

Greetings to all of our East Central United Methodist Women!

I use that address because as of July 1st some of the units will be moving to “The Atlantic Central District and some will be moving to the North East District. The East Central District will receive some units from the North Central District along with several from the South Central District. Your Pastor of each church will be informing you of the changes.

Your District team will be busy getting all these changes made so that when you start your New Year, things will go really smoothly. All your reports from October, 2016 to October 1, 2017 will still need to be sent to Linda Gustafson for our East Central District Annual Meeting program booklet. Most important will be Reading Program reports, Mission Today reports, Credit for Mission Study, and the names of your sisters you have lost this year for the memorial page. All of those reports need to be turned in no later than August 30, 2017 as we, in turn, need to send them off to Conference for their Annual Meeting booklet. You *do* want to be counted! If I omitted anything, please don't hesitate to email me at lindag65@cfl.rr.com.

I hope that many of you will be attending Mission u on July 13-16, 2017 at Bethune/Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Please check in with the team so that we know how many United Methodist Women members are attending. I believe this is going to be a very exciting four days.

Following Mission u will be our District Annual Meeting on October 21, 2017 to be held at the First United Methodist Church of Clermont. There will be more information about the meeting right after Mission u. This will be my eight year as a member of the District Mission Team, which means I have to step away for a few years. I really would love seeing all the wonderful friends that I have met in the last eight years at the Annual meeting. Please attend!

Love and Prayers for all,

Linda Gustafson, President East Central Team

MARK YOUR CALENDARS SO YOU DON'T MISS THESE IMPORTANT DATES!

July 13-16, 2017...Mission u (Bethune-Cookman University)

September 23, 2017...Mission Studies Sampler (Sanlando UMC)

October 21, 2017...District Annual Meeting (FUMC Clermont)

November 4, 2017...Conference Annual Meeting (Lakeland)

Saturday, May 13, **Lake Helen United Methodist Women** held their Annual Spring Luncheon. This event allowed our ladies to have a special time enjoying lunch and fellowship and an opportunity to reflect on what is important in our everyday lives.

Fern Bauche, President of Lake Helen United Methodist Women, presided. She reminded everyone of the abundant support which we give to many missions: internationally, nationally and locally. Although our group is relatively small (compared to larger churches), our members are enthusiastic and energetic with an outpouring of assistance to those in need. As fundraisers, our organization conducts spring and fall bake sales; pecan sales; and greeting card sales. Proceeds enable us to benefit the lives of women, children and youth.

Our group was honored to have two special guests, **Linda Gustafson**, the East Central District President of United Methodist Women, and **Ladye Cox** from the East Central District Leadership Team. Ladye graciously served as our luncheon speaker and shared information about her participation in events and activities of United Methodist Women since she first became a member in 1973. The number of district and local offices which she has held in the past forty-four years was impressive and it was enlightening to learn of her many experiences. Ladye reminded the group of the importance of service and she focused on the need for United Methodist Women to reach out -- especially as mentors to younger women. She emphasized that we all have strengths to share and it is our responsibility to be proactive in helping others. Ladye encouraged us to have a zeal for what we do and to be exceptional.

All twenty-one ladies in attendance at the Spring Luncheon left with a sense of renewal and an appreciation of what we can achieve as we unite in our efforts to serve others. When we exemplify "faith, hope and love in action", we truly can make a difference!



Fern Bauche, President, adds finishing touches to the setup for United Methodist Women's Annual Spring Luncheon at Lake Helen United Methodist Church, Saturday, May 13, 2017.

On Saturday, May 13, 2017, **Faith United Methodist Women** held a Mother's Day luncheon. About 40 members and friends had a fabulous time renewing friendship and exchanging news. Doubtless, whenever mothers gather, they talk about their "babies" who can be of any age and gender.

The highlight of the program was story telling. Everyone was welcome to tell her story, and suddenly we realized we do not know one another that well, or so we thought.



A story told by Rebecca Rasberry, adopted daughter of a 90-year-old church member:

"I was adopted at the Children's Home in Tampa, Florida when I was 3 months old. My adopted parents also adopted a boy 1 1/2 years later. We were loved deeply and unconditionally and we knew it. My mom and dad did so much, including the little things that mattered a lot. After my dear daddy died, I wanted to find my birth parents. I managed to find them when I was about 48 years old. They lived in Pennsylvania, and I visited them. We did a DNA to confirm. My birth mother had a hard and lonely life and she never married. I was the first child of three she gave away. It hurt me to see my birth mother hurting and sad. She died of cancer. My mom is now 90 and my brother and I are truly blessed. To God Be the Glory."

Another story from the event:

"When I was four years old my mother left me with her aunt and went off to New York City to make a life for herself.

Auntie, as I called her, was a woman who never married and never had any children of her own. She brought me to live with her in her house in the "hills". She got me settled in school, where I

stayed on week nights, and came home to her for the weekends. This had to be done because her house was too far from “town” for me to go home every night.

As I grew, she made me feel that I was an important part of her world. She made me feel that everything she owned partially belonged to me. To me, she was the “queen” of Hills. She owned the biggest house in the area, but she was very generous with everything that she had. If anyone needed anything she was there for them. She took in many a child whose parents could not take care of them. Whether they were relatives or not did not matter. She shared everything she had with those around her. We had one of the few refrigerators in the area, so if anyone needed to keep anything cold she would have them keep it in ours. Because of her generosity, the people of the area took good care of us. We were never without. Baskets of food would show up randomly, and neighbors would show up to help with work around the property whenever it was needed.

She noticed that the children on our side of the mountain had a long and dangerous walk to get to school and church. So, she hired a teacher, and set up a little school on her veranda. Eventually she was able to get a small building constructed that served both as school and church. She arranged that the young Methodist Ministers who were sent out from England would make a stop at her little church once a month. They would arrive red-faced and sweating to bring the “Word” to the people of the hills. I would laugh, and she would scold me.

She was a very religious woman, and she believed deeply in the power of prayer. She would get annoyed with me when I became afraid of lightning storms, or the dark. ‘The Lord will protect us’ she would say. Nothing seemed to get in the way of her ‘Trust in the Lord’ certainty.

When I turned fourteen, my mother was able to bring me to America to live with her. I was heartbroken to leave my precious Auntie and my home in the hills.”

Summer is here!

Ladies, I call your attention to the latest issue of *Response* - yes, the June issue! There is so much great educational information! Just off the top, turn to page 5:

Responsively Yours - What is Transformative Education? By Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary United Methodist Women. Her last three paragraphs really send a message to us:

“.....each of us comes to learning with background and experience. We have a framework through which we see the world and see God at work. Sometimes learning new things messes with our framework. Sometimes our thinking shifts gradually and naturally, and sometimes we have a radical shift in perspective.”

“It's only natural that some of us sometime fight those radical shifts. We feel that our existing frameworks have served us well. But if we have too small a view of God's activity, or too negative a view of our own capacity, or an uninformed view about another person, or a group, our perspective needs to shift, and our new thinking should lead us to new ways of speaking and acting.”

“What a blessing that our God is in the transformation business and that education is one of God's tools. So, is God stirring? The Holy Spirit moving us? To transform our lives and thereby transform other lives?”

Now turn to page 7: learn.....Look at paragraph 2 and 3!

“To what covenant is God calling United Methodist Women? We organize for women, children and youth. Our purpose as a community of women 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.” (Sound familiar?)

“Recent issues of *Response* have talked about the uncomfortable work of building right relationships. To truly build kin-dom, a world in which all thrive, we can't avoid discomfort. It's what Jesus calls us to, for on the other side is deeper knowledge, understanding and love. In the discomfort is community. In the discomfort is God.”

“And who is with us wherever we are????? Yes, He is...great, all the time!
Let's search ourselves and just maybe step up to the challenge He continues to offer us.
Remember we have many opportunities to grow ourselves working in and thru UNITED METHODIST WOMEN at any level and so many different areas.”

"If we function according to our own ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory... The reality is that the Lord never calls the qualified; He qualifies the called." Henry T. Blackaby
2 Timothy 1:6-9

Our East Central District is still in need of a new President, Vice President/Program Planning, and 2-4 members for the Nominating Committee. Please contact any member of the District Committee of Nominations as listed below:

Celeste Hicks 727-641-1106 c3jrh57@gmail.com
Christine Whinstanley 386-447-3946 cawhin@yahoo.com
Maritza Lago 787-597-3532 mlago462@gmail.com
Gail Wiltse 407-960-1266 gailwiltse@hotmail.com

Diane Abresky 407-566-4922 dabresky@gmail.com
Nancy Siebert 386-532-1564 nssiebert@cfl.rr.com
Evelyn Rose 352-250-3246 dcrose1168@aol.com
Faye Myers 407-929-2586 fayeumwom@bellsouth.net

Mother's Day Brunch

The **United Methodist Women of Oviedo**, held their annual Mother's Day Brunch on May 13th in Fellowship Hall with approximately 135 attendees. This was a “fashion-filled fun event” that featured a fashion show by the Christian Sharing Center, a local organization that provides essential resources to those in need while ensuring dignity, reflecting Christian generosity, and sharing God's love. Our beautiful models were women from our eight circles: Agape, Bethany, Daughters of Eve, Faith, Friendship, Koinonia, Mary Martha and Ruth. After the brunch, guests were invited to browse and shop in the “boutique” provided by the Christian Sharing Center's thrift shop.





The Pregnancy Center of Oviedo Baby Shower

On May 21st the **Daughters of Eve Circle of the United Methodist Women of Oviedo** hosted a baby shower for the Pregnancy Center of Oviedo in the Fellowship Hall. Kristen Barnett, the Director of the Pregnancy Center, was the featured speaker. The Pregnancy Center's mission is to help a woman faced with an unplanned pregnancy by modeling the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate lay-counseling and the resources to empower her to make a life-affirming decision.

Church members were very generous with donations of diapers, clothing, lotions, and monetary gifts. In addition, the Center received 10 new car seats! We are thankful to everyone for being the hands and feet of Jesus!

Mark your calendars!

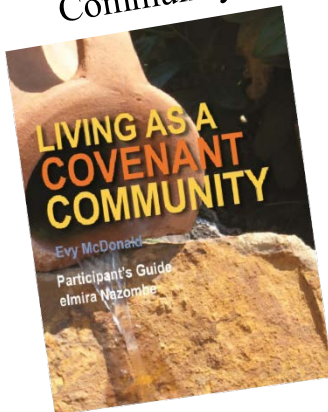
July 13 - 16, 2017

Mission u

Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach

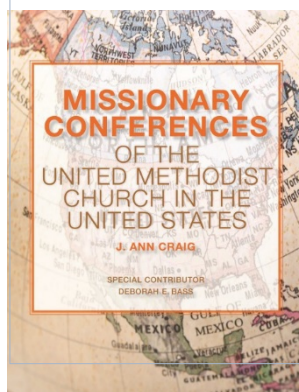
Theme: Learning Together... for Transformation

*Spiritual Growth:
Living as a Covenant
Community*

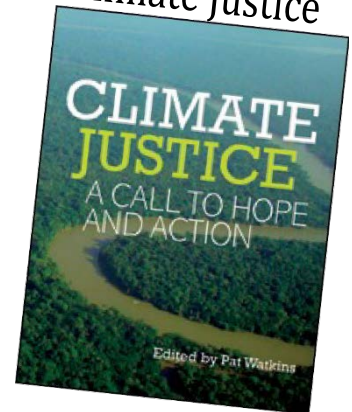


Geographic:

**The Missionary Conferences of the
United Methodist Church**

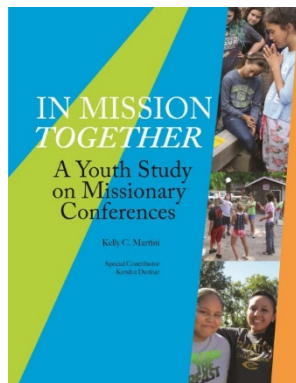


*Issue Study:
Climate Justice*



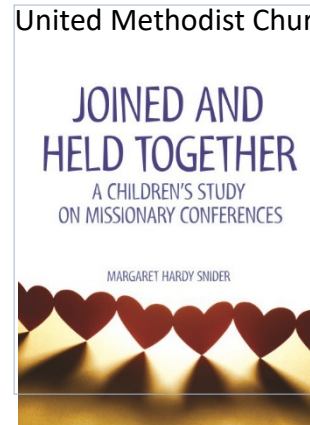
Youth:

**The Missionary Conferences of the
United Methodist Church**



Children

**The Missionary Conferences of the
United Methodist Church**



All study texts are now available at www.umwmissionresources.org

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
'MISSION u' ADULT REGISTRATION FORM
July 13 – July 16, 2017, Bethune-Cookman University, Daytona Beach, Florida
Please fill out carefully and completely – Please print legibly – No lunch on Sunday

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ Home phone _____

Name of Church: _____ City: _____ District: _____

First time attendee _____ Attending a college or university _____ Age group 18-35 _____ 36-50 _____ 51-70 _____ 71+ _____

Laity _____ Clergy _____ Missionary _____ Deaconess _____ Member/United Methodist Women _____

District or Conference Officer? _____ Your Office _____

HOUSING: Female _____ Male _____ Couple _____ Choice of Roommate _____
 Roommates must send in registration forms together

Physical/Disability Needs: 1st floor room _____ Wheelchair accessible _____ Wheelchair accessible shower _____

EMERGENCY INFO (Must be completed): Physician _____
 Name Phone Number

Insurance/Policy # _____ Allergies, medical concerns, health/dietary needs _____

All participants will take the Covenantal Community study. Indicate 1st or 2nd choice of Study Leader. PLEASE CHOOSE an additional study. Indicate 1st or 2nd choice of Study Leader.

Living As A Covenant Community: Rev. David Range _____ Rev. Miguel Velez (S) _____ Gwang Hyun Jacob Parks (K) _____ Dea. Mary Melvin _____ Joyce Waldon Bright _____ Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown _____ Rev. Harold D. Lewis _____ Rev. Luc Dessieux (C) _____	Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States: Rev. Amos Adhemar (C) _____ Praveena Balasundaram _____ Sandi Goodman _____ Dea. Nan Gordon _____ Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson _____ Icel Rodriguez (S) _____ Denise Morrell (YA) _____	Climate Justice: Sara Orellana (S) _____ Rebecca Rochester _____ Legend: (C) Creole (K) Korean (S) Spanish (YA) Young Adult
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Bios for Study Leaders - on the UMW's website flconfumw.org

Sign language needed _____ Interpreter _____ What language _____

Fees:	Postmarked by June 30	after June 30	Postmarked by June 30	after June 30
	Rooms/Meals \$200.00	\$210.00	Commuter \$50.00	\$60.00

REFUNDS: Will be made by written request only and must be submitted to the registrar by July 5, 2017.

MAIL registration and check, payable to Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission u, to:
 Ciliane Louis, PO Box 1546, Hallandale FL, 33008. Phone 954-226-8110. Email: clouis3@yahoo.com.

MISSION PROJECT: This year we will be collecting gift cards from Walmart and/or Target for Cornerstone Family Ministries.

This Registration Form may be copied as needed – and **all other** Registration Forms are on the Florida United Methodist Women's website: **flconfumw.org**