



World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women

**13<sup>th</sup> World  
Assembly 2016**  
Houston, Texas, USA

**REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS REPRESENTATIVE  
BRENDA L. G. SMITH, Ed.D.**



**TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> WORLD ASSEMBLY OF THE  
WORLD FEDERATION OF METHODIST AND UNITING CHURCH WOMEN**

**Ann M. Connan, WORLD PRESIDENT  
Regula Stotz, WORLD VICE PRESIDENT**

**AUGUST, 2016**

**Houston, Texas, USA**



Report of the NGO Representative  
**In Consultative Status with ECOSOC and DPI**  
Economic and Social Council & Department of Public Information  
**August, 2016**

***“On either side of the river was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nation.”***

Revelations 22:2 (King James Version)

Madame World President, Madame World Vice President, World Officers and members of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, it is with great joy that I greet each of you in the marvelous and matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who is also called The Christ.

I must extend my appreciation to our former and current World Presidents, Mrs. Chita Millan and Mrs. Ann M. Connan, for having given me the opportunity to represent this illustrious organization as its Main NGO Representative to the United Nations in New York, and to the former National President of the Women’s Home and Overseas Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Zion Denomination, Dr. Barbara L. Shaw, and members of the Executive Board for recommending me for this work. Without equivocation, I must note that this has been a wonderful experience, and certainly one that I have not taken lightly. I would be remiss, however, if I did not extend my sincere gratitude and love to Mia Adjali, who mentored and introduced me to the significant work and responsibilities of this position, and to World Vice President, Regula Stotz, for her love, support and desire to learn more about my responsibilities and work, when she visited the U.N. and Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN) to meet with me.

Chloe Grimes Jones has served very faithfully as our Youth Representative to the United Nations. Although working now on her Master’s Degree, she has served on several committees at the United Nations, including the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual DPINGO Conference and attends briefings and programs when her schedule permits.

### **THE VALUE OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

According to the 2015 Briefing Book published by Better World Campaign and the United Nations Foundation, “From the Ebola outbreak; to the rise of ISIS; to ongoing securing threats and humanitarian crises in countries like Afghanistan, South Sudan, and Haiti, the UN remains a critical partner as Congress

works to protect our national security and foreign policy interests. The UN is not a perfect institution, but it serves a near-perfect purpose: to promote global cooperation and address some of the world's most pressing challenges that no single country can resolve alone. The UN is also a platform for multilateral efforts to counter terrorism, stem the proliferation of nuclear weapons, increase economic development, provide humanitarian aid, promote democratic governance and, through peacekeeping missions, maintain order in some of the world's most dangerous places so U.S. forces don't have to. The United Nations and its family of agencies work to create a more secure, prosperous, and healthy world. The United Nations:

- promotes peace and democracy through the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and oversees the second largest deployed military in the world, with more than 120,000 military police, and civilian personnel deployed on 16 peacekeeping missions in places like Liberia, Lebanon and the Central African Republic.
- provides vital humanitarian assistance, delivers lifesaving aid to millions of people affected by conflict and natural disasters every year. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) coordinates assistance to more than 36 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) worldwide,
- through the world's largest humanitarian organization, the World Food Program (WFP) provides lifesaving food aid to more than 80 million people in 75 countries.
- Provides long-term humanitarian and development assistance to children and mothers, immunization, early childhood development, education, and HIV/AIDS, through the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF).
- Responds to and eliminates outbreaks of infectious diseases, such as Ebola, through the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER), which opened in Accra, Ghana in September, 2014. The World Health Organization (WHO) deployed 838 staff members to the field since the outbreak of Ebola, has set up nearly 1,200 treatment beds and trained over 5,000 doctors and healthcare workers.
- Supports global human rights through organizations in North Korea, the Commission of Inquiry (COI) in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
- Supports global nonproliferation and efforts to combat terrorism.

#### **Other Facts You May Not Know About The UN. The UN\***

- Provides food to 90 million people in 80 countries.
- Vaccinates 58 percent of the world's children, saving 8 million lives a year.
- Assists over 38.7 million refugees and people fleeing war, famine or persecution.
- Works with 193 countries to combat climate change and make development sustainable.
- Keeps peace with 120,000 peacekeepers in 16 operations on 4 continents.
- Fights poverty, helping improve the health and well-being of 420 million rural poor.
- Protects and promotes human rights on site and through some 80 treaties/declarations.
- Mobilizes US\$12.5 billion in humanitarian aid to help people affected by emergencies.
- Uses diplomacy to prevent conflict: assists some 60 countries a year with their elections.
- Promotes maternal health, saving the lives of 30 million women a year.

## Non-Governmental Organizations

The number of NGOs in consultative status with the UN has grown over the past sixty years. Currently, there are **4,189 (NGOs)** in active consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and **1,439 NGOs** in consultative status with the Department of Public Information (DPI).

**NGOs** are more active at the U.N. on issues dealing with women and girls, poverty, environment, health, and human rights; however, it is felt by some NGO Representatives that NGOs are not given the opportunity to participate on significant issues such as war and peace. The Security Council and General Assembly usually hold their meetings behind closed doors, and the NGO community is not asked for input in their formal meetings. Since serving as NGO Representative, I am delighted to report that for the first time, I had the opportunity to attend the UN General Assembly in 2015. While NGOs are not invited to participate, we were given the opportunity to observe the proceedings and heard presentations from country leaders on the “state of their country” in terms of progress that has been made in their countries related to MDGs and SDGs and the challenges that still exist.

According to John Kim, NGO Representative to the United Nations for the U.S. Fellowship of Reconciliation and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, “the civil society should continue to engage with the U.N. community.” He noted that “a small number of NGOs are very effective and influential, while the rest are otherwise in general.” To be effective, he stated that an NGO must have a long-term strategy and commit the necessary resource to the U.N. work so that it can have its own U.N. office near the U.N. headquarters with paid staff. Unfortunately, most NGOs have only a few volunteers attending the U.N. meetings on occasion and they have no influence or impact on the U.N.” Some NGOs have offices at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN) and have the opportunity to participate in briefings, High-level political forums and conferences more often than those who must travel each day or one or more times per week.

As the main Representative for our organization, if there are events/programs that I desire to attend or those at which I am expected to be present, there are NGO Representatives from other organization who will give me an opportunity to remain in their quarters until the event begins, since we do not have an office at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN).

It is critical that the WFMUCW continue its involvement with the United Nations in consultative status with ECOSOC (Economic and Social Council) and DPI (Department of Public Information). I can recall, most vividly, the presentation given by the Rev. Christopher Ferguson, a member of the World Council of Churches. Rev. Ferguson asked and answered the questions: **“What does the UN have to do with religion and what does religion have to do with the UN? Why are religious groups present at the UN?”** He stressed that we have a responsibility to hold the world accountable and to make sure that those who do not have their voices heard are, in fact, heard.” One example he cited was that 60% of discussions of the Security Council concern Africa, but African representatives are only there as “observers” and have no say in decisions made. He stressed that religious groups are important to each other, the UN, and themselves to fulfill the obligation to intervene and speak for all.”

Each year in March, I represent our organization during The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). CSW is a functional commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), dedicated exclusively to gender equality and the advancement of women. It is the principal global policy-making body. Every year, representatives of member states gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. It is important to note that The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established in 1946 by the Economic and Social Council to prepare recommendations and reports for the Council on promoting women's rights in the political, economic, civil, social and educational fields. The Commission also makes recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights. It consists of 45 members elected by the Economic and Social Council for a period of four years. Members, who are appointed by governments, are elected on the following basis: 13 from African states; 11 from Asian states, 4 from Eastern European states, 9 from Latin American and Caribbean states, and 8 from Western European and other states.

Included among the more than 5000 distinguished delegates in 2013 were Matilda Johnson, WFMUCW's West African Area Vice President, from The Gambia, and Murielle Wilhelm, Helen Kim Scholar from Switzerland. It was indeed a privilege to have both Murielle and Matilda in attendance. It was a pleasure for me to welcome them to the U.S. in general, and to New York, in particular. From their accounts, they each enjoyed the CSW experience and met many individuals from around the world. Both Matilda and Murielle played a significant role in the proceedings of the Commission on the Status of Women, both during the side events and the proceedings of the Commission. Matilda made a wonderful presentation at a side event held at the Church Center for the United Nations. The WFMUCW must continue to have representatives attend these significant annual meetings. A copy of the agreed upon conclusions was placed on the website for your review. Thank you, Nicholas, for including this information on our website.



**Figure 1 Murielle Wilhelm, Helen Kim Scholar, Chloe Jones, Youth Rep., Brenda Smith UN Rep. at the UN.**

**Figure 2 Matilda Jonson, President, West Africa Area, presenting at CSW 57 at the Church Center for the United Nations (NY)**

During each CSW session over the past five years, our organization has conducted worship services in the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN). As UN Rep., I extend my appreciation to affiliate members of WFMUCW including the members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, New York, who planned and executed programs of worship with me during CSW and members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. We really miss the involvement of Mia Adjali, who provided faithful and unwavering service when she was able to do so. Let us continue to keep Mia in our prayers.

I was honored to have received the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Chapter Legacy Award from the United Nations Association of the United States of America and received a plaque from Mary-Frances Wain, Deputy Executive Director of the UNA-USA, Washington, DC., dated October 1, 2013, which read: “Special recognition is given for her rich history as an educator and advocate for the United Nations. Your commitment, dedication, and perseverance have inspired generations and for this we thank you.”

Since the 12<sup>th</sup> World Assembly, I have participated in numerous programs and/or events at the UN or other UN venues, and have received recognition, on behalf of WFMUCW, for our involvement. The following are only a few of the programs and consultations in which I have participated or co-sponsored:

- Commission on the Status of Women, CSW 56 through CSW 60, March, 2012 through March 2016.
- Worship Services at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN) on behalf of WFMUCW.
- Briefings at the United Nations sponsored by The Department of Information (DPI), United Nations Foundation, Economic and Social Council, Ecumenical Women and other organizations within the UN system.
- United Nations Members’ Day – Washington, D.C., June 7-9, 2015
- Participated in Advocating for the UN on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. – June 9, 2015
- Arranged for elementary and high schools students to visit the UN.
- Attended and presented during CSW at session titled, “Obstacles and Solutions to African Women and Girls’ Access to Education and Employment, with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) – March, 2014.
- UNA-USA Southern NY Consultation on Injustice in the Criminal Justice System – August 5, 2015 at the United Nations Foundation.
- UNA-USA Southern NY Consultation on Injustice in the Criminal Justice System – August, 2015
- With the permission of our World President, WFMUCW served as a sponsor for the October 28, 2015 Peace Forum held at the Church Center for the United Nations.
- Guest Speaker for the Town of Greenburgh, NY (USA) on March 23, 2016 for Women’s History Month.
- Served as a speaker and coordinated United Nations Day Programs in Westchester County.
- Attended the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, & 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Global Student Videoconference on the Transatlantic Slave Trade—2011 through 2016.- **Full Report will be made available the UN Rep. upon request.**)

On August 5, 2015, the Southern NY District of UNA-USA and approximately 30 civic organizations and experts to the United Nations Foundation in New York explored opportunities for criminal justice reform at state and local levels and to offer recommendations to the UN Human Rights Council as it moves forward in its future deliberations.

October, 2015 marked the fifteenth anniversary of the groundbreaking unanimous adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, along with six follow-up resolutions. However, we still must effectively transition from commitment to implementation. The United Methodist Women (UMW), The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GHWP), The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) The International Peace Bureau (IPB), Baha’i



International Community, The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) and the World Council of Churches (WCC) sponsored a **Peace Forum on October 28-30, 2015.**

**The Peace Forum** commemorated the achievements of UNSCR 1325 and participants strategized on strengthening and mobilizing women and men for effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It also highlighted best practices for implementation with a particular focus on efforts from civil society.

Brenda Smith and Edith Crenshaw with Panelists on October 29, 2016.<sup>th</sup>

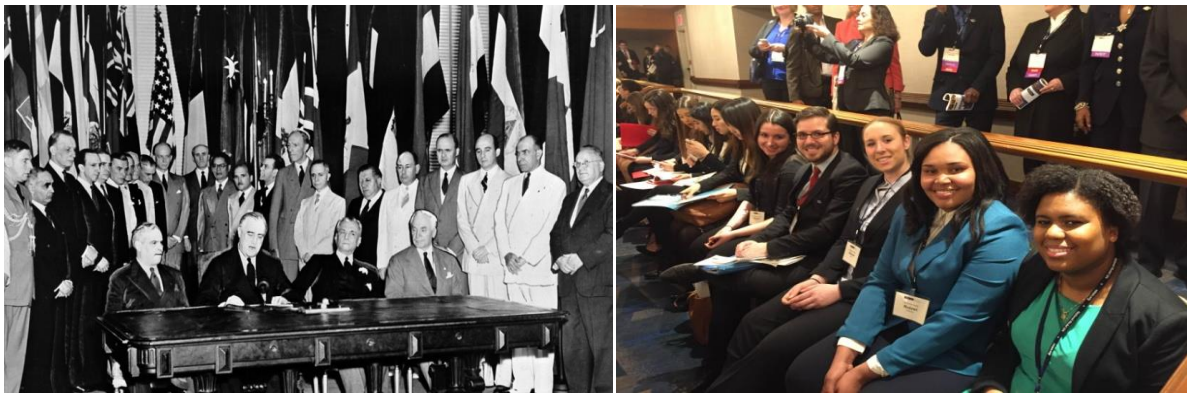


**Panelists included (left to right): Martha Kebalo, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organization Kateryna Levchenko, LaStrada International (Kiev, Ukraine) and Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary & CEO, United Methodist Women (UMW), Tatiana Dwyer, the UMW executive for global justice and Natalia Khodyreva, an activist, academic and psychologist from St. Petersburg, Russia.**





### **The UN TURNED 70 IN 2015**



### **President Franklin D. Roosevelt Signing the UN Charter in 1945 – Mercy College Students Attending UN's 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the United Nations**

“On April 25, 1945, the United Nations Conference on International Organizations convened in San Francisco with 50 nations represented. Three months later, during which time Germany had surrendered, the final Charter of the United Nations was unanimously adopted by the delegates. On June 26, it was signed. The Charter, which consisted of a preamble and 19 chapters divided into 111 articles, called for the U.N. to maintain international peace and security, promote social progress and better standards of life, strengthen international law, and promote the expansion of human rights. The principal organs of the U.N., as specified in the Charter, were the Secretariat, the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Trusteeship Council.

On October 24, 1945, the U.N. Charter came into force upon its ratification by the five permanent members of the Security Council and a majority of other signatories. The first U.N. General Assembly, with 51 nations represented, opened in London on January 10, 1946. On October 24, 1949, exactly four years after the United Nations Charter went into effect, the cornerstone was laid for the present United Nations headquarters, located in New York City.



Since 1945, the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded more than ten times to the United Nations and its organizations or to individual U.N. officials, most recently to both the organization as a whole and Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan in 2000. The current Secretary General of the United Nations is Ban Ki-Moon.” To read more about the UN at 70, go to [www.un.org/en/sections/history-united-nations](http://www.un.org/en/sections/history-united-nations).

In recognition of the UN turning 70 in 2015, many programs and activities were held at the United Nations. In its 70-year history, “eight individuals have served as UN Secretary-General. As noted, “this position is one of great importance that requires the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and a firm commitment to the purposes and principals of the Charter of the United Nations.” Presently, there are 12 candidates – six women and six men (<http://www.un.org/pgs/70/sg>). His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon’s tenure as Secretary-General will end December 31, 2016.

#### **THE EIGHTH UNA-USA MID-ATLANTIC CONVERENCE AND MEMBERS’ DAY**

“From Road Blocks to Building Blocks: Global Crises and the Role of the UN” – Friday, February 19, 2016

UNA-USA Members’ Day took place in the UN General Assembly Hall on February 19, 2016. Ambassador Susan Power, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations was the speaker. Panels covered such topics as: Climate Change, Refugees, Global Development Goals, and the Security Council. This was the largest gathering of UN advocates in the United States.

It was reported that this is exactly the kind of dedication the UN needs as it looks to take bold action and create a more sustainable world for us all.



**ABOVE: Celebrating the UN at 70: A YEAR FOR BOLD ACTION**



**Members with Chris Whatley, Executive Director, UNA-USA on June, 2015  
Annual Members and Advocacy Day on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC**



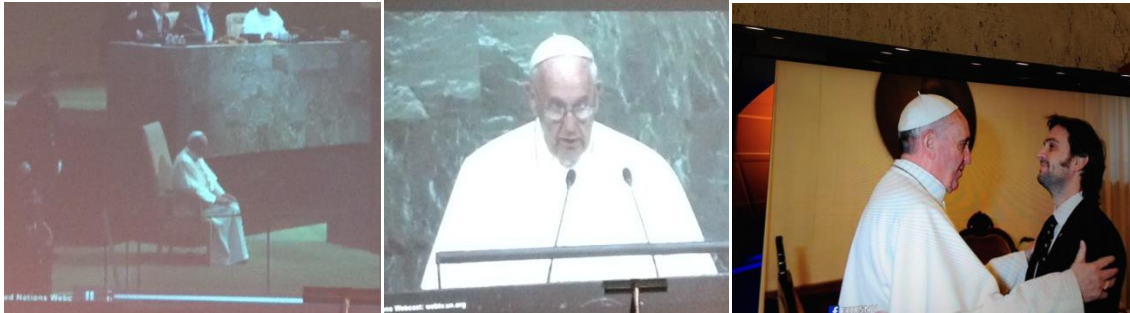
Participants in the **CSW 60 Morning Worship** pose with the Rev. Dionne Boissiere, Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations (Owned and operated by United Methodist Women) and Brother Ryan Smith, of the Presbyterian Church and Co-Coordinator of Ecumenical Women at the United Nations. Included on the program were members of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion missionaries (AMEZ), African Methodist Episcopal missionaries (AME), representatives from United Methodist Women (UMW), and the UN Youth Representative, Chloe Grimes Jones.

A highlight of my work at the UN was the invitation I received from the Department of Public Information to participate on a panel titled **Mentoring Girls and Boys for Sustainable Communities** held 24 March 2016 United Nations Headquarters.



One of the joys I experienced was the opportunity to see **Pope Francis** when he spoke before the United Nations General Assembly Friday morning, September 25<sup>th</sup>. We were informed that this was the first

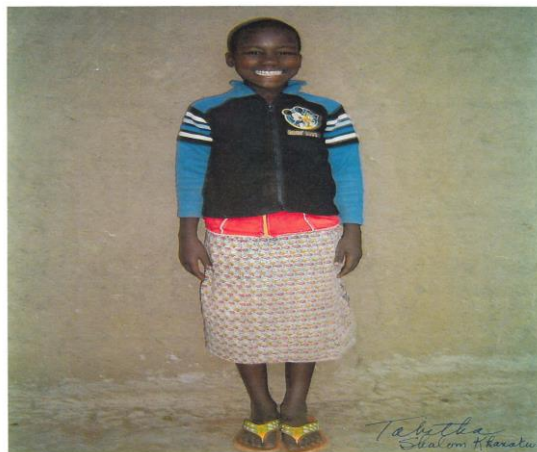
time a Pope has ever spoken at the annual session where all member countries are represented. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to meet him personally, but was able to hear and see him as he addressed the General Assembly.



I have the opportunity to support the education of **Tabitha Shalom Khanakwa**, a member of the Guishu Tribe and a resident of the orphanage of the Bushikori Christian Center, located in Mbale Uganda, East Africa.

Bushikori Christian Centre is an indigenous non-governmental organization that sponsors the education of 400 orphans, runs a primary school for 200 disadvantaged children, and houses a health center for 23,000 impoverished Ugandans.

Tabitha's parents were overwhelmed with the number of children under their care, and placed Tabitha in the care of Bushikori. The Founder and President of Sister to Sister: One in the Spirit, a not-for-profit organization of women in New York, adopted the Center and asked if I would provide the financial support needed for Tabitha's yearly education, which I am delighted to do and have done so annually for six years.



**Tabitha Shalom Khanakwa**  
**Bushikori Christian Centre**  
**Mbale, Uganda, East Africa**



**A Sphere within a Sphere – A Gift from Italy presented to the United Nations by Lamberto Dini, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy and unveiled on November 21, 1996, in New York City.**

In conclusion, this report is reflective of some of the opportunities that I have enjoyed and from which I have learned so much, while serving as the United Nations Representative for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

Again, I must express my thanks to the World President for this great opportunity. I have enjoyed my involvement with other organizations that have, as their express purpose, to be a voice for and to make a **difference in the lives of the most vulnerable of populations, those who are disadvantaged and disenfranchised.** We must remain committed to serve. We must enter into meaningful dialogue with others, to foster collaborations among our great men and women of faith and civil society to ensure that the needs of deprived persons are being served, demonstrating along this journey that we “know Christ and will make Him known to others who do not know Him.”

We must never forget that “to whom much is given, much is required and expected.” The hymnist says, “They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love, and that we are one in the spirit and one in the Lord.” It is time for us to move from commitment to action while finding better ways to make better lives.

I recommend that we continue our work at the United Nations, and make every attempt to send at least one international delegate to CSW annually; identify Youth Representatives to represent WFMUCW and provide financial support for their travel.

Brenda L. Galloway Smith

UN Representative





Brenda Smith & Patricia Bradley (AME) at UN



Brenda with Her Excellency Marjon Kamara,  
Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations