



Mission Voice

of the MO Conference
United Methodist Women

December 2011

Inside This Issue

Mabel's Muse	2
Talent Bank	2
Art Work	2
Legislative Event Registration	3
2012 Mai Gray	4-5
Counting Members	6
Treasurer	6
Mission Today Info	6
Don't Forget	6
2011 Mission Today Short Reporting Form	7
Green Team	8
Mission Walk 2012	9

Crying for Justice!



Domestic Abuse

Taxation

Human Trafficking

Legislative Training Event March 6-7, 2012

The Legislative Training Event in March 2012 will prove to be enlightening and informational. The entire event will take place at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, MO. The event starts on March 6 between 8:45-11:30 with the first workshop taking place around 9:45 a.m. A more complete schedule will be in the February Mission Voice. Please remember that your registration forms are due by January 27, 2012. The registration form is included in this edition of the Mission Voice.

We will have several interesting issue forums that range from Taxation to Human Trafficking to Mental health/homelessness to Green Team. Ernie Edelman will be the keynote speaker and we will have the Shalom House Women presentation as well.

Please make sure to make your hotel reservations by contacting the hotel yourself. Do not forget to call your legislators to invite them personally to the Legislative Event Breakfast on March 7, 2011; where we will be starting breakfast between 6:30-7:00 a.m. We will be seated by Senatorial districts, so please make sure you know your district number.

The Mission Voice is a bi-monthly publication of the MO Conference UMW. The paper subscription rate is \$5 for the year. To update your address or to subscribe, contact Katie Willis, Editor at:

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Visit online at:
www.moumethodist.org/umw



Mabel's Muse
~Mabel Unser



We need more Talent!
~Chris Hopkins

As I write this, my thoughts are turning to the days ahead. Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas just around the corner. Each of these special occasions give us time to remember how blessed we truly are. Time to gather with family and friends. Time to reach out to others who might not have the blessings that we share. We are called to open our hearts as we remember the gifts that we have been given.

As United Methodist Women we are called to mission and to share with women, children and youth wherever they might be. In today's world we can look within our own neighborhoods and see many in need. We look across the oceans and the needs are great. Our giving for missions is what we are about.

May God Bless each one of you as you enjoy the experiences of the holiday season remembering that our special gift was given to us on Christmas day.

When we read an article or a book, it can change our life. We may feel so empowered by our new insights that we decide to go out and be who we are without fear--to boldly show our true self to the world. And make no apologies!

Opening up to new possibilities through insight and inspiration and actually being able to translate them into action and experience is why we need you!

Please fill out a current Talent Bank for future use of the Missouri Conference so we can better match you in service of Mission.

Thank You.



West Gulf Regional School of Christian Mission
Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries
The United Methodist Church
ENTRY FORM FOR PROGRAM BOOK ART

Each Conference may ask artists in their area to create a logo which may be used in the Schools of Mission for the year 2012.

- 1.) The logo design is to illustrate the artist's conception of the current theme.
- 2.) The logo must be submitted on 8.5" x 11" white paper, copy ready.
- 3.) All logos are to be submitted in black and white, and if possible in color.
- 4.) A brief statement. Fifty (50) words or less, explaining the drawing must accompany the submitted art. Back of the form must be used to write the statement.
- 5.) Copyright authorization must be completed on form below.

The West Gulf Regional Planning Team will select one of the submitted logos to be used on the cover of the Regional School Program Book. It may also be used on a banner, other display and/or in a power point presentation. Submitted artwork not selected for the cover may be used in other ways.

2012 Theme: "That All May Have Life"

John 10:10 "I came that they many have life and have it abundantly."

The form below must be completed by the artist and submitted along with the logo design. Designs and forms are to be sent to Carolyn Celestine, 9529 Outlook Drive, Overland Park, KS 66207, Conference representative to the Regional School Planning Team by January 31, 2012.

Example statement submitted by artist: Seeking Shalom is seeking peace. The bird symbolizes peace and the hands symbolize God releasing peace up to all who would accept. If it were possible for one to rewind a moment in time like we rewind a video-tape, one could see God releasing the "Dove of Peace," and its flight to those who would accept. In accepting this peace from God, we can then share the "Shalom," with others we come in contact with.

Name of Artist(s): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Conference: _____ Church: _____

E-mail address: _____ Permission to use artwork is given with the signature of the artist below:

Artist Signature:

REGISTRATION FORM MISSOURI LEGISLATIVE TRAINING EVENT – MARCH 6 and 7, 2012

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel 415 W. McCarty St. Jefferson City, MO

Hotel Reservation: You must call and reserve your room by January 31, 2012. You will need to provide the names of your roommates at that time. The toll free number is 1-800-338-8088 or 1-573-635-1234. Our block of rooms will not be held past January 31, 2012. Just tell the hotel that you are coming for the United Methodist Women’s Legislative Event. A limited number of handicapped accessible rooms are available upon request. You will pay for your own room, but if you bring a check from your church along with its tax-exempt letter, you will not be charged sales tax. You will be asked to provide a credit card to hold your room when you make your reservations.

Room rates w/ tax included (women per room): 1--\$105.00 2--\$52.50 3--\$35.00 4--\$26.25

This registration form with applicable payment must be postmarked no later than January 27, 2012 or a late fee will need to be included with payment. Anyone registering after February 26 will need to register on the day of the event.

Name (Please print): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____ UMW District: _____

We will invite all State Senators and Representatives to be our guest at breakfast. List yours below:

State Senator _____ DISTRICT # _____

State Representative _____ DISTRICT# _____

Please contact your representative and senator to let them know that you are attending the United Methodist Women Legislative Training Event March 6-7, 2012 and would like to see them at breakfast at the Capitol Plaza Hotel on March 7 between 6:30-7:00 a.m.

Special Diets will not be available.

INDICATE CHOICE OF ISSUE FORUMS

- 1. Homeless shelters/Mental Illness/Addiction
- 2. Foster care legislation
- 3. Taxation Justice
- 4. Green Team
- 5. National Seminar

1st CHOICE # _____ 2nd CHOICE # _____ 3rd CHOICE # _____

Workshops:

Will be attended by all during the morning

Hot Topics by Faye Abrams and Rhonda Chalfant.

How to Talk to your Senator or Representative by Lenette Bolnick

Keynote Speaker will be Ernie Edelman. After dinner activities will include a presentation by The Shalom House Women.

EVENT COSTS:	Registration Fee	\$50.00	_____
	LATE FEE (After Jan. 27)	\$10.00	_____
	Tuesday LUNCH	\$ 8.00	_____
	Tuesday DINNER	\$14.00	_____
	Wednesday BREAKFAST	\$17.00 with Legislators	_____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

Make checks payable to MO Conference UMW.

Send this registration form and payment to: Linda Jackson, Registrar
10923 Myrtle Avenue, Kansas City, MO 64137

**2012 CRITERIA FOR
THE MAI GRAY
CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB**

Become a member of "The Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice Club" by completing any four (4) of the following action steps and documenting how your unit fulfilled the requirements to your District President by December 31, 2012

1. Celebrate diversity by respecting the traditions of different groups, attending holiday festivities of a culture other than your own and/or recreating elements of such festivities in local meetings or events. Examples of traditional holidays are:

Kwanza (African American)	Tet (Vietnamese)
Cinco de Mayo (Mexican)	Sol Day (Korean)
Hanukah (Jewish)	Oktoberfest (German)
Kodomo-No-Hi (Japanese)	Polski (Polish)
Odwira (West Africa)	

2. View one of the videos listed below and have a group discussion of the video at a UMW unit or circle meeting. Determine some specifics of how you can advocate for an interracial/multicultural church, work to eliminate racism and/or to combat hate crimes. Include the following reflections/questions:

What is racism? What are the blessings and costs of differences?

What lessons have you learned about interacting with people who are different from you?

- A. **Not in Our Town**, video (1995, 30 minutes, Color). This is the inspiring story of the people of Billings, Montana who joined together to stand up for Jewish, Native American and African American neighbors who were under attack by white supremacists. In response to a series of hate crimes, the community is moved to action. This video may be ordered from the Video and Film Lending Library of the American Friends Service Committee. You may order the video online at www.afsc.org or email Paul Shannon at ps Shannon@afsc.org or call 617-497-5273. For persons leading/facilitating discussion of the Not in Our Town video, the mission resource "**When Hate Comes to Town: A Handbook of Effective Community Responses, 3rd Edition**" is an excellent companion guide for combating racism and intolerance with action plans (Order # 1412, Price \$10.00). Order from Community and Institutional Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1518, New York, NY 10115.
- B. **Communities of Shalom: Where, Why, How**, video (13 minutes, Order # 2960, Price \$12.00). An introduction to Communities of Shalom in the U.S. and Africa. The focus is on building a multicultural church and community partnerships. Also available from Community and Institutional Ministries. See address above.

3. Affirm and support each other's efforts to take advantage of books and information, training events, colleges and community activities and other educational opportunities on inclusiveness, justice, and social action. Report on such activities to the unit.
4. Select one of the following culture-specific books and identify members of your UMW unit who will commit to have it read by a specific date for a group discussion of the book at a UMW unit or circle meeting. These books are from the UMW Reading Program:
 - A. A CREDIBLE WITNESS, Brenda Salter McNeil, IVP Books 2008.
 - B. Can we Talk About Race?, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Beacon Press, 2008
 - C. GETTING TO THE HEART OF INTERFATITH, Ted Falcon, Don Mackenzie and Jamal Rahman, Skylight Paths Publishing, 2009.
 - D. SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME, Ron Hall and Denver Moore, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2008.
 - E. THE NEW JIM CROW, Michelle Alexander, The New Press, 2010.
 - F. COLOR-BLIND, Tim Wise, City Lights Books, 2010.
 - G. THE DEATH OF JOSSELINE, Margaret Regan, Beacon Press, 2010.
5. Plan a joint unit or circle meeting with a unit/circle of a different racial background and use the October 2011 *Response* magazine article titled, "Criminalization of Communities of Color." Using the article, discuss and plan a spiritual growth or social action activity. Pre-order enough copies of the October issue to ensure all participants have their own copy.
6. Develop a cultural exchange for opportunities to increase our awareness of ethnic groups, gifts and graces.

One of the easiest ways to accomplish this is to use the Prayer Calendar. Pen pals may be found for members of your unit or choose one missionary to contact regularly during the year, and study that country or area.

Choose a mission site in your area to visit or contact to see if you could do an ingathering of needs specific to the ethnicity of their clients.

Look for opportunities to visit other cultures in your area - an ethnic church, a festival or musical event by a culture other than your own.
7. Be involved in putting an end to unfair and abusive conditions of Mexican workers in Missouri poultry plants.

Participate in a letter writing campaign to state and national elected officials; to retailers across the state that sell products from these chicken packing plants; and to union officials. (Several plants are located in Monett, Missouri.)

Present an informational/action-orientated program in the local unit.

Contact our UMC, GBGM, and Missouri Conference Missionaries to the Hispanic Ministry, Fausto and Alma Villagrana, 310 Fourth Street, Monett, MO 65708, (417)236-0254 home, (417)235-7446 office, to advocate in the local community.

8. Hold a postcard-writing session within the local unit to contact Legislators with regard to issues as determined by the Social Action Coordinator of the Conference. Contact your District Social Action Coordinator for "how to's" and timely "issues."
9. Send one member of the local unit to attend the workshop on the Charter for Racial Justice at the Legislative Training Event and have her present a report to the local unit. Involve your unit in the activities at the workshop.
10. Present a program on equal education, housing, employment, and/or medical care. Have the group discuss how the issue is affected by race in your area.
11. Develop and/or implement a worship program to be used by the local unit promoting cultural worship style, music and praise.
12. Monitor the decision-making process, meetings and programs of your unit to ensure inclusiveness and to advocate for the needs and concerns of the racial and ethnic minority members.

Once your unit has met the requirements and becomes a member of the "Club", you must maintain your membership by completing one additional requirement annually. This should also be reported to your District President.

If at any time there is a lapse in meeting an additional requirement annually, the unit must again complete four requirements to re-achieve membership.

CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE.

This club was established in 1998 by the Missouri West Conference United Methodist Women in an effort to promote the study of and implementation of the Charter for Racial Justice Policies. The Club was named to honor a prominent United Methodist Woman in the Missouri West Conference. With her permission and blessing, the club was called "The Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice Club".

Mai Evelyn Hutson Gray, a native of Jackson, Tennessee, graduated from Merry High School and Lane College in Jackson, Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, and the University of Mis-

souri at Kansas City. She was a member of the "Committee of 24" that proposed the organizational structure for United Methodist Women in 1972. She was elected a member of the Women's Division in 1972 and from 1976 to 1980 served as the Division's first black president. She was a trustee of Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO, represented the United Methodist Church at the British Methodist Conference, was invited to the Consultation on Salt II for religious leaders at the White House and participated in a development-education study in China and India. She was a member of the Church Women United Executive Council (1980-84) and the World Methodist Council Executive Committee (1981-86), an alternate delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in 1983, and a delegate to the 1984 United Methodist General Conference at which she presented a portion of the Lay Address.

Her honors include the establishment of the Mai Gray Education Grant to women and children in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, a gift of the Women's Division in honor of her presidency, and the Centime Poinsettia Clark Award.

Mai passed away shortly after the 2010 Assembly in St. Louis.

Mission Voice Subscriptions are Due! ~Katie Willis

If you would like to continue receiving the Mission Voice next year, please contact Katie Willis to renew or start a new subscription.

Please send a check for \$5.00, made out to Missouri Conference UMW for each yearly subscription you want and your address to Katie Willis, 1568 Hwy J, Wright City, MO 63390.

E-mail: mrskatiebugs78@centurylink.net

Phone 636-262-7324

Limitless! Redefined Tomorrow!

Next year on August 2-5, 2012 there will be a Youth Conference put on by the Women's Division Staff in Durham, North Carolina. This conference is for 18-39 years old. Please put this on your calendars for next year. This event will promote the younger groups in your units and districts to become excited about UMW. More information will be available in the coming months.



Counting your Members! ~Alexis Robinson

For 2011 the Membership Counting forms have been revised (as many requests were made to Women's Division to simplify the forms).

The forms are available in both Microsoft Excel and PDF formats. The Excel forms can be completed on your computer, then printed and mailed or faxed to:

Women's Division

475 Riverside Drive Room 1501

New York, NY 10115

Phone: 212-870-3736 Fax: 212-870-3726

E-mail: mrodrig@unitedmethodistwomen.org

(For those that do not have Excel, please print out the PDF from and complete manually).

January 30, 2012 is the deadline the local membership census forms to the District M, N and O or the District President.

March 15, 2012 is the deadline for District M, N and O or District President to send the worksheets for District Leader to the Conference M, N and O or the Conference President.

Copies of the forms are available on the following websites:

1. Missouri Conference Website: www.momethodist.org/umw
2. Women's Division: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org
Search "Counting Membership for 2011" (*Not available at the time of printing*).
3. At the bottom of this article is an example of what info needs included in the Excel format or even your own form via Word.

If you have any questions, call mail or e-mail, Alexis Robinson, Missouri Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

8719 Santa Bella Drive

Hazelwood, MO 63042-2917

Telephone: 314-521-7891 E-mail: alwirob@yahoo.com

Happy Holidays Everyone!

Example of info to be included in the Membership Worksheet for District Leader:

Conference Name

District Name

Reports by

Position

Contact info (Phone/Email)

The column titles should state the following:

Column 1: Name of Local UMW Unit

Column 2: Number of Members 1-1-11

Column 3: Number of New Members

Column 4: Number of members lost by death or other reasons

Column 5: Total members as of 12-31-11

Totals should be done for each column. If you use Excel you can use formulas to total it automatically.

Send copies by March 15, 2012 to Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach or President.

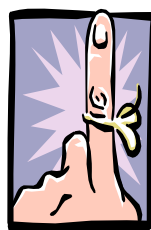
The Sharing of God Gifts ~Carolyn Celestine



In the story in Matthew 14:13-21, Jesus fed 5,000 men, plus women and children with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. A miracle? Yes. Jesus gave the 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish to the disciples. They ate and were satisfied. And then they picked up the broken pieces that were left and distributed it to the 5 thousand. I believe that

each person that received a piece of bread shared with someone else, and so on and so forth. This is a story of the sharing of God's gifts. Giving individually to a project is wonderful. But when you combine your contribution with 7,000 other persons, it can make a powerful impact not just on one person or project but on many people and many projects.

Please consider increasing your monthly or annual giving by just \$1 and watch the miracle happen. Your unit will make its pledge, your district will make its pledge, the conference will make its pledge and ultimately those gifts will help women, children and youth around the world. "The 'feeding' of more than five thousand." A Miracle.



Don't Forget!
Dec 31 2011 Mai Gray and Mission Today
Due

Jan 10 Deadline: Mission Voice Articles
March 6-7 Legislative Event

Mission Today Reports ~Gail Davis

2011 MISSION TODAY REPORTS

Local unit Mission Today Reports should be sent to your district Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation by December 31, 2011. Please do not use any form revised prior to January 2011. The correct forms are available on the MO Conference UMW web site or from your district E & I Coordinator.

The Mission Today criteria for 2012 will be published in the February Mission Voice and on-line. The criteria will be the same as this year with one exception. Item #17 about being a "green" unit is being rewritten to provide clarification and guidance.

**MISSOURI CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
MISSION TODAY CRITERIA FOR 2011**

(To be completed by **ALL** units even if not completing the requirements for a Mission Today Unit.)

1. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice. After establishing the "club" membership, the Unit must complete a different requirement each year.

Additional Requirement # _____ was completed this year.
2. Use at least (2) programs from the current program book during the year.
3. Participate in the "Call to Prayer and Self Denial" program and offering.
4. Make and meet Pledge to Mission.
5. Local unit will be a 5-Star Unit.
6. \$25 for Ribbon/corsage program.
7. Candle burning or Mission Minute Certificate.
8. At least two (2) members subscribe to RESPONSE.
9. At least two people complete one of the Reading Program Plans and report on one of the books read:
Plan I ___ Plan II ___ Plan III ___
Plan IV ___ EORO ___
10. "Response Moment" at each meeting.
11. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting.
12. Write to at least five (5) persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least twice a year.
13. Participate in a Prayer Partner Program.
14. Plan or participate in a Spiritual Growth Retreat.
15. Sponsor/send at least one (1) person to the Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
16. Conduct/attend at least one (1) Mission Study OR Have at least 10% of the local Unit membership participate in a District Mission study
17. Make a pledge to care for God's creation and become a "Green" United Methodist Women unit. More info at www.umwonline.org
18. Sponsor a young woman to attend the Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
19. Obtain information, visit, or invite a representative from one

of the National Mission Institution Agencies to present a program about their Agency. Unit had/or made a presentation about _____ (Agency name) on _____ (date).

20. At least one (1) person join the United Methodist Women's Action Network & respond to Legislative information at least three (3) times a year.
21. Invite a State Representative and/or State Senator (or their representative) to a local Unit meeting.
22. One (1) person shall attend The Legislative Event and contact their Senator and/or Representative.
23. Initiate or continue one study of the UMW Christian Social Responsibility Campaign Issues.
24. Sponsor at least one person and/or teen to attend the Conference Annual Meeting and at least two members of the local Unit to attend a District event.
25. Co-sponsor a Children's Sabbath.
26. Add at least two (2) new members.
27. Observe UMW Sunday.
28. Sponsor a woman to attend one or more of the Conference sponsored Retreats.
29. Sponsor a teen to attend one or more of the Conference Sponsored Retreats.
30. Start a new circle/UMW group.
31. Nominate one (1) member for the District Woman in Mission of the Year
32. Invite a District or Conference officer to one of the Unit meetings during the year.
33. The local unit will have one member join the MO Conference UMW email group, Mission-Online-of-MO-UMW. Instructions for joining can be found at: www.moumethodist.org/umwemail
34. The local unit will have one member with e-mail access be the point of contact for their unit (and will notify the District Secretary with contact information).

Please return this form to your District Education & Interpretation Coordinator so we will have this membership information. Thank you.

Additional Information:

Total membership on 1/1/2011 _____

Total membership on 12/31/2011 _____

Submit the report to the District Education and Interpretation Coordinator by **1/15/2012**.

Walking for Mission!
~Dixie Stone

The theme for the 6th Annual Mission Walk is, "Walk with Wholeness," the same as our 2012 Program Book. Walk with wholeness and put Faith, Hope and Love in Action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

What a great sight it is as you walk with others (a sea of the same colored shirts), all walking for the same purpose, to promote the work of mission. Hopefully all units will make it a goal to either walk or have someone walk for them. The 6th annual walk will be at the Annual Conference in Springfield in June. If you cannot be there, send your \$20 and ask your pastor or lay member to Annual Conference to walk for your unit. We will have a list of those units who have sent money and your walker can pick up the t-shirt at the UMW booth. If you have not sent the money, then they can sign up there at the booth. Please support this worthy cause as it goes to Mission Giving.

Save the World by Being Green
~Verlee Gilkerson

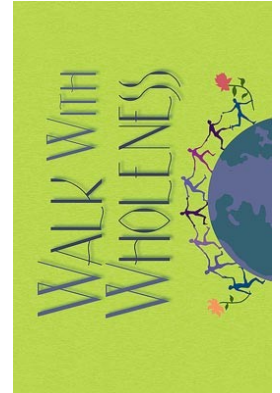
I have been appointed by the MO Conference UMW President to assist with the task of making us a "Green," Conference. I would love to come and make a presentation to your unit or District on how to be "Green." The presentations will help qualify your unit for some items on the 2012 Mission Today that will be seen in the next edition of the Mission Voice.
Contact Info: Cell 816-507-8673 vdgilkerson@yahoo.com

**WALK WITH WHOLENESS
UNIT MISSION WALKER**

**Yes our unit, _____ from the _____ District is being
God's Feet for Mission and wants to be a unit Mission walker.**

Even though we will not be able to attend, enclosed is our registration fee for \$20 payable to MO Conference UMW

Since we want all of Missouri to be Walkers for Christ, we have included an extra donation of \$ _____.



Send this form and check to
Carolyn Celestine
9529 Outlook Drive
Overland Park, KS 66207

Return Service Requested

Katie Willis, Editor
1568 Highway J
Wright City, MO 63390

**The Mission Voice
of the Missouri Conference
United Methodist Women**