gateway District one of the top contributors for our mission work.

Fourteen units completed the mission work for the 5-7 Star Giving in 2016. These awards will be honored at the Spring Fling in April. Also we will honor the Dedicated Lights Honor and Memory of those for 2016 in April. Always complete the proper forms for the Dedicated Lights when you send the Remittance Form.

Please attend any Gateway District meetings to learn from others about completing the forms to get proper credit for your unit's accomplishments. These are great times of sharing and meeting the other treasurers - some are new and some have filled those positions for a number of years. And in the meantime if you have questions please do not hesitate to call me at [308-493-5927](tel:3084935927) or email at wineland56@gmail.com.

I will have corsages and cards at the Spring Retreat. If you are making purchases for you personally or your unit, please fill out the appropriate forms so you or your unit can get credit towards 5-7 Star Giving.

Blessings to each of you and look forward to seeing you in April.

Mary Lou Wineland,
Gateway Treasurer

GREETINGS TO GATEWAY DISTRICT UNIT SECRETARIES

February has already arrived, and I am no way near ready for it. Where does the time go? I do hope that every unit secretary is planning to attend the Gateway Spring Retreat at Comeca, April 20, 2017. Find more information about the event elsewhere in this newsletter. The District has a great program planned for you. Even if you pick up one new thing, it is worth it for you to attend. The fellowship with other units is most important as well. Learn what others are doing and share what you are doing as well.

I am enclosing the list of Gateway District officers that will plan to visit a unit meeting (See right column) Please make contact with them. This is a valuable opportunity for you to share what your unit is doing with your unit sister. This is an excellent opportunity for your unit to have communication with the District as well as having an opportunity to ask any questions that you may have.

Find Joy In the Journey;
Nevabelle Howe, Secretary

JOURNEY OF GIVING AND LEARNING

Dear Readers: John Wesley said “It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will always be a knowing people.”

I have received a good response from our local units to both the reading program reports and Every Unit is a Mission-Do Unit report. I will have both reports compiled and published for our Spring Retreat. The resource library will be open at the Spring Retreat. We will have program books, calendars, prayer calendars and of course our reading books for 2016 and 2017. We will also have free books and our drawing for free material.

Our Executive Team respectfully requests that when you do the officer lists for your unit in the fall that you use the form provided in the officer training at the Fall Annual Meeting. This will make it much easier for our Secretary, avoiding unnecessary extra work.

GATEWAY DISTRICT UNIT SISTERS 2017

Arapahoe-Sharon Bauer; 308-388-3727 C 308-222-0562
Arcadia-Kathy Mann; 308-346-5291 C 308-214-0798
Bertrand-Rita Skiles; 308-995-7103
Broken Bow-Wanda Chessmore; 308 870 2751
Callaway-Doris Whitacre; 308-234-2369
Cozad-Joyce Solomon;308-643-2323 C 308-643-9461
Elm Creek-Nevabelle Howe; 308-440-6933
Elwood-Mary Lou Wineland; 308-493-5927
Farnam-Mary Lou Wineland; 308-493-5927
Gibbon Faith-Doris Whitacre; 308-234-2369
Havens Chapel-Sarah Hansen; 402-981-2795
Huntley-Marlene Boysen; 308-325-8936
Bartley-Sharon Bauer; 308-388-3727 C 308-222-0562
Brady-Rose Hamilton; 308-293-7100
Burwell-Charlene Schauer; 308-728-5995
Cambridge-Joyce Solomon; 308-643-2323 C 308-643-9461
Eddyville-Shirley Pierce; 308-836-2958 C 308-225-2976
Eustis-Peg Walters; 308-872-5384 C 308-870-3668
Franklin-Rita Skiles; 308-995-7103
Holdrege-Peg Walters; 308-872-5384
Kearney First-Kathy Mann; 308-346-5291 C 308-214-0798
Lexington-Rose Hamilton;308-293-7100
Loup City-Charlene Schauer; 308-728-5995
Miller-Shirley Pierce; 308-836-2958 C. 308-225-2976
Mira Valley-A. Davenport; 308-346-4880 C. 308-529-3637
Ord-Sarah Hansen; 402-981-2795
Oxford-Mary Lou Wineland; 308-493-5927
Republican City-Marlene Boysen; 308-325-8936
Shelton-Nevabelle Howe; 308-440-6933
Litchfield-Linda Lawrence; 308-836-2374 C. 308-870-2317
Merna-Kathy Mann; 308-346-5291 C. 308-214-0798
Minden-Rita Skiles; 308-995-7103
Morning Star-Linda Lawrence; 308-836-2374 C. 308-870-2317
Overton-Shirley Pierce; 308-836-2958 C. 308-225-2976
Pleasanton-Rose Hamilton; 308-293-7100
Scotia-Charlene Schauer; 308-728-5995
Taylor-Ardith Davenport; 308-346-4880 C. 308-529-3637

The date for Mission U in Kearney this year is July 28-30. It will be held at the Holiday Inn. The spiritual growth study is “A Covenantal Community”, the geographic study is “The Missionary Conferences of the UM”.. There are 2 scholarships available that will pay all expenses. The books for Mission U will be available in the Resource Library.

See you at Comeca... so many books, so little time. Keep reading! Rose Hamilton, 10250 190th Rd, Amherst, NE 68812

Nominations Committee News

According to Patsy Clairmont, just saying “yes” can make us and others smile. Try it, and so when a member of the nominations committee calls to see if you would like to be a district officer, consider saying “yes” and you will smile along with the person doing the calling. We still have some offices to fill before our October meeting.

Shirley Pierce, co-chair of Nominations

Journey in Growth Goal: Report 100% of Membership

Membership reports to the National Office are to be completed locally by March 30, 2017. The website address is <unitedmethodistwomen.org/>.

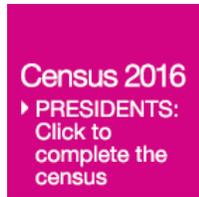
Local unit presidents and membership chairpersons will need to complete the unit census report. Choose the button shown on the right. Information you will need to enter follows:

Unit name; church name; District -Gateway; Conference - Great Plains; Jurisdiction- South Central; Church address, city, state, zip code; Unit type (select from list); Unit President; President’s Phone # and email; Number of members as of Jan1, 2016; Number of new members added; Number of members lost; Name of person reporting; Position of person reporting; Telephone #; email address; questions about use of social media for UMW.

To register each individual and print a membership card, select the button shown at the left. A local leader could complete this, or each member could enter her

own information at a meeting if internet is available at your location. The process is quite straightforward. One begins by entering your zip code; your church name should be in the list that pops up. Then complete the information requested. When you are done, you will even get an email thanking you for registering!

Journey in Growth leader Charlene Schauer requests that all units complete the paper unit report (enclosed in the packet all units received at the fall meeting) and submit it to her so she has complete information to report to the conference about each unit and about the district as a whole. Let’s help one another complete these reports so that UMW has an accurate picture of its membership.



150 Years of Love: The Legacy Fund United Methodist Women
 Consider donating \$18.69 honoring the founding year, or \$150 honoring the anniversary. Send checks (Legacy Fund in the memo line) to:

United Methodist Women
 Office of the Treasurer
 475 Riverside Drive
 New York, NY 10115

**3rd Annual
 UMW Day
 of Giving:
 March 23**

Legacy Fund Quilt Block Designs Requested

Gateway District UMW is seeking a design for the Great Plains Conference Legacy Fund quilt which will be used to promote the Legacy Fund.

A block is to be designed by each district which reflects the heritage, mission, prominent women, etc. of that district. Blocks may be pieced or embroidered—use your imagination!

Submit a design at our Spring Retreat in April. We will then choose which design will be forwarded to the conference committee. As soon as the overall quilt design is chosen, blocks will be sent to the districts and others who will make the blocks.

The plan is to display the quilt at the fall annual meeting at York in September 2017.

Epworth Village Appreciates Your Support

This information comes from the Epworth newsletter:

- Box tops for Education -- In 2016 82,970 box tops were redeemed. Epworth Village IS still collecting box tops. Please check the expiration dates.
- Needs list: paper goods, copy paper, paper towels, tissues, etc.; \$10+ gift cards from Wal-Mart, Walgreens, Kohls, McDonalds, Ace Hardware for supplies and residents' birthdays; men's hygiene products; box tops for education; prayers.
- 2016 Heart of the Matter update, Proceeds from donated auction items and sponsors of tables, etc. totaled \$27,491.00. Save the date for the 2017 Heart of the Matter - October 5th.
 submitted by Joyce Solomon,
 Epworth Village Mission Interpreter

Journey in Action



Kathy Mann

Find Joy in the Journey

I want to express to all of you that you have many worthwhile projects in your respective units. I have visited with many of you and collected a list of the projects that you do. You do a great job of taking care of those in need both locally and elsewhere. Your projects reach to all ages and to men and women and those in your community. You supply food, entertainment, clothing, money, services, gifts, education, and spiritual examples to those near and far. Continue in your good work and know that you are a blessing to the Lord.

1 Peter 4:10: As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

Luke 1:37: For nothing is impossible with God.

NOTICE: Epworth Village no longer takes baby quilts because of a change in the focus of the services that they offer.

At the Gateway District Annual Meeting held in Ord this past year, there were 48 quilts donated that were made by local units. Eight of them went to Central Nebraska Community Services in Loup City, twelve of them went to the Lincoln People's City Mission for the homeless, and the remainder was given to Hope Harbor in Grand Island. Each recipient expressed much appreciation for the beautiful quilts that were brand new. Many times they get used items and they were very thankful for the new, brightly colored quilts.

In the future, if your unit wishes to continue making quilts, you will need to give them to a mission of your choice. You might give the quilts locally. Research your community for possible needs. You might also give to the missions mentioned above.

For more information, please contact Kathy Mann, Journey In Action, 308-214-0798 or kmann1947@gmail.com.

Just a Word..... Ardith Davenport, Communications Coordinator

Your Gateway District UMW newsletter reflects the teamwork of your district officers. Their leadership totals up to many hours of volunteer work on your behalf. Be sure to let them know you appreciate them.

At our 2016 fall meeting in Ord, we offered a session (during the officer's training sessions) for persons who are not currently officers in their local units. In that session, we were challenged to consider a "New Recipe" for UMW programs or lessons. A brief summary of ideas is listed below. Thank you to the eight women who contributed these "new recipes" which may help in future planning for your UMW meeting:

1. Host a Tea for all women of the community, young and old.
2. Organize a Craft day. Bring supplies for you and a guest. Take home the product or gift it to the local nursing home.
3. Make and take casserole day. Lesson on multiplying loaves and fishes.
4. Form a team of women to invite others and give them rides.
5. Give book reports on books from the reading program.

6. Find lessons in "Response" or "New World Outlook".
7. Lead a study on the Purpose of UMW. Refer to "A Purpose-Filled Community" found at unitedmethodistwomen.org
8. Did you know that we have a "Purpose Song"? Teach it to your members, then discuss the purpose as it applies to your unit.
9. Have you wished you could invite an active missionary to your unit meeting? Listen to a "Four-part Audio Interview with Regional Missionary Serna Samuel" found on the national website.
10. Do you have women with difficulties seeing the print in books and magazines? Some of the articles from "Response" magazine are posted in audio on the national website. Give an "audio lesson" to introduce this feature.
11. Would each one of your members like to receive the national newsletter 4 times a year? Spend the program time at a meeting helping each one sign up on line to receive it. *United Methodist Women News* is a free 8-page newspaper highlighting recent events and issues happening within the organization and its members.
12. Need a map of an area of the world served by UMW Missions? Find one for printing or use in a digital presentation on the national website.
13. Mother's night out. Offer free child care for a spiritual growth event at your church.
14. Instead of your regular meeting, organize a field trip to a national mission institute: like Epworth Village.
15. Hold your regular meeting at the the local nursing home so members residing there can attend.