The background features a stylized landscape with rolling hills in shades of purple and blue. Several palm trees are scattered across the horizon. The top portion of the image is dominated by intricate, swirling patterns in gold, brown, and white, set against a dark background, resembling a night sky or a decorative border.

*For
Such a Time
As This*

1988 Report of the Women's Division

PURPOSE of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The organized unit of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

PURPOSE of the WOMEN'S DIVISION

The Women's Division shall be actively engaged in fulfilling the mission of Christ and the Church and shall interpret the PURPOSE of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN. With continuing awareness of the concerns and responsibilities of the Church in today's world, the Women's Division shall be an advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women and children; shall work to build a supportive community among women; and shall engage in activities which foster growth in the Christian faith, mission education, and Christian social involvement throughout the organization.

x-list: ARTS & Culture / Religion - Christianity - general
Sex Roles & Sex Differences / Older women
Employment / Feminization of poverty
Women's movement / general
Legal Status / Equal Rights Amendment

Win file: ARTS & Culture / Religion - Christianity
general

For Such a Time As This

1988 Report

Women's Division
General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

Cover design by Elizabeth Howard

Photo Credits: John Goodwin: iv, 2, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 21, 24 (bottom), 26, 29, 31, 32, 35, 38, 44, 46 (top), 47, 49, 50, 55 (right), 57; Lorraine Eide 17; R. Dean Hancock 24 (top), 51, 52; Steve Goldstein 28, 53, 56; Nancy Tims 30; Linda Elmiger 41; Joan Morrison 45; Michael Higgins 46 (center); Sherrie Boyens 55 (left); others are from the General Board of Global Ministries photo files. Photos of directors and staff by John Goodwin and Paul Gentile.

Contents

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Statements of Purpose..... | inside front cover |
| Foreword..... | iv |
| A Message from the Incoming President..... | 1 |
| A Message from the Outgoing President..... | 3 |
| Responsively Yours..... | 5 |
| Division-wide Concerns..... | 7 |
| Celebration..... | 7 |
| General Conference..... | 7 |
| <i>Response</i> | 8 |
| Education for African Women..... | 8 |
| Anniversary Celebrations..... | 9 |
| The Scarritt-Bennett Center..... | 9 |
| District Leadership Development..... | 10 |
| Orientation for Jurisdiction Core Planning Groups..... | 11 |
| Ecumenical Involvement..... | 11 |
| Children and Youth..... | 12 |
| Staff Changes..... | 13 |
| Section of Christian Social Relations..... | 16 |
| Section of Finance..... | 24 |
| Section of Mission and Membership Development..... | 35 |
| Report from National Program Division..... | 44 |
| Report from World Program Division..... | 50 |
| Report from Mission Education and Cultivation Program Department..... | 55 |
| Women's Division Officers and Staff..... | 59 |

Foreword

In the report of the incoming president of the Women's Division to the 1988 fall meeting, Sally Ernst shared that she had spoken to several local units and that many women seemed to have only fuzzy ideas about what the organization of United Methodist Women is doing in mission. They wanted to know where their pledge money goes. A typical response after Sally had spoken was, "I didn't know we did all that."

This 1988 report is intended to help United Methodist Women understand—through photographs, pie charts, dollars and cents figures, statistics, and accounts of outreach in

mission all over the globe—all the things we do. It is a report about many women and men, confronted by similar situations to those of Esther and Ruth, who were willing to say yes, *for such a time as this*, to take risks in a sometimes alien environment, and to be a part of the redemptive story of their time.

Intended as a basic resource for all local units, the report may be used for personal enrichment, programming, updating and personalizing information, and interpreting United Methodist Women. (See back cover for further suggestions.)



(left to right) Theresa Hoover and new officers Thelma Johnson, Janie Sims, Thalia Matherson, Sally Ernst, Ressie Mae Bass, Kay Buescher

A Message from the Incoming President



Sally G. Ernst

If you keep quiet at a time like this, help will come from heaven to the Jews, and they will be saved, but you will die. . . . Yet who knows—maybe it was for a time like this you were made queen?—Esther 4:14, TEV

These words were spoken by Mordecai to Esther at a moment in history when her people were in great peril. Haman, the prime minister, was plotting to kill all the Jews simply because Mordecai refused to bow before him. Only Esther could save her people, but at the risk of losing her own life. She, the queen, could not enter the inner court to see the king without being summoned.

Esther had a most difficult choice to make, but she made the decision. She chose to speak out for her people.

Like Esther, the foremothers of our present organization were called to make hard choices and to speak out about injustices that existed. They worked to secure educational and medical services for women and for children. They worked to secure good laws that prevented the abuses of child labor. They campaigned for women's right to vote. They worked for racial justice and the Equal Rights Amendment. They worked at times when it was not considered appropriate for women to be involved in issues and social change.

Our sisters were aware that it was for times like this in the mission of the church that their involvement was crucial.

In September 1988, the General Board of Global Ministries held its quadrennial organizational meeting. This is the time when each division and program department of the Board elects officers and assigns directors to committees to carry on the continuing mission of the church.

The Women's Division elected the following officers for 1989-1992:

- Sally Graham Ernst, Western Pennsylvania Conference, president
- Thelma Johnson, West Ohio Conference, vice president
- Kay D. Buescher, Oregon-Idaho Conference, recording secretary
- Ressie Mae Bass, Florida Conference, vice president and chairperson of the Section of Christian Social Relations
- Thalia Fae Matherson, North Texas Conference, vice president and chairperson of the Section of Finance
- Janie Sims, Northwest Texas Conference, vice president and chairperson of the Section of Mission and Membership Development

These women and the 59 other directors of the Women's Division have been called through the election process of the jurisdiction and jurisdictional conferences for a time like this. Their call is to fulfill the mission of Christ, to respond to the needs of women and children, and to be advocates for the poor and the oppressed. Their call is to be aware of the concerns and responsibilities of the church in today's world. Their call is to grow in Christian faith, to be educated for mission, and to be involved in social issues.

Part of the work of the division is accomplished through educational opportunities for its constituency:

- a second phase of *Share the Vision, Say Yes!* to equip conference officers to provide district officer leadership training;
- a continuation of financial support of the Scarritt-Bennett Center and election of 12



Sally G. Ernst and Theresa Hoover

persons to represent the Women's Division on that Board of Directors.

The division continues to be at work in today's world through its involvement in the Church Center for the United Nations:

- a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Church Center, honoring Esther Hymer, Eleanor Schnurr, Dorothy Height, Dame Nita Barrow and Kay Fraleigh, all women closely associated with the work at the United Nations;
- a decision to give urgent attention to the General Conference Resolution, "An Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women";
- a focus on the needs of incarcerated women and their families through a special training event in May 1989.

The call to mission is expressed by allocating the monies given by the United Methodist Women in response to their mission awareness and concerns for people in need:

- a budget for 1989 of \$19,168,327 with amounts of \$5,120,854 to the National Division and the World Division to carry on the programs that support ministries with women and with children;
- a decision to give additional amounts of \$154,478 to renovate property owned by the Women's Division and housing programs administered by the National Division;
- a decision to grant an additional \$519,361 to the World Division for programs and projects for women.

We are at the beginning of one quadrennium, but the work is the continuation of years of mission work done by women of the church. The present call does not differ much from previous calls. The need for peace with justice, racial justice and global economic justice is ever present. These are the issues before us. Each one affects the other and cannot be solved without working on all. In addition, the reality is that women and children are the ones most hurt by racial discrimination, economic injustice and military economies.

Like Esther, United Methodist Women, including the directors of the Women's Division, have been called *for such a time as this*. We are called by God to make hard choices and to speak out about injustices. There is no telling what can happen if we are willing to risk and respond to that call.

Sally Graham Ernst

Sally Graham Ernst
President, Women's Division
1989-92

A Message from the Outgoing President



Carolyn Marshall

Another quadrennium has come full cycle. We remember the days in September 1984 when the process to begin the new era commenced. Many United Methodist Women experienced feelings of risk and fear similar to those of Esther and Ruth when they were confronted by *their* new tasks. In the same way that Ruth and Naomi set out together on the long, dangerous journey to Bethlehem, commitment was made to *this* task, to this journey. As "finis" is written on the events of the 1985-1988 quadrennium, reflection assures we are not the same persons who began the individual and corporate journeys four years ago.

Final words of the president's first report for the quadrennium were: "My prayer, my commitment and my challenge is to place all that we have in the hands of God, put ourselves in that partnership and watch out for what will happen." As Bishop Leontine Kelly said recently, "There is no room for fear and faith in the same heart." From a faith perspective, we acted—to

become community, to find direction from an active and vibrant prayer life and trust in God. The struggle has not always been easy, but we have tried to be faithful.

From that beginning, work together settled into a pattern, taking cue from the words, "It ain't how high you jump that counts, but what you do when you hit the ground."

Recognition of "100 Women in Mission" was a highlight of the centennial observance of women organized for mission. Even as the past was celebrated, the call sounded to continue weaving the tapestry of mission. Rosemary Crow's words became a prayer for work and service:

*Weave, weave, weave us together.
Weave us together in unity and love.
Weave, weave, weave us together,
Weave us together, together in love.**

Anaheim 1986 closed the centennial observance and launched a second century of mission. What excitement and enthusiasm! Minds were stretched and challenges presented to 8,600 women representing more than a million United Methodist Women.

When threatened with mid-quadrennium blues, our imperative, with God's help, was "Keep pitching." Directors and staff kept at the task, focusing on *telling* the story and *living* the story.

Recently I was intrigued with an analogy called the Law of the Echo, which is just another way of saying that we get back what we put out. The way something returns may not be predictable, for there may be an element of surprise in timing or velocity, but return it will. That echo cannot and must not be separated from the totality of life and from witness and service to all God's people.

* © 1979 by Rosemary Crow. Used by permission.

In *Legacy for the Future*, Thelma Stevens wrote: "History is continuity with no clear beginning and no final ending." The legacy of the 1985-1988 quadrennium includes:

- Reached 7,000 district leaders across the organization of United Methodist Women in "Share the Vision—Say Yes!" events.
- Voted to purchase Scarritt Graduate School property.
- Established a membership goal of 1.5 million members by 1990 under the theme "United Methodist Women—Growing in Mission."
- Accepted the challenge of increasing designated giving to \$24 million by 1990.
- Reaffirmed the historic commitment to the elimination of racism and the implementation of the Charter of Racial Justice Policies and approved establishment of a committee within each conference organization for that purpose.

- Launched a United Methodist Women's Campaign for Children in the U.S.A.

United Methodist Women have responded, over and over again, to the same challenge posed to Esther—to intercede for her people. We have tried to be faithful in our own day. God has used us *for such a time as this*. We have seen our deeds and our faithfulness woven into a wondrous design for God's world.

Carolyn M. Marshall

Carolyn M. Marshall
President, Women's Division
1985-1988

Weave

REFRAIN

Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er. Weave us to - geth - er in

u - ni - ty and love. Weave, weave, weave us to - geth - er.

Weave us to - geth - er, to - geth - er in love.

© 1979 by Rosemary Crow. Used by permission.

Responsively Yours



Theresa Hoover

To those who read this report and show discipline and creativity in its use, it is hoped some insight into mission and their involvement in it will be apparent. Each member of United Methodist Women has given generously of her time and money to make mission possible in the immediate community, the nation, and to the far corners of the earth. To those who have prepared the report, it is an act of review, assessment, and accountability for the year's work.

The theme, *For Such a Time as This*, is the continuing call to each of us to accept with certainty the alluring appeal and opportunity to be in mission now and in the future. We may not be determinants for the scope of that mission, but we can faithfully make the commitment to understand mission conditions in our time. Truly we can identify with the words of Mordecai, transmitted to Esther, "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14b).

The reader must keep in mind that the whole report reflects the mission for which she has given both time and money. It is the Women's Division's way of pulling together the accountability of its own direct program and

priorities as well as those of the other units of the General Board to which it has made contributions of time and money. It is one way of keeping alive the mission work of the organization through the years.

When one works day by day it is not always possible to keep in mind that each day and each task, taken as a whole, adds up to a year of activity which then, added to the years that have gone before, puts mission into larger perspective. Whether the focus of our discipline is on beginning mission where we are—within ourselves—or on the measured effect of our corporate approach to meeting human need in hundreds of places and situations, the sum total reflects the acceptance to give witness to the One who calls us to mission.

If we can accept the idea that each of us is a mission field, perhaps we can embody the lessons learned this year, and it will direct our actions to reflect those lessons. In reading drafts of copy for this report, I have been impressed with the variety and volume of programs and projects our efforts have supported. This is true whether the reflection is on the resources developed for use by constituencies, or on the vast programs of leadership development offered through Schools of Christian Mission, in small specialized workshops or seminars, or in district and conference annual meetings, or on seed money granted to other groups whose program and focus reflect our concerns and priorities.

The nature of our involvement with other representative groups enlarges our experiences and contacts. In this year we have expended human and financial energies on behalf of seminars in regions of the North America Area of the World Federation of Methodist Women. Programs of the federation from its 1986 assembly have been channeled and interpreted with the five national units in Canada, the Caribbean and the United States. Since these are denominational women's groups we have had practical ecumenical experience in planning and holding the seminars. Preparation for such events is in itself a learning experience, working together for the larger good. United Methodist Women, at every level, have been involved in the leadership of planning and implementation.

Even as this report is being studied and used in program and leadership development, plans are beginning for the 1991 federation assembly. So the cycle continues, trying through each unfolding opportunity to perceive the tasks that are ours in each time and place.

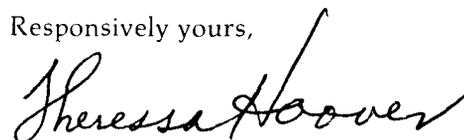
Doing mission directly is in many ways an easier task. But, after 24 years (since the 1964 major reorganization of mission structure in the denomination), United Methodist Women and the Women's Division are still supportive of the work they originally created. There have been times of rejoicing that new administrative stewards have grown in understanding and appreciation of the specific foci of the organization: needs and opportunities of women and of children. There have been other times and situations in which their performances have been questioned and efforts made to correct. Through it all we have sought to be faithful to mission and to read correctly the signs of the time.

In this year we have continued to support the regular, yet extended, work of mission. We have also engaged new opportunities which the time has presented. One such is the reclamation of

Scarritt College in Nashville, Tennessee. Read about the new Scarritt-Bennett Center which has risen like the phoenix, as it were, from the ashes of the old. Its rising brings new potential for mission in this time. As a laywomen's organization rooted in mission, we have learned to seize every opportunity to extend that mission which supports and reveres mission contributions of predecessors. Each wave of membership must to the best of its abilities assess new opportunity, take note of its resources, and act in faith so that the future of mission is served well by today's decisions.

For Such a Time as This is both challenge and affirmation. It is good to share this report with all who have made it possible.

Responsively yours,



Theresa Hoover
Deputy General Secretary



Theresa Hoover addresses the Spring 1988 Board meeting.

Division-wide Concerns



Display at the Spring 1988 Board meeting

The year 1988 was a time of transitions and endings. Many choices and challenges are highlighted throughout this report that speak of the mission outreach and witness of United Methodist Women.

The United Methodist Church operates on a four-year cycle. Jurisdiction quadrennial meetings of United Methodist Women as well as the General Conference and jurisdictional conferences are important transitional events connecting one quadrennium to another. The year 1988 was a transition year: from January to September one group of directors completed the quadrennium as policy makers; in September, another group of directors assumed the policy-making responsibility.

The election process for Board and Women's Division membership is long and intricate; the time for the process varies for United Methodist Women from 12-to-18 months after initial nomination by the conference organization. To equip the new Board and staff, the Women's Division held an extensive orientation just prior to the Organizational Meeting.

Celebration

At the last meeting of the quadrennium, the Women's Division honored outgoing president Carolyn M. Marshall by approving \$60,000 to create the Carolyn M. Marshall Chair in Women's Studies at Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina. The main emphasis will be on the history and empowerment of black women around the world. This is a restricted fund within the endowment of Bennett College for the creation of a permanent chair. Until that chair is created, the fund will make possible the Carolyn M. Marshall Lecture Series on "The History and Empowerment of Black Women Around the World."

General Conference

Women's Division involvement in General Conference takes two major forms: (1) submitting several social policy resolutions for

approval by the General Conference, and (2) cooperating with the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW).

The division sent six resolutions and supported six additional ones submitted by other units of the General Board of Global Ministries. All were approved, some with editorial modifications. The resolution, "Boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell," was referred to the Judicial Council for determination as to whether the action met the newly approved guidelines for boycotts.

In its October 1988 meeting, the Judicial Council ruled that participation in a boycott is a "connectional matter—appropriate for floor debate but not for judicial review." This "no jurisdiction" ruling lifts the stay imposed by the 1988 General Conference. The vote to boycott is now valid.

Cooperative efforts with COSROW took several forms including an Orientation for Women Delegates prior to the opening of General Conference, a Women's Center open throughout the conference, a worship service on Sunday planned by clergywomen, and a reception honoring women delegates hosted by the Women's Division. Persons attending the reception "met" Samantha, "Josiah Allen's wife," whose monologue depicted the role of women in the 1880s including her special interest in the women delegates to the 1888 General Conference who were sent home without being recognized officially. (The series of Samantha books, written by Marietta Holley, are long out of print.)

Other actions of the General Conference included a "12-year tenure" for elected program agency staff and a challenge of the one-third clergy, one-third laymen, one-third laywomen membership formula for general agencies (*Discipline* Para. 805.2a), which also were referred to the Judicial Council. The former was supported, the latter declared unconstitutional. Both will have an adverse impact on women in the church.

Copies of the "Round-up" edition of *The Daily Christian Advocate* were made available to all persons in the 1988 Regional Schools, and a time of reporting/sharing was scheduled in each school.

Response

In November 1986, the Women's Division staff cabinet met with *Response* editor Carol M. Herb to begin charting a series of changes for the magazine as it approached its 20th birthday. The May 1988 issue was designated the birthday issue and served to premiere bold changes of format, style and color pictures. Promotional efforts throughout the year highlighted the birthday motif. The birthday issue was placed on the desk of each General Conference delegate.

At the 1988 annual meeting of the United Methodist Association of Communicators (UMAC), *Response* received the Award of Excellence for Magazines and three certificates of merit: general excellence, layout and design, and editorial content/writing.

Education for African Women

The Women's Division is planning with care several new mission programs that were made possible by the gifts of United Methodist Women to the Centennial Fund. Four directed goals with specific intent are to be sponsored from this fund. One is the implementation of a proposal to provide higher education for women in Africa.

A task force composed of directors and staff of the Women's Division met regularly over the past two years to grapple with the meaning of *higher* education and to generate options for presentation to the Women's Division. To assist in this task, the Women's Division authorized two travel teams, each composed of two directors and two staff, to conduct site visitations to selected countries in Africa.

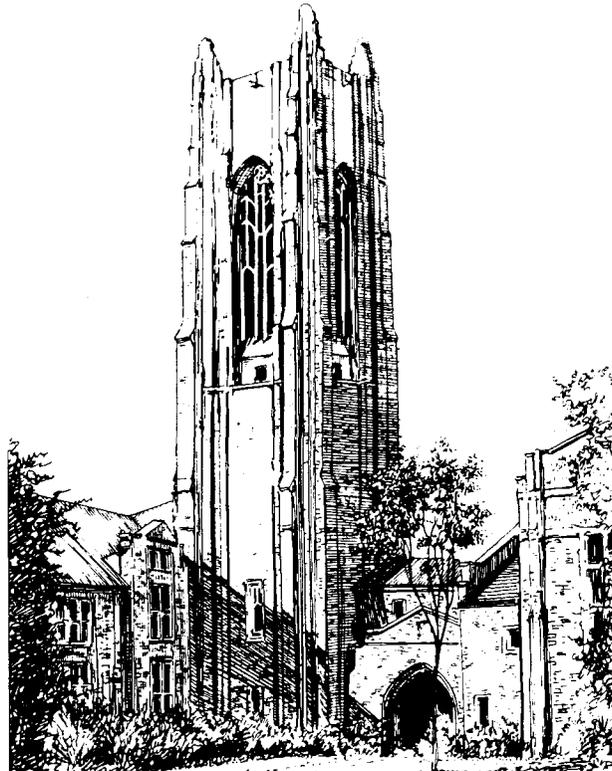
In July, Team I visited Zimbabwe and Kenya where team members met with local women and those interested in and knowledgeable about women and education. The staff coordinator observed, "We experienced another view of the world with a different concept of time and space. One must mentally make a cultural adjustment without criticism."

The team submitted a detailed record of "observations of needs" as well as information and comments giving insights gleaned from interviews.

Anniversary Celebrations

Barbara Campbell attended the 85th anniversary celebration of Harris Memorial College and a Deaconess Congress jointly sponsored by Harris and DIAKONIA PHILIPPINES. The college, long known as a deaconess training school, has expanded its outreach through its Institute (department) of Non-Formal Education.

In October 1988 the Women's Division held a Sunday afternoon celebration for the 25th anniversary of the Church Center for the United Nations. Having been financially and programmatically strategic in its development, the Women's Division now owns the Church Center building where its International Affairs program and one regional office are located.



The Scarritt-Bennett Center

The Scarritt-Bennett Center

The work of the Women's Division/Scarritt Corporation joint planning group during the year culminated in the organization of the new Scarritt-Bennett Center Board of Directors on November 11, 1988. Marilyn Whaley Winters, former vice president of the Women's Division, is the first president of the center's board.

The joint working group developed a Mission Statement, Program Directions, Guiding Principles of the Learning Environment, and determined the name, The Scarritt-Bennett Center. Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation were also written. Each was approved by both parent bodies.

The Women's Division employed interim staff to maintain the campus during the period

between the closing of the Scarritt Graduate School and the creation of The Scarritt-Bennett Center Program, and it assured a 1989 operating budget. Extensive renovation and remodeling of campus buildings were undertaken after the division assumed ownership of the property on June 1, 1988.

The May 5, 1988, General Conference action designated the Women's Division as the "agency to which any organization or institution operating on the campus should relate." The relationship had been with the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, and before that with the General Board of Global Ministries.

The Scarritt-Bennett Center name honors the founders of the original Scarritt Bible Training School: Dr. Nathan Scarritt and Belle Harris Bennett. To add Belle Bennett's name to the center completes a cycle of relationship dating

back to 1887 when she was first inspired to provide training to young women missionaries going abroad. The new name recognizes the leadership contribution of women and becomes a symbol of the new program as Scarritt enters its second century.

The Mission Statement, which establishes the program framework, says: "The Scarritt-Bennett Center shall be a place of education for Christian ministries of justice and equality, reconciliation and renewal, cooperation and interaction within the ecumenical and global context. Rooted in mission, The Scarritt-Bennett Center shall have a strong commitment to the eradication of racism, the empowerment of women, the education of the laity, and spiritual formation." The approved Program Directions include: (1) Spiritual Formation, (2) Meeting and Training Center, (3) Studies, and, (4) Special Events.

At its November 1988 organizational meeting, the Board of Directors elected officers and established a search process for an executive director. Program implementation will begin after the executive director is elected at the spring 1989 Board of Directors meeting.

A special feature of the November board meeting was a Service of Celebration of The Scarritt-Bennett Center and Rededication of the Laskey Library. The library, newly repainted and recarpeted, honors Virginia Davis Laskey, Women's Division president, 1964-1968. Built with Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offerings and other grants from the Women's Division, it was dedicated in May 1968. Bishop J. Woodrow Hearn, Jr., long-time friend of Mrs. Laskey and president of the General Board of Global Ministries, led the Service of Rededication. A reception followed in the Bennett Social Rooms.

In an earlier report, the vote to purchase the Scarritt property and enter a new program partnership was called "an act of reclamation." The excitement and enthusiasm generated by that decision and the unsolicited support as plans have developed and been publicly reported validate the "rightness" of the Women's Division action.

District Leadership Development

In February, persons from the five jurisdictions who provided leadership for *Share the Vision—Say Yes!* district leadership events in 1985-1988 met in Denver to evaluate the program and to make suggestions for the next steps. It was a time of celebration and evaluation and a look to the future.

Evaluations and suggestions from the February meeting gave significant guidance to the Women's Division in finalizing plans for further steps in work with districts. Evaluations and participants' comments focused on certain broad areas: new enthusiasm and a better working relationship as district mission teams; better understanding of and appreciation for the connectionalism of the organization and the church; deep appreciation for learning to know jurisdiction and division leaders as well as district officers from across conference lines; gratitude (sometimes with pain) for controversial topics that brought growth; affirmation of the diversity of United Methodist Women—age, race, employment, theological—as an organization; and a sense of hope for the organization's future.

Problem areas identified included "unevenness" of ongoing training for district officers; need for better communication skills and group dynamics; much work and training still needed to confront and eliminate racism; some incoming district officers (nominees) missed training by only a few weeks, a loss to their ongoing mission team.

Phase II (1989-1992) of the District Leadership Development program, voted by the Women's Division in March 1988, has the goal to involve members of the district mission team (as individuals and as groups) in officer training experiences and events under the direction of the conference Executive Committee. The division's focus will be the training of each member of the conference mission team in the responsibilities of her office, working as part of a mission team, and the "how-to's" of training district counterparts.

To be dealt with in depth at a later time, Phase III (1992-1996) was approved in 1988 with an



Women's Division directors celebrate Communion at the Spring 1988 Board meeting.

emphasis on local counterpart training. For 1996-2000, consideration will be given to repeating direct leadership development events for district mission teams, as was done during the 1985-1988 quadrennium.

From early reports it seems that the quadrennial goal of "an enlivened spirit and an enlarged vision of God's mission in the organization" is well on its way to becoming a reality.

Orientation for Jurisdiction Core Planning Groups

Members of the five new jurisdiction Core Planning Groups met in November for orientation and planning. Reflections on the past, worship and fellowship, work sessions on specific how-to's, and visioning for the future were all part of the weekend. Women's Division President Sally Ernst reminded the group that they would "have opportunities beyond anything imagined possible to guide the future of this great organization and to enhance leadership skills of women."

In a historical perspective and a look at the role and future of the jurisdiction organization, Theresa Hoover spoke of the jurisdiction as the best level for experimentation because of its freedom from some of the "connectional channeling" in which other parts of the organization are involved.

A working session on finances, guidelines for record-keeping, job descriptions and assignments, clarification of questions, an in-depth look at Project Equality and how the jurisdiction organizations can utilize its services were all included as orientation. Individual Core Planning Groups met separately to continue their own planning for the quadrennium.

Ecumenical Involvement

The Women's Division's ecumenical stance provides direction for ecumenical activity. Several expressions of commitment to Christian unity were made in 1988. The division vice president chairs the Committee on Ecumenical Relations. During 1988 two vice presidents filled the office,

a time of transition: Betty S. Gordon of West Virginia, then Thelma Johnson of Ohio.

After the September election, Ms. Johnson attended the Executive Committee of the North America Area of the *World Federation of Methodist Women*, which met in Toronto, Canada. She worked with one small group to develop ideas for the federation assembly in Singapore, July 15-22, 1991. The theme is "Sisters in Christ—Telling Our Story."

The Women's Division is one of five national member units from North America. World Federation bylaws, based on size of membership, accords the division the maximum seven votes. Keep informed about the federation assembly program developments through future issues of *Response* and mailings to conference presidents and vice presidents.

Andris Salter, Women's Division staff, coordinated the seminars for the units in the North America Area. She reports that six regional seminars were held in 1988.

The World Federation United Nations Intern Program has three women volunteers in New York, Geneva and Vienna who represent the federation in many international arenas. They seek to keep the membership informed and to share resources.

Another U.S. national unit, the African Methodist Episcopal Women's Missionary Society, received UN Consultative Status. They, with the federation, share a desk at the Church Center for the United Nations. The Women's Division is in conversation with both about future international and regional possibilities to increase and improve opportunities for Methodist women around the world.

Church Women United is the other ecumenical women's group in which the Women's Division holds national membership and to which it makes an annual budgeted contribution. The division vice president is the official representative to Church Women United's Common Council, which meets annually, providing administrative and program directions. The current program priority is "A Future Beyond Poverty for Women and Children." Several directors and staff attended the June consultation and conference in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Other ecumenical experiences are provided throughout the Women's Division program. By long-standing policy women members of United Methodist delegations to both the National and World Councils of Churches are invited to one meeting of the Women's Division each quadrennium. In 1988 the guests were members of the World Council Central Committee: Janice Love, a former division director who is now a professor at the University of South Carolina, and Olivia Muchena, professor at the University of Zimbabwe. Theresa Hoover, division staff, is the third woman member of the denomination's total of five on the World Council Central Committee. The three prepared and led a mini-seminar on United Methodist ecumenical involvement and the programs of the World Council. Ms. Muchena addressed the full division on the development of women in the Third World.

Contact with women in these two delegations, named by the Council of Bishops, helps the division keep in touch with ecumenical developments and provides an arena of support for them.

In May 1988 Betty S. Gordon, division vice president, attended a short course at the Bossey Ecumenical Institute near Geneva, Switzerland. The course, "Communicating the Gospel Through the Arts," focused on the inspiration of the gospel for works of art and how art expresses the experience of the faith of different churches in communicating the gospel. Some of her learnings will become part of the division's effort to develop a sustaining interest in communicating through various program experiences.

Children and Youth

History may well record 1988 as the year when the Women's Division, with intention, again focused on the needs of children and youth. Hearing requests from several conferences, the division authorized staff to hold conversation with several boards about their work with children and youth.

Three such conversations were held in 1988 with the General Boards of Discipleship and Higher Education and Ministry. The focus was

mutually directed toward cooperation and sharing of resources that do not require General Conference action. The Women's Division has several options to offer: the Campaign for Children, leadership and participation in Schools of Christian Mission, the approved

Supplementary Giving to "Hope and Wholeness for Children and Youth," and the possibility of developing pilot leadership events related to global mission issues.

Keep up with developments through *Response* and mailings to conference mission teams.

Staff Changes in 1988

Retirements

Mae Frances Spencer, January 31

Sachi Kajiwara, August 1

Resignations

Mary F. Ryan, January 6

Annette Vanzant, February 16

Helen Daniels, July 29

Reassignment

Andris Y. Salter to Dayton Region,
effective January 1, 1989

New Staff

Susan C. (Sue) Johnson, June 6

Staff Assigned to Regions: Nashville

Sandra (Sandy) Ruby, June 6

Staff Assigned to Regions: Dallas

Janet (Jan) Blosser, June 6

Staff Assigned to Regions: Atlanta

Esther Madriz, September 6

Executive Secretary for Constituency
Education,

Section of Christian Social Relations

Marcia Gleckler, October 1

Secretary for Resource Development,
Section of Mission and Membership
Development

Recognition—The General Board gave
recognition of service to the following six
Women's Division staff:

40 years—Theresa Hoover

30 years—Barbara E. Campbell

20 years—Edna Rouse

20 years—Mary Lou Van Buren

15 years—Margaret Naranjo

10 years—Barbara Ann Weaver



Former director Janice Love (with infant) chats with other directors.

**General Administration
Staff**



Theresa Hoover
Deputy General Secretary



Barbara E. Campbell
Assistant General Secretary



Elaine M. Gasser
*Assistant General Secretary,
District Team Development*

General Administration Officers

Committee Chairpersons

- Sally G. Ernst, Executive
- Sally G. Ernst, Administrative
- Alma Edwards, Bylaws
- Thelma Johnson, Ecumenical Relations
- Betty Suzuki, Nominations
- Sally G. Ernst, Personnel
- Sally G. Ernst, Policy
- Judith C. Hill, Joint Committee on Institutional Ministries



Mary L. Harvey
*Executive Secretary for Research,
Planning and Coordination*



Edna Rouse
Staff Recording Secretary

Directors



Sally G. Ernst, *President*
Western Pennsylvania Conference



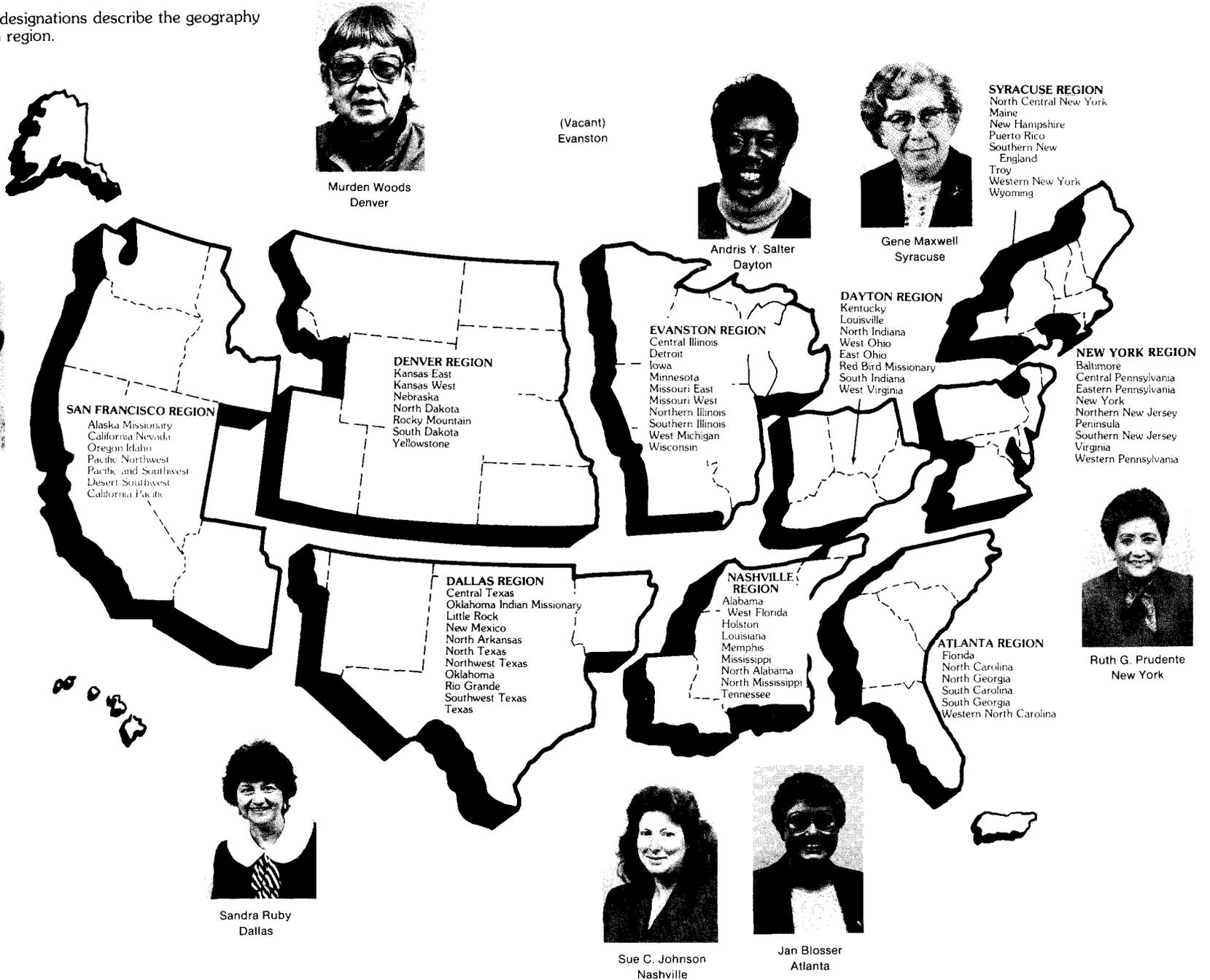
Thelma L. Johnson
Vice President
West Ohio Conference



Women delegates to General Conference made an impact on legislation.

Staff Assigned to Regions

The conference designations describe the geography assigned to each region.



South Africa

They cried out, and their appeal for rescue from their slavery rose up to God. [God] heard their groaning. . . ; God saw the plight of Israel, and. . . took heed of it.—Exodus 2:23-25, NEB

The suffering of the South African people continues unabated under the apartheid system. Church leaders are imprisoned and tortured for seeking justice, and the offices of the South African Council of Churches were leveled by a bomb in 1988. The section continued to stand against apartheid, calling for legislation to impose comprehensive economic sanctions on South Africa and for support of the boycott of the Royal Dutch/Shell Company.

Legislative work centered around a bill which mandated the withdrawal of all U.S. corporations operating in South Africa and called for an end to most trade between the United States and South Africa. Support for sanctions culminated in a rally on the steps of the Capitol on June 16, the twelfth anniversary of the Soweto massacres. Division directors Josephine Merrill and Rubielee Addison joined Bishop Kenneth Hicks of Kansas and Bishop William Grove of West Virginia at the rally.



Church and anti-apartheid leaders rally to support South Africa sanctions.

United Methodist Women sent 7,000 postcards in support of the bill to their legislators during Schools of Christian Mission. The bill passed in the House of Representatives, but the Senate failed to act on it. The section will continue to press to end U.S. support for apartheid.

The boycott of Royal Dutch/Shell Company was approved in 1988 as a "last resort" measure after 15 years of United Methodist protests against Shell's involvement in South Africa. Since South Africa is totally dependent on foreign sources of oil, and since the oil literally fuels apartheid, putting pressure on oil companies is a strategic way to press for an end to apartheid.

After the General Boards of Global Ministries and Church and Society joined the boycott, General Conference voted to join. The matter was referred to the Judicial Council, however, to test whether guidelines regarding boycotts had been met. On October 28, the council ruled that it did not have jurisdiction over the challenge to the boycott, thus clearing the way for total church action.

The Charter for Racial Justice Policies

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.—Galatians 3:28

Conference committees on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies will begin their work by formulating plans for implementing the Charter. Chaired by conference presidents, the committees will recommend to the mission teams ways that the "We Wills" of the Charter can be carried out. The committees will also evaluate the work done by the conference toward ending institutional racism.

The section's Racial Justice Committee has provided resources for the conference committees such as the book and video, "Racism: The Church's Unfinished Agenda," which were developed following the 1987 United Methodist Consultation on Racism held in Louisville, Kentucky. The resources include Bible studies,



Euba Harris-Winton, president of North Arkansas Conference United Methodist Women, speaks at General Conference.

theological reflections and worship services.

The division continues to work for racial justice through cooperation with organizations such as the Center for Democratic Renewal, which combats hate groups; the National Institute for Women of Color, which works with women of all ethnic groups; the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, which successfully advocated for the Civil Rights Restoration Act and which continues to work on the Hate Crimes Statistics legislation; the National Coalition Against the Death Penalty; and the Council on Interracial Books for Children.

Older Women

So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, till I proclaim thy might to all the generations to come.—Psalms 71:18

Never before has our society had so many older persons, nor has it faced a future with so many women in older age brackets. The section, working with United Methodist Women, is seeking to raise awareness of the concerns of older women, especially regarding their health

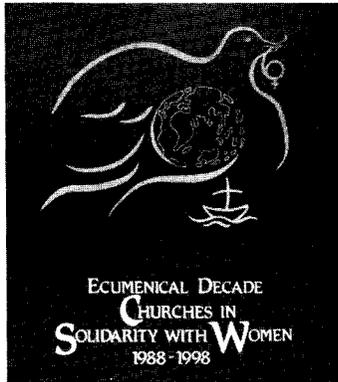
needs and the needs of older women in poverty.

A particular concern is long-term care for the elderly, especially since women are the ones who provide most of the care for elderly family members. Joining with more than 100 church, health and senior citizen organizations, the section is working for affordable health care and assistance to caregivers.

Immigration Concerns

Do not mistreat a foreigner; you know how it feels to be a foreigner, because you were foreigners in Egypt.—Exodus 23:9, TEV

Since the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, many aliens who did not qualify for amnesty are finding themselves pushed deeper into an illegal subclass as they seek employment in the United States. The immediate crisis facing churches is how to meet survival needs for undocumented persons who find employment harder to obtain. The Racial Justice office continues to work in cooperation with the United Methodist Committee on Relief to address this need.



Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998)

The years 1975-1985 marked the United Nations Decade for Women and highlighted the continuing discrimination against women around the world. While signs of hope abound, much remains to be done, including work in the church. The Ecumenical Decade was launched at Easter in cooperation with the World Council of Churches. Announcements about plans were sent to every local unit in May. Future events marking the decade will include the section-sponsored Consultation on Ministries to Incarcerated Women and Their Families, May 6-9, 1989. *Response* magazine will carry additional information regarding the decade.

Election Year Education

In 1988 the country elected a President and Vice President, 435 representatives, and 33 senators. The section's Public Policy Committee helped sponsor "IMPACT '88" in cooperation with National IMPACT. This project organized ecumenical dialogues with candidates for Congress so that people of faith could find out where candidates stood on such issues as hunger and poverty, employment, Central America, Southern Africa, and arms control. IMPACT '88 materials were made available to United Methodist Women.

In cooperation with the Women's Vote Project, United Methodist Women distributed over 22,000 voter education leaflets. Thirty-nine conferences helped get public service announcements on the radio urging women to vote, and 18 conferences got television stations to air the announcements. Rosalie Rodriguez, coordinator of the Women's Vote Project, expressed appreciation for the responsiveness and enthusiasm of United Methodist Women. "You were the best of all the women's organizations participating in the project," she said.



1988 General Conference

The 100th anniversary of the election of the first women delegates to General Conference was celebrated this year by:

- the election of 310 women out of 996 delegates, the highest number ever;
- the election of 21 women as officers of committees out of a total of 31 officers;
- a reception honoring women delegates, including an historical play, "Samantha 'Rastles the Woman Question."

The Women's Division and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women cosponsored the fifth orientation for women delegates. Nearly 300 women attended the half-day session which provided skills to make an impact on major legislation before the conference. A Women's Center further spotlighted women.

The following resolutions sponsored by the Women's Division were passed at General Conference:

- Economic Justice
- An Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women
- Global Debt Crisis
- The Ku Klux Klan and Other Hate Groups
- Protecting and Sustaining Children
- Southern Africa

Church Center for the United Nations: 25 Years of Ministry

To mark the 25 years of work at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), the division honored five women for their contributions to the Church Center, to women and to the United Nations. The five were: Kay Fraleigh, Women's Division staff member and chair of the NGO (nongovernmental organizations) Committee on the UN Decade for Women; Esther Hymer, former NGO representative of Church Women United to the UN, who helped conceive the CCUN; Eleanor Schnurr, of the Baptist World Alliance; Dorothy Height, president of the National Council of Negro Women; and Dame Nita Barrow, ambassador to the United Nations from Barbados and Secretary General of the "End of the UN Decade for Women" NGO Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, in 1985.

Education for Justice

A special priority for the year was education for economic justice. In addition to sponsoring two major resolutions passed by General Conference, the section led the division and Board in learning about economic justice. The process will culminate in an economic justice curriculum designed for United Methodist Women. It will begin with a series of workshops

in 1989 and 1990 and include a "community economic audit."

Eight conferences held Christian Social Responsibility Interpretation workshops in 1988. The workshops explored the Bible and the *Book of Discipline*, including the Social Principles, to find answers to the question, "Is social action an option or a mandate for Christians?" Participants analyzed priority issues and developed plans for acting on justice issues in the conferences and districts.

1988 Christian Social Responsibility Interpretation Workshops

| <i>Conference</i> | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| South Dakota | West Ohio |
| Rocky Mountain | Desert Southwest |
| North Georgia | Western New York |
| Peninsula | Central Texas |

The United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs continues to draw United Methodist Women to New York and Washington for studies on peace, children, South Africa, the Middle East, and other concerns.

United Methodist Women Participants United Methodist Seminars on National and International Affairs

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Kansas East | Oklahoma |
| West Ohio | Holston |
| North Indiana | California/Nevada |
| Iowa | Louisville |
| Baltimore | East Ohio |

A special resource on the Middle East is being published, *A Tangled Web: The Question of Palestine*, written by Ethel Born, vice president of the Women's Division 1980-1984. The book describes her life-transforming experiences since 1981, when she visited the Middle East with the Women's Division.



*(above left) Ellen Kirby, Kay Buescher and Ressie Mae Bass at the Organizational Meeting;
 (above right) Pat Callbeck Harper (left) at General Conference;
 (left) Sally Ernst holds the microphone for Eleanor Schnurr who was honored for her contribution to the Church Center for the United Nations.*

Staff Changes

The section welcomed Esther Madriz as the new Executive Secretary for Constituency Education. Located at the Church Center for the United Nations, Ms. Madriz's portfolio includes coordination of the Christian Social Responsibility Interpretation workshops. From Nashville, Tennessee, Esther brings to the section a wealth of experience in local church and community work, global justice and social concerns. Esther is currently a candidate for a doctoral degree at Vanderbilt University.

Ms. Madriz replaces Annette Vanzant, who, after serving the division for three years, returned to Oklahoma to work on the staff of that conference.

Section of Christian Social Relations Officers

Ressie Mae Bass, chairperson
 Carolyn H. Oehler, vice chairperson
 Leonora Torres, secretary

Committee Chairpersons

Odell Thompson, Community Action
 JoAnn Wilshusen, Constituency Education
 Connie Mitchell, Public Policy
 Leonora Torres, Economic Justice
 Kay Buescher, Global Justice and Peace
 Janet Kussart, Racial Justice
 Carolyn Oehler, Women's Concerns

Section of Christian Social Relations

Staff



Ellen Kirby
Assistant General Secretary



Else (Mia) Adjali
*Executive Secretary for
UN/International Affairs*



Esther Madriz
*Executive Secretary for
Constituency Education*



Chiquita G. Smith
Secretary for Community Action



Consuelo Urquiza
Secretary for Racial Justice



Barbara Ann Weaver
*Executive Secretary for
Development Education*



Joyce V. Hamlin
*Executive Secretary for
Public Policy*



Mary L. Kercherval Short
Secretary for Women's Concerns

Directors



Ressie Mae Bass
Florida Conference



Kay Buescher
Oregon-Idaho Conference



Connie Mitchell
Kentucky Conference



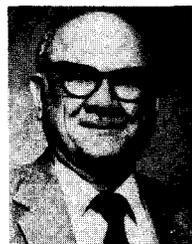
Carolyn Oehler
Northern Illinois Conference



Leonora Torres
*Southern New England
Conference*



Inelle Bagwell
Northwest Texas Conference



Antonio Escareno
Rio Grande Conference



Kathy Humphries
Holston Conference



Khin Khin Jensen
Minnesota Conference



Carolyn Johnson
North Indiana Conference



Janet Kussart
Alaska Missionary Conference



Jeewon Lee
Central Illinois Conference



Raquel Martinez
Rio Grande Conference



Jo Eva McClellan
Kansas West Conference



Effie Miller
Western North Carolina Conference



Dorothy Ravenhorst
Virginia Conference



Odell Thompson
Wisconsin Conference



Alice E. Trost
Troy Conference



Ana Velez
Puerto Rico Conference



Jo Anne Wilshusen
Southwest Texas Conference



C. Dale White
New York Conference

Section of Finance



Children in the Philippines and older women are among many who benefit from designated giving of United Methodist Women.

The year 1988 was the second year of special emphasis on undesignated giving. The goal for 1988 was \$20,500,000; the actual amount received was \$19,891,708, an increase of 3.6 percent. This again demonstrated a commitment by United Methodist Women to ministries with women and children and was a good step toward the 1989 goal of \$24,000,000.

The past year was the first year of using the new channels for undesignated giving: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering. The Gift to Mission cards are extremely popular and enable all United Methodist Women to share with their friends their commitment to the mission of the church.

Designated giving from United Methodist Women is primarily through Supplementary Gifts, which in 1988 totaled \$2,183,312. This money was used for projects of the World Program Division, National Program Division, UMCOR and Crusade Scholarships. The Food, Land and Justice program received \$185,107, which was devoted to hunger-related projects around the world. In 1989 the new special emphasis for designated giving will be Hope and Wholeness for Children and Youth.

The Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering in 1988 was \$947,838, which was divided equally between national and world mission projects and programs related to the theme, "The Older Woman: A Resource for Mission."

Appropriations

The 1988 appropriations "pie" shows, in broad strokes, how the Women's Division voted to use undesignated income received during the year. Each year's appropriations are based on the total amount of money the division actually received during the preceding year. The 1988 pie, therefore, is based on total undesignated income during 1986: \$18,573,298.

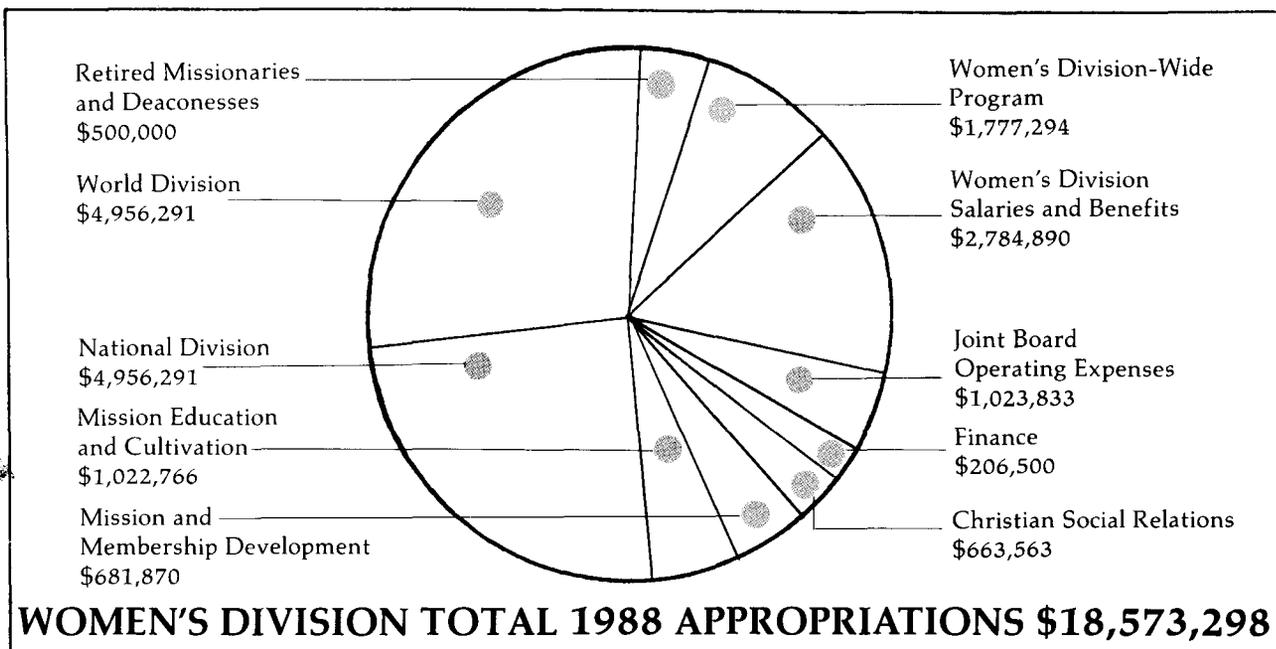
Because of the faithful giving of United Methodist Women, exciting things happened during 1988:

- The "Campaign for Children" was launched, inviting all United Methodist Women to get

involved in their local communities in issues facing children.

- The Women's Division began planning for a spring 1989 national training event on ministries to incarcerated women and their families.
- More than 50 people were commissioned and sent out to be missionaries in over a dozen countries.
- Two people trained in the Philippines began work in Central Zaire—a south-to-south development project.
- The new United Methodist Church of Burundi provided training in Effective Pastoral Leadership, Urban and Personal Evangelism, Church Growth and Strategy and other areas for its pastors.
- The Iban Annual Conference in Sarawak, East Malaysia, and Mindanao, South Philippines, planned to produce church development and evangelism literature through desktop publishing.
- The Harris Memorial College in the Philippines again held its summer Bible Study Course for Young Women Evangelists, training 95 people who will have leadership roles in village churches and communities.

- In response to Christian education and communication needs among indigenous peoples, the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia began producing publications, audiovisuals, teaching materials, and radio programs to be used by Quechua-speaking women and youth.
- The John Wesley Seminary in Monterrey, Mexico, began an extension program throughout the northern episcopal region to upgrade the skills of pastors and lay workers.
- The Atlantic Street Center in Seattle expanded its program to include a Parent Cooperative, a Minority Outreach Program, Seattle Assistance for Troubled Youth, and other projects.
- Wesley Community Center in San Antonio, Texas, provided a health program which includes a five-day-a-week dental program and other examinations and simple treatments three days a week.
- Residents of Columbia, Mississippi, enjoyed a community gardening program and youth programs at the Mississippi Rural Center.
- The membership campaign, "United Methodist Women: Growing in Mission," was launched.



- The Nome Community Center in Nome, Alaska, welcomed a new executive director and revitalized its services to the area.
- The Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, Tennessee, sponsored a special one-year lecture/concert/preaching series on campus.
- Gum Moon Residence celebrated 75 years of ministry among Asian people in the San Francisco area.

Financial Promotion Resources

The division produces brand-new resources each year to tell the story of "money in mission." The most exciting new resource in 1988 was the 20-minute video, "Giving: A Gift of God's Grace." It is rich in insights into the nature of giving and shows that, for United Methodist Women, giving includes much more than financial stewardship. It includes time, talents, ideas, and creative energies—often at some sacrifice. The video is available from each conference secretary for financial interpretation or may be rented or purchased from EcuFilm in Nashville.

The *Financial Handbook* came off press in late 1988 for use in the 1989-1992 quadrennium, replacing the former *Manual for Treasurers and Financial Interpreters*. It was completely revised to reflect the new channels of giving and resources produced since 1984.

Several resources underwent the usual yearly updating during 1988: "Mission Money Means..." leaflet (issued in a new format), "Where the Money Goes" packet, and the Local Treasurer's Packet.

In addition, work began on new resources, a leaflet and an audiovisual, to interpret "Hope and Wholeness for Children and Youth," the Women's Division's special emphasis for supplementary giving during 1989-1992. And the instruction page of the local treasurer's remittance form was translated into Spanish to help Spanish-speaking units to understand how to transmit their mission money through United Methodist Women.

1988 Financial Promotion Workshops

Eight conferences held Financial Promotion workshops during 1988 (see box). The participants in each of these went home energized to tell the story of United Methodist Women's mission money at work.

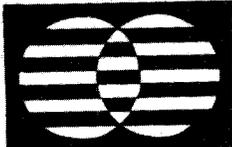
1988 Financial Promotion Workshops

| Conference | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Kansas West | Nebraska |
| Southern New England | Southern Illinois |
| Puerto Rico | South Georgia |
| Maine/New Hampshire | North Central New York |



The Gum Moon Residence in San Francisco provides a vital ministry with Asian women.

SERVICE CENTER
7820 READING ROAD CALLER NO. 1800
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45222-1800



"WHERE THE MONEY GOES"
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Price 75¢ Stock #137

World
Thank
Offering
Ofrenda
Mundial
de Accion
de Gracias



Giving:
A Biblical and
Theological
Perspective

GIFT
TO MISSION
SPECIAL MISSION
1989/1990

Channels of
Undesignated
Giving

\$

**Mission Money
Means...**

The Women's Division and Undesignated Giving (Updated for 1989)

A Financial Promotion Workshop is an intensive 12-hour training session on the theology, history, and practical "nuts and bolts" of United Methodist Women finances. Conferences are asked to invite their entire conference mission team and selected district officers. (Conferences with fewer than five districts may invite the entire district mission team.) The Women's Division provides a team of three leaders, usually two directors and one staff member.

Before the workshop, conference officers are asked to fill in a questionnaire so that the leaders can respond to the specific concerns within that conference.

After a get-aquainted time and an opening worship, team members lead the participants in an understanding of the structure and work of the General Board of Global Ministries, with particular attention to the units of the Board which receive undesignated funds from United Methodist Women. There is ample time to learn about the channels of giving of United Methodist Women, how funding decisions are made, United Methodist Women versus total church financial responsibilities, local unit budget building, and investments and corporate responsibility. The third session includes a Bible study on giving and preparation of actual resources for financial interpretation. The fourth and final session is an opportunity to address any unanswered questions and deal with difficult issues, a time to do planning for district follow-up to the workshop, and a closing worship.

Conferences may schedule a Financial Promotion Workshop by writing to the Secretary for Financial Interpretation of the Women's Division.

Program on Undesignated Giving

The purpose of the Program on Undesignated Giving is to personalize mission and inspire giving within the local unit, with a goal of \$24 million in annual undesignated giving by 1990.

The program is developing in phases, the first one beginning with volunteer consultants who help conference teams set goals for increasing undesignated giving. The final phase will target local units with a design for giving—gifts of time, talent, ideas, creative energies and financial resources.

During 1988 the symbol  has been used in *Response*. It appears at the end of any article in which the featured program or project is the recipient of undesignated giving. By sharing these stories in local units and with friends, mission becomes personal, challenging and alive.

Supplementary Gifts

Major improvements have been made in the way the Women's Division forwards supplementary gifts, especially those for world mission. Funds are now sent directly from the Women's Division to the field treasurers for distribution to the projects in that area. This change in procedures has reduced the time between receipt of the supplementary gifts by the division and the distribution to the designated projects.

Supplementary gifts for national mission are distributed in the same way. Therefore, the sending of *rush* gifts should be done with discretion since the project will receive the funds the month following the receipt by the division.

When the conference remittance is received by the Women's Division, only the name of the donor conference is noted. The recipient project will not know the individual unit which made the gift. If the unit wishes to receive an acknowledgment from the project, the unit should let the project know that a supplementary gift has been sent.

If you would like to receive regular letters from a certain missionary, you may be added to the mailing list. Write to Ernestine Mumford, General Board of Global Ministries, Room 1318, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115.

The following Food Land and Justice grants were approved by the Women's Division



Supplementary Gifts help improve the quality of life for women and children in many countries: (above) woman in Zimbabwe; (right) young girls in Jamaica.

directors in October 1988 from funds collected during 1987:

National Division

Native Alaskan Youth Printing Company, Nome, AK—\$8,000

Establishes a printing company operated by youth aged 14-20 which will provide technical training, part-time employment, a local source for printing at reasonable prices, and a training manual for other interested groups. The Nome Community Center Board of Directors helped formulate the project.

Emergency Survival Assistance, Yuma Indian Mission, Yuma, AZ—\$6,000

Provides emergency assistance, in-home energy conservation, and counseling in keeping and storing food to parents of young children, pregnant mothers, and the elderly living on the Quechuan Indian Reservation.



Poor Helping the Poor, Calexico Neighborhood House, Calexico, CA—\$6,000

A peer group service and support network focusing on the needs of young people and senior citizens, such as advocacy for adequate housing. The staff person helps individuals and groups identify their needs and mobilizes volunteers to fulfill them.

Building a Future for Native Americans, Indian Law Resource Center, Washington, DC—\$5,000

Supports the work of the center as it represents Indian nations and Alaska natives in major cases for the protection and development of Indian rights and in educational and law reform work.

Laotian Christian Ministry, West Liberty, IA—\$5,000

Provides an outreach worker in this rural, agricultural area to assist the growing community of Laotian refugees with Christian education, job development skills, housing, language, advocacy and interpretation, sewing classes, and adaptation to American life.

Women's Toxic Leadership Development Project, National Toxic Hazard Prevention Fund, Boston, MA—\$4,000

Trains women at contaminated sites in the legal, technical, and social aspects of community organizing around toxic waste issues. These women then assist other women to become activists at other contaminated sites.

Western Minnesota Sustainable Farmers Association, Land Stewardship Projects, Montevideo, MN—\$5,000

A locally controlled, nonprofit, farmer membership organization designed to help farm families move toward more economical and environmentally-sound farming practices.

Reading Laboratory, Good Shepherd Community Center, Vicksburg, MS—\$4,000

To purchase material for a reading lab, which is part of an after-school tutorial program for grades one through junior high for children from low-income families and foster care.

Mountainview Water Program, Southwest Organizing Project, Albuquerque, NM—\$5,000

Organizes area residents to obtain affordable clean water for domestic consumption and to ensure clean-up of existing groundwater contamination by those responsible for the pollution.

Brier Hill Community Garden Site, Jubilee Gardens, Youngstown, OH—\$3,000

Establishes small family and large community garden sites, trains and educates low-income families in gardening, sponsors a teaching kitchen for women and children, holds workshops.

Revitalization and Home Ownership Project, Wesley House, Knoxville, TN—\$10,000

The project is renovating three homes for purchase/rent by low-income families to stem the housing deterioration in the neighborhood. The new homeowners are trained in the meaning of home ownership and the responsibilities of home maintenance.

World Division

Hillside Farmers Association, Jamaica—\$5,000

A group of ex-sugarcane workers and small-scale farmers are working to establish fruittree orchards and a nursery. Funds are to purchase irrigation pipes and provide legal assistance and community organizing in an area of no roads, irrigation or electricity.

Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development—\$10,000

A group of rural development practitioners, researchers, and policy makers coordinate research and documentation as well as conduct regional workshops and exchanges of personnel. The network aims to improve the overall quality of life for rural dwellers.

Integral Community Development Project, Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas and the Christian Commission for Development of Honduras, Bay Islands, Honduras—\$10,000

A comprehensive approach to development in health, self-management, agriculture, and leadership training and reflection with grassroots poor people who have been squatting on the land for a number of years. Two mission interns are working in the community.

What Is a Black Child Worth? Institute for the Study of Religion, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil—\$12,000

Works with children and their mothers to help them define their own values and determine their own needs, reinforce their cultural identity and overcome the black inferiority complex that is part of Brazilian society.

Women's International Preparatory Meeting for the JPIC (Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation) World Convention, World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland—\$10,000

As part of the Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women, this meeting will make recommendations to the world JPIC gathering. The agenda includes global mission issues; strategies for peace; specific contributions of Christian women in justice, peacemaking, racial equity, and caring for the environment.



Daycare at Rocinha Methodist Church, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Village Women's Development Program, The Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Tonga—\$15,000

To upgrade village health, nutrition and cleanliness; improve homes, kitchens, toilets, showers, gardens and water supplies; and improve and strengthen the role of women in their families and communities by constructing more than 230 rainwater catchment tanks in nine villages.

ECLOF Women's Projects, Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF), World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland—\$26,786

To support ECLOF loan funds in response to the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. These revolving funds are available for small grassroots projects organized and run by women.

Women and Food Processing Technology Transfer Program, Asian Alliance of Appropriate Technology Practitioners, Philippines—\$19,850

To organize a three-year exchange project in specific community-oriented technologies: food processing, micro-enterprises, small household crafts, and small farm technology; to enable women to help solve problems at their local level and to share indigenous technologies within a country and across national lines.

Corporate Responsibility

The Women's Division attempts through its investments to express concern for issues of justice. In 1988 the division continued a dialogue with several corporations about their involvement in South Africa. Shareholder resolutions were filed with Pfizer, Warner Lambert and Schering Plough asking them to withdraw their operations from South Africa until apartheid is dismantled.

The division participated in the South Africa Solidarity Event sponsored by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. At this event the UN ambassadors of the frontline states surrounding South Africa were honored for their role in the fight against apartheid.

A shareholder resolution was also filed with American Telephone & Telegraph Company asking the company to end all contracts with the government that deal with the "Star Wars" effort. This resolution has been filed with AT&T for the last six years and it has always received enough votes to allow its refiling in the following year. Many persons are concerned about the military and financial implications of the "Star Wars" program.

Renovations to Women's Division Property

Brooks-Howell Home, Asheville, North Carolina: In November 1988, the Bethea Building was named for Dr. Mary E. Bethea, deaconess and former administrator at Brooks-Howell Home. The main entrance underwent lovely and practical changes. On the second floor, a seasonal screened porch was converted to a useful hospitality room where residents can entertain family, friends and local units of United Methodist Women. New two-room suites with service kitchens have become a popular choice of residents. The suites are beautifully appointed or the resident can use her own furniture, if desired. All rooms will now have private baths and air conditioning. Careful attention was given to the needs of the



(top) U.M. Missionary Vacation Home, Chautauqua, NY
(bottom) Dr. Mary E. Bethea

residents and the use of the resources voted by the Women's Division for the renovations.

United Methodist Missionary Vacation Home, Chautauqua, New York: Restoring the foundation and rewiring the electrical system were important renovations. However, the most obvious improvement was the refurbishing of the livingroom in the arts-and-crafts style using the original mission oak furniture and adding new carpeting and lighting, among other accents.



Fenton Memorial Deaconess Home, Chautauqua, NY

Fenton Memorial Deaconess Home, Chautauqua, New York: With floors refinished and electrical rewiring underway, Fenton Memorial Deaconess Home is getting ready for its 75th anniversary celebration. Other overall improvements were made to make this vacation home a place of rest and recreation for deaconesses and home missionaries.

Retired in 1988

Deaconesses and Home Missionaries:

- Flora Clipper
- Garnet L. Ertel
- Lena V. Hagen
- Esther E. Jones
- Mary A. McKenzie
- Mary Louise Piper
- Barbara L. Sommerville
- Winifred M. Wrisley

Missionaries:

- Fern Carter
- Evelyn Fannie Dewar
- Earline Ladell Hart
- Frances J. Hindley
- Ruth Lang
- Mary Louise Lane
- Liv R. Larsen
- Margery L. Mayer
- Lois Biddle Mohansingh
- Beryl Aida Sketchley

In Memoriam—1988

| <i>Name</i> | <i>Died</i> | <i>Area Served</i> | <i>Years</i> |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Emily Grace Badgett | 07/01/88 | U.S.A. | 11 ² / ₃ |
| Josephine H. Berglund | 03/16/88 | U.S.A. | 35 |
| Louise Campbell | 12/22/88 | India | 44 |
| Mrs. Clyde V. Courtney | 01/30/88 | Brazil | 19 |
| Martha Coy | 01/04/88 | India | 37 ¹ / ₂ |
| Stella Ebersole | 03/14/88 | Burma | 37 |
| Pearl L. Eddy | 01/31/88 | U.S.A. | 40 |
| Hannah Gallagher | 08/21/88 | India | 36 |
| Dorothy E. Graeff | 09/01/88 | U.S.A. | 32 |
| Leola M. Greene | 06/26/88 | India | 33 |
| Sylvia Huitema | 02/03/88 | U.S.A. | 33 |
| Erma Jenkins | 02/23/88 | U.S.A. | 38 |
| Pearlye Maye Kelley | 09/30/88 | U.S.A. | 26 |
| Leota E. Kruger | 05/20/88 | U.S.A. | 43 |
| Semeramis C. Kutz | 02/09/88 | Peru, Chile | 38 |
| Jenny S. Lind | 03/27/88 | China, Japan, Brazil | 32 |
| Lalah G. McClellan | 11/05/88 | U.S.A. | 40 |
| Elizabeth S. McLaughlin | 09/30/88 | U.S.A. | 12 |
| Della M. Miller | 06/16/88 | U.S.A. | 28 |
| Ethel Miller | 11/18/88 | Korea | 21 |
| Mildred Anne Paine | 09/04/88 | Japan | 41 |
| Ruth I. Pope | 09/28/88 | U.S.A. | 05 |
| Margaret M. Prentice | 07/30/88 | China, Liberia | 36 |
| Dorothy Rees | 07/12/88 | Central Congo | 29 ¹ / ₂ |
| Dorothy M. Russell | 10/20/88 | U.S.A. | 33 |
| Helen C. Ungericht | 10/11/88 | U.S.A. | 44 |
| Ethel P. Williamson | 09/06/88 | U.S.A., Cuba | 25 |

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Treasurer



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Assistant Treasurer



Betty J. Edwards
Comptroller



Sandy Wilder
Secretary for Financial Interpretation



Mary Louise Head
Property and Office Manager



Maryruth Nickels
Coordinator, Program on Undesignated Giving

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Connie Takamine, vice chairperson

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Wilodyne Hooper, Appropriations
Janet Gantzert, Financial Promotion
Agnes Howton, Property
Janet Gantzert, Retiree Benefits
Alma Edwards, Call to Prayer
Deola Denson, Audit
Judith Hill, Corporate Responsibility Task Force

Directors



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North Texas Conference



Alma Edwards
Detroit Conference



Janet Gantzert
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Wilodyne Hooper
Texas Conference



Agnes Howton
Louisville Conference



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Bonnie Bumpers
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Joan Cleveland
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California-Pacific Conference



Deola Denson
Pacific Northwest Conference



Carolyn Dorman
Peninsula Conference



Susan Edwards
North Georgia Conference



Elizabeth Gionti
Northern New Jersey Conference



Dorothy Grinager
South Dakota Conference



Ann Hafer
Yellowstone Conference



Judith Hill
Central Pennsylvania Conference



Carolyn Hopkins
South Georgia Conference



Ruby Horse
Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference



Charles Hutchinson
South Indiana Conference



Donna Paustian
Central Texas Conference



Janet Wreath
Missouri West Conference

Section of Mission and Membership Development

Growth and Development of Membership

Membership Cultivation Program

When United Methodist Women speak, the division listens! Hence when women across the country expressed concerns about declining membership, not enough young members, and lack of involvement of employed women in the organization, the Women's Division set into motion a new Membership Cultivation Program with the goal of increasing membership in United Methodist Women to 1.5 million by 1990.

The program was officially launched in the spring of 1988. Under the theme, "United Methodist Women. . . Growing in Mission," the membership was called to grow and engage its diverse members in activities that foster growth in Christian faith and outreach.

New resources were developed to help United Methodist Women at every level of the organization achieve the goal. Among these resources is a Membership Cultivation Resource Packet developed for use in local units. It contains five "how to" leaflets, a colorful poster,

decals of the logo, and other pieces to help United Methodist Women fulfill the Purpose while creating a nurturing, caring fellowship among members.

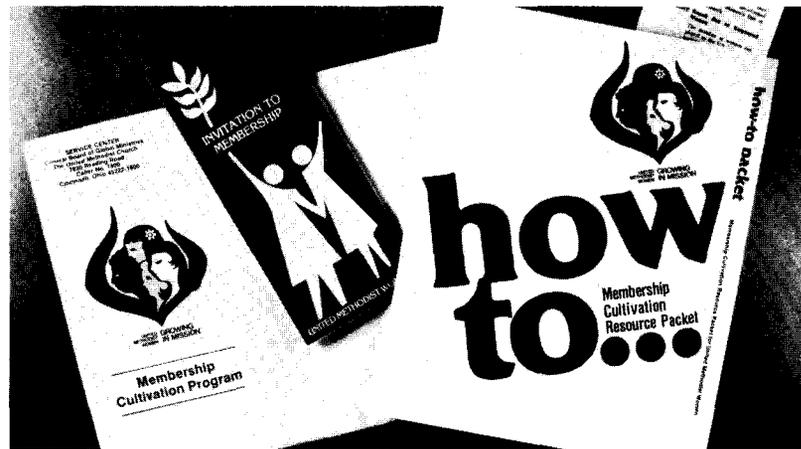
In addition to the resource packet, a new video resource was created. *United Methodist Women: Growing in Mission* is a 14-minute videotape about United Methodist Women across the U.S. and their mission. It illustrates the concerns and the values inherent in belonging to the organization.

A specially designed promotional packet was developed for conference and district elected leaders. Conference chairpersons of the Committee on Membership devoted much of their officer update time during Regional Schools of Christian Mission to the membership cultivation program.

Key to achieving the goal of 1.5 million members by 1990 is increasing the membership in every conference by 12 percent annually until 1990. As women seek to increase membership in every unit, the division will also focus on organizing new units as well as starting new subgroups.



Maxine West and Marcia Gleckler display the "Growing in Mission" T-shirts.



1987 Survey Report of United Methodist Women

A four-page survey sent to local presidents in 1987 was returned by 23,537 units, representing an 87 percent response. The statistics from this survey combined with data compiled by the National Division Research Office give a composite of the local unit of United Methodist Women: *71 percent of all United Methodist churches have organized units of United Methodist Women.*

In 1987, a total of 38,049 United Methodist churches were recorded in the General Minutes Tapes prepared by the National Division Research Office. Only 27,133 of the churches reported organized units of United Methodist Women. (See Table I.) Yet one of the most exciting and significant statistics reported in 1987 was the number of *new* units of United Methodist Women, 343, bringing in 16,794 new members. United Methodist Women is alive and growing!

TABLE I
United Methodist Churches

| Jurisdiction | Total No. of Churches | No. With UMW Units | No. Without UMW Units |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| North Central | 8,271 | 6,939 | 1,332 |
| Northeastern | 8,366 | 5,736 | 2,630 |
| South Central | 6,692 | 4,476 | 2,216 |
| Southeastern | 12,902 | 8,457 | 4,445 |
| Western | 1,818 | 1,525 | 293 |
| TOTAL | 38,049 | 27,133 | 10,916 |

A comparison between the various sizes of local units can be found in Table II. Of the 27,133 units of United Methodist Women, 475 consist of 25 or fewer members, while four percent have a membership of 150 or more.

TABLE II

| Unit Size | Total No. of Units | Percent |
|-----------|--------------------|---------|
| 1-25 | 11,257 | 47% |
| 26-50 | 6,169 | 26% |
| 51-150 | 5,540 | 23% |
| 150+ | 1,074 | 4% |

Membership Trends

United Methodist Women make up 13 percent of the total membership of The United Methodist Church.

Reported membership in United Methodist Women for 1987 and 1988 appears in Table III. Throughout the 73 conferences, 537 districts and 27,133 local units, one million plus members were reported for 1988. United Methodist Women make up 13.4 percent of the total membership of the church.

TABLE III
Membership United Methodist Women

| <i>Summary by Conference</i> | <i>1987 Membership Reported</i> | <i>1988 Membership Reported</i> | <i>Summary by Conference</i> | <i>1987 Membership Reported</i> | <i>1988 Membership Reported</i> |
|----------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Alabama-West Florida | 11,574 | 11,223 | North Mississippi | 5,341 | 5,341* |
| Alaska Missionary | 421 | 439 | North Texas | 10,827 | 9,290 |
| Baltimore | 22,757 | 21,673 | Northern Illinois | 19,516 | 19,516* |
| California-Nevada | 14,848 | 15,087 | Northern New Jersey | 7,642 | 7,713 |
| California-Pacific | 20,698 | 21,248 | Northwest Texas | 6,179 | 5,764 |
| Central Illinois | 23,597 | 23,333 | Oklahoma | 19,567 | 19,935 |
| Central Pennsylvania | 17,834 | 17,182 | Oklahoma Indian Missionary | 675 | 695 |
| Central Texas | 10,012 | 10,396 | Oregon-Idaho | 10,066 | 9,851 |
| Desert Southwest | 7,584 | 7,536 | Pacific Northwest | 11,537 | 11,202 |
| Detroit | 20,971 | 21,774 | Peninsula | 6,072 | 7,241 |
| East Ohio | 24,489 | 27,433 | Puerto Rico | 1,822 | 1,822* |
| Eastern Pennsylvania | 15,074 | 14,657 | Red Bird Missionary | 170 | 150 |
| Florida | 46,190 | 45,354 | Rio Grande | 1,552 | 1,552* |
| Holston | 20,849 | 20,916 | Rocky Mountain | 12,261 | 12,403 |
| Iowa | 54,011 | 47,998 | South Carolina | 33,193 | 31,409 |
| Kansas East | 15,600 | 15,351 | South Dakota | 7,563 | 7,697 |
| Kansas West | 22,185 | 21,734 | South Georgia | 17,465 | 17,145 |
| Kentucky | 8,577 | 8,521 | South Indiana | 19,893 | 19,704 |
| Little Rock | 7,537 | 7,402 | Southern Illinois | 8,343 | 7,945 |
| Louisiana | 12,400 | 12,473 | Southern New England | 7,251 | 7,083 |
| Louisville | 7,902 | 7,817 | Southern New Jersey | 9,964 | 10,397 |
| Maine | 3,203 | 3,309 | Southwest Texas | 12,928 | 12,781 |
| Memphis | 11,827 | 11,765 | Tennessee | 9,837 | 9,588 |
| Minnesota | 21,576 | 21,496 | Texas | 21,709 | 21,320 |
| Mississippi | 8,924 | 9,162 | Troy | 5,245 | 5,297 |
| Missouri East | 11,291 | 10,680 | Virginia | 38,156 | 37,728 |
| Missouri West | 15,384 | 15,710 | West Michigan | 16,184 | 15,958 |
| Nebraska | 21,330 | 20,999 | West Ohio | 48,074 | 47,333 |
| New Hampshire | 1,109 | 1,529 | West Virginia | 20,772 | 20,494 |
| New Mexico | 5,745 | 5,630 | Western New York | 8,614 | 8,487 |
| New York | 8,663 | 7,651 | Western North Carolina | 40,371 | 40,379 |
| North Alabama | 18,746 | 18,837 | Western Pennsylvania | 18,034 | 20,284 |
| North Arkansas | 9,861 | 10,249 | Wisconsin | 19,357 | 19,603 |
| North Carolina | 27,098 | 25,155 | Wyoming | 7,903 | 7,681 |
| North Central New York | 8,578 | 7,483 | Yellowstone | 3,924 | 3,671 |
| North Dakota | 4,578 | 4,671 | | | |
| North Georgia | 29,330 | 29,438 | | | |
| North Indiana | 20,443 | 20,191 | | | |
| | | | TOTALS | 1,100,803 | 1,087,961 |

*Report not received; 1987 figure used.

Spiritual and Theological Concerns

The Women's Division gave special attention to the proposed Doctrinal Statement which went to General Conference. Concerns addressed by the division and United Methodist Women were similar to those raised by others in the church. As changes and amendments were made, the resulting new statement won overwhelming approval. For United Methodist Women who have become familiar with the 1972 statement, it will be important to study the new statement in relation to the earlier one. There now continues to be a clear theological foundation from which the Women's Division and United Methodist Women can take direction for their work. The churchwide study will give a special opportunity for continued theological reflection.

During Lent of 1988, Women's Division directors and staff shared, through daily common reading, meditations written by members. These were particularly meaningful, and it is hoped that sometime during this quadrennium a similar set of meditations may be written for one another.

Silent Retreat and Consultation on Planning Retreats for Small Groups

In February, a Silent Retreat and Consultation on Planning Retreats for Small Groups brought

together 47 participants representing 30 conferences and all five jurisdictions. This event was held at Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, Maryland.

Thelma Johnson, Jackie Pennington and Dalila Cruz took responsibility for the liturgical context of the retreat in the form of daily morning and evening prayers and music. Gwen White was the primary resource person for the consultation, and Mary Lou Van Buren directed the retreat.

The experience began with an introductory session of the consultation on the first evening. Then the retreat began on the same evening and continued until noon of the second day, followed by a resumption of the consultation for the last 24 hours. A key understanding pointed out in the consultation is that in retreat the emphasis is on *formation* rather than information. The experience of the retreat confirmed this. The final sharing was on a significantly deep level.

The cost of the retreat as it related to travel, room and board was borne by the participants. The division provided the leadership and financial assistance, as requested. Some conferences fully financed their representatives. In other cases, funding was a combination of conference, district, local and/or personal sources. Appreciation for such an event was expressed as well as hope for future opportunities of this kind. It was noted that a similar event was provided in 1975 at Pendle Hill.



A depiction of the Ruth and Esther story at Western New York Conference School of Christian Mission, Troy, NY

Division Retreats

The division's two annual retreats were held February 24-26 and February 26-28 at Simpsonwood Conference and Retreat Center in Norcross, Georgia. The first was led by Bishop Roy Sano on "Liturgical Spiritual Formation," focusing on Word and Sacrament. The second, a silent retreat, based on elements of a traditional retreat, was led by Mary Lou Van Buren. Each retreat concluded with Holy Communion. Participants greatly appreciated Bishop Sano's presence and liturgical leadership.

Spiritual Growth Studies

Two future spiritual growth studies were voted, one at the spring meeting and the other at the annual meeting. In 1992-93, Amos and the relationship of the words of this prophet to the issues of justice and poverty will be studied; in 1993-1994, the study on the Gospel According to St. Matthew will focus on discipleship and service.

How to approach the study of Scripture continues to be on the agenda of the Committee on Spiritual and Theological Concerns as well as the Committee on Schools. The publication, *Scripture: The Word Beyond the Word*, continues to be promoted as an excellent aid to study. In addition, a series of three articles in the October, November and December issues of *Response* have dealt with Scripture study.

During 1988, *Guidelines for Planning Worship* was revised. This publication was prepared for use in the division and division-sponsored events, particularly Regional Schools of Christian Mission.

Leadership Development

In 1988, many women, along with Esther centuries before them, responded to leadership roles across the church. From President Sally Ernst through most of the organization, these women publicly proclaim their training in United

Methodist Women to be their major source of leadership development.

Guided by the Section of Mission and Membership Development, the Women's Division provided varied opportunities to learn new skills and practice old ones. The district "Share the Vision—Say Yes!" events of the last quadrennium excited many women as their concepts of mission were enlarged. Many have moved into new jobs at the district or conference level.

New Officer Training Event

As part of the design for leaders, over 225 elected conference officers attended N.O.T.E. (New Officer Training Event) in New York City in December. This annual event serves to orient the new leaders to the responsibilities of their office. But far beyond basic officer training, it provides an in-depth introduction to the General Board of Global Ministries and to the special concerns of the Women's Division.

Another 225 women who agreed to serve on conference Committees on Nominations gathered in Chicago in January to explore the key role of this committee to the recruitment of women to be the elected leaders of the conference organization. Their need to be perpetual talent scouts as well as implementors of the commitment to inclusiveness in all areas of the life of United Methodist Women were features of the event.

Regional Schools

Each year, through the Committee on Schools, the division plans leadership experiences for the elected leaders of United Methodist Women through Regional Schools of Christian Mission. In June 1988, 1,534 persons, mostly conference officers, attended regional schools in Tacoma, Washington; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; St. Paul, Minnesota; Holly Springs, Mississippi; and Troy, New York. In addition, the newly elected jurisdiction Core Planning Groups and Committees on Nominations attended and began their work. Others were present to be certified

as study leaders in Conference Schools of Christian Mission. All were immersed in the three mission studies and heard updates on Women's Division concerns such as the Campaign for Children, the Charter for Racial Justice Policies, General Conference legislation on the Global Debt Crisis and Economic Justice, the Membership Cultivation Campaign, and efforts to raise undesignated giving.

Since the next phase of district leadership training will be the primary responsibility of conference elected leaders, a special two-hour plenary on "How Adults Learn" was prepared under the guidance of consultant Marilyn Magee of the General Board of Discipleship. It is hoped that the fine materials prepared for this thrust will be used as part of leadership training.

Workshops

Workshops were held across the country in Financial Promotion, Christian Social Responsibility Interpretation, Christian Disciplines and Leadership Development. The Committee on Program for Education and Mission recommended that these four workshops for conferences be continued for the next quadrennium.

Nine conferences held Leadership Development workshops (see box).

1988 Leadership Development Workshops

| Conference | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| California-Nevada | North Dakota |
| Central Illinois | Northwest Texas |
| Texas | Tennessee |
| Louisville | Virginia |
| | Wisconsin |

Due to limited time of both conference officers and Women's Division directors and staff, it is currently recommended that conferences plan to hold the cycle of four workshops over an eight-year period, completing all four before repeating one.

As delegates gathered at General Conference in St. Louis and at jurisdictional conferences during July, the laity was well represented by women who developed their leadership skills and gained visibility through the organization of United Methodist Women. As women discover their potential, they find new richness in their own lives and new avenues of service to United Methodist Women and to the overall mission of the church.

Schools of Christian Mission

Dr. Phillip Potter, former head of the World Council of Churches, once said that Christians should operate with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other. Probably this meant that while we need the grounding of the Scriptures to enable our growth in understanding of God and to give direction to our witness for Jesus Christ, we also need to know what is happening to God's people everywhere in order to be responsible disciples *for such a time as this*.

More than 25,000 persons who attended Schools of Christian Mission in 1988 had the opportunity to follow Dr. Potter's advice as they struggled with the timely study themes which were introduced there. The Women's Division spiritual growth study on *Ruth and Esther: Women in Alien Lands* not only helped retrieve a part of the history of the faith in which women played a major role but also called each participant to a decision about her role in the healing of creation in our own time.

The two ecumenical mission studies, using materials published by Friendship Press, supported the denominational call of the United Methodist General Conference to work for justice in South Africa and for economic justice in the United States. The study on South Africa attempted to provide school participants with a clear, concise picture of the historical development of the present situation in South Africa and to enable them to identify and commit themselves to work with ecumenical and other concerned partners to support positive change in South Africa.

Through personal stories of people in the United States and Canada, the study on Faces of Poverty in Our Midst challenged school participants to achieve deeper biblical and theological understandings of poverty, to examine the causes of poverty, and to determine specific action plans for ministry with the poor in local communities. This study also gave opportunity to highlight the National Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, whose longtime work in community centers and other projects has been directed toward the elimination of poverty.

Several schools held classes in the Spanish and Korean languages. A total of 467 children

attended the schools. Of this number, 125 were in the Texas Conference and 121 in North Indiana. A youth mission school was held in the Western Pennsylvania Conference. Children participating in the study used resources produced by Friendship Press.

One of the aims of the Conference School of Christian Mission is to prepare and motivate persons for leading the mission studies in the local church. It is hoped that many more adults, youth and children, through the mission studies, will come to new understanding of mission today and turn study into action as disciples of Christ in our time.



A class at Mid-West Regional School of Christian Mission, St. Paul, Minn.

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Ann Eaton
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Betty Suzuki, Resources
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Rubielee Addison
South Carolina Conference



Jung-Soon Bergmann
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Lillie Belle Cole
Memphis Conference



Nancy Cuckler
East Ohio Conference



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Wintie Templeton
Maine Conference



Ruby Walters
North Dakota Conference

Reports from Other Program Divisions/Departments

National Program Division

Early in the year, a new division-wide comprehensive initiative was created focusing on children and youth in jeopardy. The program focus crystallizes the connection between the low status of women, the economic pressures on families and the danger placed on youth and their future.

Eleven projects have been selected to participate in the initial phase. The issues addressed include teenage pregnancy and suicide prevention, educational support (dropout prevention), and protection of the legal rights of children who are undocumented aliens.

Parish Ministries

Many of the projects in the office of Community Developers are in the area of ministry to women and families. For example, in Anniston, Alabama, a women's center provides workshops on legal rights, AIDS, investments, blood-pressure screening and teenage pregnancy prevention. Little Rock, Arkansas, and Newburgh, New York, operate preschool day-care and latch-key programs. Five of the 14 Indigenous Community Developers programs are engaged in similar types of ministry.



A joyful greeting at the deaconess centennial celebration, Kansas City, MO

Much of the work of the program secretaries for Racial-Ethnic Ministries encompasses issues that affect women and families. In the area of Native American ministries, there are many women who hold key positions, for example, Mrs. Becky Thompson, director of the conference Council on Ministries in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC). She was recently elected the new chair of the Native American International Caucus (NAIC).

In the training programs of Native American Ministries, a majority of the participants are women. Through these training events, the National Division enables women to be in an atmosphere of sharing and to learn problem-solving techniques.

The National Federation of Asian American United Methodists, which the division supports, identifies the needs of Asian women, plans appropriate programs and develops follow-up strategies to implement these programs. The programs include English-language instruction, job training, environmental adjustment, leadership skills, referral services, family counseling, ministry to Korean women married to American servicemen, ministry to Indochinese refugee women, and membership development and leadership training in The United Methodist Church.

The Southwest Border Committee is involved in the concerns and issues facing women along the southwest border of the United States, particularly on the Mexican side where women work in the Maquiladoras (Twin Plants) at very low wages.

Another concern is the issue of environmental contamination. Much of the pollution has affected the health of women and children. The Southwest Organizing Project located in Albuquerque led the work to organize the communities affected. The organizing work is carried out through education, confrontation and negotiations. Both the employment and contamination issues affect the majority of Hispanic women and children who are also in lower economic levels of society.

Urban Ministries programs enhance the development of community leaders and help

those who are aware of community needs find ways to solve problems. Many programs relate to the needs of women in the community. Most of the leadership development and training workshops are sponsored through jurisdictional networks. Four of the jurisdictional urban ministries networks are chaired by women.

Now in the second year, the Native American urban ministries initiative is empowering the local Native American community to develop and sustain ministries which combine Christian theology and the traditions of the native people. The woman is the head of the family in a Native American home. Many of the women have been active within their tribal governments as well as working on community issues. Of the four initiative sites established by 1988, two have Native American women as chair of the organizing task force. Fifty percent of the task force members are female and the majority of staff are female.



Wilma Colhoff, community health worker, examines Madeline Two Two in Pine Ridge, S. Dak.



The office of Town and Country Ministries paid special attention to the ongoing family farm crisis, which continues to have a negative impact on personal and family life. Farm children are uniquely involved in the everyday business affairs, and they pay dearly for their family's economic struggles. Older children experience the greatest amount of anger, bitterness and loss—loss of status, fear of having no place to live, no money for “little things,” and a sense of isolation and abandonment. Programs in 1988 focused on the alleviation of this human suffering and on advocacy for policies to bring more justice to rural areas.

Matt and Josh, ages 10 and 8, were born into the “ideal” American family. Mom and Dad farmed and grandparents lived on the other side of the dredged ditch. Life revolved around church activities, farm chores, pet hogs, and the cyclical seasons familiar to those who farm the land. Then one winter it all changed. The pet hogs were liquidated along with the other hogs, the machinery and the land. Soon there was fighting between the boys, their grades dropped, sleepless nights were a frequent occurrence. And then, the fear of the bus! Matt refused to ride the bus because he believed one day he would get off the bus and he would find his parents being herded away just the way the pet hogs were. . . .

Matt and Josh are representative of the price rural children pay as they live in the trauma of stress created by a country unable to decide just what responsibility it has to rural families.

The Community Economic Development program seeks to empower low-income and minority communities and their residents. Since women constitute an appreciable percentage of residents in these communities, they have benefitted either directly or indirectly from the program.

Many of the programs requesting technical assistance have women in leadership positions or are targeted to women and families. Assistance ranges from helping local churches plan community outreach to working with a female-owned catering cooperative that is housed in three United Methodist church centers.

The Interreligious Economic Crisis Organizing Network (I/ECON) is a coalition of church, labor and community groups founded to respond to plant closings and economic dislocation. This group is now developing a new major emphasis on women and the workplace.



(top) Child at a farm auction in Iowa

(center) Women in Southwest border industries earn very low wages.

(bottom) Enthusiastic participants in a congregational development program



Children receive loving care at Bethlehem Community Center, Winston-Salem, N. Car.

Congregational Development

The Congregational Development unit facilitates and strengthens the development of local churches. The unit is involved in consultation in the design both of buildings and programs that strive to meet the needs of identifiable groups of people. New church development and redevelopment programs enable the local church to identify the persons whom a congregation can serve. In many communities this involves ministries directed to the mother working outside the home or to the family which needs some temporary child care. It also includes planning for day-care programs and the provision of adequately designed building space.

During 1988, the division began to fund ethnic minority local church (EMLC) outreach ministries with ethnic minority women as a special focus. Guidelines and criteria were developed for programs to achieve this purpose. Six projects were funded for a two-year period. The funds were earmarked within the EMLC missional priority budget.

Institutional Ministries

National mission institutions continued to minister to the special needs of women and children at a time when their needs reached crisis proportions. In 1988, 20 percent of all children in the United States were living in poverty (over three million more than in 1979), and 20 percent of all families with children under 18 were headed by women.

Of the 108 National Division-related agencies, 97 conduct children's services and child advocacy programs. Over 60 of them sponsor child day-care programs primarily for working mothers and mothers on public welfare. While there are four division-related schools, education of the young and support for public education are an ongoing part of most of the community centers and children's homes as well. In a year when more than two million children were reported victims of abuse and neglect, the 12 residential children's homes provided quality care to emotionally disturbed, abused and neglected children, and many of the community centers and schools provided special programs for such children and their families.

Some especially innovative programs for children and families in 1988:

- Lessiè Bates Davis Neighborhood House, East St. Louis, Illinois, began an infant care and prevention program designed to reduce the community's high infant mortality rate, to reduce risks for the children, and to prepare children and families for a successful school experience.
- Atlantic Street Center, Seattle, Washington, completed an 18-month study of children's needs and launched a program involving schools, churches, families and staff in community education, advocacy for low-income and minority children, and special services for at-risk children.
- Approximately 12 related community centers continued and developed youth employment programs; about 15 developed teen pregnancy prevention and parenting programs to relate to those areas of critical need.
- Murphy-Harpst-Vashti, United Methodist Children and Family Services, Cedartown, Georgia, began a successful equine therapy program for abused and disturbed children.
- Alaska Children's Services, Anchorage, Alaska, sponsored an outdoor adventure-based program that helps delinquent and disturbed youth develop self-reliance.
- The National Division, Wesley Community Center, Houston, Texas, and Bidwell-Riverside Community Center, Des Moines, Iowa, participated in ecumenical hearings—regional and national—on children in poverty.
- The National Division and six related community centers emphasized voter registration/education for low-income and ethnic minority people.
- Community centers in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Atlanta, Georgia; Wilmington, Delaware; Omaha, Nebraska; Johns Island, South Carolina; and San Marcos, Texas, were instrumental in organizing and developing new and/or improved housing for low- and moderate-income communities.

In other Institutional Ministries developments during the year, the board of directors of Vashti Center, Inc. (Thomasville, Georgia), decided after a long struggle with a decreasing population, changing governmental regulations and an

increasing deficit to discontinue operation of Vashti. Murphy-Harpst of Cedartown, Georgia, asked to operate a facility for severely emotionally disturbed children in Thomasville, Georgia. The new program, Murphy-Harpst-Vashti, is doing well and the Vashti campus is improving in quality and increasing the number of families served.

Involvement of Red Bird Mission (Beverly, Kentucky) with the county school system caused increasing difficulty. The problems mounted until in the spring of 1988 it became evident that continuation of a "joint" effort was no longer possible. As of June 1988, the Red Bird Mission is officially a totally private school operated by the Red Bird Mission, Inc. (a United Methodist mission with roots in the Evangelical Church.)

The 1988 General Conference affirmed the vitality of the United Methodist Voluntary Service (UMVS) and directed that 33 percent of the Human Relations Day offering go to the program. The 20th anniversary of UMVS was celebrated at the October meeting of the General Board of Global Ministries. There are now 28 community-based projects in this network, several of which meet the needs of women and children in poverty. Women occupy significant positions of leadership throughout the network.

The United Methodist Church celebrated 100 years of the office of deaconess in the Methodist tradition in the United States during 1988. The highlight of the occasion was a Centennial Convocation for deaconesses, home missionaries and friends in August at St. Paul's School of Theology, Kansas City, Missouri. "Celebrating God's Call" was the theme of the convocation which included music and drama, worship, education, sharing and fellowship. "Futuring" sessions resulted in the establishment of the National Association of Deaconesses and Home Missionaries.

Other aspects of the centennial celebration included a special bulletin cover; special recognition of deaconesses and home missionaries by annual conferences; the Upper Room Sunday devotional written by a deaconess or home missionary, both ecumenical and international; *Praise and Celebration*, a meditational booklet written by deaconesses and home

missionaries; a special observance at the spring 1988 meeting of the General Board of Global Ministries; writings by deaconesses and home missionaries in the 1988 *Prayer Calendar*.

The Church and Community Ministry program supported 54 church and community workers in assignments during 1988. These national missionaries served in rural and urban areas providing community outreach ministries and leadership development in local or district settings, in annual conferences or in regional organizations. A few served in national assignments. All of these workers are witnesses to the love of God and the gospel's demand for justice for all persons. Their leadership empowers local communities and enables churches to be in effective ministry in poverty

communities.

In 1988, 85 young adults took part in in-depth leadership experiences. Seventeen new mission interns went through a month's orientation and then visited their U.S. placement (where they will serve from January 1990 through May 1991) before they left for their international assignment. This means that 35 mission interns are now in the field.

In late July, 17 US-2s came together for 16 days of orientation before they went to their assignments throughout the United States. There are now 35 US-2s working in national mission locations.

The summer intern program completed its second year with 15 adults giving 10 weeks of service.



"Celebrating God's Call" at the deaconess centennial convocation, Kansas City, MO

World Program Division

Urgent human needs across the face of the earth come pouring through each hour of the day in the life of the World Division: ●The Middle East Council of Churches reaches out in relation to events in the Arab-Israeli struggle for co-existence with justice. ●The World Association for Christian Communication requests support for the Interchurch Media Programme in South Africa. ●A missionary family is forced to leave their work in a Central American country because of their honest pleas voiced on behalf of the rights of human beings. ●The burden of debt throughout the developing world comes into sharp focus in the erosion of salary support for pastors and their families and for urgent programs of partner churches. ●A delegation of representatives from independent churches in Africa opens the door to a new range of continental learnings and relationships. ●A change of government in Korea introduces a possibility for dialogue between North and South, with the Korean Council of Churches taking leadership in Christian relations. ●A door opens in one place and a missionary is sent (Mozambique, for example); in another a doorway narrows and a visa is denied (India, for example). ●The Women's Resource and Outreach Center calls for help on behalf of marginalized women in Jamaica. And we could go on.

Our Goals Are Our Priorities

The four program priorities of the World Division—Ministries of Calling to Discipleship, of Leadership Development, of Human Freedom and Justice, of International Understanding and Action—do not appear in this report. It is not that the division believes the priorities have been completed. Rather, this past year has seen the division organize and express its work around its goals: (1) *Witness to the Gospel for Initial Decision to Follow Jesus Christ*; (2) *Strengthen, Develop and Renew Christian Congregations and Communities*; (3) *Alleviate Human Suffering*; and (4) *Seek Justice, Freedom and Peace*. These goals are the rallying centers for the work of the World Division.

During the year, time was spent refining the

strategies and programs by which the goals will be served. Within the goals, special emphases continue.



A new missionary is commissioned during the Spring 1988 Board meeting.



A women's sewing group in Kanagal, India

Key Program Areas

Ministries with Women and Children: In January, the All India Christian Women's Council launched two consultations on the Ecumenical Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women. In Madras and New Delhi, Methodist women participated in the gatherings and assumed leadership for the development of a ten-year plan. Throughout the conferences of the Methodist Church in India emphasis will be given to (1) the empowerment of women for full participation in the whole mission of the church, and (2) the building of networks and exchanges through which women's groups can strengthen each other.

In the Philippines, the United Methodist Women of Mindanao have developed a successful training program for young women evangelists who work throughout the vast area of this southern island. The work of the evangelists is helping to empower the outreach of the church. Women of the Philippines are also deeply

concerned with the growth in numbers of street children. The church's social center, the Kapatiran Kaunlaran, together with Harris Memorial College, the YWCA and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, developed an advocacy coalition to deal with the root causes. Long- and short-range action plans have been designed concerning rights and justice for street children.

Women in Curacao in the Caribbean have developed a new ecumenical decade study/action program under the theme "Understanding My Spirituality as a Woman," based on biblical literature. A consultation of educators stressed the needs of basic primary and secondary education for girls and women, and the development of an ecumenical center, offering training in appropriate technology and practical skills to enable women to improve their economic status.

In Egypt, the energies of Christian women are focused on the work of the Geriatric Home and Study Center, an ecumenical organization dedicated to the concerns of older persons. Resources from the Women's Division's study on older women, in part, helped the center become a world model for geriatric planning.

New Outreach in Mission Evangelism: The World Division strives to respond in new and innovative as well as in time-tested ways to the challenge of outreach in mission evangelism. The division is reaching out to (1) areas where there is no Christian witness, (2) areas where there is no existing United Methodist church, but where there is the presence of UMCOR and/or ecumenical partners, (3) areas where partner churches need support with initiating or enabling new work, and (4) ministries to and with groups of persons with special needs.

Senegal, which is approximately 95 percent Muslim and has a small Protestant population, is emerging as an area of new mission engagement, as is the East Malaysian state of Sabah. The Protestant Methodist Church of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) is seeking new relationships in mission; in 1988 the division assisted this church in ministries of evangelistic outreach to marginalized Ghanaians in the port area of Abidjan, in the support of women evangelists in

training, and in securing essential books for use in theological education.

Expanding Dimensions in the Missionary Personnel Program: At the October Annual Meeting of the General Board of Global Ministries, the World Division celebrated its support of a missionary community of some 1,208 persons including 552 missionaries directly accountable to the World Division, 171 missionaries recruited and sent or assigned by colleague churches under World Division support, and 485 persons in special, short-term international experiences.

Other developments call for celebration. In commissioning a group of 60 persons in the summer of 1988, the division sent into mission the largest company in recent years. Further, and limited only by the funds with which the division has to work, the challenge has been placed before the Mission Personnel Resources Program Department to recruit persons for no less than 90 new calls for missionaries from the United States.

The World Division is seeking to lead the church in celebrating another growing dimension of the personnel program. Almost daily requests come from partner churches for help in the support of missionaries they have recruited and prepared for special ministries in their home countries or in response to calls to them from churches in other lands. This points to the increasingly international shape of the mission personnel program today.

In the arena of its personnel program, the World Division calls the church to celebrate another fact of our time. The Spirit is placing in the ears of partner churches a growing sense of mission calling to the "mother" church and to the United States. In 1989, for example, Ezekiel and Ella Makunike, from The United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, will come to the United States to share their remarkable gifts in interpretation and writing to enrich our understanding of the gospel and the mission to which it calls us.



Senegal is an area of new outreach in mission evangelism.



New church construction through Africa Church Growth and Development in Maputo, Mozambique

Partner Churches in Crisis: There is both good news and bad news in the program of emergency assistance for partner churches overwhelmed by the international debt crisis. The good news is that since the inception of the three-year \$15,000,000 program in 1986, \$5,750,400 has gone to provide emergency pastoral support, critical outreach program assistance, urgent medicines and hospital supplies, bedrock building repair and rehabilitation help, seminary faculty aid, and support for developmental programs. The bad news is that in response to the \$9,000,000 Bishops' Appeal, which is part of the \$15,000,000 program, only \$1,300,000, approximately, has been given to date.

Ecumenical Relations: The church must be prepared for both new opportunities and new and changing challenges in the arena of ecumenical relations, nationally and internationally. In 1988 energies and financial assistance were directed toward preparations for the 1989 Assembly of the Commission on World Evangelism of the World Council of Churches. The assembly will be held in San Antonio in May 1989 under the theme, "Your Will Be Done: Mission in Christ's Way." The World Division and Women's Division worked together to provide resources for ensuring a strong presence of delegates from the developing world,

particularly the presence of women.

In the United States, a serious internal organizational struggle continues within the National Council of Churches of Christ as the council seeks to define and embody a form effective for mission in the years ahead.

Africa Church Growth and Development: ACG&D continues in the new quadrennium to be a significant emphasis. Through a World Service grant by the General Board of Global Ministries, the entire church participates in ACG&D. Beyond this, however, the major funding comes through the Advance.

A report of the Executive Committee, held in Harare, Zimbabwe, August 1-5, 1988, indicates that 33 projects were approved in that session for a total of \$540,000. The projects included scholarships for 20 students, eight of whom are women. Ten church development projects were funded. One of the churches, Ozane in Zaire, is located in an area where three new annual conferences have been developed since the inception of the ACG&D program. An additional \$189,000 was directed toward programs in evangelism and outreach.

Illustrative of the ACG&D program's activities in response to hunger and malnutrition is the pig, poultry, and goat project supported through the agricultural school at Nyadiri, Zimbabwe. Its

goal is to foster self-reliance in the feeding of students and to provide practical education in food production.

Presently, 47 programs from 13 annual conferences remain before the ACG&D committee.

Stewardship Responsibility

A heavy stewardship responsibility is carried by the directors and staff of the World Division. The comprehensive budget for the 1985-1988 quadrennium totalled \$100,777,858. Almost 23 percent of this amount was received from the Women's Division through appropriation grants from Pledge to Mission (\$19,660,063) and through designated funds (\$3,163,625).

Of the total budget for the four years, \$46,219,519, or 45.86 percent, supported the Missionary Personnel program. Programs of or with colleague churches and ecumenical partners received \$41,501,490, or 41.18 percent of the resources. Overseas liaison required \$9,553,980 or 9.48 percent. Administration received \$3,378,275, or 3.35 percent.

It is significant to note the place of undesignated, in comparison to designated, funds. Undesignated funds, free to be used across the program of the World Division, constituted \$41,423,744, or 41.11 percent of the programmatic resources. Designated funds, including Advance Specials for projects and personnel, constituted \$59,345,084, or 58.89 percent of the resources. It is clear that the division must learn to work effectively with increasing ratios of designated resources.

Staff Changes

Although particular staff names are not usually lifted up in the annual report, there are some which call for special recognition as the year 1988 is reviewed. First, Dr. Peggy Billings completed six years as the deputy general secretary of the World Division. Her contribution was outstanding. Her richness of mind and spirit and her equanimity under the pressures that are a part of mission administration in today's world will be missed.

This is also the year in which Mrs. Rose Catchings completes 22 years as creator and administrator of the World Division's program of Ministries with Women and Children. Mrs. Catchings is transferring her portfolio to Ms. Elizabeth Calvin, who will come to the division in January 1989 from the Women's Division, where she was the assistant general secretary, Section of Mission and Membership Development.

Our Calling Is to Be Faithful

The division enters a new quadrennium in the global mission outreach and relationships of the church mindful that, although the shape and challenges of mission are changing in complexity and intensity, it is God's mission, in God's world. God has a plan for creation. Christ goes before us. Our calling is to be faithful.

Mission Education and Cultivation Program Department



(left) Women at a Seminole Reseroation, visited during the "Faces of Poverty" travel study seminar.

(right) A teacher conducts a young adult Sunday school class at Iglesia Metodista San Pablo in Puerto Rico.

Each of us seeks the larger purpose for our lives, to understand our part in God's larger plan. Esther must have wondered why she, a lowly orphan, was raised to a position of power and glory as queen of Persia. In the closing year of the quadrennium, the staff in Mission Education and Cultivation (MEC) often experienced a sense of wonderment at God's initiative in our own lives and in the lives of missionaries throughout the world. The task of interpreting, educating and cultivating funding for the mission work of the church enables us to catch a glimpse of God's purpose for the world.

Administrative Services

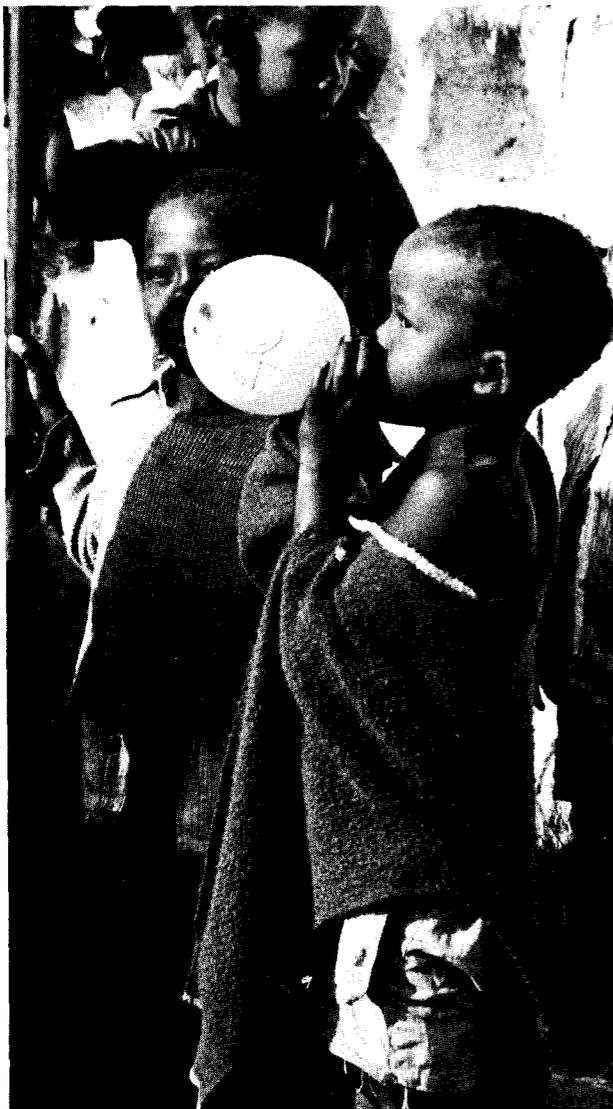
The newly created Administrative Services section is responsible for overseeing the achievement of the goals of the Board through interpretation, education, and cultivation. Two major accomplishments in this area relate to staff liaisons. The coordinating function of the section

includes a basic adult education program of travel seminars and the holistic communications work done by liaisons with each unit of the Board.

The travel/study seminars are programs planned to take place in the United States and in other countries. Two such programs, one for seminarians and one for general participation, have exposed adults to mission projects throughout the world. The goals of the seminars are to educate, raise the consciousness level of adults for mission and provide first-hand exposure to General Board of Global Ministries-sponsored projects in the United States and throughout the world. A visitation to the Philippines is planned for early 1989 in preparation for the upcoming mission study.

The creation of the liaison/team management concept for holistic communications grew out of a necessity to budget time and money to continue meeting the ever-increasing needs for interpretation and cultivation for the Board. The model was drawn directly from the working relationship that MEC has developed over many years with the Women's Division as reflected in the work of the Committee on Resources.

Each of the other divisions or departments of the Board now has a liaison assigned from MEC and a team created out of MEC personnel who represent a cross-section of the department. This team will meet with the planners from each program division or department as they look at their priorities for the coming years and begin to devise strategies for interpretation and for campaigns to achieve the desired goals. The team will then be responsible for making the appropriate suggestions for specific means of interpretation, education and cultivation.



Mission development with children in Mozambique

Mission Development

The Mission Development section celebrates its work over the past year. The section has put into place a comprehensive plan for developing mission education materials and expanding its mission education program.

MEC hopes to reach children in the pews with mission education stories that will provide them with a foundation for understanding the place of mission in a Christ-dedicated life. The section completed the first draft of a storybook about mission work in Africa. The book will focus on stories that help children relate to the work of Christ on another continent. Also being considered is a children's prayer calendar.

One of the most exciting ventures in mission education is the new "comprehensive mission education plan" that focuses on creating a close-knit team of four-to-six people in each annual conference who will be responsible for the interpretation and education of mission in that area. Staff will work with each team separately so that resources can be developed with each team in a primary fashion and services tailor-made to the area's needs. The intent of the plan is to provide resources for training local church personnel and to infuse the local church with an understanding of mission that is at one time global in nature and local in spirit.

Another cause for celebration in the Mission Development section is the success of the Current and Deferred Giving program. This Board-sponsored program gives financial planning services to United Methodists throughout the United States and provides opportunity for informed mission giving. The gifts come in the form of trusts, gifts to the Pooled Income Fund, bequests and the residue of some estates.

Mission Resources

In 1987-88 the staff put heart and talent into hundreds of resources, each designed to

communicate a vital message about the work of the Board. Brochures, books, posters, advertisements, slide shows, videos, multimedia productions, displays and many other projects were completed, each planned to serve a particular audience within The United Methodist Church.

In Mission Resources, we have found particular joy in serving the Women's Division. Editing, designing and producing program resources for United Methodist Women is a significant portion of the work in this section. To develop program materials that touch the lives of more than a million women across the country links their spiritual journeys and ours.

In some Spanish-speaking units, we are told, the members bring a quarter to each meeting to accumulate the price of the program book for the next year to ensure that they may continue using these inspiring materials. To know that resources we create on behalf of the Women's Division are valued so highly reminds us that we are, indeed, in mission and that "for such work as this" we are part of the General Board of Global Ministries.

The 1988-89 program resources book, *Therefore, Rejoice*, came off press in 1988, and work began on the 1989-90 edition. These program resources are produced in Spanish as well. *Regocijao en el Senor* was published in 1988.

Other print programmatic resources include:

- four quadrennial handbooks for conference, district and local leaders
- *Ruth and Esther: Women in Alien Lands*, the annual spiritual growth study
- *Rut y Esther: Mujeres en Tierras Extranajeras* (Spanish translation of above)
- "Growing in Mission," membership cultivation resource packets
- a variety of brochures including one on "Hope and Wholeness for Children" and one on giving
- *My Date Book*
- "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" packets

Good promotion of resources is vital to United Methodist Women. For this purpose, the promotion unit develops fliers on the resources for distribution in a variety of ways. One effective means of promotion is the inclusion of fliers with orders distributed from the Service Center, which serves units all across the nation.

Eighty-five to ninety percent of the orders filled by the Service Center staff in Cincinnati are for United Methodist Women. More than ten million pieces are distributed annually with an error rate of one percent. Secretaries of Program Resources quickly learn the valuable service the Service Center provides. Also, the Service Center maintains several mailing lists for use by the Women's Division. This service enables the



Susan Keirn Kester at the MECPD display, N.O.T.E.

communication networks developed by Women's Division and United Methodist Women to be maintained.

MEC produces audiovisual resources as well. In 1988, these included three teaching videos for Women's Division: one on the new membership campaign, one on the work of the Planning Team for Regional Schools of Christian Mission, and one on financial giving.

Work also was completed on a video for use with the 1989 study on the Philippines for Friendship Press. This is the first time a video supplement has been produced by Mission Resources and Friendship Press for the annual mission studies for general distribution with the study.

Photographic services continue to supply all publications for United Methodist Women with a wide variety of pictures and slides. These range from coverage of major meetings to on-site records of mission work.

Celebrating 20 years of publication, *Response* magazine completed a redesign which includes more color, new graphics, and a more contemporary format. Birthday celebrations were held across the nation in honor of the magazine. A fall subscription campaign was launched with the appropriate theme of "Vote Response," complete with buttons, posters and pencils.

Special issues of *Response* featured the study topics for the Schools of Christian Mission. In June the issue focused on South Africa, beginning with a "Challenge to United Methodist Women" suggesting actions that may be taken by United Methodist Women. In July-August the focus was "Faces of Poverty in Our Midst."

Response continues to be recognized for excellence in content and format. In 1988 the magazine won an award from the Religious Public Relations Council for overall excellence and the UMAC (United Methodist Association of Communicators) award for an outstanding magazine.

The annual Mission Fair at the New Officer Training Event is always a joy to provide. The comprehensive display interprets the program of the Board supported through the Pledge to Mission and shares the multitude and variety of

materials available to United Methodist Women. The fair provides an opportunity for new officers to interact with many of the staff producing their materials as well as with staff from all units of the Board.

New World Outlook magazine featured a variety of mission topics in 1988 including a special section in May on Mission Evangelism, the Board's new thrust, a four-part series on Christians in Southeast Asia, and the mission study themes. New ground was broken with the September issue which focused on South Africa: major South African journalists and theologians were engaged to write articles for the magazine.

The magazine also continues to win awards for excellence in publication. In 1988 the staff received awards from the Associated Church Press and UMAC.



Artwork for the cover of the South Africa issue of *New World Outlook*

A reevaluation of *New World Outlook* began toward the end of 1988. Prompted by a budget crunch stemming from rapidly increasing costs but slowly increasing circulation, a design team was created to consider possibilities in format and content. Recommendations for 1990 and beyond will be determined by the design team. In the meantime, the magazine will publish six bimonthly issues in 1989, keeping within budget.

Every working unit in Mission Resources participates in developing resources to serve the needs of the United Methodist Women. Our purpose is fulfilled when the resources communicate effectively the mission and witness of the organization.

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| Recording Secretary | Kay D. Buescher |
| Vice President and Chairperson — Section of Christian Social Relations | Ressie Mae Bass |
| Vice President and Chairperson — Section of Finance | Thalia F. Matherson |
| Vice President and Chairperson — Section of Mission and Membership Development | Janie M. Sims |

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For Such a Time as This

Suggested Uses

This report of the Women's Division's activities for 1988 is a basic resource for all local units and is supplementary to the *Constitution and Bylaws* and the *Handbook: Focus on Local Units*. It will help you in the following ways:

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

- for personal reading
- ideas for a variety of ways to be in mission
- to enlarge your bank of examples to use in talks
- to increase excitement about your own involvement

PROGRAMMING

- for new units
- for sub-groups such as circles
- book review in church newsletter
- for the total unit
- for pledge services, general programs
- "mission minute" presentations
- leadership tool for elected leaders

UPDATING AND PERSONALIZING INFORMATION

- United Methodist Women's involvement in mission
- report of finances of United Methodist Women
- setting mission/financial/prayer priorities

INTERPRETING UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

- give to new members
 - give to pastor(s)
 - give to spouse
 - make part of the church library
 - keep a copy on your coffee table
-

Prepared for the **Women's Division**
by the **Mission Education and Cultivation Program Department**
General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church

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