UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

A VOICE OF
JUSTICE AND
COMPASSION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
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Inside: Wesley-Rankin Community Center youth visit a mural at the Center for Civil and Human Rights in Atlanta. The youth group was on an African American Civil Rights pilgrimage in 2017. Photo: Shellie Ross

Cover photo: United Methodist Women
GENERAL SECRETARY’S REPORT

The section on our Purpose found in The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 includes this statement: “United Methodist Women shall support ministry with and advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth.” (¶1319)

In 2017, United Methodist Women members spoke for compassion through support of our National Mission Institutions and other organizations supporting these groups. Grants, property insurance, technical assistance and local participation are all ways that our organization, from the national office throughout the members, speaks for compassion.

We also speak for compassion when we highlight the effect of changes in law or corporate policies on women, children and youth and on marginalized communities. In addition to formal legislative action days at the state and national levels, United Methodist Women members advocate within the church as a whole and within their individual communities for the inclusion of women, representation of people of color, safe working environments, fair wages and a host of other issues. For the past several years, we have been focusing on priority work in four areas:

- Criminalization of Communities of Color
- Economic Inequality
- Climate Justice
- Maternal and Child Health

We have selected specific goals within each of these four areas and are aligning our work around them so that we can enhance our impact.

At the same time, we are using our investments to support these values and to advocate for compassion and justice. Working with Wespath Investment Management, we are monitoring socially responsible investment practices to mirror our commitments. We also actively participate with Wespath representatives in the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, working with other faith-based investors to draw the attention of corporate leadership to long-term values of environmental stewardship, worker safety, fair wages and good corporate governance, including diverse membership of boards of directors.

At the national level, we continue to make our voice heard on some of the most pressing matters of our day. In 2017, we joined an interfaith group to oppose the so-called travel ban targeting Muslim countries. We spoke against HB2 in North Carolina, which makes it illegal for cities to establish their own minimum wage, removes state protection against certain kinds of discrimination and requires every person to use the restroom in accordance with the gender on their birth certificate. We spoke on the importance of the Paris climate accord, condemned the racism and anti-Semitism displayed in Charlottesville in May 2017, and reiterated that we stand with the young people who have sought protection through the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

We also have joined our voice with others in several amicus briefs this year, contesting the travel ban and asking the courts to enjoin the administration's effort to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. There is much more that could be said, and much more to be done, but throughout the United States and around the world, United Methodist Women members are investing themselves in listening to the needs of women, children and youth, especially the marginalized. We speak for compassion and justice.

Harriett Jane Olson
General Secretary and CEO
United Methodist Women
“Speaking for compassion and for justice is embedded in United Methodist Women’s identity and is expressed in many ways.”

Harriett Jane Olson

Photo: Yvette Moore
“Use your voice to speak up against injustice and be the voice of compassion in your church and in your community.”

Shannon Priddy, National President
“United Methodist Women speaks up against injustice and strives to be a voice of compassion.” Shannon Priddy

Photo: Pricilla Dickenson | Gittens
A Voice of Compassion and Justice

United Methodist Women—we are women of God called to service and community with other women of faith. We are the voice of compassion in every community. Community is how we invite women to know God. We do not work in mission alone; we work in community. United Methodist Women members are in every level of community and relationship with the world, and to grow this community of women is our covenant with God. It starts locally and expands globally. It starts with a welcoming invitation to join in community. It deepens as we grow in faith together, through relationship.

This year, I was honored to speak at a few annual celebrations around the country. The stories shared are examples of action happening every day through prayers, volunteer support and Mission Giving. The legacy of women speaking up against injustice is United Methodist Women. One woman shared the story of learning to sew at her grandmother's knee, where she also learned about the mission work her grandmother supported for women, children and youth. Another shared the story of her church, which didn’t have an active United Methodist Women unit; her first experience was an Ubuntu Journey. Afterward, she came home, shared her story with her church and became active in the district leadership. Women are building communities and speaking out with compassion in ways that are important in their areas.

March 2017 brought the executive team of the board of directors to the United Nations for the Commission on the Status of Women, where that team used the voices of United Methodist Women members around the globe to speak up for the economic empowerment of women. United Methodist Women marched in solidarity with the Standing Rock water protectors in Washington, D.C. Representatives of United Methodist Women testified at an Environmental Protection Agency hearing against a postponement of methane gas emission regulations. Among them was one of our directors, Daryl Junes-Joe, a member of the Navajo Nation, who testified based on her Native American experience as well as her faith perspective.

We stand with our foremothers when we speak out against injustice locally and globally because the work we are doing today started with them. You continue to recognize the needs of the least, especially the needs of women and girls in God’s world. You are the voice and compassion of our foremothers. Your voice and your compassion are putting faith, hope and love into action.

United Methodist Women continues to speak up against injustice and be the voice of compassion in your church and in your community. As a member of United Methodist Women, you have been transformed through education and have grown spiritually to recognize your roots in God and share the Word. Now is the time for action. Speak out with us against injustice with compassion, together in community.

Shannon Priddy
National President
United Methodist Women
2017 HIGHLIGHTS

SPIRITUAL GROWTH
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION
ORGANIZED FOR GROWTH
SERVICE AND ADVOCACY
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
SPIRITUAL GROWTH

▶ United Methodist Women members journeyed through Lenten and Advent devotionals, Bible studies and articles written by members, program advisory board members, and other partners on the United Methodist Women website and in response magazine.

▶ Women of the Methodist Church of the Caribbean and Americas (MCCA) wrote and published the third Lenten Devotional for Lent 2017.

▶ United Methodist Women published the 2017 Living as a Covenant Community study, which examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God’s character and eternal love.


▶ In 2017, the offering received from A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial observance supported programming and advocacy for the health of mothers and their children.
Connecting Women to One Another and to Their Faith

Mission u creates intergenerational spaces for mission education.

Generations come together to deepen their faith and understanding of current issues. By laying a biblical and theological foundation for compassionate service and passionate advocacy, Mission u grounds our faith and the work of justice.

In 2017, 452 study leaders, deans and assistant deans received training to lead Mission u at the conference level. Thousands of individuals engaged in transformative learning in 2017, including about 800 youth and children. Many more were served by conference participants bringing back what they learned and leading at the district and unit levels.

Many United Methodist Women leaders are working to expand access to Mission u. The California-Nevada conference has revived its youth classes and reached out to new communities. Judy Church and Rosie Kumar, as co-deans for 2016 and 2017, had a vision to extend the boundaries of Mission u, and one of the ways they did this was through Rosie’s contact with a Fijian group. “We coordinated efforts to meet and share the visions of Mission u and what it means for us, not only
as a group, but individually, emphasizing the study topics for personal spiritual growth,” the two explained in a joint letter. “We also made a point of stating that we are one big organization and there is no need for barriers to segregate us. As a result, we now have a Fijian sister, Mere Nabou, elected as co-dean for this year.”

*Adapted from the March 2018 issue of* response *magazine.*
“At Mission u, I’ve learned that the image of God is in everyone. Therefore, we are one and creation is God’s self-revelation.”

Chastity Jones, Mission u participant
TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

► United Methodist Women’s Seminar Program hosted 22 groups for seminars, including youth, campus ministries and adult groups, totaling more than 500 participants.

► Seminar Program staff facilitated a Faith and Justice Pilot with the goal to equip members to offer trainings in their local communities and to multiply leaders who can articulate their United Methodist Women identity and why justice is core to being a follower of Christ and to guide others in doing the same.

► By laying a biblical and theological foundation for compassionate service and passionate advocacy, Mission u continues to ground our faith and the work of justice.

► CEPALC, an ecumenical women’s organization in Colombia, worked to raise women’s awareness and advocacy skills to combat discrimination and women’s oppression in this South American country.

► Wesley-Rankin Community Center in Dallas, Texas, sponsored the first-ever middle- and high-school trip focusing on Mexican American civil rights.
Wesley-Rankin Community Center Offers Support and Education for Texas Families

A United Methodist Women-supported community center helps families survive and grow.

by Richard Lord

Wesley-Rankin Community Center, a National Mission Institution of United Methodist Women, responded to the latest crisis in its Los Altos neighborhood in Dallas, Texas, as it always has: by attempting to resolve the crisis that affects its constituents while comforting its survivors.

Since its founding in 1934, Wesley-Rankin has been supporting and engaging with this community, a multigenerational neighborhood where 34 percent of families live below the poverty line. In addition to helping community members advocate for affordable housing and find new homes, Wesley-Rankin provides many educational programs for children and adults. Six hundred community members receive services. Four hundred and fifty are children and youth.
Children from 18 months to high school receive instruction tailored to their age group. There are also special programs, such as GOh GOh Girls, which provides teen girls with a forum for discussing their issues in an environment they consider safe. In 2017, Wesley-Rankin made history by sponsoring the first-ever middle- and high-school Mexican American Civil Rights Tour, in which a group of 46 students traveled across Texas to learn the history of land acquisition and Native American roots. In effect, students are proudly claiming their identity and finding a collective voice to advocate for others.

The center is highly dependent on volunteer labor. Six hundred volunteers, who come from United Methodist Women, AmeriCorps, churches, schools and corporations, complement its full-time staff of eight. They provide 10,000 volunteer hours per year.

Pamela Bush, United Methodist Women program chair at University Park Church, began her connection when she was a young mother in her 30s. “It makes me pleased and grateful as a Methodist and as a woman that we are active in helping to meet the needs of others,” Bush says. “Reaching outside of one’s self is the heart of Methodism.”

Adapted from the March 2018 issue of *response* magazine.
“[W]e all have things to teach one another. This has carried through to the tutoring that I currently do. Even the small things can make a huge difference.”

Pamela Bush, United Methodist Women program chair at University Park Church
ORGANIZED FOR GROWTH

► All eight United Methodist Women regional missionaries partnered with Methodist and United Methodist Women organizations in 21 African countries, 24 annual conferences of the Philippines, 12 countries in and around the Caribbean, and 10 countries of Latin America through program and mission leadership.

► Three regional missionaries worked with United Methodist Women Ubuntu teams alongside the Methodist or United Methodist Women’s host organization for programs of cultural and faith exchange in an experience that transformed each woman’s life.

► Leaders nationwide launched a campaign for United Methodist Women Conversations on a Way Forward with the purpose of being informed about the special session of General Conference in 2019 and the work of the commission on a Way Forward; clarifying our thinking on what holds us together as a church; and developing leadership in the larger church and General Conference.

► Leadership development was expanded through distance learning, training members and leaders virtually using GoTo trainings, Bridge and other online resources.

► United Methodist Women increased member participation in the myUMW page, where members can create profiles with their personal information and mission interests, to over 20,000, and expanded its goal to reach every local unit with phone reminders and support for completion of the online membership census.
Advisory Group Members Reflect on United Methodist Women

When we come together, we can truly make an impact.

United Methodist Women, like The United Methodist Church, is a connectional system. All of the groups within the organization, from the local group to the national office, relate to one another in a variety of ways; local groups report to district organizations, which report to conference organizations. The board of directors and the program advisory group oversee the national office and conference organizations.

The United Methodist Women Program Advisory Group includes representatives from each conference, the deaconess and home missioner community, several denominational agencies, the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, and the United Methodist Women Regional Missionaries. United Methodist Women members are automatically members of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. At the 2017 annual meeting of the program advisory group, members gave some very thoughtful answers on the benefits of membership. Shanae Als, program advisory group member said, “It’s like a plethora of resources; there’s something for everyone, and you can organize for mission however you want. Everywhere you go, there’s somebody like you.” Betty Helms, president, Southeast Jurisdiction-United Methodist Women, added, “Being a part of the larger organization, you have a bigger impact.”

When United Methodist Women come together, we truly do make an impact.

*Adapted from* United Methodist Women News, *Fall 2017.*
Finda Quiswa, regional missionary, Sierra Leone
Photo: Priscilla Dickenson | Gittens
“United Methodist Women supports my work as a regional missionary based in Freetown, Sierra Leone. We do leadership development with young women and men, in the church and beyond the church. We’re training leaders for the church and for society, some in countries that are recovering from years of civil war and conflict. United Methodist Women makes this ministry and that of the other regional missionaries possible.”

Finda Quiwa, regional missionary,
Sierra Leone
SERVICE AND ADVOCACY

- United Methodist Women held action in Charlotte, North Carolina on HB2, which had major implications for wage-raise legislation, race and gender equity, sexual orientation and environmental protection legislation.

- With the help of United Methodist Women, National Mission Institutions provided much-needed emergency relief to local families and underserved communities affected by the hurricanes, including in Puerto Rico.

- Thanks to United Methodist Women’s support, Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky, enhanced the quality of life of 30 participants in its seniors program.

- United Methodist Women regional missionary Elmira Sellu created a made-for-Africa model of Mission u for United Methodist Women and youth in West and East Africa.

- Tacoma Community House in Washington continued its 108-year history as a welcoming home providing programs in education, employment, immigration and services to help DREAMers renew their DACA permits, and a therapy group for parents of victims of sexual assault.

- Iowa United Methodist Women member Judy Kading provided service and advocacy for United Methodist Women international partners in Costa Rica, including volunteer service for the Universidad Bíblica Latinoamericana offering training in economic development skills.
United Methodist Women Supports Hurricane Relief Efforts

Emergency grants offset the destruction caused by the storms of summer 2017.

By Yvette Moore

The powerful late-summer hurricanes that left a trail of destruction through parts of the Caribbean, Florida and Texas affected United Methodist Women National Mission Institutions. Several sustained damage, but those that were able served as emergency service centers for local residents. All the staff of the seven National Mission Institutions were accounted for and safe. Emergency grants supported the immediate needs of residents in their service areas. The United Methodist Women board of directors voted to create a designated fund for hurricane relief and recovery; donations to this fund supported grants that provided direct service to the communities, as well as property grants to repair the buildings as needed.

In August 2017, United Methodist Women sent $19,000 in emergency grants to Wesley Community Center in Houston and Wesley Community Centers of Nueces County, Texas, to provide food and financial assistance to local residents in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.
Hurricane Irma, a category 5 storm, tore through the Florida Keys, Miami and up the state’s west coast, damaging Wesley Community Center in Key West and Cornerstone Family Ministries in Tampa. Irma weakened as it moved north, but maintained enough power to cause the flooding of offices and cable wire damage at Rural Mission on Johns Island, South Carolina, and roof and gutter damage at New Bethlehem Center in Augusta, Georgia.

“The Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School was without power for over a week, creating a hardship for families needing care for their children, many also without power,” reported Cathy Capo Stone, executive director of Cornerstone. “Thanks to United Methodist Women we were able to meet with each family very quickly to distribute gift cards to provide replacement food and gas.” With this support, the affected National Mission Institutions can continue their needed work supporting their local communities.

Adapted from an October 2017 article appearing on the United Methodist Women website.
“The Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School was without power for over a week, creating a hardship for families needing care for their children, many also without power. Thanks to United Methodist Women, we were able to meet with each family very quickly to distribute gift cards to provide replacement food and gas.”

Cathy Capo Stone, executive director of Cornerstone
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

➤ The seven-day Ecumenical Women’s Forum leadership workshop equipped participants to promote gender and climate justice in the Philippines.

➤ Women from 21 African nations gathered for networking and leadership development at the United Methodist Women-sponsored “Women Transforming the World” consultation in Mozambique.

➤ United Methodist Women led the Asian Young Women’s Leadership Development Event, a program for emergent leaders in the Methodist and United Methodist churches of Asia.

➤ Approximately 776 people participated in Leadership Development Days in North Carolina, Missouri and Arizona. Participants were equipped through worship, plenary and workshop sessions for their leadership roles, spiritual growth and membership growth, building relationships, service and advocacy.

United Methodist deaconesses and other women of faith joined the workshop planning team in the Philippines.
Photo: Carmenica Karagadag
Leadership and Women’s Empowerment in the Philippines

The Ecumenical Women’s Forum equips leaders to change lives.

United Methodist deaconesses and church women joined ecumenical sisters to listen, dialogue and visit marginalized sites and communities to prepare to transform lives during the Ecumenical Women’s Forum Leadership Development and Capacity Building for Gender and Ecological Justice in Sarangani in southern Mindanao, the Philippines.

Leadership training can be an intense experience. This was especially true for the women who attended this program and immersed themselves in local communities to see their struggles up close. But no matter what difficulties they encountered, the participants felt they had an educational and life-changing experience.

The seven-day leadership development workshop, organized by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines Women’s Desk in partnership with United Methodist Women, brought together 30 women participants, including indigenous Lumads, Muslims and Christians. The focus was on achieving ecological justice to economically empower women. In addition to attending advocacy trainings and panel discussions, the delegates spent two days living with local Muslim and Lumad communities facing environmental destruction and a loss of land, tradition and livelihood.
The week ended with the adoption of a statement that recalled the experiences during the delegates’ visit to Moro and Lumad communities and underscored the need for women to organize, strengthen their ranks and mobilize others to fight for human rights, women’s rights and environmental rights. The delegates found their two days among indigenous and local communities especially meaningful. They felt the various panels, conversations and workshops were informative, thought-provoking and inspiring. Everyone underscored the need to continue this type of workshop at the local and national levels and empower women to lead the call for environmental and economic justice.

*Adapted from an August 2017 article appearing on the United Methodist Women website.*
PRIORITIES

CRIMINALIZATION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

CLIMATE JUSTICE

ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
CRIMINALIZATION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

- At their annual meeting, Members of the Oregon-Idaho conference defended DACA as part of their focus on criminalization of communities of color.

- With United Methodist Women support, West Side Community House in Cleveland, Ohio, has grown Sisterhood, a literacy-based after-school program for girls 10-18, to include approximately 300 students since September 2017.

- With funding from A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial grant, Cornerstone Family Ministries in Tampa, Florida, expanded its Rosa Valdez Early Learning Center and Lab School program, adding a mentoring and early childhood education credentialing program for up to 15 at-risk youth.

- Toberman Neighborhood Center was able to purchase a van to transport participants to and from its after-school program, providing safe transportation to the center through neighborhoods plagued by violence.

- Nome Community Center in Alaska was able to provide a space for children each week through its Boys and Girls Club.

- The national ministries office hosted a webinar with immigration attorneys and National Mission Institutions that serve undocumented immigrant populations. The attorneys interpreted the new U.S. immigration law, explained the rights of undocumented immigrants and discussed legal requirements.
Continuing Education Outside the Classroom

Nome Community Center keeps Alaska youth off the streets and equipped for the future.

With support from United Methodist Women in 2017, Nome Community Center, a United Methodist Women Nation Mission Institution in Nome, Alaska, has been able to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment to between 30 and 50 children, ages 7 to 17, from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. each week through its Boys and Girls Club. Activities include Power Hour—which offers homework assistance, teen nights, Science Saturdays—as well as STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) learning, arts and crafts, field trips, and games and indoor/outdoor activities. Meals and snacks are available for children in the community.

Another program at the center, the Nome Youth Court, gives first-time juvenile offenders the opportunity to keep their crime off the record by agreeing to go on trial before their peers. Sentences focus on rehabilitation and on repairing the damage to the community, promoting responsibility instead of solely aiming to punish. The recidivism rate for those who complete their sentence with Nome Youth Court is much lower than those who pass through the traditional court system.

The center also focuses on giving young people the skills to enter the workforce. Identifying that many young Alaska Native women in its region are not competitive job applicants because they do not have vocational training options available to them, Nome Community Center applied for and received A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial grant. With that grant, it developed an apprenticeship program called Women at Work, which offered a paid training opportunity for young women to learn how to operate and manage a commercial kitchen. The program not only provided training in the skills necessary for equipment operation, food preparation and food safety, but also offered employment mentoring, computer education and food service certification.

“Our first graduate completed the program three months earlier than expected and was immediately hired by the tribal health system at a very competitive wage,” said Nome Community Center program director Rhonda Schneider. “It is our hope that the tribal organizations in our region will contribute to the sustainability of the program and that many more positions in our region can be filled with tribal members as they gain the skills to compete in the job marketplace.”

Adapted from Nome Community Center ministry report.
United Methodist Women called on the Environmental Protection Agency to enforce methane regulation and galvanized action to stop the EPA’s plans to deregulate New Source Performance Standards (NSPS).

The United Methodist Women National Office and Be Just. Be Green. Jurisdictional Guides continued to provide training, coaching and resourcing to members around 13 Steps to Sustainability in events and meetings.

United Methodist Women members developed Creation Care resolutions in conferences as a result of the climate justice Mission events. New Mexico passed its Creation Care resolution in 2017 and is now in the process of implementing the resolution.

United Methodist Women wrote a joint statement with the General Board of Church and Society, General Board of Global Ministries, and Wespath at COP23, the 2017 United Nations Climate Change Conference, urging for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

United Methodist Women was involved in dialogues with oil and gas companies about methane emissions reduction, organized through the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

United Methodist Women organized “Frackland Tour”, methane threat exposure trip in southwestern Pennsylvania for members to learn about the threats of methane and its copollutant emissions for women and children in that region.
United Methodist Women members ask the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to protect the vulnerable.

by Erik Alsgaard

Three United Methodist Women members raised their voices on behalf of the vulnerable, women and children in Washington, D.C., July 2017, speaking out against a possible stay of regulations affecting natural gas and oil production during a public hearing at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The EPA had announced it was considering a two-year postponement of a June 2016 rule that requires manufacturers of natural gas and oil to adhere to strict performance standards when it comes to “fugitive emissions at well sites and compressor stations (‘fugitive emissions requirements’) and emissions from pneumatic pumps.”

During the production and drilling process of natural gas and oil, methane and other gases often leak out. These gases, which are known contributors to global warming, also put people’s health at risk.

The EPA said June 5 that it delayed, for 90 days, the emissions requirements and the requirements for certification of closed vent systems by professional engineers. They were now seeking to extend the stay for two years. That delay isn’t good, said Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, United Methodist Women executive for economic and environmental justice, who told the EPA panel that “all the earth” needs to be protected.

“The two-year stay would harm the health of children, increase global warming and waste resources God has given us,” she said, adding that many of the hundreds of thousands of United Methodist Women members live or worship near oil rigs, fracking sites, compression stations or pipelines. Lee said that many people are sick because of inhaling toxins from these places.

Daryl Junes Joe from Shiprock, New Mexico, who is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and a member of United Methodist Women’s board of directors, served as a tribal prosecutor for 30 years. This was the first time she had ever come to Washington to give a statement like this, she said.

A retired educator, Jeanne Long from Cincinnati, Ohio, said it was “shortsighted and harmful” to Ohioans to allow Scott Pruitt, EPA’s chief administrator, to “roll back these protections.”

“I’m not willing to have even one of those children die too young from a disease or disorder caused by methane that has leaked into and contaminated their air or their drinking water,” she said. “I’m not sure oil and gas companies, and lobbyists, and members of Congress, and perhaps the EPA, feel the same way. I’m afraid that in many cases, profits are more important than people.”

*Adapted from the December 2017 issue of response magazine.*
ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

- The North Georgia conference hosted speakers from the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, a nonprofit organization working to build a more inclusive economy, who shared information about the Georgia economic and legislative issues at two conference events.

- Partnering with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Women requested that wage theft be added to the learning seminars for the 2017 Legislative Event in Salem, Oregon. Following the seminars, along with 500 other people of faith, United Methodist Women members met with their state senators and representatives to advocate for legislation.

- Leaders of West Ohio United Methodist Women joined the Farm Labor Organizing Committee in a rally for fair wages and racial justice in Toledo, Ohio.

- The United Methodist Women Central Texas annual meeting focused on economic inequality and tipped-wage workers. Members were encouraged to take action afterwards, including by using a guide by Restaurant Opportunities Centers United to support high-end restaurants and by advocating with the Department of Labor against rules that would have allowed employers to pocket workers’ tips.

- United Methodist Women directors, staff, international partners and local members joined together to engage in the global conversation on women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work for the 61st United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.
Economic Empowerment the Focus for Commission on the Status of Women 2017

United Methodist Women members add their voices to a global conversation.

“Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work” was the theme for 2017’s Conference on the Status of Women (CSW), March 13–24, 2017, at the United Nations in New York City.

United Methodist Women has made women’s economic empowerment and the rights of women in the workplace a key priority. This is a critical element in advancing gender, racial, economic and environmental justice for women and their families. In view of Agenda 2030 and global universal goals of reducing poverty, advancing gender equality and environmental sustainability, overcoming inequality and leaving no one behind, we urge member states to address systems of inequality that undermine women’s human rights and labor rights by guaranteeing the right to decent work and social protection for all. Economic empowerment of women and girls is vital for achieving genuine, long-term and equitable sustainable development that recognizes women’s local knowledge, skills and leadership, and engages them in decision-making.

United Methodist Women sponsored and cosponsored several workshops in partnership with other NGOs as follows:

- The Women’s Dialogue: Empowering Women Through Peace
- Costs of Korean War: Impacts on Women’s Security in the Region
- Empowering Women Through Labor Rights
- Women, Work, Mobility, Development and Economic Justice: Women in Migration
  Convene a Dialogue Integrating Strategies and Movements
- Promoting Women’s Health and Economic Empowerment

The primary outcome of CSW is a set of agreed conclusions that contain an analysis of the annual priority theme as well as concrete recommendations for global policymaking bodies. CSW also makes recommendations to the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of human rights.

Adapted from an article appearing in United Methodist Women News, Spring 2017.
MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

- United Methodist Women funding enabled Crossroads Urban Center to conduct a survey of 77 homeless and at-risk mothers to understand their challenges and provide recommendations for improving the lives of homeless families.

- United Methodist Women provided a grant to Community Development for All People (CD4AP) to support the second phase of CD4AP’s efforts to accompany parents and families of young children living on the south side of Columbus, Ohio, enter kindergarten healthy and prepare to thrive.

- Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, was able to continue its Young Mothers Together program, which is geared toward supporting young mothers within the greater Harrisburg community to become strong, empowered and independent women and mothers.

- Thanks to hundreds of United Methodist Women members who invited their friends and congregations to gather at the 37th annual Wonder Walk at Cornerstone Family Ministries in Tampa, Florida, more than $100,000 in scholarship funds were raised for the infants and preschoolers attending the center.

- With the General Board of Church and Society, we brought members from key states to Washington, D.C., to engage in maternal and child health training and led strategy sessions on how to build partnerships and advocate for key legislation in their own states and localities.
Crossroads Urban Center Advocates for Homeless Mothers and Children

Women share their challenges and needs in a targeted survey.

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial grant funded Crossroads Urban Center’s study of mothers experiencing homelessness, which was published in December 2017. Crossroads, a National Mission Institution supported by United Methodist Women, located in Salt Lake City, Utah, has been in operation since 1966. In addition to distributing food, clothing, and other essentials to those in need, it organizes community groups that connect citizens and policymakers to create systems and structures that support people in their fight to escape poverty.

For the 2017 survey, Crossroads spoke to 77 mothers who, between them, were responsible for 202 children. The goal was to better understand the challenges these mothers faced, what has been helpful for them, and what would be of benefit in the future. In addition to the overall survey, Crossroads Urban Center organized sessions with smaller focus groups of mothers in order to learn about their issues in more depth.

Overwhelmingly, the mothers surveyed had become homeless due to a crisis—91 percent had lost their homes as a result of domestic violence, a job loss, or other major life event. A total of 79 percent said it was hard to find an apartment they could afford. “I couldn’t find anywhere that didn’t have a huge deposit, and it was just so expensive that it would have been all of my check and, literally, we would have ended up back on the street,” one respondent explained.

Based on the concerns of the mothers surveyed, Crossroads’ recommendations include:

- The establishment of more family shelters, permanent supportive housing complexes, and low-income housing
- Childcare assistance for homeless mothers who are employed, looking for work, or in education and job training
- An increase in the monthly Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) benefit
- Better access to transportation for homeless families
- Better access to healthcare for both adults and children
- Support for existing programs currently helping homeless mothers, such as homeless service providers and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

As the report states, “These issues are critical, not just for the mothers we interviewed, but also for their children, for as we know, the fate of homeless children is tied to the fate of their parents.”

“When we look back at the last 150 years that United Methodist Women has existed, we see amazing accomplishments that fuel our imaginations and our awe. We also see the strength and support we provide to each other.”

Martha Sherman Knight

Photo: Pricilla Dickenson | Gittens
United Methodist Women members, are you in it for the hope this organization brings you? For the hope you bring to the world?

For the past year and a half, I have been on a journey of self-reckoning. By that, I mean attempting to reconcile the beliefs I hold dear with what is happening in the world. The strife, division, fear and anxiety around us can be discouraging.

In the November 2017 issue of response magazine, Bishop C. Joseph Sprague recounted his visit with women in prison. This story made me sit up straight when an inmate responded to the bishop’s list of lifelong accomplishments in social justice work with these words: “You’re an old man who has done a bunch of things. When you look around at today’s mess, was it worth it?”

Fortunately, when we look back at the last 150 years that United Methodist Women has existed, we see amazing accomplishments that fuel our imaginations and our awe. We also see the strength and support that we provide each other. When we are in need of boosting or encouragement, a sister answers with grace. It is this grace and our great faith that lead United Methodist Women members to give of themselves for our collective mission and ministry with women, children and youth. It is this grace and our great faith that are in all our plans to serve others, in all our work. It is this grace and our great faith that fuel the mission and ministry of United Methodist Women to move forward with integrity to be a light in the world.

When we help each other, we accomplish amazing things. United Methodist Women scholarships have helped recipients become the first women to have key leadership positions in their home countries or even continents. Other successes start smaller but are no less important: Flory Atieno, whose story is also recounted in the pages of response, received a scholarship from United Methodist Women to attend college, where she studied community development. She went on to start Operation Hope to help vulnerable women in her community become self-sufficient, growing into a leader helping women in her community own their own businesses.

This is one of tens of thousands of women you and all our foremothers have helped through United Methodist Women scholarships. We build families, communities and hope in the world. How can we survive and thrive in uncertain times? By continuing to be the source of hope that we have been for the last 150 years.

Flory’s story is but one example of the grace and our great faith that lead United Methodist Women to give of themselves for our collective mission and ministry with women, children and youth. She brings into clarity the reason that we work and give in our time-honored service of showing others who Jesus is in our lives today. God gives us the grace and vision to offer love in action.

Go and be the hope for the world. Take a sister with you.

Amen and may it be so!

Martha Sherman Knight
Treasurer and CFO
United Methodist Women
**Operating Revenue**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Giving</td>
<td>11.11</td>
<td>12.10</td>
<td>12.02</td>
<td>13.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Edition SMR</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplementary Giving</td>
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<td>0.06</td>
<td>0.08</td>
<td>0.09</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated Giving</td>
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<td>0.69</td>
<td>0.71</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Conference Giving</strong></td>
<td>11.96</td>
<td>12.34</td>
<td>12.81</td>
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**Interest Income**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income from Cash Equivalents</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income (Net of Fees)</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>1.16</td>
<td>1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bequest, Trusts and Other Long-Term Gifts</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution from Endowments</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Interest Income</strong></td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>2.16</td>
<td>1.70</td>
<td>1.95</td>
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</table>

**Publications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>response Magazine</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.38</td>
<td>0.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>PBD/MRC</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.99</td>
<td>1.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Publications</strong></td>
<td>1.26</td>
<td>1.32</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>1.66</td>
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</table>

**Program Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Services by United Methodist Women</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Mission Institutions Network</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Mission Institution</td>
<td>1.36</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>1.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs and Maintenance</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>0.54</td>
<td>0.71</td>
<td>0.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Management</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.18</td>
<td>0.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Mission Work Administration</td>
<td>0.78</td>
<td>0.76</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Women Membership</td>
<td>2.56</td>
<td>2.21</td>
<td>2.18</td>
<td>1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Education</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>1.87</td>
<td>2.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>response Magazine</td>
<td>0.46</td>
<td>0.50</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Resources (MR)</td>
<td>1.19</td>
<td>1.22</td>
<td>1.29</td>
<td>1.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Social Action</td>
<td>1.95</td>
<td>1.78</td>
<td>1.85</td>
<td>1.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaconesses, Home Missioners</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Programs Administered by</td>
<td>0.34</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>0.26</td>
<td>1.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Women</td>
<td>13.04</td>
<td>11.86</td>
<td>12.92</td>
<td>13.51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Programs Administered by</strong></td>
<td>13.48</td>
<td>12.09</td>
<td>12.23</td>
<td>13.51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program Support**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church Center for the United Nations</td>
<td>2.47</td>
<td>3.37</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>3.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almas Mathews House</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.66</td>
<td>0.52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooks-Howell Retirement Center</td>
<td>4.19</td>
<td>3.98</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>3.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missions Home Operations</td>
<td>2.94</td>
<td>1.03</td>
<td>1.88</td>
<td>4.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scarritt Bennett Center</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.16</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annuity Fund</td>
<td>0.04</td>
<td>0.10</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizationwide Program Support</td>
<td>0.29</td>
<td>0.68</td>
<td>0.53</td>
<td>0.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Support</strong></td>
<td>10.03</td>
<td>8.48</td>
<td>9.67</td>
<td>11.35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Program Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29.29</td>
<td>25.56</td>
<td>28.30</td>
<td>32.11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Supporting Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Supporting Services</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Management and General</strong></td>
<td>5.36</td>
<td>4.58</td>
<td>4.24</td>
<td>3.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising Development Office</td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fundraising</strong></td>
<td>0.30</td>
<td>0.36</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>0.34</td>
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</table>

**Total Supporting Services**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.66</td>
<td>4.93</td>
<td>4.44</td>
<td>3.66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Operating Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>34.95</td>
<td>30.49</td>
<td>32.74</td>
<td>35.77</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Effect on Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating Deficit</td>
<td>11.31</td>
<td>7.36</td>
<td>8.99</td>
<td>9.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciation/(Depreciation) in Investments</td>
<td>15.16</td>
<td>8.57</td>
<td>2.92</td>
<td>2.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endowment/Sale of Properties</td>
<td>1.38</td>
<td>34.79</td>
<td>14.29</td>
<td>3.21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>5.23</td>
<td>33.29</td>
<td>2.38</td>
<td>(3.70)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Assets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Fund/Undesignated</td>
<td>28.31</td>
<td>13.70</td>
<td>16.11</td>
<td>11.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board Designated</td>
<td>20.05</td>
<td>39.12</td>
<td>5.21</td>
<td>6.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Unrestricted</strong></td>
<td>48.36</td>
<td>51.82</td>
<td>21.32</td>
<td>18.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
<td>34.46</td>
<td>26.84</td>
<td>25.06</td>
<td>26.47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
<td>17.93</td>
<td>16.86</td>
<td>15.85</td>
<td>15.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>100.75</td>
<td>95.52</td>
<td>62.23</td>
<td>59.86</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All figures shown quoted in millions of dollars U.S.*

---

*In 2017, United Methodist Women granted $1,000,000 internationally, $300,000,000 nationally and $300,000 in scholarships worldwide.*
**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 2017 was $23,634,533.00

**United Methodist Women Revenue Categories 2017**

- †Mission Giving 50.63%
- Interest Income 9.22%
- Publications 5.10%
- Rental and Service Fee Income 27.20%
- Other Income 7.85%

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**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.

**Total Operating Expenditure**

For 2017 was $34,943,611.00

**United Methodist Women Expense Categories 2017**

- Programs Administered by United Methodist Women 37.31%
- Programs Administered by Other Organizations 17.79%
- Program Support 28.70%
- Supporting Services 16.20%

---

**Programs Administered by United Methodist Women**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Mission Institution Network</td>
<td>3.85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance (NMI Property Management)</td>
<td>10.41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repairs &amp; Maintenance (NMI Property Management)</td>
<td>6.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property Management (NMI Property Management)</td>
<td>1.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Mission Work Management</td>
<td>5.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Methodist Women Membership &amp; Leadership Development</td>
<td>19.64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Education</td>
<td>17.83%</td>
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</table>

**Programs Administered by Other Organizations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>response Magazine</td>
<td>3.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Resources/Publications</td>
<td>9.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Social Action</td>
<td>14.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaconess, Home Missioners Office and Network</td>
<td>3.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Programs Administered by UMW</td>
<td>3.68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**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 fully 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 2017

LISTED BY JURISDICTION WITH PERCENTAGE GIVEN BEYOND PLEDGE

Of the 56 conferences, 22 met or exceeded their pledges in 2017

1 JURISDICTION EXCEEDED ITS PLEDGE
- Western Jurisdiction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTH CENTRAL</th>
<th>SOUTHEASTERN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dakotas 5.53%</td>
<td>Holston 0.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indiana 2.46%</td>
<td>Kentucky 44.57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin 9.60%</td>
<td>North Carolina 8.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red Bird Missionary 188.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tennessee Met its pledge</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NORTHEASTERN</th>
<th>WESTERN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eastern Pennsylvania 1.85%</td>
<td>California- Nevada 11.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York 2.04%</td>
<td>California-Pacific 17.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peninsula-Delaware 11.00%</td>
<td>Desert Southwest 1.51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susquehanna 4.86%</td>
<td>Pacific Northwest 4.65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Virginia 11.27%</td>
<td>Rocky Mountain 0.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Pennsylvania 17.08%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
2018 BUDGET

It is God’s grace and our faith that is in all our plans to serve others, in all our work. It is the reason we have a nearly 150-year-old organization, so that the mission and ministry of United Methodist Women can move forward with integrity to be a light in the world.

Membership and Leadership Development

We celebrate that we concluded 2017 with a fully staffed department. Our budget and plans for 2018 support and focus on the national office strategic plan. Our programming and initiatives will be aligned to position, engage and mobilize the United Methodist Women National Office, members and leaders to expand our reach to new members and leaders, particularly young women and women of color.

Section on Mission Opportunities

Our 2018 budget will continue our foremothers’ legacy of providing services and advocacy in underserved communities, through National Mission Institutions, to stem generational poverty and build bridges to economic empowerment; interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and keep students in the classroom and out of the courtroom; promote and advocate for responsible stewardship of the earth to reduce carbon footprint; and to raise awareness around reproductive healthcare to decrease maternal mortality.

From United Methodist Women members living out their faith in Africa to girls dreaming of a college education in Asia, from women feeding their families in Haiti to children receiving medical treatment at a missionary hospital in the Philippines, from crisis intervention for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong to unlocking financial opportunities for rural communities in Mozambique, the 2018 budget will impact more lives than can be counted.

Christian Social Action

Christian Social Action continues into 2018, resourcing the work of our external metrics and focusing on specific initiatives within the four priority issue areas:

- Criminalization of Communities of Color: Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline
- Climate Justice: Reduction of Carbon Emissions and Shareholder Campaigns
- Economic Inequality: Campaign for Living Wage
- Maternal and Child Health: Advocacy for Maternal Mortality Review Boards
Church Center for the United Nations

CCUN operations is projecting relatively flat from 2017 to 2018, which is a slight increase in revenue and a very slight decrease in expenses. Though not in the operating budget, 2018 will see the completion of two capital projects at CCUN: the upgrading of the sprinkler system to comply with the most recent New York City fire safety regulations and the refurbishment of the office and meeting spaces United Methodist Women will be using in the future. Reducing our footprint from the amount of space we currently occupy will reduce the amount of rent United Methodist Women pays in that location.

Brooks-Howell Home

The Brooks-Howell Home budget for 2018 includes a proposed 2 percent increase in fees for the residents who are there because of past service to United Methodist Women and its predecessor organizations. This increase will apply to independent residents as well as those in the Health Center.

The increase proposed for new residents of the Health Center will be 7.5 percent to keep pace with the average cost of such facilities in the Asheville area. One goal of this increase is to reduce the home’s dependence on the United Methodist Women National Office for funding. Brooks-Howell Home is requesting zero increase in funds from United Methodist Women for the 2018 budget year.

United Methodist Women Management Budget

The 2018 management budget shows the beginning stages of transition to the new organizational framework as the strategic plan is implemented more deeply. This is where Position, Engage and Mobilize will show the earliest changes. Future budgets will be formatted with more detail around new programs and projects.

The 2018 budget includes the assumption of a 2 percent increase in salaries to keep the new salary structure, adopted last year, in line with the market. It is an assembly year in 2018, so the revenue and expenses for that event are included in the budget. Staff will be requesting a 3 percent increase in the past service rate for retired deaconesses and missionaries. This will offset the 2 percent increase in fees for those who live at Brooks-Howell Home.

In 2017 and again in 2018 we are increasing fund development activities to focus on the Legacy Fund and overall giving. Recent years have seen a decrease in Mission Giving and an increase in assets and investments to offset part or all of the decrease so that the mission continues at the same pace.

With these plans for 2018, we look ahead to another year of faith, fellowship, and ministry for United Methodist Women.

Martha Sherman Knight
Treasurer and CFO
United Methodist Women
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 www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Subscribe to response magazine, United Methodist Women News and Action Alerts to be informed, inspired and ready to act on the issues that affect women, children and youth.

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

ONLINE RESOURCES

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN WEBSITE

www.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.

UMWONLINE

www.umwonline.org

This is the social networking site for United Methodist Women. UMWOnline is like Facebook and is the place to connect one-on-one with other United Methodist Women members. Visit, set up your account, “friend” your sisters and begin networking for mission.

FACEBOOK

www.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.
“Throughout our history, United Methodist Women members have never been known for taking it easy and sitting back. We are known for our long legacy of active faith and service for all people.”

Martha Sherman Knight, Treasurer and CFO
Throughout our nearly 150-year history, with the generous support, involvement and sacrificial giving of our members, friends and partners, United Methodist Women has been carrying forward and building on the vision of our founders. However, the needs, difficulties and unjust practices directed at women, children and youth persist—circumstances and challenges that emphasize the importance of having a stable, reliable and consistent source of revenue. United Methodist Women is solidly positioned to respond to emerging and unanticipated needs and to prepare future generations of women for leadership roles in mission-focused endeavors around the world.

In 2014, the Board of Trustees launched the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, eventually setting a goal to raise $60 million. This source of revenue will secure United Methodist Women to fulfill and advance our mission for service in the next 150 years and beyond.

The Legacy Fund Endowment is a commitment to respond to God’s invitation to mission. It celebrates the legacy of the courageous women who founded this mission movement and the legacy that today’s members will leave United Methodist Women to carry the mission forward into the future.
Campaign Highlights in 2017

Our deepest appreciation goes to United Methodist Women faith communities across the United States and in countries around the world who, through their individual and collective efforts, supported the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign in 2017. Gifts of all sizes totaled $941,000 in 2017, increasing the year-end balance of the Legacy Fund Endowment to $19.9 million. We are on the way to surpassing 30 percent of the campaign’s $60 million goal, a milestone to pave the way for even greater success in 2018. Our members were front and center in promoting and generating excitement in their homes, churches, communities and worksites to support the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. The Third Annual Day of Giving on March 23, 2017, raised $270,643.54 (including a donation from an anonymous donor), with all proceeds directed to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. A total of 59 conference legacy liaisons serving in 56 conferences planned and implemented events and activities connected with their conferences, districts and local units, and wrote articles, distributed newsletters and sponsored informal and formal gatherings that promoted awareness and emphasized the importance of supporting the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.

We look forward to sharing the accomplishments and stories emanating from these legacy-building endeavors as we serve together in faithful partnership to support the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign in 2018.
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.