

Great Plains United Methodist Women

Esther Hay, Conference President



Our Purpose

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.

Hallelujah! We did it! Way to go Great Plains!!!

\$606,000.00 2015 Great Plains Pledge to Mission

\$788,557.27 What we gave

\$ 88,718.93 **Additional** - Designated Giving & Legacy Fund

\$788,557.27 Grand Total of Giving



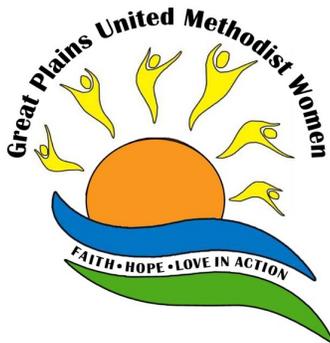
Fast Facts

- That's over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars in Mission Giving!
- In 2014, our Great Plains Conference also gave over $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars in Mission Giving and we were #1 in giving in the South Central Jurisdiction and #2 in the nation.

I'm sharing this so you know that together we are leaders in giving! I want you to feel good about our accomplishment and know that as a Great Plains Conference we have a financial impact that helps better the lives of women, children and youth around the world! We do make a difference! Thanks to everyone for your faithful and generous giving! Together we make it happen!

Well done thou good and faithful servants! Let's do it again!

Our Conference United Methodist Women Logo

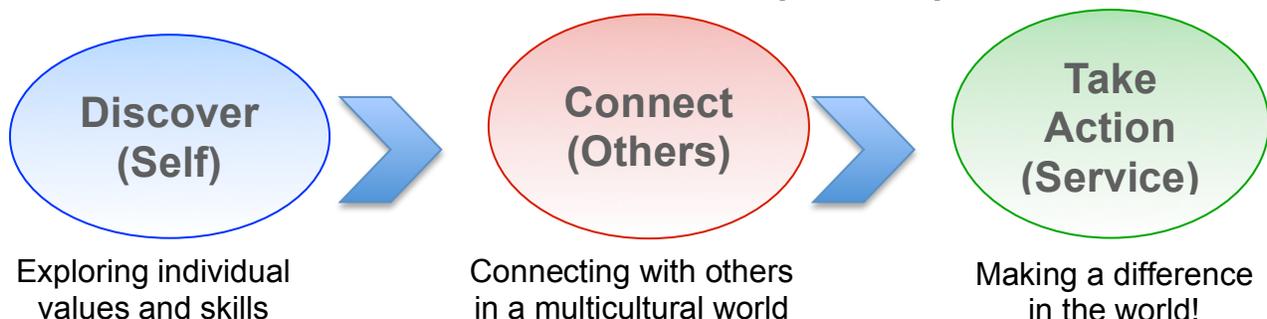


When the sun rises on the Great Plains Conference, the United Methodist Women will be anticipating the innovation and freshness that comes from joining together in mission in a new way. The crisp, clear view from the north and the south, the east and the west reveals brightness, creativity and commitment in our midst. We move forward in our newness, knowing that the God of All That's Old and All That's New is faithfully journeying with us, guiding and directing, nudging us and calling us each by name. Our response to that call will shape a conference that is authentically in mission ... faith • hope • love in action ... on these Great Plains and beyond our horizon.

Deanna Holland, Artist

Our Journey as United Methodist Women

Personal Growth and Leadership Development



Our Shared Journey

As United Methodist Women in the Great Plains...



- In Faith* Organize retreats, do Bible Studies, share devotions throughout our conference.
- In Learning* Mission u, the Reading Program, the UMW Conference Library.
- In Planning* Plan the UMW Dinner at Annual Conference and the UMW Annual Meeting.
- In Growth* Reach out to new members and reactivate inactive members in our conference
- In Action* Education and advocacy about social/racial justice issues, prison ministries, service work days, Legislative Days and participation in changing the world.
- In Giving* Support our National Mission Institutions, telling where our money goes, the channels of giving, encouraging women to give and thanking our women for their gifts – letting them know how they make a difference.

Journey in Action Teams - Imagine the Possibilities

Focus on leadership, service, events and advocacy throughout the entire conference.

10-15 newer and experienced members from throughout the entire conference.

Members will serve for two years in classes so that there is a rotation of members.

The Team Leader is a member of the Conference Leadership Team.

Membership on the team is in addition to tenure, so all can serve.

This is a Leadership Development opportunity

Will you help? Contact: Esther at esther.hay@windstream.net

Our Connections

Local	District	Conference
* Required Officers		
* President	* President	* President
* Secretary	* Secretary	* Secretary
* Treasurer	* Treasurer	* Treasurer
* Chair Nominations Committee	* Chair Nominations Committee	* Chair Nominations Committee
Other Officers		
* Vice President	Vice President	Planning Team Leader
Spiritual Growth	Spiritual Growth	Faith Team Leader
Social Action	Social Action	Action Team Leader
Membership Nurture Outreach	Membership Nurture Outreach	Growth Team Leader
Education Focus	Education Focus	Learning Team Leader
Interpretation Focus	Interpretation Focus	Giving Team Leader
Communications	Communications	Communications

Like Trees we have Roots & Branches and are Resilient



- We are part of a national organization that has been transforming lives for over 145 years. **We have strong roots!**
- Trees reach for tomorrow – they **grow branches**. We are called to identify and reach up and out to meet the needs of God's people today.
- **Trees are resilient**. Just as a tree needs to be strong enough to bend, we need to be open to new ideas and opportunities for serving.



The Mission Education Tour or METour is a 9-day mission experience for young women sponsored by the Great Plains United Methodist Women. In

2015, 33 girls and 7 adults participated in the opportunity to engage in mission, learn about United Methodist Women and experience the United Methodist connection by visiting and working at National Mission Institutions, Volunteer in Mission sites and United Methodist-related agencies. Local UMW organizations are encouraged to identify, sponsor and support young women on the tour.

The 2016 METour is scheduled for June 5-12.

Our Great Plains Conference Annual Events....

1. Legislative Days (February)
 - L.E.A.F. – Topeka, KS
 - Ecumenical Legislative Day – Lincoln, NE
2. METour for young women 15-22
3. Mission u – 3 opportunities – 3 sites
4. UMW Dinner at Annual Conference
5. Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting

2016 Mission u - 3 Opportunities – 3 sites

**Salina
Weekday
July 17-21
Register By: July 1**

**Kansas Wesleyan
Salina, KS**

Bible & Human Sexuality
Climate Justice Study for Adults, Youth & Children
Latin America Study

**Kearney
Weekend
August 5-7
Register By: July 1**

**Holiday Inn Convention
Center, Kearney, NE**

Bible & Human Sexuality
Climate Justice Study
Adult Programs Only

**Topeka
Mini
August 19, 20
Register By: August 1**

**Crestview UMC
Topeka, KS**

19th - Climate Justice Study
20th - Bible & Human Sexuality
Adult Programs Only

**Great Plains Conference
United Methodist Women Annual Meeting
“Go Forward”**

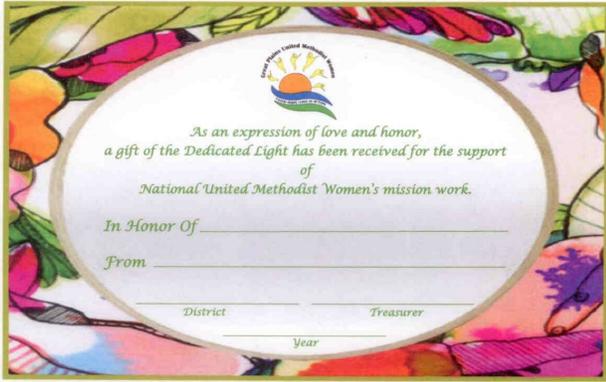
September 16 & 17, 2016

**Topeka - Countryside United Methodist Church
In-Gathering for UMW units in Topeka Prison**

Go Forward!

7 Channels of Mission Giving

1. Pledge to Mission
2. Special Mission Recognition Pin
3. Gift to Mission Cards
4. Gift in Memory
5. World Thank Offering
6. The Dedicated Light
7. Corsages for Mission



The Dedicated Light is a new tradition of the Great Plains United Methodist Women. A local organization or individual sends a \$45 gift through the local treasurer “in Honor” or “In Memory” of a loved one, cherished friend or mentor. At the District Annual Meeting, a Dedicated Light Candle burns for one minute in honor of the person. A Dedicated Light candle is also burned at the Conference Annual Meeting. This undesignated giving becomes part of the Pledge to Mission.

- The **Corsage for Mission** is also a new tradition of The Great Plains United Methodist Women. It is a way of honoring someone with a living Corsage for Mission instead of flowers.
- Each corsage represents the gift of \$1 for Undesignated Mission Giving as a part of the Pledge to Mission. Corsages are available from District Treasurers. The cost is intentionally kept low to enable everyone to participate.
- The corsage is a way of honoring the person who receives it. After it is pinned on the honoree, it is usually followed with a hug.
- The corsage is worn only one time or for one multi-day event. Wear it proudly at the meeting, then take it home and use it as a bookmark or as a reminder of a special time of sharing.
- Our WHWI - Women Helping Women Inside & WF.JAM - Women For Justice and Mercy units make our Corsages for Mission.



National Mission Institutions

There are 97 United Methodist Women National Mission-related National Mission Institutions that provide direct service to communities. Many also engage in action for justice. The Great Plains conference **relates directly to three**: Della C. Lamb in Kansas City, Epworth Village in York, NE and United Methodist Ministries – The Big Garden in Omaha, NE. Individuals and local units in our conference also relate to other National Mission Institutions.

Della C. Lamb Kansas City

- Programs for over 1,800 low income families
- Adult education and literacy classes
- Early education & child care
- Public Charter Elementary School
- Transportation services
- A thrift store
- Youth services
- Refugee services



www.dellalamb.org

Epworth Village York, NE

- 126th year of service
- Residential group homes for youth in the probation system – one for boys and one for girls
- Also provides Foster Care, In-Home Family Services and Out-Patient Therapy
- Saving Campbell's labels for a new van & collect Box Tops for Education for the Epworth Learning School



www.epworthvillage.org

The Big Garden Omaha, NE

- 50th Anniversary Year
- New urban campus
- 1 in 5 children in the U.S. don't know if they will have a next meal
- Over 100 community gardens located in rural & urban areas of Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa
- Volunteer in Mission Site



www.big garden.org

Our website: www.greatplainsumc.org/umw