

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

In 2006 the United Methodist Women faced some major changes. Our chief executive Deputy Secretary of the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries, Jan Love, resigned to take a position at Emory College. Our interim executive is Lois Daughway who had been our special guest a few years ago in Portage for our annual gathering.

In July we moved the Conference School of Christian Mission back to Ripon College. Our drive-in day was one of the hottest last summers making the visit on campus rather unpleasant. The studies for the year were Shalom-Salaam-Peace, Globalization: Impact in Our Lives, and India and Pakistan. Leadership for our studies was exceptional. Numbers for the school were down this year as were the numbers for YOMICA-youth mission camp. This year our studies include: Music and Mission, Israel and Palestine, and Globalization: Its Impact on Our Lives. We again will be blessed with exceptional leadership.

Our annual gathering was held in October at Wausau First Church where we were led in We Are Vessels in Mission through Spiritual Growth by Emmy Lou John. We were treated to hand thrown small cups made by Emmy Lou in which we shared communion.

This year we will be meeting at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells and will be led by Marva Cummins from Women's Division. Our theme is We Are Vessels in Mission through Membership Nurture and Outreach.

Our conference will have the distinction of having the opportunity to use the new Genie Bank Intern, Courtney Jones, from Women's Division to encourage young women and teens to join United Methodist Women. Wisconsin is among 10 conferences to use her skills and leadership. She will also meet with the executive team so that we can share with districts and local units methods of involving younger women.

In 2006 we lost members and units, but we were able to add and re-charter three new units of United Methodist Women. We did not meet our pledge to mission, but did increase our mission giving. It only takes two dollars per week per member to meet our mission giving goals.

In April of 2007 we will be sponsoring a Resurrection Women spiritual growth retreat for the entire conference at the Green Lake Conference Center. Next March we will be attending our Jurisdiction meeting in Minneapolis to elect our representatives to Women's Division.

Julie Mieke, President