



Florida Conference United Methodist Women



Genesis

Winter 2018 vol. 45 no.1

Purpose

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God, 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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From President Kay Roach Greetings Sisters in Christ:

Loving God, in this coming year, may I better discern where You need me to be – and to be there gladly. Gail Thorell Schilling – Daily Guideposts 2018



Here we are again - beginning a new year! I certainly pray the beginning of 2018 is and continues to be a blessing in many ways for you. My beginning to the new year was not as planned by taking a fall and breaking the femur in my right leg. I've been told that may have been God's way of slowing me down. I am doing so much better and getting around well. I know it is a slow process of healing and I am trying to be patient – easier said than done! Thanks to so many for your prayers, cards and well wishes for my recovery. I am so grateful for our community of faith and the love of my UMW sisters. God is good!

I was pleased to hear the Leadership Development that took place earlier in January with Yvette Moore from UMW National went well and I am sure many of you, if not already, are now involved in your own district officer training events. "Communication" was the special emphasis at that event and it is so important. Think about how you can reach out to those in your districts to make sure they know what is happening in United Methodist Women and show them how to be involved. Membership Census is also important to make sure your local unit is submitting that information to the national office (due in March).

Planning is already taking place for our enrichment retreat in September, Mission u in July and, of course, Conference Annual Meeting in November. You will be hearing more about these events from your district leadership teams and future issues of *Genesis*.

I was disappointed that I was unable to attend the Children's Advocacy Days this past week at the State Capitol, but I'm sure it was a great event. Please read more about it in this issue of *Genesis*.

Your district and conference leaders are always available to assist you in any way to help you learn more about how we can together make Faith, Hope, Love in Action happen!

Blessings,
Kay Roach

"It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me"
Galatians 2:20 NRSV

Just For You: Exciting Learning opportunities!

As you begin the New Year, do make plan to participate in some wonderful opportunities for learning and spiritual Growth United Methodist Women is providing throughout the year.

If you are in the Atlantic Central, Gulf Central, South West and the South East districts, why not attend the 7th Haitian convocation February 24, 2018 at Bethesda UMC in Tamarac, FL. This event is for all United Methodist Women not just Haitians.

I hope and pray most of you have made plans to attend the “Power of Bold” Assembly to be held May 18-20 in Columbus Ohio, the site of the first Assembly. This is one event you do not want to miss! Your district President may be able to help you identify a roommate if you do need one.

Do you know a Native American Woman who would be interested in attending Assembly? The National Office is offering a scholarship for Native American Women on a first come first serve basis. **The deadline for the application is February 15, 2018.** Contact Sophony Lamour at SLamour@unitedmethodistwomen.org to get a scholarship form.

Save the dates for Mission u: July 12-15 – Spiritual Retreat: September 7-9 sand Conference Annual Meeting: November 3, 2018. More information will be published in the next Genesis.

In Christ Service,
Judith Pierre-Okerson
Vice-President
Judithpierreokerson.umw@gmail.com



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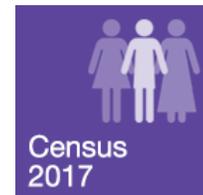
Every member counts!

Every member counted!

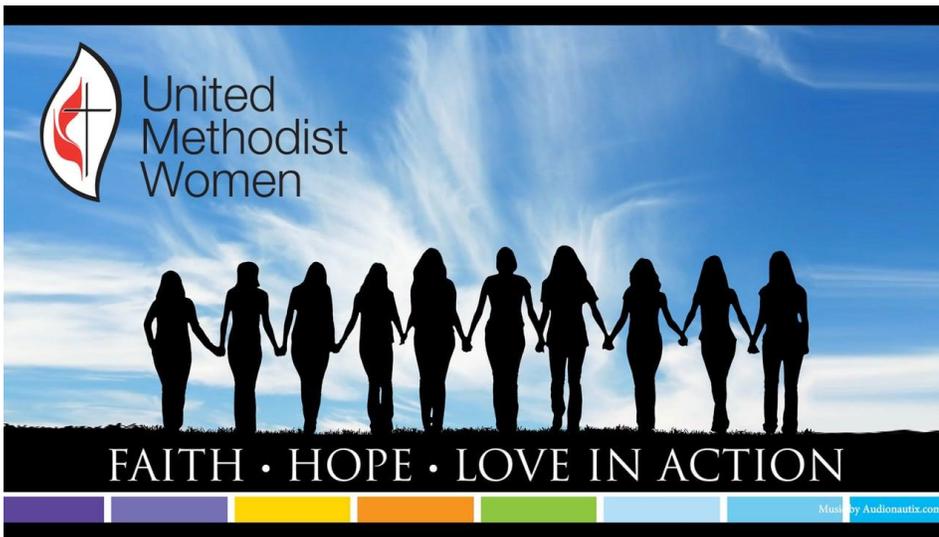
We would like to have 100% reporting for all of the United Methodist Women units in the Florida Conference. Here's all you have to do:

Gather your information:

- number of members in your unit on January 1, 2017
- number of members added during the year
- number removed by death or other
- number of members on December 31, 2017



Click on the Census 2017 logo on the national website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org There is a video by Khai Shaw, from the National Office, that will walk you step by step through completion of the census.



FEBRUARY 24, 2018

SEVENTH HAITIAN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN CONVOCATION

This event is sponsored by the Florida Conference United Methodist Women. Can you believe it has been seven years already? You know what they say “time flies when we’re having fun”...On that day we will have lots of fun as we gather together in fellowship to give God praise, and learn about God’s work. Save the date and come ready to worship. Registration starts at 9am.

Our SE District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Cynthia Dee Weems will bless us with the Meditation of the day.

Registration fees are as follows: Adult \$15.00, children 11 years and up \$10.00, children 6 years to 11 years \$5.00 and children 0 to 5 years \$0.00. Invite your neighbor, friends; relatives bring your congregation this event is for everyone childcare will be provided for those with children.

For registration info. call Anne Pierre Louis at 786-942-1246. For any other information, please call Ciliane Louis at 954-226-8110.

A warm welcome will be reserve for you, so **BE THERE!**

Ciliane Louis

A CALL TO COMMUNITY

**“Let the peace of
Christ rule in your
hearts, since as
members of one
body you were
called to peace.
And be thankful.”**

Colossians 3:15

**Don’t miss the
chance to learn
more about
“Missionary
Conferences in
the United States”
and “Living in a
Covenant
Community”**

LOCATION

**Bethesda Haitian
United Methodist
Mission**

6901 NW 70 Ave.

Tamarac, FL 33321

Leadership Development Training

And you thought as secretary you only had to record and distribute minutes or as treasurer to collect and disperse monies... Those attending the conference District Leadership Development Training now understand that an elected office may have several tentacles. As example, due to size the leadership team or executive committee might function as finance and program committee. In larger districts or units there might be separate finance and program committees functioning as described in the by-laws. Each district and local unit might have slightly different operating structure, hence it is important that as new officers you learn just how your district and unit function. By virtue of your office you might automatically be a part of a committee. To be effective in your role you must inquire; and, by all means, download the free copy of the latest UMW Handbook 2017-2020 (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/downloads). No officer should be without a copy!.

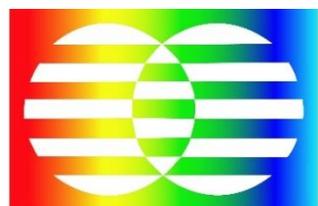
As was shared by Yvette Moore, facilitator for the District Leadership Development Training held at Life Enrichment Center, information via smartphone, tablet, or computer is just a click away. The Handbook is only just one of the many resources available to you from the national website designed to enhance your effectiveness as leaders. Ms. Moore, through a hands on process, walked participants through numerous sites on the national website that visualized the ways in which United Methodist Women put faith, hope, and love into action around the globe.



Yvette Moore, Facilitator, and some of the Florida Leadership Officers

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Totals for 2017



Mission Giving

Pledge	\$300,662.33
Special Mission Recognition	28,355.25
Gift to Mission	30,568.87
Gift in Memory	12,752.95
<u>World Thank Offering</u>	<u>33,353.31</u>
Total Mission Giving	\$405,692.71

Call to Prayer \$16,645.02

Thanks to all who gave your financial support by your pledge, honoring someone with a Special Mission Recognition, giving Gift to Mission cards, Gift in Memory cards, World Thank and Love offerings. Our Conference goal to the National Office was \$410,000, so we didn't quite meet our goal, but our goal for 2018 remains the same, so let's try to make it in 2018. United Methodist Women support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth. Together we can make a difference.

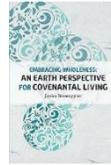
Ethel Ewing, Conference Treasurer

Mission u --- July 12 - 15

Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona

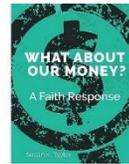
Spiritual Growth Study...

Explores the ways God has called us to love in covenantal relationship with all creation



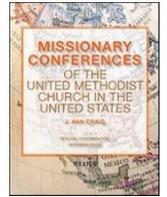
Issue Study...

Explores how we understand money within the context of our faith



Geographic Study...

Explores the foundational understanding of mission and ministries of the three U.S missionary



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Your Secretary of Program Resources

Hello Florida Conference Ladies! As you have either seen, heard from or read, there are several new faces on your Florida Conference Leadership Team and I am one of them! I'd like to take a minute of your time and again, welcome you! One of my main focus points as your Secretary of Program Resources for the Florida Conference is to assist you in purchasing books, assist your District Secretary of Program Resources insuring they have everything they need for you and most of all, help all of you to READ!

As I said at our training event a few weeks ago, "it wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark!" As we know from reading Genesis 6:9-10, Noah was a righteous man; blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God. God saw how corrupt the earth had become but GOD HAD A PLAN. God said to Noah, "Noah, you need to build a boat." "Build a boat?" Noah said to himself? "Why, there's no rain in sight and you want me to build a boat?" But Noah had faith in God and knew that God had a PLAN!

As with United Methodist Women, we have a PLAN too; in fact, we have four of them! Plans 1, 2, 3 and 4. As Secretary of Program Resources, I am here to encourage you to take advantage of our wonderful resources and try to read this year. Start out with just 5 books plus response magazine and see how easy it is to achieve just Plan 1. Some of the books we have this year are informative with today's issues, some are thought-provoking, and others are just plain interesting. You can also go back through six years of books and still get credit!!

So, make sure your district, unit, circle AND/OR yourself has a PLAN to read this year and who knows, before the year ends, you may have achieved all FOUR plans!! It's as easy as that!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me at: shelleydavidson.umw@gmail.com or 863-599-9070.

Happy Reading!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shelley Davidson".

Shelley Davidson
Secretary, Program Resources
Florida Conference United Methodist Women

Advocacy Days 2018

UMC/AMEC Advocacy Days 2018 during Children's Week was a success with excellent training by Florida Impact, meaningful worship, fellowship, and advocacy for justice issues. On Tue. Jan 23 teams of Methodists and AME Methodists mastered the maze of the Florida Legislature and met with many from their local delegations and more. Two issues were selected for positive advocacy for **Civil Citation Programs** (diverting youth from criminal processing), and **Restoration of Civil Rights** (upon completion of incarceration & community service/supervision). Bishop Carter was our leader through this 3-day event. HB 903 would allow rights restoration via a judges hearing rather than the 10 yr. current process. Another path HB 61 and a petition both lead to a public vote by constitutional amendment. We advocated against several bills and trust fund rading. HB 191 offers hope to stop the stealing and use all of the Housing Trust Fund funds to address the **affordable housing** shortage in Florida. From Rep. Kimberly Daniels we learned of her bill HB839 to require the State seal be displayed in public schools. The words "In God we Trust" are on that seal.

You can join in the advocacy by writing Governor Scott (The Capitol PL05, 400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee FL 32399) asking him to secure existing resources for our State by asking Housing & Urban Development (HUD) to stand up its Disaster Housing Assistance Program to provide safe, decent & affordable rental homes to (storm) displaced families. (Taking over from FEMA temporary asst.). FL Conf. UMC has gotten 3 grants to help with hurricane rebuilding and would like to work with HUD. Cindy Cosper, John Wesley UMW, Tallahassee. 1/24/18



Photos of Bishop Carter at Press Conf., Advocacy Team visiting Rep. Kimberly Daniels of Duval Co. (Cindy Cosper, David Gill and Taylor Newman). UMW Louise Hudson staffed a children's festival booth.



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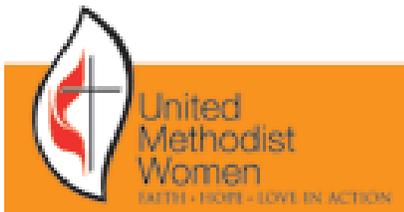
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**United Methodist Women
WEBSITES
to know ... and use!**



Florida Conference...

www.flconfumw.org

National Organization...

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

Resources...

www.umwresources.org

STILL TIME TO REGISTER!



**When
WOMEN
UNITE,**

**BOLD & COURAGEOUS
ACTIONS HAPPEN**

**United Methodist Women Assembly May 18-20, 2018
Greater Columbus Convention Center
Columbus, OH**

Come join the United Methodist Women from all over the world in joyful celebration of our 150 years of MISSION!

Assembly will offer an incredible personal faith journey through community building, training for action, and visioning a movement for the future. Bold and courageous ventures await us!

COUNT ME IN Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org for registration information – \$295 by November 30, 2017; \$330 after – includes 2 lunches. Official registration happening now!!!.

Florida Conference United Methodist Women

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 The United Methodist Church
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 Lakeland, FL

Contact: Leah Pittard
 United Methodist Women's
 Communications Committee
 rockpitt2@verizon.net



Make It Happen!

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN—Calendar of Events

February 24	Haitian Convocation	Bethesda UMC – Tamarac
April 7	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Lakeland
May 18 – 20	United Methodist Women Assembly	Columbus, OH
June 7 – 9	Church Annual Conference	Florida Southern College Lakeland
July 12 -15	Mission u	Bethune-Cookman University Daytona
September 7 - 9	Spiritual Growth Retreat	Life Enrichment Center Fruitland Park
October 6	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Lakeland
November 3	Conference Annual Meeting	To Be Announced
2019 February 16	Conference Leadership Team Meeting Membership Emphasis	Lakeland