Greetings from our President

I am so excited about the upcoming year with United Methodist Women! I look forward to seeing many of you at our events this year. Each event is carefully planned with you in mind.

You will have a chance to develop your leadership skills while learning more about United Methodist Women on February 4 in Amarillo. Let your spirit soar at the Spiritual Growth Retreat in Ceta Canyon March 31 and April 1 (no fooling). Learn and fellowship at Mission u July 20-23 at McMurry University in Abilene. Then, celebrate a wonderful year with us at the Annual Celebration September 29-30 in Plainview. Of course, you will have many wonderful experiences in your local unit and district all year long.

Your Leadership Team met recently for a Fall Planning retreat. Each leader was asked to give a word or phrase about what she brings to the organization. Words like passion, commitment, finances, thinking outside the box, communication, and many more filled a display board. Your team is working for you and for women, children, and youth throughout the world.

See you in Amarillo at Saint Paul UMC on February 4. We can’t wait to serve you.

Pam Zwickey
The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

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.

Save these Dates for our Upcoming Events!!

Texas Legislative Event – Austin, TX, January 22 – 24, 2017


Spiritual Growth Retreat – Ceta Canyon, March 31 - April 1, 2017

NWT Conference United Methodist Women and Friends Dinner – Lubbock, June (details TBA)

Mission u – McMurry University, Abilene, July 20 – 23, 2017

District Annual Meetings (TBA)

Annual Celebration – First UMC, Plainview, September 29 - 30, 2017

Other Important Upcoming Events – Start Planning Now!

United Methodist Women’s National Assembly – Columbus, Ohio, May 17 – 20, 2018

2019 – United Methodist Women will celebrate 150 as an organization

South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting – 2020 (TBA)
Texas Legislative Event
The United Methodist Women Texas Legislative Event will be January 22-24, 2017, in Austin, Texas. This is your opportunity to learn about current issues and to be heard on important issues that matter to women, children, and youth in Texas. This program is planned by Texas IMPACT—“people of faith working for justice.” Everyone is welcome to participate! There are a limited number of scholarships available for young women (15-35 years of age). A registration form with more details can be found on the next three pages of this newsletter, or you can register online at www.texasimpact.org. Early registration deadline (lowest cost) is January 6, 2017. Carpooling is suggested.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN TEXAS LEGISLATIVE EVENT

JANUARY 22-24, 2017
Austin, Texas
Program Planned by Texas IMPACT
Registration online at: www.texasimpact.org ($5 processing fee is non-refundable)
Early Registration Deadline: January 6, 2017
Event Chairperson: Elizabeth Jimenez lizjimenez0528@hotmail.com
Registrar: Terry Schoenert: terry.schoenert@gmail.com
210-601-2800 or 210-479-5911

HOTEL: Hotel rate guaranteed through: January 6, 2017 at HOLIDAY INN AUSTIN MIDTOWN
6000 Middle Fiskville Rd
Austin, TX 78752
Phone: 512-206-3069
888-300-6273
Fax: 512-206-3017
Group Rate Reservation Code “UMW”
To book online you may use the link on the back of this page.

DESCRIPTION & RATES
2 Double Beds (up to 2) $129 per night (plus taxes)
2 Double Beds (3/4) $129 per night (plus taxes) **
** Note: difference in room cost is to cover 3rd & 4th breakfast vouchers
Group Rate: good for Jan. 20 to Jan. 26 (two days prior to and after the event)

ADDITIONAL
No Charge: Self-parking
Free Breakfast Buffet Vouchers for each room occupant
No Charge: Internet usage

SCHOLARSHIPS (Twenty @ $80) are available for young women (15-35 yrs. of age) (Awarded in order requested.)

EVENT CANCELLATION POLICY: Before January 7, 2017: Registration minus $ 45.00 administration fee;
January 7-15, 2016: [½ Registration minus $ 45.00 administration fee]
NO REFUNDS AFTER January 15, 2016. Transfer of registration is accepted at any time.
**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**FOR HOTEL ONLINE RESERVATIONS**: Be sure to copy the address below and it will take you directly to the UMW Group page: [Rio Texas Methodist Women’s Conference](#).

**TRANSPORTATION** from the airport will be provided by local persons *upon request.* Please notify the registrar of airline and time of arrival.

**TUESDAY Post-Event TOUR of the CAPITOL**: Provided by Texas Impact; *snack included*; COST $10.

For those taking the Capitol tour, a later bus will be provided for transportation back to the hotel.

*If not registering online, please print this registration form (2 pages!) and mail it to the address given.*

---

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Enclose check payable to: RIO TX UMW  
Mail to: Terry Schoenert  
2907 Barrel Oak; San Antonio, TX 78231  
Questions: 210.601.2800 (c) OR 210.479.5911 (h)  
terry.schoenert@gmail.com

Registration payment includes following meals:  
*Sunday – Banquet;  Monday - lunch & dinner;*  
Registration: Early: $125  Due: January 6, 2017  
Registration: $140  After: January 6, 2017  
Registration: One-Day: *(includes meals)*  
  Sunday Only: $75  Monday only: $95  
*Additional* Dinner for a guest either Sun/Mon: $40

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<td>Home Phone:</td>
<td>City: Zip:</td>
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<td>Cell Phone:</td>
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| Emergency Contact Name & Phone Number | Conference:  
  Central Texas  
  New Mexico  
  North Texas  
  Northwest Texas  
  Rio Texas  
  Texas |
| Special Dietary Needs (Diabetic, Vegetarian, Gluten Free): |  |

**CHECK ALL THAT APPLY TO YOU:**

- [ ] You are a First Timer  
- [ ] YES, You will attend TOUR of Capitol  **COST $10**  
  *Tuesday After close of Event; no lunch; snack provided*  
- [ ] You are a “Young Woman” (15-35 yr)  
  *Contact Registrar For Scholarship Information*  
- [ ] Please **complete** the section on the other side  
  concerning **Capitol Legislative Visits** ....

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<tr>
<td>Registration($125/$140)</td>
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<td>Sunday only($75)</td>
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<td>Monday only($95)</td>
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<td>Capitol TOUR($10)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>#Added</strong> Sun. Banquet: ___ ($40/ea)</td>
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<td><strong>#Added</strong> Mon. Dinner: ___ ($40/ea)</td>
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</table>

**Amount Enclosed**: $  
Check: #
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:

- **Sunday Noon to 1pm**: Hotel reception with hot snacks
  First Session: 1pm in main meeting room, followed by workshops
- **Monday**: Sessions all day
- **Tuesday**: Morning visits to the Capitol. Tour begins about 12:30 and lasts an hour

REGISTRATION PROCESS: You will need to do the following when you get to the hotel.

1. Get NAME TAG
2. Sign up for BUS to the Capitol
3. Sign up for Capitol TOUR on Tuesday
4. Check in with Texas IMPACT
5. Check in about your legislative VISITS on Tuesday morning at the Capitol

Capitol Legislative Visits

Generations of United Methodist Women have reported that meeting with their legislators is absolutely the best part of Legislative Event. It takes time and effort to set up an appointment, so we really need to know if you are going to come with us to the Capitol Tuesday morning.

Check the item that best describes how you feel about meeting with your Legislators on Tuesday at the Capitol:

- [ ] 1) Yes! I'm a pro. Just please set up the appointment and I will lead the group
- [ ] 2) Yes! I'm a pro. Please set up the appointment BUT I prefer NOT to lead the group
- [ ] 3) I'm eager but I'd love some company
- [ ] 4) I'm nervous but I understand that it's really important and will go with others
- [ ] 5) Darn It! I have another non-negotiable commitment on Tuesday morning, but I commit to following up with my legislator at another time.
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY

Northwest Texas Conference United Methodist Women
Saturday February 4, 2017
Amarillo Saint Paul United Methodist Church
4317 Interstate 40 West (south access road of I-40 between Bell and Western Streets)

Reminder: January 1, 2017 is the final date to book the hotel at the group rate. January 15, 2017 is the final date for the separate registration form to be received.

Leadership Development Day is for all members and friends. There will be a number of choices for leadership sessions. Each attendee will participate in two sessions of choice. We have some new sessions planned that have not been previously offered. Sessions are knowledge based. Those who do not hold office will learn more about the total program of United Methodist Women. Those who are officers may choose a session that will be helpful for them.

OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

9:00 Registration, Brunch, Visiting Resource Room

9:35-10:30 Worship in the Sanctuary – Worship in song; Greetings; Purpose; Prayer Calendar and Meditation; Recognition of First Time Attendees; 150th Anniversary of United Methodist Women and Legacy Fund; Offering

10:30-11:30 Leadership Session 1

11:30-12:30 Leadership Session 2

Noon Lunch – baked chicken breast with mushroom cream sauce on the side; wild rice; vegetable medley, tossed green salad, rolls, drinks, dessert

Immediately following lunch - District Meetings

NEW THIS YEAR: Bring UMW resource material that you are no longer using so you can share with others. Most needed are Reading Program books not older than the 2012 Program year. Prayer Calendars, Studies, Program Books, response, New World Outlook (none more than two years old) are wanted. Bring only United Methodist Women materials. Personal notes are not wanted.

Attendance Challenge: Each district is challenged to increase promotion and information about Leadership Development Day and to encourage attendance of members from each local unit. Each district is challenged to have a higher attendance than any previous record.
REGISTRATION FORM FOR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAY  
Saturday February 4, 2017  
Saint Paul United Methodist Church, Amarillo  
4317 Interstate 40 West (south access road of I-40 between Bell and Western Streets)

- **Arrive** by 9:00 a.m. for registration, brunch and visiting the Resource Room.  
- **Park** in lots on either north, south or west sides of church. **Enter** southeast, west or north doors.  
- **Accessibility**: All entrances have ramps. An elevator is available. Hearing assistive devices are available in the sanctuary. Accessible restrooms are available. One wheelchair and one walker are available by advance request.  
- Lunch is catered and Programs/Handbooks are printed according to the number of pre-registrations. **It is essential that we have your registration by January 15.**  
- **Bring non-perishable food items for Wesley Community Center Food Pantry**  
- **Bring** a tote for meeting handouts.  
- **Bring** your **written questions** and concerns so you will remember to ask during the sessions.  
- If you like to have **drinking water** with you during meetings, we invite you to bring your own refillable covered container. The purchase of bottled water is not supported by United Methodist Women.

Many of you will find it more convenient to drive to Amarillo the day before the event.  
**Hotel** – Rooms are secured at **Fairfield Inn and Suites**, 6600 I-40 West, for Friday, February 3 at a group rate of $95 per room. A hot breakfast is included in the cost. Reservations must be made by **January 1, 2017** to secure the group rate. Cancellations of individual rooms may be made through Wednesday, February 1, 2017 with no charge. Call the hotel directly at 806 351-0172 and identify yourself as part of the Northwest Texas Conference United Methodist Women. Make reservations **now** to assure room availability.

Your District: (Circle one)  
- Abilene  
- Amarillo  
- Big Spring  
- Lubbock

Is this your first time to attend a Conference level February leadership event? _______

What specific accessibility that we need to know ahead of time will you need during the meeting? ________________________________________________________________

Last name: ___________________________  First name: _____________________________  
Please print. This will be on your nametag.

Mailing address: _____________________________________________________________

Telephone numbers: _________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________

Emergency contact name & phone: ____________________________________________

Local church: _____________________________________________________________  
* Local church UMW if different from local church: _____________________________

Child care needed? _____ (advance request only - by January 15) Write the Number of children and their ages on the back of this form. **Bring a sack lunch for each child.**

No later than January 15, this form with a check for $12 for lunch (payable to Amarillo District UMW) is to be received by Frances Kirkland, PO Box 63, Vega TX 79092  
franannkirk@yahoo.com  806 267 2638 home  806 676 2638 cell
Spiritual Growth Retreat
Ceta Canyon Methodist Camp

Leslie Jean Bledsoe, wife of Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe, presiding bishop of the New Mexico/NWTX conferences, will be the speaker and spiritual leader for this year’s Spiritual Growth Retreat. The retreat will be held at Ceta Canyon on Friday evening and Saturday, March 31 – April 1. The theme of Leslie’s presentation is “Blessed in a Mess.”

Leslie is well-known to Northwest Texas United Methodist Women. She taught the study “The Church and People with Disabilities” at our 2014 Mission u. Not only was she a contributor to the study book, Leslie served as a trainer of other study leaders through the national office. She was also one of the speakers at our 2014 Annual Celebration at First UMC of Childress.

Losing her eyesight suddenly in 2002 has enabled Leslie to speak from her heart and with experience on living with a disability. Appointed by the Governor of New Mexico, she serves on the State Commission for Disabled Persons. Her passion is to encourage people to go beyond their perceived limitations. She gives God all the glory because He has taught her to see others through His eyes.

A graduate of Prairie View A&M, Leslie is licensed in Social Work. As a social worker she has served the homeless, families in crisis, and the welfare-to-work population. Leslie also served in the Marines. She has served on numerous conference and district committees of the United Methodist Church. She also served on the St. Joseph Hospital Foundation Board of Directors and the Family Promise Homeless Ministry Board of Directors. She now speaks at retreats, women’s conferences, and churches to encourage us to realize that we can be “Blessed in a Mess.”
Registration Form
Spiritual Growth Retreat
March 31 – April 1, 2017
Ceta Canyon, Wayside, Texas

Name ____________________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
Telephone: _________________________________________________________
(Home) ____________________________________________________________
(Cell) _____________________________________________________________
(E-mail Address) ____________________________________________________
District: __________________________ Local Unit ___________________________

Any Special Dietary Requirements:
(Gluten-Free) (Diabetic) (Vegetarian) (Other-list)

Full Retreat - $ 91.00 – Includes Program, Lodging and 3 Meals
Bedding Linens/Towels from Ceta Canyon - $ 8.00
Friday Only - $ 25.00 – Includes Friday Program and Supper
Saturday Only - $ 32.00 – Includes Saturday Program and Lunch
Saturday Only - $ 40.00 – Includes Saturday Program, Breakfast and Lunch
Scholarship Recipient – Partial ____________ or Full _____________

Source of Funding
_____________________________________________________________________

Make Check Payable to “NWTX Conference United Methodist Women”
Mail Check with this Completed Form to
Frances Kirkland, 2017 Retreat Registrar
PO Box 63
Vega, TX 79092
806-267-2638(home); 806-676-2638 (cell)
franannkirk@yahoo.com

Registration Deadline – March 10, 2017 Postmark date
For more information, contact Susie Starnes, Spiritual Growth Coordinator at 806-584-3919.
Mission u – 2017

Mark your calendar, save the date, and prepare to experience a life-changing few days with United Methodist Women! We will study and learn, play hard (Bunco, of course), visit with our friends, and enjoy the ice cream in the dining hall! July 20-23, 2017 will be this coming year’s annual Mission u event at McMurry University in Abilene, Texas.

The Spiritual Growth study for 2017 will be “Living as a Covenant Community.” We will venture through a study of the major covenants throughout the Bible. Our Geographic study will be “Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church.” This is a study of three unique conferences of the United Methodist Church and what gifts each of those conferences bring to the United Methodist Church.

We are also very blessed to have returning as study leaders, Rita Wynn, Linda Elms, and Ellen Lipsey. The music during our fellowship and worship will be led by Pam Zwiecky and Patricia Hutchinson.

Mission u changes lives!
Annual Celebration 2016

A total of ninety-six women of the United Methodist Women of Northwest Texas Conference gathered in Levelland First United Methodist Church on September 23-24, 2016 to celebrate our work for mission during the past year and to renew our commitment to continue working and learning in 2017. We appreciate the unit and staff of the host church for the hours of preparation and hard work.

Annual Celebration is the cumulative event of the year for our conference. Every year we celebrate our year’s efforts to improve the lives of women, children, and youth all over the world. The highlights of the celebration were panel discussions highlighting the many accomplishments of United Methodist Women during 2016 and a skit…”What Will You Bring to United Methodist Women?” The great thing about a two-day event is that we have the opportunity to meet our sisters across the conference, to share our ideas, and to learn from others.
United Methodist Women’s Sunday
2017

The theme for 2017 United Methodist Women’s Sunday is “We’ve a Story to Tell.” The modern organization of United Methodist Women has inherited and continues to build upon a rich inheritance of vision and service that began in 1869. Over the years and throughout the different organizations that were the forerunner of United Methodist Women, the women throughout the world who dedicated themselves to mission have amassed a varied history of service. Each individual has contributed to the overall story of United Methodist Women. The 2017 theme coordinates with preparation for the year 2019 when United Methodist Women will celebrate its 150th birthday.

Each local church is encouraged to celebrate this special service at a time mutually agreeable with the pastor and/or the worship committee of the church. For additional information and guides to help with planning your unit’s recognition of United Methodist Women Sunday, please email a request to any one of the following: Pam Zwickey (NWTConference UMW president) at pdztx@yahoo.com, Carolyn Cobb (NWTConference UMW vice-president) at ccobb1@wildblue.net, or Rita Wynn (NWTConference UMW communications coordinator) at rita.wynn@gmail.com. The information packet you will receive via email includes suggested scriptures, music, responsive reading, suggested topics for both children’s time and a message from a speaker, as well as historical information about United Methodist Women from the national office.

This information is also available on the Northwest Texas Conference website.
Read and Recycle! FREE!

Sherrie Burns, the new Program Resources coordinator for the conference, would like to invite everyone who will be attending Leadership Development Day to bring any used books from the UMW Reading Program list and/or any study books from previous years. There will be a table in the Resource Room to display these items, so everyone can have a chance to clean out your previously read materials and help others fill their empty shelves…and all FREE! What a wonderful way to BE GREEN!!

*** *****  *****  *****  *****  *****  *****  *****  *****  *****  *****  *****  *****

Most Supportive Pastor

Nominations are needed for Most Supportive Pastor for 2017! Please submit a brief narrative of the reasons why the nominee should be considered for this honor, bestowed yearly by the Northwest Texas Conference United Methodist Women. Send all nominations to Conference President, Pam Zwick (email: pdztx@yahoo.com or send it to 19651 SW 34th Street, Amarillo, TX 79119). Nominations must be received by January 31, 2016. The Conference Leadership Team will review all nominations at the Leadership Development Day executive team meeting on February 3rd. After review and discussion one of the nominated pastors for 2017 will be elected by the team. The award for Most Supportive Pastor for 2017 will be presented at the United Methodist Women and Friends Dinner in June during Annual Conference.

Kathi Edwards, Deaconess, to be Speaker at the United Methodist Women and Friends Dinner

We are honored to have Kathi Edwards, a United Methodist Deaconess since April of 2014, as the speaker for the United Methodist Women and Friends Dinner during Annual Conference in June, 2017. Kathi was consecrated at the United Methodist Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. Kathi currently serves as the Staff Chaplain for Hendrick Hospice Care in Abilene, Texas. Previously she worked as a staff counselor at The Haven, a woman’s outreach ministry in Clyde, Texas.

Not only will those attending be blessed by hearing Kathi’s message, but during the dinner the 2017 winner of the Most Supportive Pastor award will be announced. The winner is chosen from many nominees by the United Methodist Women Leadership Team.
United Methodist Women Celebrate 150 Years of Organization for Mission

In 2019 United Methodist Women will celebrate 150 years as an organization. From a gathering of just a few women in Boston to over 800,000 women working worldwide to better the lives of women, children and youth, United Methodist Women has a remarkable past and a bright future. The national office of United Methodist Women asks us to help with this celebration in two ways. First, our conference president, Pam Zwickey, is continuing to collect the stories of the women of the Northwest Texas Conference. Send your story of how you became a member of United Methodist Women, why you continue to be a member, your favorite memories, and how the organization has impacted your life. (Email your story to Pam at pdztx@yahoo.com). The second way to help is with a contribution to the Legacy Fund. This fund has been set up to assure the future of United Methodist Women for another 150 years and beyond. To donate to the Legacy Fund or for additional information, contact Pam Zwickey at the email address given above, or call 806-355-4234.

“From those women to whom much has been given, much is expected.” – Matilda Joslyn Gage, “A World of Word,” National Citizen and Ballot Box, May 1880.

****    ****    ****    ****    ****    ****    ****    ****    ****

“Information, Please!”

As United Methodist Women we must never forget that we are members of a nation-wide, world-wide, informed organization. We are fortunate to have many resources available to us, including:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org
www.umwmissionresources.org
www.texasimpact.org
SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 23

3rd Annual
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DAY OF GIVING

Join United Methodist Women members around the country on March 23 for the Third Annual Day of Giving to The Legacy Fund, part of our five-year 150th anniversary celebration!

The Legacy Fund is a permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Methodist Women.

It's easy to give!

- Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, Monday-Friday).
- Text Legacy150 to 41444.
- By check to:
  Office of the Treasurer,
  United Methodist Women,
  475 Riverside Drive,
  New York, NY 10115.

Write “The Legacy Fund” in the memo section.
NWTX Conference
United Methodist Women
Leadership Team 2017

Pam Zwickey, President
pdztx@yahoo.com

Carolyn Cobb, Vice President
ccobb1@wildblue.net

Virginia Cotton, Secretary
virgcotton@yahoo.com

Donna Watkins, Treasurer
dwatkins52@gmail.com

Susie Starnes, Spiritual Outreach
susiestarnes@yahoo.com

Patricia Hutchinson, Mission
Action/Interpretation
patrhtc@aol.com

Sherrie Burns, Secretary of Program Resources
dburns23@suddenlink.net

Rita Wynn, Communications
rita.wynn@gmail.com

Becky Harp, Green Team Chair
rhrdh5@yahoo.com

Tricia Cupell, Mission u Dean
tricia.cupell@gmail.com

Beverly Dunlap, Mission u Assistant Dean
bevij@suddenlink.net

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS:
Rachel C. Valdez, Chair
rhae03@suddenlink.net

Regina Henley, Member
geahenley@aol.com

Virginia Watson, Member
vwatson1953@suddenlink.net

Martha Webster, Member
jpwux@aol.com

Judy Wiggins, Member
wigginsjudy60@yahoo.com

CHARTER OF RACIAL JUSTICE POLICIES:
Margie Raye Titus, Member
mtitusmid@aol.com

Rebecca Ponce, Member
Vecka@aol.com

Brenda Breedan, National Program Advisory Group Member and Chair of Standing Rules Committee
snoopyb1@suddenlink.net

Esther Moses, Language Coordinator
brownesugare@yahoo.com

DISTRICT PRESIDENTS:

Lila Hoobler, Abilene
lhoobler@aol.com

Jane Ann Stewart, Amarillo
jastewart@suddenlink.net

Jackie Berry, Big Spring
Berryjh1950@gmail.com

Sharon White, Lubbock
swhite@wtrt.net
MISSION TODAY REPORT 2017
NORTHWEST TEXAS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Reporting period July 2016-May 2017

If you save this document in Word, you can type on the document. Then, if you wish, you can send it by email. You may fill out the document during the year so it will be easier to finish by the due date.

Local unit name: _____________________________________________________________

Circle district:   Abilene      Amarillo     Big Spring    Lubbock

Name of person reporting and contact information: ________________________________

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.

Mission Today is what keeps us United Methodist Women.

Each local group (unit) will meet the following four basic expectations to become a basic Mission Today group. Circle Yes or No to indicate whether your local unit complied with each expectation.

Yes   No    1. Each member understands and affirms the PURPOSE.

Yes   No    2. Make and pay a Pledge to Mission for the group. This is sent to your District Treasurer who records and sends to the Conference Treasurer. Use the quarterly due dates.

Yes   No    3. Send a local unit membership report by February 2017.

Yes   No    4. Send this local group Mission Today report by May 31, 2017 to the Conference President, Pam Zwickey, 19651 SW 34th Ave, Amarillo TX 79119, 806-355-4234 cell and text or pdztx@yahoo.com

In addition to the four basic expectations, each local group is encouraged to participate in as many of the following items as possible so that we may become more united. We want to share ideas and information.
Circle Yes or No to indicate whether your local unit completed each expectation and provide documentation.

Yes  No  1. Celebrate United Methodist Women Sunday in your local church. Send the report to the name and address on the report form.

Yes  No  2. Participate in FIVE STAR channels of giving. The local treasurer sends all funds through the district treasurer who records and sends to the conference treasurer. The group or an individual member gives to each of the following: Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, and World Thank Offering. (The 5th Channel is the Pledge to Mission which is a basic expectation.)

Yes  No  3. Contribute to a specific mission project of National United Methodist Women. Monetary contributions are sent by the local treasurer to the district treasurer. Supplies for a hands-on project such as UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) are sent through the Northwest Texas Conference office or other designated UMCOR collection sites. Supplies for a National Mission Institution such as Amarillo Wesley Community Center are given directly to the mission or a designated collection site. A list of institutions supported by United Methodist Women is available. List your mission project(s).

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Yes  No  4. At least one member completes a plan of the Reading Program, choosing from Plans 1-4. Send individual report forms your district Secretary of Program Resources or to Sherrie Burns, 6700 Dreyfuss Rd., Amarillo, TX 79106  806-467-9648 h  806-674-1104 c, or text to Sherrie’s cell, or email: dburns23@suddenlink.net

Yes  No  5. The group stays informed and/or participates in legislative matters. Explain:
____________________________________________________________________________

Yes  No  6. Communicate with five persons in mission. (in person, postal mail, email,) List names of those persons in mission:
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Yes  No  7. Add at least one new member. List names: __________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Yes  No  8. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice. (local activities carried out without regard to race, ethnicity, or any other similar criteria) Explain:
____________________________________________________________________________
**Numbers 9-14 involve using United Methodist Women resource material.**

Yes  No  9. Use the Prayer Calendar throughout the year. How did you use the Prayer Calendar?

Yes  No  10. Use the Program Book as a program resource at one or more gatherings. How did you use the program book?

Yes  No  11. Use one or more Reading Program books as a resource for programs at gatherings. Explain.

Yes  No  12. Use *response* magazine and/or *New World Outlook* as a resource for programs at gatherings. How did you use these?

Yes  No  13. Have at least one study from the study books produced by National United Methodist Women. Send the Study Report to the name/address on the report form.

Yes  No  14. Use [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) as a source for programs. Share how you used this site.

**Numbers 15-22 promote learning and unity by attending United Methodist Women events.**

Yes  No  15. Attend June 2016 United Methodist Women and Friends Dinner at Annual Conference. List attendee(s).

Yes  No  16. Attend July 2016 Mission u. (List participant(s)).
Yes  No  17. Attend 2016 Annual Celebration of the NWTX Conference. (List attendee(s)).

Yes  No  18. Attend February 2017 NWTX Conference Leadership Development Day. List participant(s).

Yes  No  19. Attend 2017 Spiritual Growth Retreat. List attendee(s).

Yes  No  20. Attend a District-wide event of United Methodist Women. List event(s) and attendee(s).

Encourage members to make plans to:

- Attend 2018 Assembly (Columbus, Ohio)
- Attend 2020 South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting (TBA)

Please feel free to add pages and tell us exciting news about your unit that is not included above.

This information is also available on the Northwest Texas Conference website.
A Message from Amarillo Wesley Community Center

Dear Friends and Family of Amarillo Wesley Community Center,

I would like to first take the time to thank you all for your faithful support both in prayer and financially. Without your generosity and support for the Center, we would not be able to continue with our ministry that services children, youth, adults and senior citizens. There is so much to feel positive and blessed about this year.

On Wednesday, November 9th the Northwest Texas Conference United Methodist Women hosted a luncheon called “Thankful Together” benefitting the Amarillo Wesley Community Center. This event gave us the opportunity to talk about our programs. In addition, we had four guests who talked about their experience utilizing our Food Pantry, Seniors Citizens Program, Youth Program, and other services. It was heartwarming to see that people continue to be impacted by the good work coming from the Center. Looking ahead to the New Year, we have real confidence in our strengths as a ministry.

We express our gratitude and thank you again for your generous support, love, and prayers.

Please bring non-perishable food items to LDD in February for the AWCC Food Pantry!

With a grateful heart,

Liz R. Alaniz
Executive Director

Permission has been granted by the Amarillo Wesley Community Center and the children’s parents/guardians to publish these pictures.
Reading Program Changes

Attention Readers: Remember that children’s books from the reading list can now be counted for reading credit at all levels. Before the changes made to the program last year, children’s books could not be listed until Level Three. Books from the 2012 reading list through 2017 can be read for credit. All titles will remain eligible for credit for six years instead of five.

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What are you currently reading? Sherrie Burns has read and enthusiastically recommends The End of Your Life Book Club, by Will Schwalbe. The book is a Nurturing for Community selection from 2015.

I know the title sounds sad…not a good read…Wrong!! This is a story that will grab you by your heart strings and hold on! It is written by a son about his mother and her battle with cancer, and about how they manage to go through her last months sharing their love of reading. Their lives are intertwined with family stories, interactions with friends, and of course, his journey of faith. You will laugh…you will cry…you will be blessed by reading this book. A New York Times book review stated, “A loving celebration of a mother by a son.”
Are you a subscriber to *response*, the United Methodist Women’s magazine of women in mission? What about *New World Outlook*, the mission magazine of the United Methodist Church?

Both the magazines are available in both print and digital format. To subscribe go online to:


Single copies of both publications are also available through these websites.

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**A Note From Program Resources**

Sherrie Burns will be placing an order on January 13th for the books and materials for Leadership Development Day. If there are any free materials or forms you may want to order, please let Sherrie know by January 12th. The materials ordered in this way do not incur any shipping charges. That in turn saves mission money, so it actually “pays” to plan ahead. Contact Sherrie at dburns23@suddenlink.net or call or text 806-674-1104.
It’s Easy to be Green…
Just ask Kermit the Frog!

Using cloth shopping bags at the grocery store, box store, or department store saves energy, money, and the environment. One person using reusable cloth bags over a lifetime would remove more than 22,000 plastic bags from the environment.

Introducing the Northwest Texas Conference GREEN TEAM

The Northwest Texas Conference has a newly formed Green Team Committee to help our units and our churches become sustainable. This is a result of the 2016 mission study Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action. The committee has four women ready to help your units learn about Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling. Each district has a representative.

- Jean Marsh: Abilene (wjmcmarch@gmail.com)
- Becky Harp: Amarillo, Chairperson (rlhrdh5@yahoo.com)
- Shirley Shroyer: Big Spring (sshroyer@crcom.net)
- Marca Herring: Lubbock (marcaherring59@gmail.com)

We are passionate about this planet, and we want you to be, also. We are available for programs and discussions. This is not just a year long endeavor. Rather, it is a lifetime commitment to teach EVERYONE what is happening to our planet. Be ready to find those glass plates, cups, and silverware for meetings…and maybe cloth napkins! All United Methodist Women should be using a reusable water bottle. If only 10% of our membership would use a reusable water bottle it would make a huge impact on the amount of energy used. Just think what would happen if all of us did that! Be Ready, Ladies! United Methodist Women are going to turn our churches around to sustainability and then the world. -- Becky Harp, Chairperson

Be Just! Be Green!
"...To know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ..." Who would not want to be a part of a group with that goal in mind? In a world of women searching for identity and contentment, UMW encourages spiritual growth and personal relationship with Jesus as a very real answer for very real needs. Studies teaching understanding and involvement in local, national, and international issues offer challenge and personal growth.

"...to develop a creative, supportive fellowship..." 50 years ago, we had just moved to Spearman and of course gone to the Methodist Church our first Sunday in town. The next Wednesday, our minister's wife, Beth Daniel, called and asked if she could come by for me and my 8 month old daughter and take us with her to UMW. And that was the beginning of a creative, supportive fellowship I have enjoyed on the local, the district, and the conference level ever since. A supportive fellowship sticks with you in joy and in sorrow. I have personally known that UMW fellowship in both and it was particularly helpful in sorrow.

"...to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church..." This is the part of the purpose that appeals to me as no other organization I have belonged to has done. UMW allows me to make a difference in the world. Our organization reaches places and changes lives that I could never reach on my own. I am thankful for the help that women and children all over the world have gotten because of my UMW - because of your UMW. And that is why I am still a part of this group and will be to the day I die and finish my story in heaven.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2016-May 2017</td>
<td>Local church United Methodist Women Sunday Send report form.</td>
<td>Local church</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2017</td>
<td>Last day for special rate for hotel block for LDD</td>
<td>Fairfield Inn, 6600 I 40 W Amarillo Phone 806 351 0172</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 6, 2017</td>
<td>Last day for special rate for Legislative Event registration and hotel</td>
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<td>January 22-24 2017</td>
<td>Texas Legislative Event</td>
<td>Austin</td>
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<td>January 31, 2017</td>
<td>Nominations from local, district, and conference for Most Supportive Pastor due to Conference President</td>
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<td>February 3 2017</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Meeting 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>St. Paul, Amarillo</td>
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<td>February 4 2017</td>
<td>Conference-wide Leadership Development Day</td>
<td>St. Paul, Amarillo</td>
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<td>February 28, 2017</td>
<td>Local Membership Report due online</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Registration due for Spiritual Growth Retreat</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 31-April 1, 2017</td>
<td>Spiritual Growth Retreat</td>
<td>Ceta Canyon</td>
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<td>May 31, 2017</td>
<td>Local Unit Reports due to district (Studies, Memorials, Reading Program, Mission Today, UMW Sunday)</td>
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<td>June 8, 9, 10, 2017</td>
<td>NWTX Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church</td>
<td>Overton Hotel, Lubbock</td>
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<td>June 2017</td>
<td>UMW &amp; Friends Dinner at Annual Conference</td>
<td>Lubbock</td>
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<td>June 30, 2017</td>
<td>District Reports due to Conference</td>
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<td>J July 19, 2017</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Meeting 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>McMurry University, Abilene</td>
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<td>J July 20-23, 2017</td>
<td>Mission u</td>
<td>McMurry University, Abilene</td>
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<td>August 15, 2017</td>
<td>Burning of the Candle honors &amp; memorials form due</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2017</td>
<td>Last day for registration and for special hotel rate for Annual Celebration</td>
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<td>September 29, 2017</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Meeting 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Plainview FUMC</td>
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<td>September 29-30, 2017</td>
<td>Annual Celebration</td>
<td>Plainview FUMC</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2017</td>
<td>Conference Leadership Team Fall Planning 2:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18 – 20, 2018</td>
<td>Assembly</td>
<td>Columbus, Ohio</td>
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**NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APRIL 10</th>
<th>for May Newsletter</th>
<th>DECEMBER 1</th>
<th>for January Newsletter</th>
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<tr>
<td>AUGUST 1</td>
<td>for August Newsletter</td>
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Beginning in 2016 the national office staff and the directors of United Methodist Women are asking each of us to register online. The information gained through this program will enable the staff and directors to better serve the needs of our organization through programming decisions, educational opportunities, and various ecumenical activities.

United Methodist Women’s membership is open to all women dedicated to mission with women, children, and youth. All mission-minded women within and beyond the United Methodist Church are welcome. We are an open, Christian organization with ecumenical ties and connections around the world.

On the United Methodist Women’s website’s home page look for the blue box shown above. Click on it, and it will take you through the registration process. You will be asked for information such as your home church, district, and conference, as well as other information. After you have completed and submitted the registration form you will be given instructions for printing your personalized United Methodist Women membership card.

United Methodist Women will NEVER share your personal information without permission.