



Visions

North Central Jurisdiction January 2017 volume 1, edition 1

Greetings My Sisters;

Bienvenidos...Welcome...환영 합니다 to our premier issue of *Visions*, our North Central Jurisdiction newsletter in this, New Year, 2017 during the Epiphany season. The NCJ team wishes to improve communication among our jurisdiction. This newsletter, "Visions" is one vehicle of this movement. The name came to me, as I was remembering, 1 Corinthians 13:13, "Faith, hope and love but the greatest of these is love" which is our, the UMW vision, "turning faith, hope and love in action, for women and children around the world." Thus, this newsletter will exemplify how we live out our UMW vision!

In this issue, you are introduced to the leadership team and the conference presidents. Building our focus for this quadrennial on Maternal and Child Health; Climate Justice; Ending Criminalization of Communities of Color; Economic Inequality; Legacy; 150th Birthday Celebration and "The Power of Bold" for Assembly 2018, are a few of the programs and projects to be uplifted. This piece will add to the wealth of information we receive from the UMW website, *response* magazine, and our reading program to name a few resources.

Our Facebook will debut January 30th and the NCJ website will be updated. These added communication pieces will strengthen our link in our region and global network. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please feel free to contact me or Linda, our secretary. Continue to be blessed and be a blessing.

With A Servant's Heart - Rita Lafay Simpkins Smith



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North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team

Rita L.S. Smith, President – A retired educator, Rita is a Certified Lay Servant, State Chairman of the World Federation of Methodist & United Church Women, General/Jurisdictional delegate, & Chaplain for Chicago Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Rita received a bachelor of science from Tuskegee University & a Masters of Education from University of Illinois at Champaign. She has been married to Charles for 45 years & has 3 adult children, 1 son-in-law, & 3 grandchildren.

Theresa Riecke, Vice President – From the Minnesota Conference, Theresa embraces new ideas, changes, & thinking outside the box. Recent life changes include a new career in Customer Service, previously working in education & veterinary medicine.

Peggy Cope, Treasurer – Serving on executive teams, Peggy feels that these roles empower her to be a better leader & more faithful & insightful. A retired school teacher, Peggy has taught teachers' workshops in Illinois and is an officer for her education sorority.

Linda Blazek Garvin, Secretary – Holding an Iowa State bachelor of science, Linda works as a healthcare billing consultant for a corporation which improves the lives of the senior population in 142 Life Plan communities across the country. Linda utilizes the UMW reading program to broaden her circle of knowledge.

Bobbi Larson, Chair on Nominations – Sending greetings from the Dakota Conference, Bobbi is honored to serve the NCJ the next 4 years. She looks forward to meeting as many as possible. Bobbi has a wonderful husband, Gary, 6 children, 8 grandchildren, & 3 great-grandchildren.

Rosa Bernard, Nominations – Not only serving the Indiana district & conference levels, Rosa has been to Brazil for human trafficking training. Rosa says the best thing about UMW is sharing information.

Mildred Braddock, Nominations – Mildred has been impacted by the connections with women through mission opportunities. Mildred is from Michigan and has served at local, district, and conference levels.

Cynthia Rose, Nominations – A local member of Celebration UMW from East Ohio, Cynthia says her experience has given her the opportunity to serve God & nurture women, children, & youth spiritually & educationally through outreach programs.

Kady Herr-Yang, Nominations – Kady is a founding member of the Wisconsin Conference to start Hmong House of Good News, a program for the Hmong elderly community. Kady believes UMW leadership training has been the emphasis on empowering women to be leaders for God & their communities.



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Dakotas – Bonnie Ostenson, President, has been active in UMW for close to 40 years. UMW has been instrumental in shaping who she is today. Bonnie participates in the UMW reading program & crochets and knits. She & her husband have a 14 year old son who keeps them very busy.

Detroit - Marchelle "Micki" Phelps, President, has lived, been educated, married, divorced, and worked in Detroit her entire life. Micki holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wayne State University and a Master of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University. Micki recently retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield of MI after 41 years of service, with a short detour working at Wisconsin Physician Services during this timeframe.

East Ohio – Kathy Kuhn, President, has a couple things implanted into her DNA. The first is that when God gives you a talent, you are not own to grow into each one but develop them through use and learning. The second directive is to be a good steward of all God's creation. Valuing persons not only in the where they are but also see the dream of which they are becoming.

Illinois Great Rivers – Camille McCaskill, President

Indiana – Cathy Burris, President, has a passion for working in ministry with the elderly and social justice issues both inside and outside the church. Cathy has served for the past 20 years through University UMC. Before retirement in 2010, Cathy spent 30 years as an attorney for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Iowa - Lynn Calvert, President, has a strong passion for United Methodist Women. Recently, the East Central District Social Action Coordinator and she have facilitated 12 workshops on The Faith Community's Response to Domestic Violence. This is an on-going project.

Minnesota – Sandy Meyer, President, received the Valiant Woman Award in 2014 from Church Women United. She is a clown/magician & loves to entertain children of all ages to share the good news that God loves us. She & her husband, Steve, have an adult daughter.

Northern Illinois – Dottie Priddy, President, is grateful to the UMW women who mentored her as she grew in faith, became involved with social action, & developed a passion for this amazing organization. She continues to look for opportunities to engage women in active involvement with their communities & missional needs that are close to their heart.

West Michigan – Linda Darrow, President, lives in Mt. Pleasant, MI - right in the middle of the mitten!! She has an amazing husband (47 years), 3 sons and 4 adorable grandchildren!! U.M.W. is like second nature to her and the women are the sisters she didn't have.

West Ohio – Joan Johnson, President, is the lay administrator of her local church. She oversees an extensive ministry which includes services of charity, justice and advocacy.

Wisconsin – Laura Pfeffer, President, has the honor of being part of the Nation UMW Green Team from 2004-2008. She works The Weather Company writing software for TV weather broadcasts & severe weather alerts around the world. She & husband, Ed, live in a solar-electric & passive solar house.



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Jeanne Long is a Jurisdiction Guide for Be Just Be Green from West Ohio Conference. Her areas include East and West Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Jeanne is a retired educator who lives in Cincinnati and enjoys various volunteer and work activities. Jeanne can be reached at 513-763-9956 and jalong1952@yahoo.com.

Christina Krost is a Jurisdictional Guide for Be Just Be Green for the North Central Jurisdiction. She is responsible for outreaching to conferences in Illinois, Michigan, the Dakotas, and Minnesota. She was raised in Michigan but lives and serves in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference alongside her pastor-husband, Todd. They have three young daughters. Christina also works for Faith in Place, the IL affiliate of Interfaith Power and Light. Christina can be reached at 217-343-4899 or by email at Christina.krost@gmail.com.

Please search Facebook for the Be Just Be Green Facebook page using "Be Just Be Green". It is a public page to share articles and information.



Give by phone: 800-278-7771
8 a.m. — 6 p.m. EST - Monday-Friday

March 23, 2017 Day of Giving

United Methodist Women is celebrating its 150th anniversary by strengthening and passing on its mission inheritance with The Legacy Fund. The forward-looking permanent endowment will provide a firm foundation for generations of United Methodist Women to come as they engage in mission with the women, children and youth of their day. Every member of United Methodist Women is invited to contribute to The Legacy Fund. Any amount is welcome.



Please mark your calendars now for Assembly 2018 which will be held in Columbus, OH May 18-20, 2018.

Details will be available soon on the UMW website: umwassembly.org



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Sharing Ideas Between Conferences

Indiana: A mission is the Lucille Raines Residence which is owned & operated by UMW of Indiana since 1977 for people committed to addiction recovery. Simple gifts and acts of kindness can make a big impact in changing hearts and lives.

Northern Illinois: A successful event is their annual celebration since it is attended by a diverse group of women. Education to address racism, immigration, & generational and cultural issues is the focus.

Wisconsin: In 2016 during the 5th annual Girls Night In Limitless event, participants engaged in a “Grandmother Moon” ceremony. The power of women to embrace their full potential was celebrated.

Illinois Great Rivers – Wishes to invite you to participate in their 2017 Spiritual Growth Retreat February 24-25 at Illiopolis United Methodist Church. Theme for the event is “Make a Joyful Noise: Finding Spiritual Harmony through Music”. Accommodations for Friday night may be made through Baymont Inn & Suites with double occupancy being \$65 which includes retreat cost. Commuter fee is \$20. Please contact Sue Coons, suzcooms@aol.com or 815-674-7861 to make reservations.



North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team 2017-2020

(Left to Right)

President: Rita L.S. Smith

Vice President: Theresa Riecke

Committee on Nominations: Rosa Bernard

Treasurer: Peggy Cope

Secretary: Linda Blazek Garvin

Committee on Nominations: Cynthia Rose

Chair of Nominations: Bobbi Larson

Committee on Nominations: Mildred Braddock

Committee on Nominations: Kady Herr-Yang

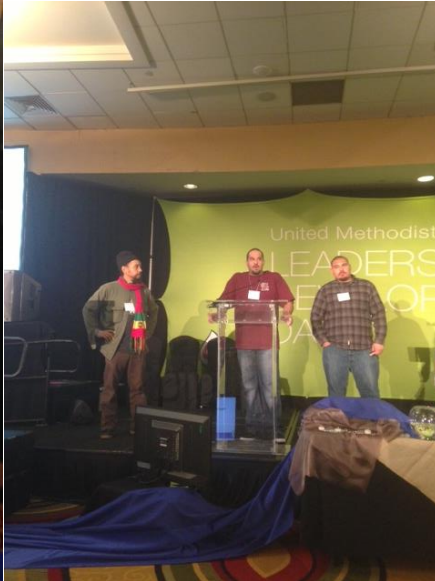


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God is in the Graffiti



Leadership Development Days

Going to the River

Leadership Development Days were held at the Renaissance Center Hotel in St. Louis, MO November 11-13, 2016. These days offered many different workshops for officers and leaders in UMW. All of the days provided great opportunities for growth, networking, inspiration and meditation. Some of the workshops offered were Leadership skills and training for the different UMW offices, Social Justice, Spiritual Growth, Being “Green”, Making our UMW presence known and telling our story and Racial Justice, just to name a few. The keynote speaker was The Reverend Dr. Cassandra Gould, Senior Pastor of Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church in Jefferson, MO. As a part of this, the Jurisdiction Leadership Teams met for training and planning. It truly was a time of learning and empowerment and sent everyone home with goals, knowledge and a renewed spirit.



Be Just Be Green
Jurisdiction Guides
NCJ Guides: 1st from left
& 4th from left

Jurisdiction Training Event



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