

Mission Initiatives

Our entire program focuses on mission. Our mission initiatives include:

- Providing opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equipping women & girls to be leaders
- Providing transformative educational experiences
- Organizing for growth & flexibility
- Working for justice through service and advocacy

Providing Opportunities to Grow Spiritually

United Methodist Women provides opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, to become more deeply rooted in Christ, and to put faith into action.

These include:

- Spiritual growth studies
- Bible studies in *Response*, at events and online
- Annual Reading Program reading lists with a Spiritual Growth theme
- Training events for reaching United Methodist Women through retreats and inspirational events

Equipping Women & Girls to Be Leaders

United Methodist Women equips women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, governments, and churches.

United Methodist Women provides and supports leadership development of its members to give women of all racial, ethnic, language and economic groups the opportunity to realize their full potential and to participate in the life of the church and society. We offer leadership development, training, and resources for:

- Teen women and college/university women
- Conference and district leadership of United Methodist Women
- Hispanic, Korean and women of other language groups

Providing Transformative Educational Experiences

United Methodist Women provides educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

Mission needs to be carried out with education, preparation, action and advocacy, and mutual learning and partnerships.

- [Schools of Christian Mission](#) educate 25,000 United Methodists each year through the Mission Studies.
- Books and other publications educate members on spiritual growth, social issues, and geographic areas.
- [The Seminar Program](#) provides custom designed, interactive and educational seminars throughout the year for groups to study complex social issues from a perspective of faith.

- [The Reading Program](#) offers thought-provoking books for reflection and discussion
- [The Ubuntu Explorers program](#) enables women in the United States to partner with women around the world to experience others' lives on a short-term basis.
- National events incorporate education and action for laywomen, such as the quadrennial Assembly, legislative events, and National Seminar.

Organizing for Growth & Flexibility

Financially

United Methodist Women-supported programs and projects are possible because of individual women's gifts to mission through "[Mission Giving](#)." Mission Giving allows United Methodist Women to respond where the need is the greatest and to work in partnership with organizations doing similar work.

Close to \$20 million comes from United Methodist Women members annually to support mission programs and projects throughout the U.S. and around the world. These gifts do not include another \$5 million collected and used by local member units.

United Methodist Women's volunteer board of directors disburse the funds received through Mission Giving by responding to emerging needs and explore historical, new and experimental mission programs with women and children.

For Members

United Methodist Women is committed to finding new ways to invite and involve women in our 140-year-old organization with over 800,000 members. At all levels of the organization, United Methodist Women works to:

- Ensure inclusiveness and racial/ethnic diversity
- Resource Hispanic and Korean-American members and other emerging language groups
- Nurture teen and college/university women

UMW Online, the United Methodist Women's social network, connects members to each other and to opportunities for participation through United Methodist Women.

Working for Justice Through Service & Advocacy

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

United Methodist Women continues its advocacy work on peace and justice, education, racial justice, immigrant rights, the environment, economic justice, women's health, the rights of children, human rights, and farm workers' rights, to name a few. [Read United Methodist Women's stances on issues.](#)

In all advocacy efforts United Methodist Women supports its work with a scriptural basis and adheres to the denominational mandates in the *Book of Discipline* and *Book of Resolutions* of The United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Women works in partnership with coalitions on many justice issues to extend its reach. [See list of partners.](#)