

Mabel's Muse

~Mabel Unser, President

Proverbs 16: 3

Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.

As we enter into this new year I would like to carry this scripture with us as we plan and work on the activities of our conference. Letting the Lord lead us can only bring success in whatever we do.

From a small devotional book titled "Keeping God in the Small Stuff," I share these words. "Political groups and social organizations like to talk about the 'rights' of their members. They want the full entitlement to the benefits that are rightfully theirs. Rights are all about 'me, me, me.'

That is not the attitude God wants you to have. He wants you to forget about your rights and focus on your responsibilities. He wants you fully engaged in helping others. Responsibilities are all about 'you, you, you.'

God wouldn't be a very popular politician in our society. Most people want to be served and enjoy their privileges. God calls us to be submissive and put the interest of others above our own. We are responsible to God to become what God has made it possible for us to become."

As we continue our work for women, children and youth in Missouri may we always remember that we are responsible to God and that each plan that we make will be led by God as we pray and seek His guidance.

Seeking Laity Leadership

-Carol Smith, Historian

In the recently received THE MISSOURI CONFERENCE REVIEW, January 2011 issue there is an article titled; **Potential laity delegates General and Jurisdictions Conferences encouraged to fill out profiles....** I would like to expand this article with my personal experiences to lay women of the Missouri Conference.

In 1995 a very dear friend with whom I was serving on The Lay Ministry Team encouraged me to take a huge step in my involvement of leadership in the Conference and make it known I would like to be elected a delegate to attend General Conference. I indicated to friends and conference members I would like to be considered for election. My District started passing the word and encouraged other laity to support me. The day I was elected on the last ballot of the laity was also the day my daughter was ordained a deacon in the conference. Wow! Who would have ever known from that starting point I would be an elected delegate for four General Conferences one of those chair of the delegation and another mentor a new delegate through election and service, what a joy!

If elected you would be representing our Missouri Conference when very important decisions are made of who we want to be and how we want to serve, and learning what we are presently doing around the world. It is hard work, monthly meetings, reading and studying pages and pages of material. Having to say no to some responsibilities with spouse, family and friends and giving ten days plus travel days for General Conference and four days plus travel days to Jurisdictional Conference beginning the day you are elected until the last day of Jurisdictional Conference in 2012.

My request to women laity of Missouri Conference is to pray and

Social Action Opportunity

Who: All adults are welcome – fly in when you want; stay as long as you want

What: Interactive educational seminar sponsored by Kansas East Conference United Methodist Women for anyone who wants to study complex social issues from a faith perspective. Seminar will include theological reflections, meetings with human rights activists, visits to Senators and Representatives in Washington D.C., etc.

Costs: \$12 per person per day - \$36 for the three day seminar
Airfare – under \$300 (estimate)
Lodging –we hope to get group rates for about \$150/night per room
Meals and touring costs

For more information contact Jeanette Grenz – email jgrenz@sbcglobal.net or call 913-239-0679.

To make your reservation, please send your name, address, phone number, e-mail and a check for \$36 made out to KEC UMW to cover the cost of the actual seminar.

Mail to Page Campbell, 11426 West 99th Pl., Overland Park, KS 66214.

Registration and payment due **March 1, 2011** and will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis (limit 35-40 people).

listen to the Lord's direction. You will need to be in close communion with God, seeking his will, inviting him to come with directions for you. Also evaluate your personal health. Check with your employer regarding time away or vacation time from work over the period of a year, and if you feel you are led to notify the Conference members you would like to say yes to be considered. You can find the information you need by checking the Conference website at <http://tinyurl.com/laityprofile>.

Do not have a pre-determined agenda of what you will do when you go. You can best serve if you place your mind and heart open to do the work of the Lord. There will be time for conversation and information at meetings to share with other delegates.

If you know of someone in your local church or UMW you think would make a good delegate talk to them, encourage them, offer to assist them if they would like to serve, have them check the Conference website for more information and inform your local church lay member to Annual Conference.

If you have questions of some who have gone before please contact me or other women who have served as delegates and we will be glad to visit with you. I feel called by God to encourage others to have this experience to serve our denomination as active lay women in these conferences. Some of the decisions at General Conference have a direct impact in the policies and procedures of United Methodist Women.

My time of service is ended and I praise you who will answer the call to serve in the future.

573-999-7087

**MISSOURI CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
CRITERIA REPORT SHORT FORM 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. 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. Make a pledge to care for God’s creation and become a “Green” United Methodist Women unit.
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.
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
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 Communications Coordinator with this 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 1/1/11 _____

Total membership on 12/31/11 _____

Submit the report to the District Education and Interpretation Coordinator by **12/31/11**

Person Reporting _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Unit/Church _____

(Please print all information)