

Mission Today

Annual Mission Today Report for 2008

The purpose of promoting a Mission Today Unit is to Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes. Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women; and expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a Unit?

A unit is any organized group of United Methodist Women within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles, which periodically get together for a unit meeting.

How do we become a Mission Today Unit?

In order to be recognized as a Mission Today Unit, UMW groups must complete a Mission Today form for items completed between December 1 and November 30. Gold Classification will be awarded to units completing 75% of goals (9 starred plus 9 others, total of 18); Silver Classification will be awarded for 50% of goals (6 starred plus 6 others, total of 12); Bronze Classification will be awarded to units with 4 starred and 4 others.

Criteria for a Mission Today Unit:

- ___ *1. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth. Order from Mission Resources, Stock #M3009.

- ___ 2. At least one member of the unit other than a conference or a district officer will attend the School of Christian Mission.

- ___ 3. At least two members (one member for units with fewer than 15 members) other than a conference or district officer will attend the district or conference annual meeting.

- ___ *4. The unit will use at least two programs from the Program Book during the year. Each unit receives one free Program Book at the District Officers Training. Other copies may be ordered from Mission Resources, Stock #M3010

- ___ 5. The unit will have at least one person joining the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. To join, contact 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Box 56, Washington, DC 20002.

___ 6. Members will correspond with five (5) persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least once a year.

___ *7. The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation to learn what studies are for each year.

___ *8. The Unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one (1) way during the year. Possibilities are:

- a. Have members read books and articles about other races and cultures;
- b. Sponsor an interethnic event between two or more units;
- c. Recruit women of color to be members and officers;
- d. View the videos on the Charter, "In Search of Racial Justice" or "The Charter for Racial Justice." Check the conference AV library or order from Mission Resources, Stock #2179, \$15. Or #4451, .85 respectively;
- e. Write to elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, low income programs, civil rights, etc.

Please list how you implemented this plan.

___ 9. The unit will cosponsor, with the local church, a Children's Sabbath. (This worship service highlights the needs of children.) The Women's Division and the Council of Bishops support this effort. Contact Children's Defense Fund for materials at 25 E. St. NW, Washington, DC 20001. Telephone 202-628-8787.

___ *10. The unit will make and meet its pledge to mission.

___ 11. The unit will contribute to all five channels of Mission giving.

___ 12. Prepare a budget for adoption by the unit.

___ 13. Hold a Pledge Service.

___ *14. Quarterly reports to District Treasurer by:

- a. First Quarter, February 20
- b. Second Quarter, May 19
- c. Third Quarter, August 20
- d. Fourth Quarter, November 20

___ *15. The unit will contribute requested resources to the current Conference and District Hands on Mission Project (if District has a project).

___ *16. Participate in local and/or district observance of Call to Prayer and Self Denial and World Thank Offering.

___ *17. The unit will have at least two (2) members subscribing to Response. Cost for a year's subscription to Response is \$24.00. Cost for New World Outlook is \$19.95 for a year's subscription. Call 1-877-881-2385 to order.

___ 18. Each unit or circle meeting will include a "Response Moment" where an item for Response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.

___ *19. The unit will add at least two (2) new members, (one (1) for units with fewer than 15 members) to its roll.

___ *20. At least two members (one (1) member for units with fewer than 15 members) other than a district or conference officer will complete Plan 1 of the Reading Program.

___ 21. Display and use Purpose for guidelines for all programs.

___ *22. All elected officers attend District Officer Training.

___ 23. Elect officers by October 31st of current year, having at least a minimum structure, President, Treasurer and Chair of Nominations for units with less than 15 members. Larger units to have at least President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Chair of Nominations.

Name of Unit or Circle and Church

Name of Person Completing Form

Mailing Address, Telephone Number & e-mail

Report Due December 1, 2008

Mail to: District E & I Coordinator

Name _____

Address _____

Revised July 2008