



February 2012

# Mission Voice

of the MO Conference  
United Methodist Women

## Inside This Issue

Mabel's Muse	2
Nominations	2
Legislative Training Schedule	2
Program Resources	3
Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice Club	4-5
South Central Jurisdiction	6
Green Team	6
Changes to Mission Today	6
Pictures Needed	6
Don't Forget	6
Mission Today Short Reporting Form	7
Mission Walker	8

The 2011 Missouri Conference UMW Legislative Event is Fast Approaching!

~Rachel Bachenberg, Past Social Action Chair  
~Theresa Dixson, Social Action Chair



## Crying for Justice!

- Domestic Abuse
- Taxation
- Human Trafficking

With all the debates on television during this election year makes me think about the Legislative Training Event coming up at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City. Once again, back by popular demand, "Hot Topics...What Legislation Bills are Steaming," presented by Rhonda Chalfant and "How to talk to your Legislator," presented by Lenette Bolnick. Please remember that everyone can at-

tend 2 Issue forums and the following Forums will be available: Our Keynote speaker will be Ernie Edelman whom will speak about Women's Abuse and our dinner program will include a presentation by the women of Shalom House that covers their life stories. This all hails to be a wonderful Legislative Training Event and please invite your legislators to come to the breakfast. We hope to see you there!

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Visit online at:  
[www.moumethodist.org/umw](http://www.moumethodist.org/umw)

### Issue Forums:

- Foster Care Legislation
- Green Team
- Homeless Shelter/Mental Illness Addiction
- National Seminar
- Taxation

### Presenters:

- Kevin Drollinger, Epworth
- Verlee Gilkerson, Conference Green Team
- Tammy Laws, Shalom House
- Alexis Robinson and Stephanie Greiner, MO Conference UMW
- Jeanette Mott Oxford

**Mabel's Muses**

-Mabel Unser, Conference UMW President

Blessings to all of you in this year 2012! I am looking forward to this year and all that it will bring as we do the work of United Methodist Women.

The calendar is filling up and I hope that you will be participating in some or all of the events. Please put these dates on your calendar as I hope to see as many of you there as possible

March 6-7 Legislative Training Event  
Crying for Justice

April 27-28 Spiritual Growth Retreat  
Rickman Center, Jefferson City

June 22-24 South Central Jurisdiction  
Quadrennial Meeting  
Abilene, Texas

July 26-29 Cooperative School of Christian Mission

Sept. 28-29 United Methodist Women Annual Meeting  
Arlington UMC, Bridgeton,  
Guest Speaker - Harriet Jane Olson

Nov. 2-3 District Officer Training  
Columbia, MO

WOW, what a time for learning and being a part of the wonderful fellowship of United Methodist Women. Come to be blessed and to feel the love and presence of God in your life. I look forward to seeing you at least one of these great events.



**Still Time to Register**

While the deadline for Legislative Event registration has come and gone, you can still get in the action! The minimal late

fee is worth the price for what you'll learn and experience at the Capitol. Debates, discussions of current topics, information, and escape from the win-

ter blahs can be yours. Join us March 6-7. Registration forms can be found online or contact Linda Jackson. ☺

**"C'mon! Give it a shot."**

-Chris Hopkins, Nominations Chair

The fear of not knowing how something will turn out is enough to make anyone say, "Forget it." Rather than dealing with a potential change head on, sometimes it's easier to ignore an opportunity and think someone else will take care of the future. When we are not sure we should get involved, it's tempting to think that, since nothing has changed in the past why get involved. Well **"C'mon! Give it a shot,"** you may be missing out on an opportunity to make a difference. Make sure your information is on a Talent Bank and has been turned it to one of the members on the Nominating Committee below. (See one of the Committee members or get the form off the UMW Website).

Nettie Cherrington; Bobbie Faulkner; Verlee Gilkerson; Nancy Mountain; Brenda Neumeyer; Judy Thomas; Lynda Moore Walker; Carolyn Williams and Chris Hopkins, Chair.

**Legislative Training Event Schedule**  
(All times subject to change. Pick up the final schedule at the Event).

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012**

- 6:30 Rise and Shine with Possible pool time
- 7:30-11:30 Registration
- 9:15-10:15 Workshop #1 Hot Topics.....  
What's Steaming?
- 10:30-11:30 Workshop #2 How to Talk to your Legislator
- 11:30-12:30 Repeat of both Workshops
- 1:00-1:30 Lunch
- 1:30-2:30 Opening Worship
- 2:45-3:45 Keynote Address by Ernie Edelman
- 4:00-5:00 Issue Forum #1
- 5:00-6:00 Issue Forum #2
- 6:15-8:00 Check in at the Hotel
- 8:00-9:00 Dinner and Program with Shalom House  
DVD showing of "Domestic Violence: What Churches Can Do."

**Wednesday, March 7, 2012**

- 6:30-7:00 Gathering for Breakfast
- 7:00-8:00 Breakfast with Legislators
- 8:00-9:30 What Would Mai Gray Say Today?  
Information about SB 590 and SB 486
- 9:30-10:15 Wrap up and Closing Worship

## How can I subscribe to Response and/or New World Outlook?

~Linda Page, Program Resources

If you have not subscribed to the Response magazine through your local unit, there are four ways you can order it individually. You can subscribe to New World Outlook using this same contact information.

Subscribe by mail: Magazine with a Mission  
P.O. Box 395  
Congers, NY 10920-0395

Subscribe by phone: 1-877-881-2385 (toll-free)

Subscribe by fax: 1-845-267-3478

Subscribe on-line: [missionresourcecenter.org](http://missionresourcecenter.org)

Look on the left for Response and New World Outlook subscriptions.

Prices:

<u>Response</u>	1 yr. (11 issues)	\$24.00
	2 yr. (22 issues)	\$45.00

### New World Outlook

1 yr. (6 issues) Digital Go Green	\$10.00
1 yr. (6 issues) Print	\$24.00
2 yr. (12 issues) “	\$42.00
3 yr. (18 issues) “	\$60.00

If you would like a single issue of Response contact the Mission Resource Center at 800-305-9857. For single copies of New World Outlook order from [Cokesbury.com](http://Cokesbury.com).

## Get Your Daily Read In!

~Linda Page, Secretary of Program Resources

Winter is finally here! Be sure you have a good book to read. Check out one of our Reading Program books at church, from your town library, or order from the Mission Resource Center. You can view all the new 2012 books at [www.missionresourcecenter.org](http://www.missionresourcecenter.org) and read a synopsis of each book.

You may also print Reading Program brochures (to keep track of books you read) and the entire Reading Program catalog. You'll find those under Women's Division Publications.

I'll have some Reading Books and other resources at Legislative Event in March. Hope to see you there!

[ldpage@iland.net](mailto:ldpage@iland.net)

## Human Trafficking

~Theresa Dixson, Social Action

**February 5th**, many in America will watch Super Bowl XLVI held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Thousands will travel to Indianapolis along Interstate 70, a major thoroughfare linking Kansas, Missouri and Indiana.

Among the travelers will be those who arrive in Indiana by force, fraud or coercion as victims of human trafficking. Some of those who are trafficked will work in restaurants, hotels, nail salons, as "escorts" or in strip clubs.

Leading up to Super Bowl Sunday, join United Methodist Women Human Trafficking Team; Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver, former pastor of St James UMC in Kansas City; Kent Millard, pastor of St Luke's UMC in Indianapolis and local partner organizations Stand Against Trafficking, the Julian Center, Exodus Refugee Immigrants, Center for Victim and Human Rights, ICT S.O.S, INAPT/IPATH and National Immigrant Justice in the Intercept Human Trafficking campaign.

Let's protect those who are vulnerable and prosecute those traffic humans. This Super Bowl Sunday, helps us stop modern-day slavery. Let's intercept the traffickers and reverse the momentum.

The Conference will be printing post cards to give to the Local Units who will like to participate. I need to know how many post cards by Tuesday, January 24. Please email or call at 816-699-6945.

Check out Women Division website for more information. <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>



### Cooperative School of Christian Mission:

Please remember that we do have all the videos from Cooperative School of Mission that were utilized there can be rented. All you need to do is pay the shipping. The forms and information is available on the website: [www.moumethodist.org/umw](http://www.moumethodist.org/umw)

## 2012 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](http://www.afsc.org) or email Paul Shannon at [pshannon@afsc.org](mailto:pshannon@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 January 2006 **Response** magazine issue on "Working for Racial Justice" to plan follow-up spiritual growth and social action activities. Pre-order enough copies of the January 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 become 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 Missouri 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 Gray passed away soon after Assembly in May 2010



## Responding to God's Love and Grace

~SCJ United Methodist Women

The scripture is focused on Luke 1:46-48 and will be held at the Abilene Civic Center.

The Quadrennial Meeting for South Central Jurisdiction is June 22-24, 2012 in Abilene, TX. The cost is \$175.00 and includes Saturday lunch and dinner and covers insurance.

This meeting will be filled with dynamic worships sessions and Bible studies. Come learn about UMW and more about how UMW works and we elect leadership as well.

Registration forms can be found at:

[www.gb-gm-umc.org/scjurisdictionumw](http://www.gb-gm-umc.org/scjurisdictionumw)

Please save the date for April 27 and 28, 2012 for our Spiritual Growth Retreat at the Rickman Center in Jefferson City, MO

Stay tuned for more information on this retreat.



## Help Go Green and Save a Tree

~Verlee Gilkerson, Conference Green Team

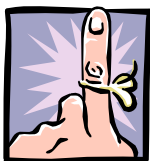
Green Team Task Force—New to Missouri Conference is the Green Team Task Force being coordinated by Verlee Gilkerson. So just what is this Green Team all about?

Women's Division explains it best:

The Green Team's advocacy goal is to realize environmental justice by encouraging United Methodist Women members to organize their communities around environmental issues and help members develop their own Green Teams.

<http://new.gb-gm-umc.org/umw/act/environment/greenteams/>

In the coming year you will be hearing, seeing, and learning about what it means to be a Green Unit! By going to the Missouri Conference Website you can print out your own Green Unit Pledge and start working on this program. Also Verlee will be available to discuss how you can join this task force as a District Leader for your home district bringing the program even closer to your local units! Call for a presentation and see for yourself what being green units, churches, districts, state, and world. Slots for presentations are filling fast as there are no more openings in April so call or email Verlee Gilkerson at 816-507-8673—[vgilkerson@hotmail.com](mailto:vgilkerson@hotmail.com)



### Don't Forget!

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

## Help Continue Velma Hull's Mission

~Anderson UMC and UMW

Dear Sisters in Christ~

I wanted to let you know that we have set up a Memorial fund in honor of Velma Hull. As many of you know, one of Velma's great passions was clean water for those who live in areas where there is poor access to one of God's blessings that we take for granted everyday. Velma understood that the absence of clean water has a profoundly negative effect on every aspect of a person's life, including their spiritual life.

So in order to honor Velma, Anderson United Methodist church, where Velma was a long time member, has established a Memorial Fund that will be dedicated to raising the funds that are needed to drill one well; Velma's Well.

You may contribute to this fund by mailing your check made out to Anderson UMC with the notation Velma's Well or Velma Hull memorial written in the memo line, below to:

Anderson UMC PO Box 1278

Anderson, MO 64831

Anderson UMC will be connecting with the Missouri Conference in order to pursue matching funds in this effort. All funds raised will be contributed through the conference towards clean water.

Please remember Velma's family in your prayers.

## 2012 Mission Today

-Gail Davis, Education and Interpretation

The only change to the 2012 Mission Today is #17. We have clarified #17 as to how to be a Green Unit. The Green unit pledge form is found on the conference website as well as Women's division.

The form should be filled out and mailed to:

Verlee Gilkerson  
22009 NE 172nd Street  
Kearney, MO 64060  
[vdgilkerson@yahoo.com](mailto:vdgilkerson@yahoo.com)

This form is due by December 31, 2012

## Looking for a Few Good Pictures

-Katie Willis, Communications

The South Central Jurisdiction is looking for a few photos of our ladies doing Mission work. It could be working at a soup kitchen or knitting prayer shawls. All photos should be emailed to Katie Willis at [mrskatiebugs78@centurylink.net](mailto:mrskatiebugs78@centurylink.net) by February 5, 2012.

The following criteria should be followed:

1. jpg format
2. Identify Conference
3. Description of Place & Activity
4. Include names if applicable

**MISSOURI CONFERENCE  
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
MISSION TODAY CRITERIA/REPORT FORM FOR 2012**

(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. Make and meet Pledge to Mission.
- \*3. 5-Star Unit.
4. \$25 for ribbons/corsages program.
5. Candle burning or Mission Minute Certificate
- \*6. At least two (2) members subscribe to RESPONSE.
7. 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 \_\_\_\_\_
8. “Response Moment” at each meeting.
- \*9. Prayer Calendar at each general meeting.
10. Write to at least five (5) persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least twice a year.
11. Prayer partner program for the year.
12. Plan or participate in a Spiritual Growth retreat.
- \*13. Use at least two (2) programs from the current program book during the year.
14. Participate in the “Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” program and offering.
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. Become a Green Unit. To become a green unit 50% of your unit membership must complete 5 items on the list. Turn in to Verlee Gilkerson. [www.moumethodist.org](http://www.moumethodist.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.  
Our Unit had/or made a presentation about \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in Agency name here) 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 State Representative and/or State Senator or a representative, to a local Unit meeting
22. One (1) person shall attend 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/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](http://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 and/or District

**Additional Information:**

Total membership on 1/1/2012 \_\_\_\_\_

Total membership on 12/31/2012 \_\_\_\_\_

Submit the report to the District Education and Interpretation Coordinator by **12/31/2012**

Person Reporting \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Unit/Church \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print all information)

### Annual Meeting Review -Marvalee Unrein

Remember the pillowcase dresses that we collected back at Annual Meeting.....Marvalee Unrein wanted the MO Conference UMW ladies to know that the dresses were well received by the Mozambique. We collected 50 dresses that day and her church collected 200 more. A VIM group took these dresses to Mozambique. Here are a few pictures from Kiley, one of the VIM attendees.

Marvalee is getting ready to send the remaining dresses to Haiti with a medical help team. If you have questions, please contact Marvalee Unrein First UMC of Blue Springs by E-Mail: joh-n369marv@sbcglobal.net



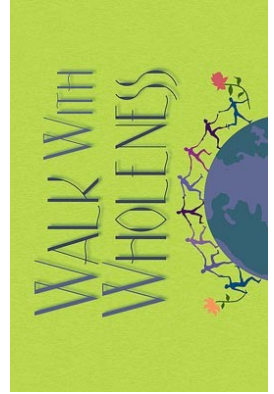
Telephone: 816-699-7019.

## 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

The Mission Voice  
of the Missouri Conference  
United Methodist Women

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

Return Service Requested