Empowering War Widows and Children in Sri Lanka

United Methodist Women’s giving helps rebuild lives devastated by war

Thirty years of internal war in Sri Lanka displaced thousands of people and affected hundreds of soldiers and combatants, exposing them to unexpected situations and experiences. “Let our voices be heard; our freedom is denied” was the outcry of many. Conflict and terrorist attacks were deep commitments that began with strong feelings and intense and personalized, alienated allegiances that began with my limited ability to speak Tamil, the language and ethnicity of war widows, it was not difficult to understand the women, their situations, and struggles. My presence and communication with them fostered mutual confidence and helped us understand our interrelatedness. Among them I discovered many yearning for unity, longing to truncate hopelessness, and seeking renewed hope and peace.

The Shalom: War Widows of Peace initiative was the right fit for them.

Having lost everything, and even many loved ones, the returnees, as the widows are referred to, returned literally empty. Shalom addresses the suffering of women and children of marginalized communities in war torn areas. Extreme poverty is the major common factor and Shalom took initiatives to address that while also empowering them as a community.

Many say our Shalom journey is a life-changing experience. They have steadily developed solidarity with me to help them overcome their bitter experiences of war.

“We were not welcomed back; it has been a struggle to live,” one returnee exclaimed. “[Shalom’s] awareness programs showed us our lost community values.

(Continued on Page 4)
Ubuntu Journeys to the U.S.-Mexico Border

by Kevin Schaner

Launched in 2006, Ubuntu Journeys give United Methodist Women members the opportunity to travel abroad and serve alongside sisters in mission around the world. The most recent journey, last May, was closer to home. Seven members traveled to various points along the U.S.-Mexican border to assist missionaries who help immigrants. Here, United Methodist Women member Kevin Schaner describes the journey.

As I helped set a table for 72 at the refugee and immigration respite center at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McAllen, Texas, placing a napkin-wrapped spoon at each plate, I thought about the times I have routinely set tables for my family and church members. This was my first time serving those who had survived crossing the U.S.-Mexico border. As instructed, our team stood in a line to welcome refugees as they entered. We clapped, and they tentatively smiled. The brave young mothers carrying their babies and navigating their toddlers into yet another strange place brought tears to my eyes.

These were the faces of very real people casually labeled as “issues” and “illegals” by many in the United States. One woman’s husband had been killed by gangs just two days before; she fled for her life with her infant son. The welcoming team with whom we worked told us to give newly arrived refugees time and space to settle—conversation could come later. After some soup (provided by the Salvation Army), a shower and changing into clean clothes, families began to feel more comfortable in their new location.

A few days later, no one checked our passports as we crossed into Rio Bravo, Mexico. Maria Elena de Fuentes, wife of the bishop of the Eastern Conference of the Mexican Methodist Church, and others greeted us at Mission Manos Juntas Mexico. With translators in small groups, we talked about our families and church projects. Local women made and sold tamales to raise money for their churches. Iva Wenzel from North Dakota, which she described as “the other border,” passed out bookmarks. We also presented prayer shawls and left directions in Spanish for starting this ministry. Ms. Fuentes and our United Methodist Women representative, Alicia Pitterson, were our prayer warriors.

When we acknowledge God, God leads us straight to the connections that enhance our relationships and our work in making the world better for women, children and youth.

Kevin Schaner leads the Martha Circle of United Methodist Women at Church of the Saviour in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

Ubuntu on the borderline: United Methodist Women assisted missionaries working with immigrants and refugees along the United States/Mexico border.

Gracious Acts

Festive Fundraising in Valdosta, Georgia

On a recent cool November morning in Valdosta, Georgia, long lines began to form in front of Park Avenue United Methodist Church. People were waiting for the doors to be opened for the church’s United Methodist Women’s Fall Bazaar, which has been a tradition for over 40 years.

At the Fall Bazaar, visitors found one-of-a-kind knitted afghans, quilts, embroidered pillow cases, Christmas decorations, and all varieties of wreaths and ornaments. Special attention was given to quality low-priced items to be used for special Christmas gifts. Cakes, pies, smoked meats, casseroles, and candies were a big hit as were handmade doll clothes. Continuing the tradition, a group of women and one man had met weekly all year to prepare items for sale. However, over time the bazaar has grown to include the entire church. Sunday school classes committed to missions have booths. The American Heritage Girls sponsored games and activities planned for children, and varieties of bargains were discovered in the Trash and Treasure Room.

The one requirement that has never changed over the years is the commitment that all proceeds will be given to support missions. These earnings are in addition to the local unit’s annual pledge to missions.

Over $9,000 was designated to support local and South Georgia Conference mission projects. These include, but are not limited to, the Methodist Children’s Home, an Advocacy Center that works with abused children, the Wesley Foundation at nearby Valdosta State University, the annual conference homes that serve mentally challenged adults, snack packs providing weekend food for hungry children who are enrolled in a local school and three UMW projects located within the South Georgia Conference. These are Vashti, located in Thomasville; Wesley Community Center in Savannah; and Open Door in Columbus.

This article is a collaboration with the members of United Methodist Women of Park Avenue United Methodist Church in Valdosta, Georgia.

Have an interesting story for Gracious Acts? Contact United Methodist Women News co-editor Julia Chance @ Jchance@unitedmethodistwomen.org.
United Methodist Women Full Board Meeting Focuses on Identity and Mission

by Julia Chance

Setting a solid foundation and identity were recurring themes throughout the first full board meeting of the newly elected United Methodist Women board of directors, Sept. 30-Oct. 2, at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.

The women were briefed on their fiduciary and organizational responsibilities as board members tasked with setting policy that will guide United Methodist Women into its next 150 years of mission with women and children.

“We are participating in training, preparing, decision making and thinking about particular tasks, but we are also focused on the bigger picture,” United Methodist Women General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson said in her opening address to the board. “One of the roles of the board and the staff leadership is to hold the vision for why we do what we do and what we want to embody.”

Ms. Olson talked about United Methodist Women’s strategic plan focused on identity, increasing membership, and enhancing relationships with the wider church and world and the organization’s mission priorities.

United Methodist Women mission priorities for the quadrennium are:

• Climate Justice
• Economic Inequality
• Maternal and Child Health, and
• Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration

“We are rooted in who God is and who we are in Jesus Christ. …We are also rooted in The United Methodist Church and the broader Wesleyan family, emphasizing grace . . . and showing our love for God in our service and advocacy in the world,” she said. “We have a renewed resolve to make certain that our identity is clearly visible in all of our work.”

During the meeting, the 25-women board adopted a $17.8 million 2017 budget with more than $10 million for national mission properties and projects, international ministries and scholarships, and membership development programs. United Methodist Women Treasurer Martha Knight reported on capital reinvestment projects for the maintenance of national mission properties, some of which are close to a century old. “We launched a study in the last quadrennium to make sure that we know exactly the shape of every building so that we can be proactive instead of reactive with maintenance.”

Board members allocated $273,059 in grants for national mission institution property repairs and improvements.

Board president Shannon Priddy urged the directors to use their position to advocate for the needs of women, children and youth and United Methodist Women’s commitment to such mission.

“Find your voice and use it, even if it shakes a little,” Ms. Priddy said. “We are advocates for women, youth and children around the world, bringing it back to our conferences, districts, and local organizations. We are also advocates for the work we do. It is our responsibility to let others know what United Methodist Women does. …Remember, we are doing God’s work for women, youth and children around the world.”

Julia Chance is co-editor of United Methodist Women News

Becky Louter, Deaconess and United Methodist Women Executive, Dies at 46

United Methodist Women mourns the passing of Becky Dodson Louter, 46, executive secretary for the Deaconess and Home Missioner Office, which oversees the lay order of the church dedicated to workers in vocations that alleviate suffering.

Ms. Louter began serving as executive secretary of the deaconess office in 2003, when it was part of the General Board of Global Ministries, and continued when the work was transferred to United Methodist Women oversight in 2010. Ms. Louter was a tireless advocate for the lay office, and the community grew. During her tenure, laymen were added as home missioners by the 2004 General Conference, and the 2016 General Conference recognized the deaconess/home missioner community as a lay order of the church.

“I am profoundly grateful for Becky’s life, for her commitment to following Jesus and for her leadership,” said Harriett Jane Olson, chief executive officer of United Methodist Women. “She was a model of committed lay leadership focused on love, justice and service.”

Ms. Louter was consecrated a deaconess in 2004. She talked about this in a 2006 interview in United Methodist Women’s magazine, response. “I had always felt a sense of calling,” she said. “I thought I was looking for a job, but I discovered I was called to be in ministry. As a deaconess, I may have 30 jobs in my life, but one calling, one relationship. … God does the calling.”

Ms. Louter was a devoted mother of four children, ages 10, 9 and 6-year-old twins and was the wife of Michael Louter. She was a member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Johnson City, Tennessee. United Methodist Women gives thanks to God for the life and ministry of Deaconess Becky Dodson Louter.
War Widows

(Continued from Page 1)
We need to recover them and secure our children's future.” Another young widow said that her intertwined journey with Shalom helped restore her mind, and set her on a new journey for a meaningful hope. Many say our Shalom journey is a transformative experience. They have steadily developed solidarity with me to help them overcome their bitter experiences of war.

Vijayakumari, a returnee to Vellankulam testified: “Two years back when I met Rev. Sumithra, I was immersed in hopelessness with my five children. I lost my husband during the final stages of the war. The psychosocial program conducted by Shalom at Methodist Church at Anavillandum helped me gradually regain hope. Shalom’s feeding project helped my children overcome malnutrition. Though the government built my house, guidance and awareness given to us on our rights helps me to utilize given aid properly. I gave the little building where I lived earlier to Shalom for their Children’s Club.” According to Nirojini, a returnee of Vellankulam:

“I lost my mother during the war. When my father remarried I was deeply depressed, ran away from home and jumped into a well to commit suicide. Villagers rescued me. From then, I lived with my grandmother. Having married, I returned to Vellankulam where I was given a house. I met Rev. Sumithra when she visited this area. There was no water for us. Shalom gave us five tube wells for the use of 50 families. I am now earning my living through home gardening. Shalom trained me as a nursery teacher along with leadership training. I am now a volunteer worker in our village. With adequate state support, we hope to start a pre-school and a children’s club here. My aim is to make our village a model for Shalom.”

Shalom continues to expand social awareness programs and empowerment programs into many villages, geared to empower the war widows for peace and usher in Shalom. The Shalom committee, comprised of volunteers from many arenas is a source of strength for its success.

Rev. K. Sumithra N. Fernando is the Executive Project Coordinator for the Shalom project, which is supported by United Methodist Women Mission Giving.

My First Experience at Mission U

by Naomi Hanvey

Being fairly new to The United Methodist Church, and completely new to United Methodist Women, I wasn’t sure what to expect at my first Pacific Northwest conference Mission U. I grew up in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, so missions are something I’m very familiar with. I suppose I expected the Latin America class to be like my past experiences of CMA mission conferences—that I would learn about the rich and diverse cultures of Latin America, the widespread poverty, disease and the need for the gospel, and then hear some uplifting stories about people coming to faith.

I was not prepared for a challenging lesson about the impact that globalization has had and continues to have on indigenous peoples, especially the myriad ways that United States’ involvement in Latin America has directly and indirectly caused the suffering and deaths of so many.

I learned how from the time of Columbus to William Walker to the Dirty War to today, atrocities have been committed in the name of national security, democracy and even in the name of Christ himself. As a U.S. history teacher I was familiar with some of the information in a general way but not with many of the specific events or their extent. As I listened to the lectures I heard about the people who were supposed to speak for God so often blinded by power, wealth, fear or simply indifference. As a Christian what do I do instead with this information? What can the church do to right the wrongs, to atone for its sins?

I’ve been encouraged to hear about the individuals and organizations that have worked to end the oppression and injustice—not by “rescuing” the “helpless” but by standing beside them and empowering them to work for their own development and fight for their rights and freedom.

There is still so much to do. Hearing about government oppression, human trafficking, poverty, violence, discrimination and more starts to feel like me as an impossible challenge. But at least in some countries change is happening, and that gives me hope that change can happen elsewhere too.

If I have learned anything about God during this Mission U, it is that God’s heart is to liberate the oppressed, and that to follow God means working to that end. I believe that God is on a mission to reconcile the world to God. But I also think that we have the opportunity to be part of that process, to be God’s instruments of bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth. Mission U has challenged me to be intentional about that: to think about choices I make and the far-reaching impact these choices may have; to speak for the rights of the oppressed; to shed light and bring truth where some are trying to maintain darkness and confusion. I want to be part of what God is doing in the world and what God is doing through United Methodist Women. Even though the stories about Latin America were difficult to hear, they needed to be heard and still need to be heard.

Naomi Hanvey is from Moses Lake, Washington.
An Ecumenical Gathering During the U.N. Summit on Refugees and Migrants

by Beryl Goldberg

In preparation for the United Nations Summit on Refugees and Migrants, an ecumenical gathering was held on September 18 at the Church Center for the United Nations. United Methodist Women, Global Ministries and the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Council of Churches, Act Alliance and the Episcopal Church joined together to organize the event.

The gathering provided an opportunity for the representatives of the various denominations to come together to discuss common concerns and thoughts around migration from a religious perspective. The Declaration for Refugees and Migrants that was to be passed on September 19 was also a basis for their work going forward.

Because there were so many issues to consider, those gathered broke up into small groups and then came together to present their conclusions. Judith McRae, the president of United Methodist Women New York Annual Conference, was in the group that considered the prophetic role of the church on this issue. The group agreed that the Bible itself has many stories of migration, refugees and strangers, starting with Adam and Eve and moving on to Cain. The goal of church—Eve and moving on to Cain. The goal of church should be to transform fear and anger, to draw on the best traditions of the church, and also to use a different vocabulary: to recognize the migrants as sojourners and search for the means to help “these strangers.” The example of the firefighters of 9/11 is a powerful model. The firemen ran into crumbling, burning buildings to help total strangers.

Among other comments made in the discussion was the reality of how challenging the influx of refugees is to the entire world at this point in time. The church has a major responsibility in winning the hearts and minds of the people in the pews and must also at the same time be cognizant of those who are harmed by the current policies. It was further agreed that there is an urgent need to create tools to change repressive police practices and to maintain a human rights perspective.

McRae discussed her thoughts on these topics. Her interest in the United Nations summit on issues pertaining to migrants and refugees came from witnessing the influx of undocumented children coming across the border. “I used to wonder why parents would allow their children to enter into America in such an inhumane manner,” she said. “But after speaking with a woman from Honduras during the CSW [Commission on the Status of Women] in 2015 I learned that in Honduras many children do not make it to adulthood. Many die a violent death. Parents send their children away to get them out of harm’s way. I have also seen images of people fleeing their countries by boat in unsafe conditions. This reminded me of the slave ships coming across the Atlantic. The difference is that today’s fleeing is voluntary as opposed to the involuntary fleeing of the past.”

During her time in office as vice president of the United Methodist Women New York Conference, McRae organized a workshop at the New York Annual Conference titled “United Methodist Women and Immigrant Rights,” hosted by Sung-Ok Lee, assistant general secretary of Christian Social Action, United Methodist Women National Office. The workshop engaged members of the conference in exercises using the U.S. immigration timeline. From this, participants gained an understanding of how immigration policies affect immigrants in the U.S.

McRae’s participation in the U.N. summit has motivated her to continue to educate herself and others on issues related to migrants and refugees.

Children’s Peace Day in India

by Moumita Biswas

Children are practitioners of peace and they make contributions in building inclusive, just communities; but their contributions aren’t always recognized by society. That was the sentiment behind the Children’s Peace Festival, a celebration organized by the All India Council of Christian Women (AICCW) with the Methodist Church in Nagpur, India, on World Peace Day (September 21).

For the celebration, 120 children from vulnerable backgrounds were invited to come and express their understanding of peace at home, school, community and the world through art. The festival also commemorated the 60th Anniversary of Fellowship of Least Coin Movement (FLC), a global prayer movement that unites women and others around the world in prayer for peace, justice, healing and reconciliation. It was founded by Shanti Solomon who also founded AICCW.

The AICCW is the women and gender justice wing of the National Council of Churches in India (NCCI). The Children’s Peace Festival was part of an ecumenical and spiritual formation program between AICCW/NCCI and Methodist Church of Nagpur to build just and inclusive communities.

Moumita Biswas is the executive secretary for All India Council of Christian Women.
Human Rights Watch Awards United Methodist Women CSW-60 Delegate Kalpona Akter

Human Rights Watch recently honored Bangladeshi labor activist Kalpona Akter for her dedication in championing the rights of working women, and all workers in her country’s garment factories. Akter is the executive director of the Bangladesh Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS) and is a 2016 United Methodist Women delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Akter toiled long hours in the shadows of the global economy as a former child worker in Bangladesh’s garment factories. Despite enduring abuse and retribution for organizing fellow garment workers to demand fair labor rights—including facing threats and finally being fired from the factory—she has continued the struggle. As the founder and executive director of BCWS, Akter campaigns for fair wages, garment factory safety and the right to form labor unions and collectively bargain.

The government and factory owners have targeted her for this work, including trumping up charges against BCWS and forcing government deregistration of the group. International pressure from Human Rights Watch and BCWS’ partner organizations has forced them to reverse course. But dangers persist. In 2012, unknown assailants abducted, tortured, and killed Akter’s colleague, labor union organizer Aminul Islam. No one has been apprehended for the killing.

In an industry rife with deadly fires, building collapses, and rights abuses, Akter has engaged with multiple stakeholders, including factory owners, government officials, trade union activists, diplomats, United Nations agencies, and international garment brands, to demand respect for the rights of workers, particularly women and girls. Together with BCWS and Human Rights Watch, Akter conducts investigations, analysis, and advocacy. She also helps to ensure worker groups’ involvement in the European Union’s Sustainable Textile Action Plan to improve labor standards and protect worker safety in Bangladesh.

“Kalpona acts every day on the belief that dignity and respect for women and girls, and fair and just treatment on the factory floor are universal rights that garment workers of Bangladesh deserve,” says Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch’s Asia division.

“It’s central to who she is, and she won’t rest until she sees it happen.”

Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organization that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all.

Visit Human Rights Watch (www.hrw.org) for news on human rights conditions throughout the world.

Policy to Prevent Child Abuse in Zimbabwe

by Kudzai Chingwe

Child abuse is a global problem that is deeply rooted in cultural, economic and social practices. When children are abused they are denied their right to a safe, secure, happy and healthy childhood. With that in mind, the United Methodist Church Ministry with Women, Children and Youth in Zimbabwe has initiated a policy to protect children and youth.

Under the direction of its coordinator Tendai Rebecca Gurupira, the organization began to formulate the policy last January.

In July, a workshop funded by United Methodist Women and led by Central Africa’s regional missionary Grace Musuka was held. The main objective was to help local institutions to interpret the policy correctly. Attendees included the station chairpersons, chaplains, Ministry with Women leadership and area youth.

United Methodist Church Ministry with Women, Children and Youth is a partner of United Methodist Women.

Kudzai Chingwe is a writer for The View, United Methodist Church Ministry with Women, Children and Youth’s newsletter.
Remembering Haiti

A pocalyptic is how Haiti’s interim President Jocelerme Privert described the damage the island experienced from Hurricane Matthew this past October. More than 800 lives were lost and in the immediate aftermath 8000 lives were lost and in the immediate aftermath. After the island experienced from Hurricane Matthew this past October, more than 800 lives were lost and in the immediate aftermath.

Missionary John Harbottle (Methodist Church of Britain) and a relief worker stock food provisions in Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince, post-Hurricane Matthew.

by Julia Chance

A pocalyptic is how Haiti’s interim President Jocelerme Privert described the damage the island experienced from Hurricane Matthew this past October. More than 800 lives were lost and in the immediate aftermath Matthew has completely destroyed crops making widespread famine in months to come imminent. As recovery efforts continue, we offer this prayer for Haiti and the communities affected by this devastating crisis.

A Prayer for Peace

Jesus, we see you calming storms—storm tossed seas and stormy lives. Extend your power and grace again, especially upon these most recent storm victims. Speak peace and healing over bodies and spirits broken by the chaos. Jesus, speak peace. Speak peace and hope over families and communities devastated by sudden loss. Jesus, speak peace. Speak peace and unity over diverse groups of people so they would come together for greater provision, just distribution, and effective rebuilding. Jesus, speak peace. Speak peace and protection over rescue workers as they reach out to those who are suffering. Jesus, speak peace.

You are the Prince of Peace. You are the Resurrection and the Life. You are strong to save. Our hope and trust are in you. Amen.

—Prayer courtesy of Sharon and John Harbottle, Methodist Church of Britain.

Julia Chance is co-editor of United Methodist Women News.

Helping Women with HIV/AIDS in Kenya

by Grace Mzungu

Methodist Women’s Fellowship Health Program for Pregnant & Lactating Women Living with HIV/AIDS, in Nairobi, Kenya, supports women who are living with the disease. The organization provides psychological counseling and nutritious meals for the women and their children. Moreover, they give women a sense of community when spouses, friends and family shun them. This is a profile of one of their recipients and how this organization has helped her to improve her quality of life.

D ama Karisa, from the coastal region of Kenya, is the mother of four—two boys and two girls. She is a fish seller which does not earn her a full livelihood so she resorts to also working at a local quarry. Her husband worked as a cleaner in a local clinic. All was well until 2005 when Dama became sick for almost a month while expecting her fourth child. While seeking treatment she was diagnosed with HIV/AIDS

Dama’s diagnosis made her life even more difficult. First her husband abandoned her after she informed him that she was HIV positive. And because the stigma and discrimination towards those with HIV/AIDS is common in her community, she was marginalized.

When she partially recovered from her illness she was too weak to work to support her family. At this time the older three children dropped out of school and depended on neighbors for food and other basic needs. When the Kilifi county hospital social worker visited her for counseling so that she could take medication and live a positive life, she told them it was her wish to see her children return to school before she died. “If my children can get an education, even if I die I will have left a legacy,” Dama said.

In 2007 she enrolled in the Kilifi Synod Women’s Fellowship PLWHA program at Methodist Church in Kenya where she gets food supplements and psychological and social support. It is through this program that Dama was able to get regular meals for at least two weeks in a month. With her improved health she started working in private residential homes, washing clothes and cleaning compounds to raise money to support her children with school fees and other educational requirements.

In June 2016, during the regular monthly meeting of the Kilifi Synod WF PLWHA’s program, she surprised the meeting when she told them, “I am very grateful to the Methodist Church in Kenya which has been soliciting for funds to support me with highly nutritious food supplements for the last nine years. I don’t know how I would be today if it was not for this support.”

The facilitator of the program asked her to elaborate and she did. “I have a neighbor who died recently after being put on ARV’s but because she did not have food she succumbed to the illness. The Methodist Church has changed my life through the supplements. I wish they can reach many women and children living with HIV.” She ended her presentation with ululations, an emotional cry in her culture.

Methodist Women’s Fellowship Health Program for Pregnant & Lactating Women Living with HIV/AIDS is an international partner of United Methodist Women.

Grace Mzungu is a counselor at Kilifi Methodist Church Women’s Fellowship in Kenya.

For more information, visit http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/human-trafficking.

Box “Em Up to Stop Human Trafficking

The football phrase “in the box” is used to describe a rectangular formation that the defense employs to prevent the offensive team from intercepting. During this Super Bowl season, United Methodist Women wants to create a box of protection around the victims of human trafficking who have been boxed into a life of despair and a belief that there are no possibilities for freedom. We’re using boxes—open or closed, decorated or plain, stacked or alone—to symbolize the ways in which we are intercepting criminal trafficking and providing support to its survivors. Join our virtual barricade of boxes!

• Take pictures of your boxes and share them with other United Methodist Women members through social media with the hashtag #UMWBoxEmUp.
• During your next event stack boxes to represent United Methodist Women acting in solidarity with others to intercept the traffickers.
• Organize a flash mob of box holders United Methodist Women-style.
• Join your boxes in a partnership event with organizations headed by women from different cultural or faith communities.

For more information, visit http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.
United Methodist Women mission studies and spiritual growth studies offer opportunities to learn and grow. Mission u centers on these books which are the perfect resource for small-group studies, book clubs and Sunday school classes.

### 2017 Spiritual Growth Study

**Living as a Covenant Community**

Evy McDonald; Participant’s Guide, elmina Nazomite

This study examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God’s character and eternal love for us. It will enhance your understanding of how God works with us, in us, and through us. 194 pp.

- **$10.00** English (M3291)
- **$13.00** Spanish (M3292)
- **$13.00** Korean (M3293)
- **$3.35** Kindle English / Available February 2017

### Mission Study: Children’s Guide 2017

**Joined and Held Together:** A Children’s Study on Missionary Conferences

Margaret Snider

Children will learn how the missionary conferences connect us to each other and to the history of our church. The four sessions explore our connections and differences, encouraging children ages 5–12 to see how both strengthen our community and our place within it. 60 pp.

- **$10.00** English (M3288)

### Geographic Study

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

J. Ann Craig; Special Contributor, Deborah Bass

This study gives the reader a foundational understanding of mission and the three U.S. missionary conferences of The United Methodist Church: Alaska United Methodist Conference, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. It also offers opportunities for youth who are interested in relationship-building and hands-on mission. 90 pp.

- **$10.00** English (M3284)
- **$10.00** Spanish (M3285)
- **$10.00** Korean (M3286)
- **$3.35** Kindle English / Available February 2017

### Mission Study: Youth Guide 201

**In Mission Together: A Youth Study on Missionary Conferences**

Kelly C. Martini; Special Contributor Kendra Dunbar

The youth study focuses on the three U.S. missionary conferences of The United Methodist Church: Alaska United Methodist Conference, Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference and Red Bird Missionary Conference. It also offers opportunities for youth who are interested in relationship-building and hands-on mission. 90 pp.

- **$10.00** English (M3289)

### Program Calendar

The Program Calendar 2017-2020, also known as the Quadrennial Calendar, is a four-year monthly pocket calendar that showcases United Methodist Women events leading up to the 2016 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. 60 pp.

- **$10.00** (M7039)