



## Our PURPOSE

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.

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## Great Plains Conference Wichita East District UMW News February 2015

The theme for 2015 is “For Such a Time as This.”

*For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”* Esther 4:14 New International Version (NIV).

### dates to remember

- METour Deadline, March 21, 2015
- Wichita East and West Spiritual Retreat (registration attached) April 10-11, 2015, Camp Horizon
- UMW Dinner at Annual Conference, June 10, Wichita First UMC
- Mission u Weekend: July 10-12, 2015 Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, KS
- Mission u Weekday: July 19-23, 2015 Kansas Wesleyan, Salina, KS
- Mission u Weekend: July 31-Aug 2, 2015 Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE
- Wichita East District Annual Meeting Oct 3, 2015, Augusta UMC
- Great Plains Conference Annual Meeting Oct 16-17, 2015 Wichita Saint Mark UMC

### from the district president

#### ***Have you ever been on a spiritual retreat?***

I recently read in my online devotions from Upper Room Reflections the following description of a spiritual retreat:

*FOR ME, a retreat is a time set apart to be reminded of God’s presence in a deeper way. It is a time to remember again that God holds the world and me. It is a time to relax into God’s sovereignty and to remember God’s activity, not my own. It is a time that restores the rhythm for me between work and rest. As I think on it, for me retreat is extended Sabbath. –a mother, wife - Ben Campbell Johnson and Paul H. Lang.*

This really described what I have felt in the past as I attended the annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat for Wichita East and West Districts. I hope you will plan to attend on Friday, April 10

and Saturday, April 11 at Horizon United Methodist Center for this year's retreat. The facilitator will be Libby Eaton, Christian Ed Director at Wichita First UMC. Her topic is described as:

**“Your Wonderful Weirdness: Living Your Strengths for God”**

What if who you are right now is exactly who God meant for you to be? What if the weirdest, most annoying things about you exist on purpose, and for a purpose, to bring joy, life, strength and healing to our world? This study, based upon a book by Laurie Wallin, will help you look at your unique qualities and how they help you love God passionately and others more effectively. Participants will investigate such topics as Squashing Wonderless Self-Talk, Living your Strengths with Confidence, and Trusting God with your Quirky Heart. We will look at the difference between weirdness and weakness, and discover the wonder in ourselves.

Join us for the retreat and discover your “Wonderful Weirdness”.

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!** To the wonderful UMW ladies at Arkansas City First who hosted a wonderful annual meeting. Lots of information was given out in officer training. There is a lot we know and since joining together into the Great Plains Conference there are lots of things that are still in transition. You might notice the change in the names of our Mission Teams that have changed to Journey Teams, which the District will be going to by 2016; (Local Units can remain with the traditional Officers/Coordinators). If you did not attend the District Meeting you may wish to contact your Shepherdess (the list of Shepherdesses and the Units they are assigned to can be found in your District Directory). Or if you are a unit officer you can contact your district officer counterpart. Help is only a phone call away. Any of us would be happy to visit your Unit, just ask.

Karen Dunlap (316) 295-2778 email: [kmdunlap@cox.net](mailto:kmdunlap@cox.net)

**Check out the National UMW website:**  
**[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)**

**from the district secretary. . .**

The 2015 Wichita East District directory was mailed out to all district officers, local unit presidents, presidents of the 17 districts in the conference, and almost all conference officers on January 15. Thank you to Anita Boutz for helping me proofread. With a project this size, I knew there would be some changes/corrections, and I've received several so far. I plan to send (by email) a list of corrections at the end of February. The cost of the printing was \$226.52, and the cost of the envelopes and postage was \$146.80.

Jean Hedstrom (316) 777-4762 email: [Bjhedstrom4ksu@cox.net](mailto:Bjhedstrom4ksu@cox.net)

*from the district treasurer...*

As we begin our second year in the Great Plains Conference as United Methodist Women, I have met many new great women who have a heart for our work. I was able to attend the two conference planning meetings last year at Concordia, KS and York, Nebraska but unable to attend the January, 2015, meeting this year in North Platte, NE. I met the new Conference treasurer in York and she is Becky Pishney from Blue Rapids, KS. It doesn't seem possible I'm starting my fifth year as your Treasurer for Wichita East District. Last year had many new procedures for submitting our Mission information and in July I started ordering the Special Mission Recognition pins on the computer direct to the New York office. Since August, the reports for your unit Mission funds also were directly sent by computer to New York. One total monthly check and a report is still mailed each month to the conference treasurer. I hope the pins many of you have ordered since have arrived on a timely manner. Please continue to write your checks to Wichita East District UMW.

Your Units final Mission funds total to the Great Plains Conference UMW for 2014 is \$41,268.74. This includes all areas of the Five Star and other undesignated giving. The final figures from our Wichita East District Units were close to meeting our \$42,000.00 Pledge to Missions. The amount also sent for other areas such as Call to Prayer, A brighter Future and UMCOR was \$2,459.59. The added amount from our District Officer's Funds of Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, General offering at our fall District meeting (in Honor of Carolyn Hellon) and the Corsages sold at the District meeting added another \$704.00. Thank you for all your hard work and funds as the units of our District complete our year on a positive note. The Pledge for 2015 is again \$42,000.00 and we pray for these Mission Funds to be attained.

We had twenty-three units qualify for the Five-Star Unit award for 2014. Thank you for your willingness to achieve this way of using your Mission funds. We now have twenty-eight units. The Wichita Brookside unit disbanded in the middle of last year.

If any treasurer did not receive the information letter and forms that were either picked up at the District meeting in Arkansas City or mailed in the President's packet, please let me know and I will mail you one direct. Blessings to you.

Anita Boutz, (316) 777-4829 email: [gaboutz@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gaboutz@sbcglobal.net)

- ***Thank You for Giving! Avalyn Reissig, our 2014 Great Plains Conference UMW Treasurer, reports that we exceeded our Pledge to Mission in in 2014! We pledged \$600,000 and remitted \$695,000. Hallelujah!***

***from the district Journey in Faith chair  
(formerly spiritual growth). .***

The annual Spiritual Renewal Retreat for Wichita East and West Districts will be Friday, April 10 and Saturday, April 11 at Horizon United Methodist Center. The facilitator will be Libby Eaton, Christian Ed Director at Wichita First UMC. She will have as her theme, "Your Wonderful Weirdness: Living Your Strengths For God" which is based on the book by Laurie Wallin. If you would like a copy of the book, please contact Libby at 316-267-6244 or [libbye@firstwichita.org](mailto:libbye@firstwichita.org). The books are \$11.25 and she will order them and bring them to the retreat. Registrations are due by March 27 to Melba Maechtlen. The registration form is included on pages 9 and 10 of this newsletter.

Melba Maechtlen (620) 442-3719 Email: [rmaechtlen@cox.net](mailto:rmaechtlen@cox.net)

***from the district Journey in Learning chair  
(formerly Education and Interpretation) . . .***

I am the new District Chair for Journey in Learning (formerly Education and Interpretation) for 2015-16. I have been a Methodist Woman for many years and it is a pleasure to be a District officer again.

So far we have received 19 Mission Today reports and you could still send it by Feb, 15th. The Great Plains conference has changed the Mission Today form and the form in the 2015 directory is not the one to use. Since our purpose is Missions the new form is titled: "Every Unit a Mission Do Unit" the new form can be found on the conference website at [www.greatplainsumc.org/umw](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/umw) under the forms section. Be sure to use this one for 2015 (the one due next Jan.). The biggest change is that we no longer have the levels of Silver, Gold and Platinum. If you meet the criteria you will get a certificate. If you have questions or need help, contact me. I look forward to seeing you at the Retreat at Camp Horizon in April.

Helen Bossi (620) 442-0387 email: [fhbossi@cox.net](mailto:fhbossi@cox.net)

*from the district Journey in Action chair  
(formerly Social Action)*

**Human Trafficking**

United Methodist Women stands against the exploitation of those forced to submit to civil injustice as a result of their basic needs or position in society. As many as 30 million people internationally have fallen victim to human trafficking, and the epidemic has become the second largest criminal activity behind the sale of illegal arms. As advocates for social justice, United Methodist Women will continue to work for the rights of those exploited by this cruel trade and end this all-too-prevalent form of modern-day slavery. **We have fought human trafficking for more than a decade. Join us in raising awareness.**



**Global Migration and Immigration Rights**

United Methodist Women's immigration initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to racial justice, and civil and human rights. United Methodist Women seeks to welcome immigrants and advocate for just immigration policies.



For more information on these and other issues check out UMWOnline at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

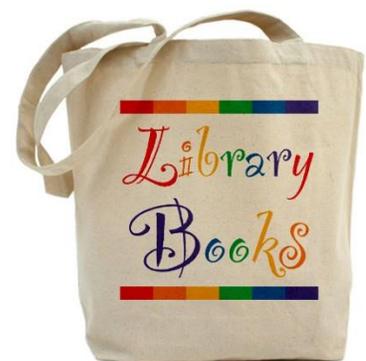
Victoria Hunt, (316) 304.5944 Email: [vikkirhunt@gmail.com](mailto:vikkirhunt@gmail.com)

*from the district secretary of program resources . . .*

Have You Heard About The Great Plains Conference UMW Library?

The Library features the books from the United Methodist Women's Reading Program. While the physical location of the Library is in Lincoln, Nebraska, the services of the Library are available for all the units of Great Plains UMW, whether or not you live in or near Lincoln. Gifts to the Library and funds in the conference budget are used to purchase the Reading Program books for the Library.

Here's how you can participate...



You can request to have books from the Library mailed to you. The books you receive are from the five-year listing of the books that we have on the shelves. Orders range from 4 to 10 books. You can request a box of books for two months with a renewal extension offered. Your responsibility/cost as a local unit is to pay for postage to and from the library. Even with the increased cost of postage, it is still a bargain plus you don't have to find a place to keep all those Reading Program books in your house or church.

Connie Gowin, (316) 250-5342 email: [cgowin@cox.net](mailto:cgowin@cox.net)

### from the district nominations co-chairs. . .

The Nominations Committee is always looking for people who would be willing to serve beyond the local unit. If you are one of those special people, please take some time and fill out the "Talent Bank Information for Prospective Leadership" in United Methodist Women, located on page 11 of this newsletter.

You would be surprised at the blessings you will receive from the learning experience in store for you as a District or Conference officer. It is a way to grow Spiritually as well and growing as a whole person. The Christian fellowship is wonderful.

*Isaiah 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me."*

Laurie Stone, (620) 488-2788 email: [wgsijs@yahoo.com](mailto:wgsijs@yahoo.com)

Leo Jean Parker, (316) 744-2003 email: [leojeanparker@ymail.com](mailto:leojeanparker@ymail.com),

## GREAT PLAINS UMW NEWS

- ❖ **Thank You for Giving!** Avalyn Reissig, our 2014 Great Plains Conference UMW Treasurer, reports that we exceeded our Pledge to Mission in in 2014! We pledged \$600,000 and remitted \$695,000. Hallelujah!

Thanks to each and every member of United Methodist Women in the Great Plains Conference for your faithful and generous giving. Through your giving, you have reached out to the hungry, the homeless, the outcast and ministered to them. You have to feed, clothe, provide shelter and make a better life for women, children and youth throughout the world. You have made a difference! Together, we make it happen!

- ❖ **Find Great Plains UMW on Facebook.** The Great Plains UMW membership is roughly 27,000 members in Nebraska and Kansas. However, our Facebook page only has 382 people following it. Please invite your friends and fellow UMW members to like/follow this page so that we can get the word out about all the wonderful things happening in the Great Plains and UMW!
- ❖ **Exactly how committed is the Great Plains UMW to missions?** In 2014 through all mission giving channels the Great Plains UMW gave \$1 million to missions! Take a moment to celebrate this accomplishment...it is truly amazing! WE MADE IT HAPPEN!
- ❖ **2015 METour:** While it may seem like a long ways away the deadline to apply for the 2015 METour is March 21. There are still spots on the bus so don't forget to remind the young women you have recruited to fill out their applications but also to recruit more young women to apply. Let's make the first Great Plains UMW METour the best one yet!
- ❖ **Did you know it takes \$45.00 A MINUTE to support all our UMW Missions,** and NO, that is not a typo! Every MINUTE we need \$45.00 to keep our UMW Missions up and running. That is why our Unit Pledges are so very important.
- ❖ **United Methodist Women** is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leadership, and advocating for justice.

## 2015 Mission Education Tour (METour)

Just the Basics:

Who: All Young Women ages 15-22 in the Great Plains Conference are invited to apply. Up to 40 are selected for the tour.

Tour Dates: May 29-June 7

2015 Tour Destinations: Southeast United States

Cost: \$350 - send \$25 with your application

Contact: Heidi Bolton 3303 Tulip Rd. Junction City, KS 66441  
785-223-1248 or heidihomom@yahoo.com.



## 2015 Great Plains Mission u

Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society and how those issues intersect with our faith. Participants grow in understanding the mission of the church in the current world context. The studies give particular attention to the responsibilities of all in the fulfillment of the mission work of the church. Courses are offered on a rotating basis so there is always something new to learn. Mission u is formerly known as the Cooperative School of Christian Mission.

### *2015 Study Topics*

Spiritual Growth Study -- "Created for Happiness"

Geographic Study -- "Latin America"

Issues Study -- "The Church and People with Disabilities"

### *2015 Dates and Locations*

Again this year we are offering Three Great Plains Conference Cooperative Mission u opportunities.- three opportunities, three sites and three dates. Registration for all 2015 Mission u options will be available in the spring 2015. Online registration will open on May 1, 2015.

- Weekend: July 10-12, 2015 Downtown Ramada Inn, Topeka, KS
- Weekday: July 19-23, 2015 Kansas Wesleyan, Salina, KS
- Weekend: July 31-Aug 2, 2015 Holiday Inn, Kearney, NE

Check the conference website for more information and a copy of the flyer, [www.greatplainsumc.org/missionu](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/missionu)

**Great Plains United Methodist Women Webpage:**  
[www.greatplainsumc.org/umw](http://www.greatplainsumc.org/umw)



## 2015 SPIRITUAL RENEWAL RETREAT

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WICHITA EAST AND WEST DISTRICTS

#### HORIZON UNITED METHODIST CENTER

Friday and Saturday, April 10-11, 2015

#### **“Your Wonderful Weirdness: Living Your Strengths for God”**

What if who you are right now is exactly who God meant for you to be? What if the weirdest, most annoying things about you exist on purpose, and for a purpose, to bring joy, life, strength and healing to our world? This study, based upon a book by Laurie Wallin, will help you look at your unique qualities and how they help you love God passionately and others more effectively. Participants will investigate such topics as Squashing Wonderless Self-Talk, Living your Strengths with Confidence, and Trusting God with your Quirky Heart. We will look at the difference between weirdness and weakness, and discover the wonder in ourselves.

Facilitator: Libby Eaton, Christian Ed Director at Wichita First UMC

#### **Schedule**

##### Friday

4:30 p.m. Registration/Dining Hall

5:30 p.m. Supper

6:30 p.m. First Session

8:30 p.m. Fellowship/Snacks

##### Saturday

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Second Session/Communion

12:00 p.m. Lunch

Homeward Bound

#### **REGISTRATION: Due by March 27, 2015**

Room Assignments: Will be made after 4:30 p.m. April 10, in Dining Hall

What to bring: Casual clothing, BIBLE, bedding (twin size), towel, personal items and a flashlight. Snacks and drinks will be provided.

QUESTIONS??? Contact:

Wichita West Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
Helen White, 620-326-7746 or wlhwhite@hotmail.com

Wichita East Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
Melba Maechtlen, 620-442-3719 or rmaechtlen@cox.net

If last minute circumstances prevent your attending, please call Camp Horizon  
(620-442-5533)

**2015 SPIRITUAL RENEWAL RETREAT**  
**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**  
**WICHITA EAST AND WEST DISTRICTS**  
**HORIZON UNITED METHODIST CENTER**  
**30811 Horizon Drive Arkansas City, Ks**

**Registration**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ROOMMATE PREFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

Would sleeping on a top bunk be an option for you? ( ) Yes ( ) No

CHURCH NAME: (Include City) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost: \$53.00    Registration: \$5.00    Room: \$27.00

Supper: \$8.00    Breakfast: \$6.00    Lunch: \$7.00

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Make check payable to: Wichita East District UMW

**Mail registration and check by March 28, 2014 to:**

Melba Maechtlen  
2017 E. Chestnut  
Arkansas City, KS 67005

# Talent Bank Information for Prospective Leadership

## United Methodist Women

(type or print)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: HOME/WORK \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYED or VOLUNTEER \_\_\_\_\_ FULL TIME \_\_\_\_\_ PART TIME

NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT \_\_\_\_\_

EXPERIENCE IN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

Other United Methodist, Ecumenical, or Community Experience: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Special Interest and Concern \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Special Talents and Skills: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Able to be away from home or employment for: Full Day \_\_\_\_\_ Weekend: \_\_\_\_\_

Extended Time \_\_\_\_\_

Other Significant Information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If person filling out form is the same as the person named at the top, complete the following:

You may consider my name for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Any position on the District Executive Committee

\_\_\_\_\_ Any specific positions (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Nothing this year, but please keep my name on file and contact me again next year.

PERSON SUBMITTING INFORMATION: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed form to: Leo Jean Parker, 3635 N Meridian, Wichita, KS 67204

Or email to [leojeanparker@ymail.com](mailto:leojeanparker@ymail.com) If you have questions, call 316-744-2003.