

Missouri River District Dialogue

Greetings from your President:

I was so pleased with May being kit month and having a truck going straight to MMDC. I think all of us raising awareness of the needs for all the kids has made a difference.

I am going to a meeting in July with all the 17 district presidents and talk about some of the change in our new conference, if you have questions about some of these things, please call or Email me. The more input I have, the more I can help to answer your questions.

Please put the day of Mission U on your calendar. Registration forms are available online at www.greatplainsunc.org/umw

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FROM THE DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENT

By the time you receive the Missouri River Dialogue, we will have had our District Bible Study on February 22, 2014 at Maplewood United Methodist Church, and our Spring Retreat at Nehawka United Methodist Church.

Our District Meeting on Friday September 26, 2014 will be at 1st Church in Omaha. Perhaps you noticed that our District Meetings alternate between a weekday and a Saturday in two year cycles. This gives working women an opportunity to attend this special meeting at least every other year, and is an effort to be inclusive.

Vive-President's, please encourage your President and other officers who are asked to contribute information for reports to meet the deadline!! Much of this material is included in the program book for the September meeting, and it is very difficult to compile lists and prepare the book for printing at the last minute. Your cooperation is needed and appreciated.

On a personal note, I enjoyed attending the Assembly in April in Louisville, Kentucky, and to bring this information to you at the District Meeting in September.

In Christian Love,
June Ethridge
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From Your Treasurer

Just a reminder to have your 2013 books audited. This is just for your protection.

New for 2014- Dedicated Light has increased to \$45 (use to be \$40).

It's that time of year again- get your 2015 budget prepared and ready to present to your unit. The yellow sheets need to get to me ASAP.

Another change- we have gone to having our pay periods go month to month now (instead of the 15th of the month to the 15th of the next month). The only way that affects you is that when filling out a remittance form to send me with your checks, at the top where it says "Period From:___ To:___", you can now write the month we are currently in, the 1st and last dates, i.e. March 1 to March 31. Should be less confusing once we all get used to it.

Blessing!
Nancy Ramsey
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Committee on Nominations

"Each one should use whatever gifts he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" 1Peter 4:10

Each of us has gifts to use in the service of others. It is the Committee on Nominations job to discover UMW members with the gift of leadership to fill positions on the Missouri River District Mission Team. Qualities of potential leaders include: a willingness to learn; an understanding of the Purpose of UMW; an ability to work as part of a team; and openness to new ideas, cultures and concepts.

The Committee on Nominations is currently developing a talent bank of potential leaders for Mission Team. Please contact the Nominating Committee if you can recommend a member of your local organization or someone in the district as a potential leader.

Missouri River District UMW Committee on Nominations

Chair ('15) Linda Ethridge, 2202 Lloyd St, Bellevue, NE 68005, [402-292-7058](tel:402-292-7058), ethridge13@cox.net

Class of '14 Lynn Davenport, 961 CO RD, Hooper, NE 68031, [402-654-2534](tel:402-654-2534), galynn@midlands.net

Class of '16 Kris Geiner, 5845 S 18th Street, Omaha, NE 68107, [402-733-7229](tel:402-733-7229), keg1940@hotmail.com

Class of '17 Jo Sahl, 6609 N 37th Street, Omaha, NE 68112, [402-455-1835](tel:402-455-1835), desjas2@cox.net

From Education and Interpretation

Greetings,

Thank you for all who attended the Missouri River District United Methodist Women 2014 Mission Study on February 22, 2014. A huge heartfelt thank you to all the Maplewood unit for hosting the event.

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From your SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:7b)

As I write this, I have sent the form for Deceased member(s) to every active unit via Email or snail mail. Thank you for your response. We will acknowledge those beloved sisters at our Missouri River District Meeting. I trust you plan to attend.

I am looking forward to weekend Mission u in Kearney, NE, August 1-3, 2014. It is an excellent opportunity to grow spiritually and to expand our concept of missions. I hope to see many of you there.

I expect to be at the Officers' training in the fall. I was sorry to have missed it last year. Enjoy the rest of your summer.

“With grateful hearts, O God, we thank you for giving us the ability to love. We see in the example of Jesus' life that love makes us partners with those for whom we have prayed, and they with us. As we seek to meet the many needs expressed each day, we ask you for the encouragement of your spirit day by day as we continue in prayer 'in loving partnership.' Amen.”
____by Ann Needham

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Time for A Change?

Patty Moreno

Membership, Nurture, and Outreach (MNO) Coordinator

Missouri River District

Each year, throughout the Conference, coordinators for “membership, nurture, and outreach (MNO)” contact UMW units within their district to collect data about membership. How many women are members of their UMW unit? Are the numbers going up or down?

As the new Missouri River District MNO coordinator, this was my first year performing such a task. I am happy to report that as of the end of calendar year 2013, the number of United Methodist Women in our District exceeded 1200 individuals. That is an impressive statistic, though this number is slightly less than the number of UMW members reported for 2012.

Many of the women with whom I talked during the data collection process, recalled a time when their UMW unit was much larger. They reminisced of years past, when their church had a primary UMW leadership group and one or more “circles.” Life focused around family, church, and (for those with children or grandchildren) schools. Few women worked in those days and they could devote more of their time and energy to United Methodist Women activities. These women accomplished a great deal for their churches and their communities. In addition, the time spent as a member of a UMW unit or circle, offered an important opportunity for social interaction, building friendships that lasted a life time.

Today, as we all know, the lives of women have become increasingly complex. According to one recent source, more than 58% of all women in the U.S. now work outside the home. These women have to juggle a job or career, along with taking care of a home and family. They are raising and helping to teach children who are expected to learn more at a younger and younger age, while participating in many “outside activities.” It is no wonder that the number of women who can find the time to join a United Methodist Women unit is declining. Often, despite their interest and desire to join such an organization, it becomes just “one more thing” to put on a plate already overloaded.

However, when talking to quite a number of churches, I found that while the number of women in a “formal” UMW unit might be down, the involvement of women in a variety of “good works” at these same churches is not. Frequently churches have found that in today’s hectic world, many of their women are not inclined to spend valuable time in formal meetings, but given an opportunity to help others in a very direct and personal way according to their own schedule, they are eager to help and “make the time” to do so.