"Every person has the right to a job at a living wage."

“I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly!”

(John 10:10)
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FRONT COVER: Dancers help enact the story of Elizabeth and Mary during the United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. Photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women.

PHOTOS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women, photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women, photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS, photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women.
CEO/GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT
Women of faith, we are called to be bold. We are called to be audacious in our actions and unwavering in our faith in God’s love and strength. During the 2018 Assembly we looked at Mary the mother of Jesus and the ways in which her response to God’s call demonstrates bold action and enduring faith. We also heard from and learned about other bold women, women who shaped our history as United Methodist Women and women who are making a difference in the church and in the world right now.

Given the challenges facing our church and our nation, it is easy to focus on what isn’t working or to magnify the problem in our own minds so that it appears so large that we are overwhelmed. But there is no challenge that we will face, that we are unable to take on and move through if we put our hands and hearts in Jesus and follow God’s calling in our lives.

Like Mary, we will face uncertainty and risk, we may need to flee to protect ourselves and our family; but we can also be steadfast, bear the pain of loss and magnify our God as she did, remembering God’s mercy, God’s strength and commitment to lifting up the lowly and filling the hungry with good things. Luke 1:50-53

Mary and the women we heard from at Assembly and our mentors and role models in United Methodist Women show us what we already know: being bold is asking a big thing, daring a big thing and believing that a big thing is possible – regardless of external appearances.

Being bold is rushing to service when retreating to comfort and safety would be understood and expected. Being bold is standing for what’s right in the face of injustice. Being bold is committing to care for each other, over the long haul, even when we know it will be difficult at times.

In a world where women face myriad challenges – maternal health concerns, environmental threats, racism, unemployment and underemployment – United Methodist Women are not just called to be bold, we need to be bold. We do this by leading, inviting and mobilizing.

Our organization learns and leads. Our members lead. You lead. We lead in our communities, in our homes, our schools and in our churches. Leadership is needed now more than ever before.

Even as we lead, we must invite. Our leadership must include inviting others into leadership and shared power, expecting that United Methodist Women will also be a place for them to hear God’s call and invest themselves in mission.

Finally, we must mobilize. I’m asking you to mobilize for justice by committing to advocacy on at least one United Methodist Women priority area.

Women of faith, we are called to be bold. We can do this by leading, inviting and mobilizing for the cause of justice. The women, children and youth we serve deserve this and so much more.
Assembly Exemplified the Work and Purpose of United Methodist Women

By Shannon Priddy, President

If 2018 taught me anything, it is that United Methodist Women are bold! Not only is there much to celebrate, there is much to do. The power of bold is United Methodist Women at our best. In taking some time to reflect on 2018, I find that we have so much to celebrate.

2018 Assembly the Power of Bold was only my second Assembly. To share United Methodist Women with 6,000 women from around the world was an opportunity of a lifetime for me. I want to share a little story. I arrived at the convention center before the stage was completely put together. I wanted to practice on stage, to make sure I was at my best. When I walked into that space, I started to cry. Being president of United Methodist Women is the biggest honor I have received and leading on stage that Saturday night was a first for me.

Assembly exemplified the work and purpose of United Methodist Women in every way. I met young women leaders, learning to find their voice, sharing their experiences with one another and the “mentors” who support them.

My life changed again at Assembly 2018. I made commitments to my sisters of color to be an ally and a listener. I met women leaders from around the world, doing the same things we do as United Methodist Women, making change in their communities on behalf of women, youth and children. Listening to Leymah Gbowee remind United Methodist Women to be bold, “The burden lies on us who know it is wrong.”

The story of Mary is still relevant today. Her journey is not unlike many of the women we work to serve and worship with. To see the life of Mary expressed in dance, song and scripture was awe-inspiring and moving. Taking the journey together, with women from around the world, brought me new perspectives on faith and our work.

2018 brought an urgency to our conversations about the future of United Methodist Women. As we approached our 150th year, growth in membership and financial responsibility lead each of us to deeper understanding of what we can do to lead our organization. When women invite others into leadership and fellowship, United Methodist Women will grow. We found ways to put faith, hope and love into bold action to bring new women to this organization.

Thank you for your faithful work in 2018. We have so much to celebrate and so much to do. Let’s get to work.

“Assembly exemplified the work and purpose of United Methodist Women in every way. I met young women leaders, learning to find their voice...”

Assembly exemplified the work and purpose of United Methodist Women in every way. I met young women leaders, learning to find their voice, sharing their experiences with one another and the “mentors” who support them. Photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women.
Sondra Hudgens of Days for Girls International shows Cheryl Buchholtz of the Desert Southwest Conference (left) and Debbie Haustedt of the Oregon-Idaho Conference how to cut fabric for feminine hygiene kits during a workshop on menstrual health, hygiene and social change at the United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. *Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.*
More than 6,000 women showcased “The Power of Bold” commitment to women, children and youth at the 2018 Assembly.
Women Display the Power of Bold at Assembly

By Tara Barnes

More than 6,000 women gathered in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, for “The Power of Bold,” United Methodist Women’s 2018 quadrennial Assembly.

The 2018 Assembly was special on two fronts. First, it marked United Methodist Women’s 150th anniversary. Second, Columbus was the site of the first Assembly, switched from St. Louis, Missouri, because its hotels would not serve African American members.

An Assembly plenary was a 150th celebration with actresses portraying key foremothers sharing their stories in the Experience Hall. The event included 90 workshop offerings, more than 50 Experience Hall exhibitors, and multiple action stations highlighting United Methodist Women’s social justice priority issues.

Hundreds of members participated in the pre-Assembly Ubuntu Day of Service and Advocacy on May 17. Women volunteered at Columbus-area non-profits serving women, children and youth, including the United Methodist Women-related National Mission Institution, Community Development for All People. Later in the day, the women joined more than 14 local organizations at a Living Wage 4 All rally in front of the Ohio Statehouse.

And from the official opening session of Assembly, participants embarked on a journey of spiritual growth, exploring the story of Mary, mother of Jesus, as an exemplar of what it means to be bold despite life’s challenges. Daily plenary Bible studies were punctuated with tap dancers expressing the biblical text in dance.

Assembly participants also heard from contemporary women leaders including climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe; Nobel Laureate Leymah Gbowee; Children’s Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman; author Michelle Alexander; and activists Tamika Mallory and the Rev. Hannah Bonner.

Nine women bishops of The United Methodist Church joined Assembly Sunday morning to serve communion. The 2018 Assembly offering went to support the Legacy Fund Endowment.

- Convened more than 6,000 women for the quadrennial “The Power of Bold” Assembly of United Methodist Women, three days of fellowship, sisterhood, spiritual growth and preparation to turn faith, hope and love into action, May 18-20, 2018, in Columbus, Ohio.

- Published resources to support members’ and friends’ growth in their faith and Christian discipleship.

- 2018 Prayer Calendar, resource to help users pray daily for the ministries and mission personnel of the church.

- Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living, 2018 spiritual growth study book, the second in a two-part series about covenantal living. Embracing Wholeness builds on 2017’s Living as a Covenant Community exploring the ways God has called us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation.

- Online Lenten resources and reflections.
2011 Nobel Laurette Leymah Gbowee told United Methodist Women members to never doubt their ability to lead or influence the world around them.
Women have the power to change the world—and the world needs them to do just that.

So said Liberia’s Leymah Gbowee in a searing plenary address at the Power of Bold Assembly.

Gbowee won the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize for mobilizing women across religious and ethnic lines to help end Liberia’s Second Civil War in 2003.

She opened her speech commending the work of United Methodist Women’s Regional Missionaries with women, children and youth in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America; and she urged United Methodist Women to continue this 150-year-old mission legacy.

“Women must keep moving forward,” she said.“Our world is calling us. No longer can we just play church. Our Jesus was bold and spoke up for the most rejected.”

Gbowee said faith in God, community and remembering the impact of their work can help women keep moving forward when facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles today. Women, she said, must rise above the labels that divide us.

“Are you still thinking that my faith in God will not allow me to interact with people who are not married to men? Are you still thinking that my faith in God does not allow me to interact with people of different races? The burden for change lies squarely on the shoulders of those of us who say we know. We are called to love mercy, to do justice and to walk humbly with our God.

“United Methodist Women, dream bold, but then wake up and work boldly.”

Women refugees from Sierra Leone inspired Gbowee during the bleakest days of Liberia’s civil war.

“Those women taught me that women are the ones who will change things around. They said, ‘We are the change we hope to see.’ ‘We have to make the world a better place for our children.’ This is why I’m standing here tonight.”

Leymah Gbowee addresses the United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011 for her work in leading a women’s peace movement that brought an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. Photo by Mike DuBose, UMNS.
For many teens, social connection is their first priority; positive experiences in which young women can make new friends, share, have fun and keep in touch.
A Space for Young Women

Assembly 2018 offered its first “Teen Track”

Assembly 2018 broke new ground with a special offering of workshops and activities for young women aged 13-18 year olds.

For many teens, social connection is their first priority, so the Teen Track also included the Limitless Lounge—a safe and creative space for the young women. Named for United Methodist Women’s Limitless young women’s initiative, the lounge was supported by eight 19-35-year-old volunteers from the network. The space included comfortable seating, music, lighting, gaming options and activities from coloring and selfie stations to crafts and jewelry making.

Teen Track participants had the opportunity to come a day early and join in the Ubuntu Day of Service and the public rally for a living wage organized by United Methodist Women.

On opening night, the Limitless Lounge hosted an open mic and pizza party, during which young women showcased their talents, including karaoke, dance and spoken word poetry.

A few guests stopped by the lounge to give powerful (and brief) talks on topics such as “fun-raising” for the next 150 years of United Methodist Women, the school-to-prison pipeline, gun violence in schools, menstrual health, and opportunities for service and advocacy.

The young women even took part in creating reusable pads for Days for Girls, a United Methodist Women partner that helps provide menstruation supplies for girls around the world, empowering women and girls worldwide through sustainable menstrual care and health education.

On Saturday of Assembly, the group proudly wore their Limitless Teen Track T-shirts and enjoyed special shout-outs from the big stage, which gave the young women a chance to shine! We closed out the night by hosting and leading the Neon Lights 150th dance party.

In total, 35 young women preregistered for the Teen Track, and another 10 joined on site. Teen Track made space for young women to have fun, make friends and grow in their faith.

• Offered nearly 100 workshops and “town hall” meetings in the areas of spiritual growth, leadership development, service and advocacy, and justice issues—including special “teen track” sessions for youth—to help prepare the more than 6,000 women attending the 2018 Assembly for hometown action after the event.

• Published adult, children and youth resources for the 2018 mission study:
  - *What About Our Money? A Faith Response* 2018 adult mission study book to explore ways money impacts the well-being and spiritual health of individuals and the community. The study will seek to interrupt economic injustice, promote justice and culminate in a new understanding of the covenantal community.
  - *Is It Just Money?* 2018 youth study book

• Trained more than 400 facilitators to lead 2018 mission studies at Conference Mission u events across the country.

• Provided technical support to United Methodist Women leaders responsible for organizing Mission u events in the 55 conferences nationwide.
“I’ve been coming to Assembly for years and years – since I was 35, and I’m now 70. It’s an inoculation for me. It’s like that shot that keeps you going, keeps you committed.”
Ubuntu Day of Service Comes to Assembly

Nearly 600 United Methodist Women members began their Assembly experience volunteering at nonprofits in Columbus, Ohio, as part of a pre-Assembly Ubuntu Day of Service. Ubuntu is a Nguni Bantu term meaning “I am human because you are human,” and participants went out into the community with that spirit of solidarity. Service sites ranged from community gardens, thrift stores, soup kitchens and food pantries to city beautification projects.

Jane Bond, a longtime Assembly attendee from Oklahoma, took part in a city cleanup on Columbus’s southside. “I’ve been coming to Assembly for years and years – since I was 35, and I’m now 70. It’s an inoculation for me. It’s like that shot that keeps you going, keeps you committed,” she said, holding her trash picker. “You have to have hope in this world. This is where I found hope, with United Methodist Women.”

The cleanup project was a partnership between Keep Grove City Beautiful and the United Methodist Church for All People, a United Methodist Women-supported national mission institution. Church for All People also welcomed volunteers at their Free Store thrift shop and Fresh Market food pantry. It even has a bike shop – Bikes for All People – which Church and Community Worker Margaret Madison, serving in Columbus, called a “third place,” where people from different socioeconomic backgrounds come together in a community in transition.

United Methodist Women CEO and General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson visited the Lincoln Park Elementary Freedom School, also a project of the Church for All People, in partnership with the Children’s Defense Fund. United Methodist Women National President Shannon Priddy joined in the city cleanup, and both Olson and Priddy visited the Fresh Market, among other service projects.

“What we see at Church for All People is a real focus on building relationships first – listening to what the community needs, thinking about the assets already present in the community and responding from that,” said Olson. “The work just continues to generate, and it is so powerful.”

Ubuntu Day of Service, a pre-Assembly event since 2010, is often replicated by members in local events.

Supported more than 90 U.S. National Mission Institutions that are residences, community centers or health centers, which served more than 205,042 persons including:

- 59,275 women over 18 years old
- 5,132 mothers with children under 5 years old
- 22,572 children 0-12 years old
- 8,226 persons with disabilities
- 20,972 youth age 13-18
- 52,416 families

Conducted member education and mobilization for action around United Methodist Women’s focus on A Living Wage, Climate Justice, Ending the School-to-Prison Pipeline, and Maternal and Child Health.

Consecrated 24 United Methodist Women members from 19 conferences as deaconesses, laywomen with a passion for God and a commitment to full-time ministry in service vocations such as parish nursing, social services, photojournalism and Christian education.

In a consecration service held during the 2018 Assembly, the women worshipped and prepared themselves for deeper ministry on behalf of the church and the call on their lives. The service was held on May 18 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center which is located inside the West Ohio Conference.

UBUNTU DAY United Methodist Women clean the streets of Columbus, Ohio, during a day of community service before Assembly 2018. Photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women.
**Climate Justice**

**CAMPAIGN: JUST ENERGY FOR ALL**

Be stewards of God’s creation: Work with companies and governments for clean, renewable energy through a just and equitable transition.

- **The #1 contributor to climate change** is greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels used for electricity, transportation and heat.
- A major contributor to air pollution is the BURNING of fossil fuels.
- 100% renewable energy:
  - 100 cities in the United States and 100+ companies have already committed to move to 100 percent renewable energy.
- 500,000 school days missed annually by U.S. children are due to ozone pollution from fossil fuels.

**TAKE ACTION:**

unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice

Credit: United Methodist Women

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**Maternal and Child Health**

**CAMPAIGN: END MATERNAL MORTALITY**

Call on health care workers, lawmakers and advocates to fund maternal mortality review committees and implement recommendations in hospitals and communities.

- Many women are unable to access proper health care prior to, throughout and after pregnancy.
- African American women have the highest rates of maternal mortality, dying at three to four times the rate of white women.
- Since 2000, the maternal mortality rate in the United States has increased 26.4 percent—the only developed country whose rate did not decline.

**TAKE ACTION:**

unitedmethodistwomen.org/maternal-child-health

Credit: United Methodist Women
Native American/Alaska Native students make up 1% of enrollment in schools and 2% of school-based arrests and referrals to law enforcement.

500% increase in incarceration in the United States over 40 years.

31% of children and youth experiencing school-based arrests and law enforcement referrals are African American, though they make up only 15% of total school enrollment.

African American boys are three times more likely to be suspended than white boys.

African American girls are six times more likely to be suspended than white girls.

A living wage is what it takes for a family to meet basic living needs.

Minimum wage or even $15/hr cannot support a family of four.

Workers of color are more likely to be paid poverty wages than white workers.

Cuts to social programs mean rising costs, like student debt, health care and housing, undermining a living wage.

Paid family and medical leave is essential to guaranteeing all workers a living wage.

TAKE ACTION:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice

TAKE ACTION:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wages
"Helping to stem climate change is a priority for us because women, children and young people in vulnerable communities are the hardest hit by the impact of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere."

Harriett Jane Olson, CEO, United Methodist Women
Leaders Deliver Assembly Member Letters to Chevron

United Methodist Women leaders delivered member letters calling for a reduction in methane waste production to Chevron’s headquarters in San Ramon, California, May 29, 2018.

Methane, the main component of natural gas, is a powerful greenhouse gas that is 87 times more potent than carbon dioxide when released into the atmosphere.

“Helping to stem climate change is a priority for us because women, children and young people in vulnerable communities are the hardest hit by the impact of greenhouse gases in the earth’s atmosphere,” said Harriett Jane Olson, CEO of United Methodist Women.

“Methane and other toxic pollutants leak into the environment throughout the natural gas supply chain. Exposure to pollutants are linked to respiratory diseases, heart attacks, reproductive problems, blood disorders, neurological problems, and cancer.”

Today over 15 million Americans live within a mile of oil and gas facilities,” said Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, executive for economic and environmental justice for United Methodist Women and part of the delegation that delivered the letters. “Such leaks harm vulnerable communities and pollute God’s creation.”

United Methodist Women affirmed the company’s recent decision to sign onto the Guiding Principles on Reducing Methane Emissions across the Natural Gas Value Chain. Companies signing on to the guiding principles agree to voluntarily reduce leaks across the supply chain.

The women pushed Chevron to do more.

“We are urging Chevron to reduce emissions of methane and other co-pollutants that harm the health of our grandchildren and God’s earth,” said Marlene Ward, president of Cal-Nevada Conference United Methodist Women and also part of the group delivering the letters. “Cutting methane emissions is one of the most cost-effective ways to address global warming today.”

• Joined the interfaith #FaithtoFord campaign urging Ford to keep its Commitment to Clean Car Standards.

• United Methodist Women delegation delivered letters to Chevron to urge the petroleum company to sign onto the Guiding Principles on Reducing Methane Emissions Across the Natural Gas Value Chain.

• Launched Solar Equity Initiative in partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), VoteSolar, Grid Alternatives and others to connect low-income and communities of color across the nation with solar energy infrastructure for homes and community centers, as well as skills training for solar jobs.

• Offered climate justice internships and trained jurisdictional guides for United Methodist Women’s “Be Just. Be Green” initiative helping United Methodist Women groups across the country to make their meetings more sustainable.

• United Methodist Women members and staff testified in support of Clean Car Standards at hearings conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Highway Safety Administration in Dearborn, Michigan, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
“The cradle to prison pipeline is the resegregation of America. Children are born at risk... when they’re born without having had prenatal care. We can change that.”

Marian Wright Edelman, CEO, Children’s Defense Fund
Facing Mass Incarceration as a Moral Issue

Two champions of the movement to end U.S. mass incarceration addressed United Methodist Women during a morning plenary with a racial justice theme during “The Power of Bold” Assembly in Columbus, Ohio, May 19.


Both women said the U.S. phenomena of mass incarceration that disproportionately impacts people of color is a moral issue tied to the nation’s economic policies and unresolved history of racial injustice.

More than 2 million people are incarcerated in the United States with an additional 5 million on probation or parole and another 30-70 million branded felons, a label that subjects them to legal discrimination and loss of the right to vote.

Alexander said the economic collapse of many cities in the early 1980s as companies moved overseas to cheaper labor costs set the stage for increased substance abuse and trafficking and the “war on drugs.” “Instead of responding with massive bailouts, we demonized those communities,” she said. “Poor were scapegoated… because we’re not prepared as a nation to truly care for poor people and people of color.”

Edelman encouraged United Methodist Women in the work for racial justice and efforts to end child poverty and the cradle to prison pipeline created by poverty.

Edelman’s Children’s Defense Fund conducted the initial research documenting the cradle to prison pipeline that United Methodist Women is addressing in its School-to-Prison Pipeline work against mass incarceration.

“The cradle to prison pipeline is the resegregation of America,” she said. “Children are born at risk… when they’re born without having had prenatal care. We can change that. God doesn’t have two classes of people.”


Organized a Town Hall on the School-to-Prison Pipeline featuring a panel of local and United Methodist Women with nearly 1,000 participants during 2018 Assembly in Columbus, Ohio.

Provided scholarships for 15 United Methodist Women members to attend a National Prison Summit sponsored by The United Methodist Church’s Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century initiative. The summit aimed to galvanize the church’s work against mass incarceration.

Trained United Methodist Women for action at the “Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline” workshops in Ohio, Tennessee and Maryland, and online.

Native American/Alaska Native students make up 1% of enrollment in schools and 2% of school-based arrests and referrals to law enforcement. 15% of children and youth experiencing school-based arrests and law enforcement referrals are African American, though they make up only 31% of total school enrollment.

African American boys are three times more likely to be suspended than white boys. African American girls are six times more likely to be suspended than white girls.

500% increase in incarceration in the United States over 40 years.
Economic Inequality/
Living Wage 4 All

“Every person has the right to a job at a living wage.”

The United Methodist Women’s Board of Church and Society 2016
United Methodist Women
Call for A Living Wage 4 All

United Methodist Women members joined 13 Columbus-area labor, community and faith-based organizations calling for a living wage at a rally at the Ohio Statehouse.

The “A Living Wage for All: Ohio Needs a Raise!” rally supports legislation before the Ohio legislature that would raise the state’s minimum wage to $15 an hour by 2025. Ohio’s current minimum wage is $8.30 an hour, which is $17,264 annually for full-time workers.

“This rally seeks to help build momentum for Ohio’s HB 576,” said Carol Barton, lead organizer for United Methodist Women’s national Living Wage for All Campaign. “For nearly 150 years United Methodist Women has focused on improving life for women, children, youth and families. A living wage ensures all working families can support their children. It also means more money spent in local businesses and stronger communities.”

Ohio Assembly Representative Brigid Kelly, a co-sponsor of HB 576, urged Ohio voters to advocate for a minimum wage increase to $15 per hour.

“A job should keep you out of poverty, not keep you in it,” Kelly said.

West and East Ohio United Methodist Women welcomed Assembly participants to the rally and talked about their work on the issue.

“When it comes to legislative advocacy, we work together,” said Jeanne Long, president of West Ohio Conference United Methodist Women with Susan Huston, vice president of East Ohio Conference United Methodist Women, beside her. “Knowing that the legislature rolled back efforts in Cincinnati and Cleveland to raise wages at the municipal level, we need state legislature to raise minimum wage to $15 everywhere in Ohio.”

Harriett Jane Olson, United Methodist Women CEO, put the organization’s work for a living wage in the context of faith and history.

“Did you know that the 1908 Social Creed called for a living wage in every industry?” Olson said. “Friends, it’s about time everyone made a living wage!”

In 2018, United Methodist Women launched its Living Wage for All campaign at Assembly through an interactive map of state minimum wage policy unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wage-map, a workshop, a Town Hall meeting with leading economic justice advocates and a video, screened in the plenary. youtube.com/watch?v=6_vVMkyA38&list=PL2VGSkI9zE70CULGO_X2csbDYgxa2Ci3&index=3

Joined with 15 community and faith-based organizations for the “Ohio Needs a Raise” rally supporting a higher minimum wage at the Ohio State Capitol in Columbus for the pre-Assembly Ubuntu Day of Service and Advocacy. unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/ohioassemblyaction

The Living Wage interactive display was also launched at Assembly. A “Do it Yourself” tool: unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/service-and-advocacy/mission-focus-issues/economic-inequality/living-wages/diylivingwageinstrucations.pdf

The Mission u study What About Our Money? A Faith Response engaged members in a deep exploration of God’s Economy of Grace and was linked to the Living Wage for All campaign.

Joined with the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and the National Farm Worker Ministry and sent more than 5,000 postcards to Wendy’s urging it to sign fair food agreement. unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-joins-coalition-against-wendys

LIVING WAGE RALLY AT OHIO STATEHOUSE Monica Bartley, a member of United Methodist Women from New York, participates in a May 17, 2018, public witness at the state capitol in Columbus, Ohio, urging the state legislature to pass a bill requiring a fair living wage. Photo by Paul Jeffrey for United Methodist Women.
Mothers and children are still central to the work of many of the more than 90 United Methodist Women-related National Mission Institutions.
“A Legacy at Work” Celebrates National Mission Institutions

Leaders of United Methodist Women and the National Mission Institutions gathered for “Legacy at Work,” a special event at Assembly to honor the 150th anniversary and ongoing work to serve women, children, and youth.

Mothers and children are still central to the work of many of the more than 90 National Mission Institutions founded by United Methodist Women foremothers to help immigrant and other low-income families in the early years of the 20th century. National Mission Institutions served 5,132 mothers with children under 5 years old and some 22,572 children under 12 in 2018.

“One of the things that keeps us so deeply committed to your work is that it was a place where women were able to organize,” CEO and General Secretary Harriett Olson told the National Mission Institution leaders at the gathering. “The foremothers built it, they imagined it, they listened to the needs of the neighborhood, and they did work that was not necessarily being done throughout the general church bodies.”

Included in the event were participants in First Birthdays, a program to support families and babies at Community Development for All People, a National Mission Institution in Columbus.

Secretary Olson credited the women’s mission movement with being part of the professionalization of community services. Deaconesses, now a lay order administered by United Methodist Women, played a major role in raising the standards in social work and services, she said.

“The deaconesses were very foresighted in the way they thought about the communities,” Olson said. “Service and learning were at the core of deaconess training skills.”

The second day of the event was dedicated to sharing expertise across organizations. It included panels on the value of United Methodist Women and National Mission Institution partnerships, best practices in fundraising and organizational sustainability, and information on United Methodist Women’s social justice priorities.

- Mobilized members to support the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act (HR 1318), which was signed into law on December 21, 2018. The legislation provides resources and infrastructure to collect and analyze data on every maternal death, in every state in the nation. This is the kind of data that will empower legislators and advocates with the information they need to hold hospitals and providers accountable for the well-being of pregnant women.

- Offered an Assembly workshop on infant mortality, an indicator of the well-being of a community. This workshop explored causes of IM, disparities between black and other races, and ways we can make a difference. Using the example of UM Church 4 All People’s First Birthdays, the workshop explored a successful model for local churches to accompany families to help babies celebrate a first birthday and thrive in the years beyond.

- National Mission Institutions served:
2018 TREASURER’S REPORT
Thoughts from the Treasurer
By Martha S. Knight, Treasurer

In times of turmoil and strife, we call on our faith in God, and we call on each other. The creative, supportive community that is United Methodist Women comes into even clearer focus for us as we reach out for a sister to embrace. For our legacy may be long, 150 years long, but our future is as important as our collective past. We have long been committed to reshaping the world around us, transforming the world. By our service, our action, we have helped so many reshape their lives and the lives of those around them. We have inspired the faith of so many others with our faith.

Ever since the Leadership Development Days a few years ago centered on story of Esther, I have often pondered the words “for such a time as this.” To inspire each other, we often say to each other “for such a time as this you are called.” I know that you have lived this journey with me, for in United Methodist Women meetings we often say it to each other.

Recently, it stuck me, NO, all those times we have used that phrase in the past were just practice. For it is THIS time, this season in The United Methodist Church, that is truly the time for which we, each of us, are being called.

We have arrived at a time that is to be pivotal in our lives. This is the moment to show our faith, our hope and our love in action!

For someone in your life, for some group, some audience, you and you alone are the face of United Methodist Women. We are called on to be that face of love, to be that source of hope.

In this anniversary year of United Methodist Women, we are poised to be even more visible while we celebrate the legacy of our foremothers. For all those watching, for all our foremothers, we show our strong faith through our love and hope.

Love is making way for those whom no one else has made way. Love is lifting up our sisters whom no one else has lifted up. Love is working with women, children and youth here at home and around the world to bring peace, unity and justice.

We have been told, and it is written in the Bible, that our faith can move mountains. Women, there are mountains to move! There are those who are standing with us and looking to us to help on moving day!

Not just United Methodist Women, but each of us in our daily lives, in our lives with our churches, in all our leadership roles, say to the mountains, “MOVE.” Now is our time.

This year will not come again. There will be other years, other turmoil, the division of the world will be there for us to lament and turn to. For us, in this hour, in this time: Be the hope the church is looking for. We are not alone. Many are with us in the movement to be the hope, the unifying example of the beacon, the candle, the searchlight.

How can we be the hope for unity when others are working on division? Pray!

Heal your soul, then help a friend heal her soul, then speak and act together.
### OPERATING REVENUE *

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<th>CONFERENCES</th>
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<td>Mission Giving</td>
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### OPERATING EXPENDITURES *

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<th>PROGRAM SERVICES</th>
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<td>Programs Administered by United Methodist Women</td>
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<td>National Mission Institutions Network</td>
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<td>Repairs and Maintenance</td>
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<td>International Mission Work Administration</td>
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<td>United Methodist Women Membership</td>
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<td>and Leadership Development</td>
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<td>Mission Resources (MR)</td>
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<td>Christian Social Action</td>
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<td>Deaconesses, Home Missioners</td>
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<td>Office and Network</td>
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<td>Other Programs Administered by United Methodist Women</td>
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<td>Total Programs Administered by United Methodist Women</td>
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<tr>
<th>PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS</th>
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<td>United Methodist Organizations National and International</td>
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<td>National Missions</td>
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<td>Ecumenical Organizations</td>
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<td>Social Action Organizations</td>
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<td>Grants from Designated Funds</td>
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<td>Total Programs Administered by Other Organizations</td>
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### EFFECT ON NET ASSETS *

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<td>Appreciation/(Depreciation) in Investments</td>
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<td>Endowment/Sale of Properties</td>
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<td>INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</td>
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### NET ASSETS *

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<th>TOTAL NET ASSETS</th>
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<td>2018</td>
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PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- National Mission Institution Network: 2.43%
- Insurance (NMM Property Management): 15.57%
- Repairs & Maintenance (NMM Property Management): 7.71%
- Property Management (NMM Property Management): 1.53%
- International Mission Work Management: 4.24%
- United Methodist Women Membership & Leadership Development: 21.29%
- Mission Education: 14.47%
- response Magazine: 3.12%
- Mission Resources/Publications: 0.90%
- Christian Social Action: 12.63%
- Deaconess, Home Missioners Office and Network: 3.26%
- Other Programs Administered by UMW: 12.85%

PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

- UNITED METHODIST ORGANIZATIONS NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
  - National Missions: 32.89%
  - International Missions: 22.89%
  - Ecumenical Organizations: 4.09%
  - Social Action Organizations: 0.16%
  - Grants from Designated Funds: 39.97%

- Programs Administered by United Methodist Women: 37.88%
- Programs Administered by Other Organizations: 19.10%
- Program Support: 23.80%
- Supporting Services: 19.22% (not listed below)

OPERATING REVENUE

The total operating revenue comes from Mission Giving; sale of publications; income from interest, rentals, and service fees; events; and other funds.

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE for 2018 was $24,408,759.00

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

The total expenditures budget reflects services provided through programs directly administered by United Methodist Women. The budget also supports programs that reflect our mission focus but are administered by other organizations. Mission Giving fully funds these. The remaining United Methodist Women-owned operations are self-funding.

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE for 2018 was $33,120,238.00

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN REVENUE CATEGORIES 2018

- † Mission Giving: 46.55%
- Interest Income: 9.50%
- Publications: 4.00%
- Rental and Service Fee Income: 27.83%
- Other Income: 12.12%

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EXPENSE CATEGORIES 2018

- Programs Administered by United Methodist Women: 37.88%
- Programs Administered by Other Organizations: 19.10%
- Program Support: 23.80%
- Supporting Services: 19.22% (not listed below)

PROGRAM SUPPORT

- Church Center for the United Nations: *24.63%
- Retired Deaconess, Missionary Home Operations: 41.76%
- Retired Deaconess, Missionary Pension & Health Benefits: **29.34%
- Scarritt Bennett Center: 1.00%
- Assembly & National Seminar: 0.38%
- Organizationwide Program Support: 2.89%

† Mission Giving funds programs directly administered by United Methodist Women, programs administered by other organizations as well as supporting services.

* The Church Center for the United Nations is self-funding.

** The Deaconess and Missionary Pension and Health Benefits are paid for with funds designated for that purpose.
Conferences that Met or Exceeded Their Pledges in 2018

Listed by jurisdiction with percentage given beyond pledge of the 56 conferences, 26 met or exceeded their pledges in 2018.

1 JURISDICTION EXCEEDED ITS PLEDGE

- Western Jurisdiction

**NORTH CENTRAL**
- Dakotas 1.31%
- Detroit 5.91%
- Minnesota 4.50%
- West Michigan 19.84%
- Wisconsin 4.56%

**NORTHEASTERN**
- Peninsula-Delaware 40.21%
- Susquehanna 1.24%
- West Virginia 8.81%
- Western Pennsylvania 10.82%

**SOUTHEASTERN**
- Kentucky 22.87%
- North Carolina 0.39%
- Red Bird Missionary 0.87%
- South Georgia 11.22%
- Tennessee met its pledge

**SOUTHERN**
- Great Plains 5.37%
- Missouri 29.07%
- North Texas 0.77%
- Oklahoma Indian Missionary 42.89%
- Rio Texas 5.62%
- Texas 10.58%

**WESTERN**
- California-Nevada 3.18%
- California-Pacific 24.35%
- Desert Southwest 22.41%
- Pacific Northwest 16.49%
- Rocky Mountain 1.65%

We thank God for the giving of each and every member of United Methodist Women. Each gift is as precious as the widow’s mite.
GET INVOLVED
Opportunities to be involved with United Methodist Women are everywhere. Most United Methodist churches have a United Methodist Women group in which you can personally experience the mission and opportunities that are available to you through this organization.

Learn about opportunities for leadership development, spiritual growth and mission through your local United Methodist Women group and at unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Subscribe to response magazine and Action Alerts to be informed, inspired and ready to act on the issues that affect women, children and youth at unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on response and Action Alerts.

Make mission possible by giving to United Methodist Women through a variety of ways. To give online, visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate.

ONLINE RESOURCES

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WEBSITE
unitedmethodistwomen.org
This is our primary website. Here, you find the latest news and information about United Methodist Women members, programs and initiatives. You’ll also find promotional and educational items for download, as well as links to our other sites and our Mission Resources e-store.

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/UMWomen
If you’re on Facebook, be sure to “like” and “follow” United Methodist Women so that our posts will appear on your home page.
Office of Transformation

Sally Vonner, Transformation Officer

We look forward to an exciting 2019 for building and laying a stronger foundation upon which our strategic plan can flourish and move United Methodist Women to new heights. Much of what we expect to accomplish is linked to research, innovation, testing and piloting developments that undergird our strategic plan and traveling to support member engagement.

POSITION will further the United Methodist Women strategic plan to be in the right places, with the right messages to the right audiences so that our identity is clear to all, our membership grows and is strengthened, and we connect better with our partners.

Through the 2019 budget, we will be able to implement some of the recommendations of the Communications Audit by:

- **Building a new website that**:
  - Is user-friendly.
  - Clearly communicates to members, potential members, the church and wider communities what United Methodist Women is, what we do and what we uniquely offer to women.
  - Makes it easy, and desirable, for members and visitors to give to Mission Giving and Legacy.
  - Makes it easy, and desirable, for new women to join with United Methodist Women.

- **Hire a company to help us build out the United Methodist Women brand to**:
  - Raise United Methodist Women’s profile in the church and wider community.
  - Make it easy to share the United Methodist Women story, work and opportunities with current and expanded audiences in a consistent, cohesive and concise way.
  - Help grow the organization.
  - Make United Methodist Women known for our expertise in issues concerning the well-being of women, children and youth.

- Market and publicize United Methodist Women-supported work, programs, resources and opportunities. This would include working with consultants for concentrated use of social media to promote the organization’s work and opportunities, including events for members and potential members.

- Additionally, we expect to develop promotion strategies and/or resources for our four national campaigns, programming and events related to the Office of Transformation and other projects as needed.
ENGAGE will support the strategic plan to see possibilities for membership growth and revitalization for the organization at all levels.

Through the 2019 budget, we will:

• Continue market research within and beyond current membership to build narratives and rationale for moving strategically.

• Develop infrastructure and test assumptions about new pathways for new women to engage with United Methodist Women.

• Expand distance learning capacity to support leadership development and transformative education.

• Support Mission u 2019 Leader Training planning and add a new component. We plan to offer a pre-event targeting young women to be equipped as study leaders to support the Mission u 2020 Leader Training and/or to be conference study leaders for the study on mass incarceration.

MOBILIZE will support the organizational priority of moving women to new levels of leadership and action to build a thriving organization and change the world.

While this priority does have a goal dedicated to how we engage globally, that work is supported by the international ministries budget.

Through 2019, we will be devoted to:

• Supporting our four national campaigns and the supporting policy work through education, advocacy and organizing needed for state and regional campaigns along with federal policy monitoring and action.

• Cultivating and equipping leaders to serve as Be Just Be Green jurisdictional guides and Charter for Racial Justice support teams.

• Supporting innovation in how we equip and utilize leaders.

Equipping and nurturing leaders through Leadership Development Days 2019. This event will particularly support newly elected leaders and connect them with staff liaisons who will maintain support and contact with officers as well as facilitate opportunities for those already serving in officer roles to get support and network throughout the year.
In 2019, the Connection work will involve connecting with conference officers, resourcing, training and supporting them for strategic leadership in Annual Conference and creating a tool kit for this, including leadership for GC 2020. We will coordinate connections with Central Conference women’s desks through regional missionaries. We will coordinate United Methodist Women’s General Conference legislation, displays, and actions.

Our work includes monitoring and coordination of General Church tasks, such as the work with the Book of Discipline and Conversations on a Way Forward. Connection work will also develop and maintain agency relations, manage and coordinate national office invites in a strategic way that maximizes and balances staff/PAG speaking opportunities, and support the development of skills and confidence of United Methodist Women leaders.

INTERNATIONAL
International will hold Regional Consultations: The Europe/Eurasia consultation is tentatively scheduled for October 2019. The South Asia follow-up event of the Asia Alliance is scheduled to meet in Cambodia in June 2019 with women from Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, joining with Scranton Center, the Philippines and Wesley Foundation. Development of the Africa United Methodist Women Network and relation building, capacity building and action planning will take place in 2019. The office will begin Telling the Story with media resources that are written, videos and photos that capture the story of mission with women, children and youth globally. We will provide Support to Women’s Desk: Salary support for 11 Women’s Desks in priority countries; Regional Missionary Program/Women’s Program with the Women’s Desk Coordinator, for pilot countries and program work for Latin America and the Caribbean. Eurasia work will continue in 2019; Economic Empowerment Funding/Vocational Training will support United Methodist Women’s economic development projects and gender empowerment and leadership cultivation.

Global leadership development will include two components: 1) to impact the global United Methodist Church and enhance women’s leadership in the church; and 2) to provide knowledge and skills for United Methodist Women to become advocates in the world.

OFFICE OF DEACONESS AND HOME MISSIONER (D/HM)
In 2019, the Office of D/HM will continue to provide education and professional development for deaconesses and home missioners, required studies for candidates, as well as discernment events to bring new people into lay ministry. The Office of D/HM is committed to eliminating barriers for people in lay ministry and offers scholarships to offset the cost of required studies.

The Office of D/HM will administer several programs, including Fenton Memorial Deaconess Home, self-care, financial planning, D/HM Exchange Program, cutting-edge grants, professional/personal development grants, D/HM Coaching and a Nurture and Care Team.

It will engage in conferences and meetings and hold membership in professional organizations, which include DOTAC, DIAKONIA, NADHM and Committee on Deaconess Home Missioner Service.

In 2019, the Office of D/HM will continue to connect with other agencies in The United Methodist Church and set up tables at conferences in order to raise visibility and educate others on the work of D/HM and expand relationships.
Our work is to better position United Methodist Women in church and society to impact women, children and youth around the world.
Office of Operations
Andris Salter, Operations Officer

The power of bold, audacious women is to make a bold, unreasonable, amazing statement on the world. To impact issues that affect women, children and youth in a meaningful way. To transforms their lives to thrive not just survive.

The role of the Operations Officer is to help transform the United Methodist Women National Office with the tools needed to function as efficiently as possible to meet the needs of members, program leaders, projects, programs and staff and to coordinate the work of the operations team.

The operations team includes the following work areas: staff development, information technology, events management, communications, human resources and the CCUN.

- **Staff development** determines best practices appropriate for non-profit staff development, training, coaching and leadership development, and provides models of work and development.

- **Information technology** provides the means to reach members through various forms of technology. It also provides the national office with equipment, equipment maintenance, licensing, updates and training.

- **Events management** develops the logistical and creative programing tools to organize meetings of various sizes across the United States. Their work also includes some national gatherings, the Assembly, Mission u, Jurisdiction events, etc.

- **Communication** along with Position has the responsibility to share what matters most to United Methodist Women. Communications is the publishing and messaging arm of United Methodist Women. It coordinates the tools needed to keep members informed and up to date. Even though the consignment program is in transition, Communication manages the United Methodist Women inventory and published material and shares information with members and partners through social media.

- **Human Resources** provides staff with benefit training, sexual harassment training, background checks, family medical leave act (FMLA). It handles complaints, organizes staff meetings, writes job descriptions and keeps track of the talent needed within the organization.

- **CCUN** provides a contact for our ecumenical partners and our work with the United Nations.

- The team is also tasked with aligning its work with Position, Engage and Modify (PEM).
Greenhouse Gas Emissions from the Largest Emitters

CHEVRON: #CUTMETHANE

Chevron is ranked as the second largest corporate emitter of greenhouse gases in the world from 1880 to 2010. It

Chevron is one of the top 10 producers of natural gas internationally and an unconventional producer. Its natural gas resources span six continents with significant holdings in Africa, Australia, Southeast Asia, the Caspian region, Latin America, and North America. It plans to increase its natural gas volume over the next decade.

United Methodist Women Urges Chevron to #CUTMETHANE

Place a pin on your hometown's carbon footprint!

Give to the Legacy Fund to support generations to come!

150 THE LEGACY FUND ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

LEGACY
Ensuring Our Future with the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign

By Emily M. Marshall

For nearly 150 years, United Methodist Women has nurtured and expanded the vision of our founders. We've done this to ensure that women, children and youth from regions around the world have access to services and resources that support their empowered, productive and healthy living. One of the ways we have done this is by focusing on the present moment and cultivating a vision for the future. This has included growing our financial resources.

The $60 million Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign launched in 2014 and is the financial conduit to position United Methodist Women to advance and fulfill our vision and mission in the years and decades to come.

With the 150th-year anniversary of the United Methodist Women approaching in 2019, 2018 was a productive year where numerous campaigns and endeavors were implemented to deepen relationships among various campaign constituencies, to build upon existing and develop new giving opportunities directed to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RESULTS OF THESE EFFORTS IN 2018:

• **Every Member Campaign**, ongoing giving and promotion efforts emanating from the 56 Conferences. Campaign Contributions, $1.073 Million.

• **Planned Giving/1869 Society**, new legacy fund planned giving program that recognized women who designated United Methodist Women in their wills and estate plans. Campaign Contributions, $4.2 Million.

• **Major Gifts**, new major gifts campaign program for members and supporters having the capacity and ability to make a significant gift to the campaign. Campaign Contributions, $360,000.

**TOTAL CAMPAIGN GIVING: $5,273,000**

A new Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign microsite was created to serve as a repository of campaign materials, information and to provide updates on the progress of the campaign. unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home

The Development staff in the national office looks forward to continuing the momentum created in 2018 and of being in service as a resource and partner with our wonderful campaign communities in promoting the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign in this special anniversary year in 2019.

**VOLUNTEERS AT LEGACY FUND SPACE** Conference Treasurers volunteered to accept donations for the Legacy Fund at the Legacy Fund Space, in the exhibit hall at Assembly 2018, Columbus, Ohio. *Photo credit: United Methodist Women*
The organized unit of 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.