



Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women - 2019 Update



Marjorie S. Franklin, Conference President

President's Report:

The Louisiana Conference United Methodist Women has had a tremendous year. Thanks be to God for all of the labor put forth and the love shown by all in making a difference in the lives of many women, youth and children here and abroad.

For most of us, 2019 kicked off with our Annual UMW day celebration which was held on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Our theme for this year was "Celebrating Our Faithful Future."

The Leadership Development Days (LDD) training was held in February, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. Our Louisiana Conference was well represented by President

Marjorie Franklin and 4 other UMW ladies: Brenda Nero, Loretta Haskins, Clara Tombs and Thomasas B. Jernigan. Each of us shared a wonderful experience that included great workshops, breakout sessions, guest speakers and awesome praise and worship. Each of the ladies present were treated to a 15 minute massage provided by a local massage company.

Our 1st Leadership team meeting for the year was held on Friday, March 9, 2019. This year our Social Action and Spiritual Growth coordinators worked together as a team and sponsored a combined event that was held on Saturday, March 10, 2019 at 1st UMC-Bossier City. The theme for this event was “Our Complicated Society: Growing Spiritually In the Midst of Racial Justice and Economic Woes”. Our guest speakers were Janis Goodrich from the Northwest La. YWCA and Angela Seets from the Homeless Veteran Program. Vicki Bollinger wrapped the program up speaking on” Growing Spiritually”. We enjoyed great music, good food and fellowship. A love offering was collected and given to both the Centers. Thanks to Vickie Bollinger and Linda Resendez for a job well done.

Our Louisiana Conference UMW census report was completed and submitted in March, 2019. Most of our local units worked very hard and were very diligent in getting their membership count submitted. Thanks to Linda Ward, our conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach chairperson for coordinating the membership census effort and getting the task completed.

Our United Methodist Women were well represented at our Louisiana Annual Conference held on June 9-12, 2019 at The Convention Center, Shreveport, La. The transition from Centenary to the Convention Center was quite different but change is always a good thing. We were blessed to have our General Secretary for United Methodist Women, Harriet Olsen, to come and address the conference and speak about our 150th year celebration. Later that evening myself along with several other UMW joined Harriet for a lovely dinner. She was presented with gifts compliments of our Louisiana Conference. What a wonderful experience! Thanks to all the ladies who helped to share in this event. A lovely display table was set up in the lobby with brochures, program books and information about the many programs and ministries that are offered through UMW. Members of the Conference had a chance to come by and visit with Harriet as they exited the center. Thanks to all the ladies for serving at the display table and interacting with

all those who stopped by and browsed. Our United Methodist Women's President report was featured in the Louisiana Conference Journal.

Our 2nd Leadership team meeting was held on July 19, 2019 before our Mission U which was held on July 18-20, 2019 at the Wesley Center, Woodworth, La. This year's Mission U was shortened by one day in order to try to be able to accommodate younger working women and it seemed to have worked well. Our Spiritual Growth study was "Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship" led by Rev. Monica Monk. The other studies that were presented were: "Women United For Change: 150 Years in Mission and "What about our Money?: A Faith Response". A class was also available for the children and youth. All of our study leaders were excellent! During the session we took part in great music, good plenaries, great food, and of course, our 150th anniversary celebration with cake, cupcakes and ice cream. Our attendance was good. There were 2 offerings collected: for our Legacy Fund and our four Mission Institutions here in Louisiana. Thanks to Vickie Bollinger who served as Dean and Brenda Nero, assistant Dean and her dedicated committee for a job well done!

Throughout the entire year of 2019 our six Districts that make up our Louisiana Conference has held Leadership trainings, Mission studies, Mini Mission U, Spiritual Day Apart and of course our responses to the disaster that has been experienced over the past months.

Our last Leadership team meeting for this year was held on October 10, 2019. We had a wonderful time at our 2019 Annual Meeting in Monroe, La. Our Theme for this year is "One Lord, One Body and One Spirit". We experienced many wonderful presentations from some awesome speakers here in our state. The food and the hospitality was beyond measures. Our newly elected officers as well as our returning officers were installed at the Friday session. A list of these officers may be found on our UMW website at www.umwla.org. As usual, the highlight of the day was our annual banquet. Our guest speaker, Rev. Karli Pidgeon, did an awesome job! Her message was entitled "1:11", symbolizing "One Lord, One Body and One Spirit". We are quite certain that this Annual Meeting will be a memorable one!

The remainder of this year will be focusing on transitioning our newly elected officers into their new positions and getting our 2020 calendar of events ready to kick off in January.

As I come to the conclusion of my time as Conference President and as I reflect on the last 4 years of my life, I thank God for allowing me this great opportunity to serve as your President. Not only did he equip me for the task, but he has walked and talked with me and assured me that he would never leave me nor forsake me. He gave me the words to say in difficult situations and he gave me a still, calm and reassuring spirit and taught me to think before I speak and to try to treat others the way that I would like to be treated. For that I am truly grateful! Special thanks to my Leadership Team that I have worked with during the past 4 years and beyond. You are all truly awesome! I'm not sure where my next journey will take me, but wherever God wants me to be, I will follow and be well satisfied.

I am very proud of our Louisiana Conference and it is my prayer that we will continue to be the very best that God wants us be in the next years to come.

With Love, Joy and Peace to you All,

Marjorie S. Franklin
Conference President
2016-2020

