



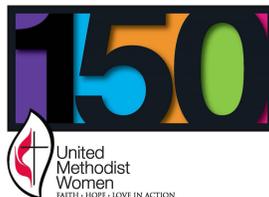
## Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women

Newsletter July 2018



“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.” Hebrews 12:1. This verse speaks volume about United Methodist Women and the work they are engaged in every day.

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! What a wonderful year we have had in our Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women! Our Annual meeting celebration in October marked the ending of a very successful 2017 calendar year. The women of the Shreveport District displayed radical hospitality along with the women of 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church in Bossier City as they gracefully welcomed the Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women. Hats off to Shirley Payne, Marilyn Turnley and the entire planning committee for a job well done. The following is a recap of 2018 thus far:

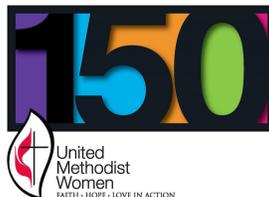




January 28, 2018: This was the date designated as United Methodist Women's Day. Although this date originated from our National headquarters, this celebration can be done on any Sunday of whatever the local units chooses. Our theme for this year was "Caring for our Father's World". I had the privilege of being the guest speaker at St. Mark's UMC in Baton Rouge, La for their celebration. What a wonderful time we had!

In February several of our ladies attended the Leadership Development Days training in St. Louis, Missouri. This was a very informative training event with excellent workshops and speakers. "A Way Forward Conversation" training was introduced to the Conference Presidents, Vice Presidents and the Program Advisory Group representatives from each of our Conferences. This training has been brought back to our Louisiana Conference and has been introduced to our Leadership team. Several of the Districts have already had their conversations with more scheduled to come. As the year progresses, it is our hope that at least 75% of our ladies will have been informed and knowledgeable about what the conversations are designed for. The 1<sup>st</sup> training with our Leadership team was held on Friday, February 2, 2018 prior to our 1<sup>st</sup> team meeting of the year.

One of our major events of the year which was the celebration of United Methodist Women turning 150 years old, was held on February 3, 2018 at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC in Alexandria, La. This program was well planned and very well attended with over 150 women, men and children. Our speakers included: Carlos and Saraj Welch, (retired Missionaries), Edna B. Hickman, (past Conference and Jurisdictional president), Coach Jeffrey Parker, (Executive Director, North Rampart Community Center) and Janet Allured, (McNeese State University Professor). Each of the presentations were very informative. We enjoyed door prizes, good food and music and wonderful fellowship. A special offering was collected for our United Methodist Women's Legacy Fund and ½ of the funds collected were



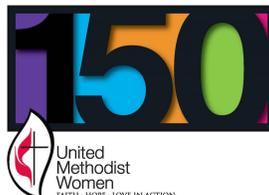


presented to Coach Parker to help continue the support of the wonderful programs that are happening at this great center.

During the month of May, the training for the Mission U study leaders, Dean, Assistant Dean and the musician was held. Assembly 2018 was held on May 18-20, 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. The theme for the occasion was “The Power of Bold”. Words cannot express the awesomeness of this event. So many great, talented speakers, workshops, study leaders, dancers, musicians, vocalist and much more! The Conference Presidents along with the Program Group Advisory delegates led an opening processional carrying colorful lanterns and their state flag. At the end of the Assembly the Presidents were presented their state flag to bring back home. This flag will be displayed at all of our upcoming Conference events, the 1<sup>st</sup> being Mission U in July. We had a wonderful attendance of over 30 ladies, including our own Bishop Cynthia Harvey from the Louisiana Conference. Prior to the opening of the Assembly on May 16-17, the Conference Presidents and 2 other delegates were invited to attend a workshop: “Legacy at Work”, National Mission Institutions and the United Methodist Women”. Also invited were the Executive Directors of our Missional Institutions and all 3 of them were in attendance, Mary Billiott from Dulac Community Center, Kevin Champagne from MacDonel’s Children’s Home and Jeffrey Parker from North Rampart Community Center. Lots of information was shared and we enjoyed networking with the other directors and sharing experiences about their programs that they are involved with.

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Leadership team meeting was held on May 26, 2018 at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC in Lafayette, La. What a wonderful meeting we had! Thanks to Margery Manuel, Linda Ward and Florence Cole for hosting us.

The Louisiana Annual Conference was held on June 6-9, 2018 at Centenary College, Shreveport, La. Thanks to Margery Manuel and Linda Ward and all the





ladies who may have assisted for the beautiful display table set up in the bookstore.

Our Mission U 2018 is scheduled for July 25-28, 2018 at the Wesley Center. This year's Spiritual Growth study is "Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living". The Geographical studies are: Missionary Conference of the United Methodist Church in the United States and "What About our Money"? A Faith Response. Lana Lathan will serve as our Dean and Vickie Bollinger our Assistant Dean. We have awesome study leaders who are eager and excited to share with us the information that they have been learned on these issues. I hope to see many of you there.

Our UMW website has been given a facelift! Please visit it at [www.umwla.org](http://www.umwla.org). You will be hearing more information as the year progresses about our events to come. Thanks to our wonderful Leadership Team for all the magnificent work you are doing to make our Conference the best it can be.

With Love, Joy, Blessings and Peace

Marjorie S. Franklin, Louisiana Conference President

