UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF INDIANA

2017 Report to 2018 Annual Conference

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION
WE ARE WOMEN WITH A 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."
Part 1 Summary

United Methodist Women of Indiana is a statewide organization of women engaged in mission and advocacy. We have a vision that will focus our work and challenge us into our future: *United Methodist Women is turning faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth around the world.*

To do this, we will be working in five interconnected areas:

- Spiritual growth that leads to putting faith into action;
- Organizational growth focused on members;
- Work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy;
- Leadership development among women and girls around the world;
- Mission education for the transformation of the world.

Aren't you glad we're in it together?

Mission Giving is the foundation for United Methodist Women's mission work. Mission Giving is mission money that provides funds, which enable the work of United Methodist Women to reach far beyond the church walls and into the lives of women, children and youth around the world. Women prayerfully make pledges to their local organization or district. Their Mission Giving supports projects to women, children and youth so they may experience Christ's love. It is important to note that the giving of United Methodist Women is above and beyond their giving to the local church. United Methodist Women receive no funds from the Indiana United Methodist Church.

We are called to make disciples and we do this through our core commitments. We serve in our local church and community and we advocate on behalf of women, children, youth and children globally. We transform ourselves as we transform the world.
Part 2

United Methodist Women is a community of women rooted in our Christian faith, turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. We are committed to growing spiritually, developing leaders, participating in education that begins with personal transformation, and weaving an interconnected pattern of compassionate service and passionate advocacy. These core commitments have characterized our entire 150-year history of equipping laywomen to follow God’s call at home and all over the world.

Our unchanging purpose is to be…….

• A COMMUNITY of women
• Whose PURPOSE is to know God
• 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.

All that we do is centered around our purpose.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OF INDIANA 2017 GOALS

• Nurture local units so that they will have better connection to the conference and national issues and concerns
• Involve younger women in all programs and activities
• Provide support for district teams
• Improve our understanding and awareness of linking spiritual growth, mission education, mission education, leadership development, service and advocacy in our work

By sharing ideas and noting concerns and offering suggestions for resolution, we renewed the call to United Methodist Women. We were intentional in connecting with an engaging with younger women.
2018 Conference Goals

- Promote engagement of younger women
- Foster implementation of the Charter for Racial Justice
- Improve connection and communication to and with local units

Our current membership includes over 10,696 women focused on the same vision of turning faith, hope and love into action.

We remain committed to strengthening connections at the local level, providing leadership training and helping women grow on their faith journeys.

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

The hymn, “Many Gifts, One Spirit” was commissioned for an Assembly of the Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries in 1973. This Assembly was the first following the merger of the Methodist and the Evangelical United Brethren churches. The words of the refrain aptly describe the work of the Holy Spirit in unifying our gifts.

“Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways. In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
One Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word
Known in many ways, hallowing our days.
For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!”

United Methodist Women of Indiana are diverse in age, ethnicity, social status, background and political persuasion. We are united by one Spirit, the Holy Spirit whom Jesus has given to the Church to unify us, to unite us, to call us to serve a single purpose, a common mission, which is “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
In 2019 United Methodist Women will celebrate our 150th Anniversary! What a story we have to tell!

**2017 Highlights**

**ORGANIZING FOR GROWTH AND FLEXIBILITY**

Our conference theme for 2017 was “A Call to Community.” We are focused on being Women of Welcome and a Sisterhood of Grace with less emphasis on meetings and rules and more on building relationships and connection.

**SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

Spiritual growth happens within community and through day-to-day engagement. Our growth relies on the lives of other women who shared stories and connection to each other and to God. Our spiritual growth events are transformative experiences.

We sponsored 2 **Spiritual Growth Retreats** in 2017 led by Rev Mary Kathryn Pearce. The theme was “The Listening Heart” based on Matthew 5:44-45 and Mark 12:29. We were challenged, equipped and inspired. Rev Mary Kathryn was invited back to lead the Spiritual Growth study at Mission u.
The 2017 Silent Retreat was at Sarto House in Evansville. Those attending spent 36 hours in silence. There were 5 stations on Saturday for silent, personal reflection. Many walked the “Way of the Cross” either in the chapel or outside. It was a time for reading, praying and resting in the presence of God.

SERVICE AND ADVOCACY
"Climate Justice for All Hoosiers" was the theme for the 2017 Legislative Day held Thursday, February 9, 2017 at North UMC in Indianapolis. This event, co-sponsored annually by United Methodist Women of Indiana Conference and the Indiana Church Women United, included speakers from Indiana Interfaith Power and Light, NAACP, and the Hoosier Environmental Council. The emphasis was on legislation before the Indiana General Assembly concerning environmental issues. Women from all over the state were joined by the Indiana Conference’s Creation Care Team.
The four national priority issues for the 2016–2020 quadrennium include:

- Economic Inequality
- Climate Justice
- Criminalization of Communities of Color
- Maternal and Child Health

Twenty years ago, United Methodist Women began awareness and intervention programs in the [then] unknown area of human trafficking. In the weeks before the Super Bowl, United Methodist Women of Indiana joined the United Methodist Women's Let's Box 'Em Up Campaign to raise awareness of human trafficking. Stacking the boxes symbolized United Methodist Women intercepting the traffickers who bind the vulnerable within boxes of imprisonment. Photos of Conference, District and Local United Methodist Women’s groups and congregations were posted and shared online.

Local units turn faith, hope and love into action in their local communities in a variety of ways. Each month, the Bright Lights feature in the national publication, response magazine, celebrates United Methodist Women members putting faith, hope and love into action in their communities. In the January 2018 issue, the United Methodist Women at DeSoto United Methodist Church were highlighted for their churchwide mission work day.

The United Methodist Women at Valparaiso First United Methodist Church provide continuing education scholarships for women who are looking to improve their skills for future employment. In addition, with 90 volunteers, they operate a resale shop with the proceeds going to support mission projects locally and around the world.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In July, our Conference 39 and Under Event, Limitless, was held at DePauw University in Greencastle. This was our 4th year for this event. Young women and mentors attended this event. Our goal for this Limitless Event is to inspire young women to become more involved in the United Methodist Women and their churches and to bring their unique perspectives and ideas to the organization.

TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

Mission u and Sampler day were at DePauw University in July. We participated in worship, plenaries and study and fellowship. 712 shoe boxes with Christmas items for the children of the Red Bird Missionary Conference were collected and delivered. Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce led the Spiritual Growth study on “Living in a Covenant Community”. North Central Jurisdiction Mission Advocates, Steve and Gail Quigg, shared experiences from mission work in Africa. During the Wednesday evening candle-light service, a fifteen-foot cross was outlined with tea light candles. We were all challenged to name some of the walls of hostility that are present barriers in our own communities, write them on index cards and place them inside the cross.
Living as a Covenant Community
Transformative Education
Mission u
Lucille Raines Residence, a residence for people committed to addiction recovery is owned and operated by United Methodist Women of Indiana. Simple gifts and acts of love make a big impact in changing hearts and lives.

You are invited to come for a visit and learn more. Feel free to contact Carolyn Marshall at 317-636-3328 to set up a Talk, Tour, and Lunch or Dinner for your group or Unit.

In 2017 United Methodist Women of Indiana awarded Youth and Young Adult Scholarships to 112 young people for a total of $10105. These scholarships are funded by the $1/ member asking.

The Legacy Fund will culminate with the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women in 2019. The goal is to raise sufficient funds so that United Methodist Women will live in perpetuity, with interest from this fund paying administrative expenses so the yearly mission giving may be used entirely to fund mission. We continue to build awareness and excitement around the Legacy Fund and sharing our stories of the impact of United Methodist Women. We have a rich history of mission and generosity in the Indiana Conference.

Our theme for our Annual Celebration 2017 was, “A Call to Community, Bold Love”. Those who were present Friday night enjoyed dinner, assembling hygiene kits for All Worthy of Love, and a fun evening of fellowship. On Saturday, we enjoyed beautiful worship, an inspiring speaker, and a racial justice prayer circle. New officers were elected and installed, outgoing officers were recognized, and officers who passed were honored.
MISSION GIVING

United Methodist Women, Indiana Conference, continues to support women, children, and youth both at home and around the world with their financial gifts. In 2017, INUMW provided $470,000 for support of programs as diverse as early childhood education, maternal health, and global warming initiatives.
Assembly 2018 is in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, 2018. This Assembly is particularly momentous – it marks both the official celebration of our 150th anniversary and a return to the location of our first Assembly in 1942. Our theme is The Power of Bold, and throughout the action-filled weekend we will revisit the journey of Mary, who boldly risked safety and security to answer "yes" to God's call to service. We will rally for Economic Justice and Living Wages for All, experience worship and spiritual growth, hear inspiring cutting-edge speakers, learn tools to mobilize and activate and engage in our interactive workshops.

Speakers for Assembly include:

MICHELLE ALEXANDER
Author, "The New Jim Crow"

KATHARINE HAYHOE
Climate Scientist, Nat Geo TV Host

TAMIKA MALLORY
Women's Rights Activist

LINDA SARSOUR
Women's Rights Activist

MARION WRIGHT EDELMAN
Children's Defense Fund

LEYMAH GBOWEE
Nobel Peace Prize Recipient

HANNAH ADAIR BONNER
Activist/Film Maker

HARRIETT JANE OLSON
CEO/General Secretary
United Methodist Women