UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ANNUAL GATHERING
OCTOBER 18-19, 2019
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, BLACK RIVER FALLS, 100 N. 4TH ST, BLACK RIVER FALLS, WI

**FRIDAY- OCTOBER 18, 2019**Registration began at 5:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. Gathering music was led by Irene Verdegan (song leader) and Carol Prindle (accompanist) and Betty Foemmel (sign interpreter).
**Ruby Dow** (Vice President) opened the gathering and Carol Anderson (local UMW contact) welcomed us and gave some basic instructions on how to get around the building. Theresa Pull was the AV Coordinator.
**Martha Boyer** (President) welcomed us all and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve.
Martha then introduced the present Conference Team.
**Deb Pattee** (Spiritual Growth) led worship with thoughts on the ‘Sisterhood of Grace’ and ‘God’s ‘Amazing Grace’.
7:30 p.m. – Everyone present attended either:
a. District Leader Training OR
 b. A presentation by Judy Vasby and Laura Pfeffer on 150 Years of United Methodist Women History.

**SATURDAY – OCTOBER 19, 2019
Registration** was from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m.
8:45 a.m. Irene Verdegen lead singing to gather us in. Songs included: Many Gifts, I Will Enter His Gates and We are Marching.
9:00 a.m. Ruby Dow again welcomed everyone and encouraged people to fill out the Mission Fact Sheets, to look over the displays and the Cokesbury book items for sale by Laura Ida and Ruby Dow also asked us to all fill questionnaires at the end of the Conference to help facilitate planning for next year.
**Welcome**: Martha Boyer also welcomed everyone and led us in prayer from the Prayer Calendar, reading our Purpose and introduced the Conference Team and attending superintendent, Barbara Certa-Werner.
**Worship** was led by Laura Pfeffer and Judy Vasby and the theme was 150 Years of UMW. She highlighted the beginnings of the institution. We read Luke 13:10-17 (Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on a Sabbath) and then we had discussion in small groups about the meaning of those passages mean to us today.
**Missionary Moment** was given by Gwen Gibson. Gwen shared about her life and work on the Global Bd. of Missionaries when she and her husband were called to serve in Senegal. She reminded us that we are ALL called to do different things at different times. The important thing is to answer the call – be it work on a national or local level.
**Legacy 150**: Diane Quade reported that the Legacy Fund amount raised at this time is $55,900. And that the campaign will continue until UMW receives 60 Million Dollars.
There was then a skit “Ghosts of Legacy Past, Present & Future. (Parts were played by:
Diane Woodbury, Stacy Ganzer, Chelsey Henry and Mary Rather.)
**Membership:** Sue Plasterer (Membership, Nurture & Outreach) showed a video of instructions to fill out the census forms. Sue will be sending out a word document of the census to District and local units to help units fill out the census online. There are fewer questions on the census than last year. Census should be filled out between Jan. 1 and Mar. 31st. If anyone needs help, please request help. Last year 83% of the units reported their census numbers online. This year she is hoping for 100%.
**Social Action:** Mission Action Day will be at St. Paul’s UMC, Green Bay and Janice Brockman will be the registrar. Registration forms will be in the next Catch the Vision (Conference Newsletter) and the theme will be Racial Equity Part 2. Chelsey Henry was also encouraged by the activism by the youth in the last climate strike.
**Youth:** Gloria Carter (Young Women’s Mentor) read a letter prepared by Fiona Odum (Young Women’s Coordinator) in which Fiona outlined some guidance for the next youth mentors. She emphasized that youth are interested in Social Action and to be sure to plan activities addressing hunger, gun violence and environmental justice. Also, she encouraged use of social media and to be sensitive to sexual orientation issues.

**Mission u**: Stacy Ganzer (Mission u Dean) presented the new format of Mission u that will be held next year. This change was initiated to reduce cost and hopefully increase attendance.
There will be 3 mini Mission u events in 2020:
June 12 & 13 (Fri. & Sat.) in Oconomowoc
July 20 & 21 (Mon. & Tues.) at Hotel Mead in Wisconsin Rapids
August 14 & 15 (Fri. & Sat.) in Eau Claire
(All day sessions will be worship, class, lunch and class)(Friday nights will be 150 Years of UMW)
11:00 – Business Mtg. was called to order. Voting bar was set.
**Treasurer**: Lisa King presented the UMW Conference Net Worth Report.  **MOTION**: Muriel Smith-Gross motioned that we accept the 2019 net worth report as presented for United Methodist Women. Seconded by Julie Miehe. Motion carried. Lisa King then presented the AM&D 2020 Budget. **MOTION:** Dee Klawitter made a motion to accept the AM&D 2020 Budget. Seconded by Cindy Tygeski. Motion passed.
**Pledge Service**: Lisa King the led the Pledge Service. (Total Pledges: $253,500.)
NC: $50,000; NE $40,000; NW $45,000; SE $65,000; SW $53,500.
Committee on Racial Justice was named: Martha Boyer, Ruthann Christensen, Laura Pfeffer, Deb Pattee, Chelsey Henry, Muriel Smith-Gross, Holly Helton-Anishinaabeqwa
Nominations from the floor: Cindy Morse accepted a nomination from the floor to be on Conference Nominations Team.
By Law Changes: Stacy Ganzer presented changes to the bylaws to reflect changes in scholarship guidelines for Mission u (due to Mission u now being an event over (3) three different locations. If scholarship money is available, it would now be given for 1(one) for the 3(three) events. **Motion** to accept those changes was made by Cindy Morse. Seconded by Robin Digman. Motion carried.
Business Meeting was adjourned until later in the afternoon.
11:15 to noon: Judy Vasby and Laura Pfeffer gave a slide presentation of the history of some early UMW missionaries and the changes thru the years of what is now United Methodist Women.
**LUNCH:**  noon to 1:00 p.m. (Lunch was provided by women of Black River Falls UMW).
1:00: Gathering Music
1:10 to 2:00: Charlene Galston gave a presentation on Maternal & Child Health Issues.
2:00 to 2:10: break
2:10: Business meeting resumes:
Nominations Chair: Jeanette Retzlaff asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. Jeanette Retzlaff nominated Cindy Morse to be in the class of nominations of 2023. Kay Waugh seconded the motion. Motion carried. Jeanette Retzlaff then read the slate of officers and asked for a **Motion** to accept those officers and stated that the executive team will try to fill slots that are not filled at this time. There are also three nominees for the Board of Directors (Julie Miehe, Stacy Ganzer and Muriel Smith-Ganzer). **Motion** to accept that made by Elizabeth Dempsey and seconded by: Robin Digman. Motion carried.
 **2:25 Business Meeting adjourned.**
Retiring people from Conference positions were recognized by a pin.
(Diane Woodbury, Jeanette Retzlaff, Rachel Benton, Kay Waugh, Fiona Odom, Gloria Carter, Bernice Kohlman, Chue Vang, Martha Boyer (as interim Treasurer) and Lisa King (as interim Treasurer)
Installation of new Conference officers was made by Beverly Mazer and were they were presented with a scarf.
Communion and Closing Ceremony by Pastor Wendell Williams of Black River Falls UMC and closing litany was led by President Martha Boyer.

Respectfully submitted:
Josie Gobel (Conference Secretary)