

PROGRAM BOOK

August 29 — September 4, 2016 | Houston, Texas



World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women

13th World Assembly 2016

Houston, Texas, USA



World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

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Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

to the 13th World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. It's hard to believe after all the anticipation, planning and work that we've made it. It's hard to believe that 5 years have gone by since you elected me as your World President. Five amazing years with lots of hard work, many highs and lows, wonderful experiences, incredible faith stories and a new family I'll always be at home with.

The World Officers, the North American Area Officers and the Local Arrangements Committee have been preparing in many ways to welcome you to Houston, Texas, USA. It's been a difficult journey as we have not been able to afford our own venue and dates, but have been beholden to the World Methodist Council's Conference agenda. We know it is different not to be in our own space, with our own needs under our own control, but we have worked hard to make it happen in a way that enables all of us to have a great experience together.

We are here from all the corners of the world; from the nine geographical Areas of the Federation; from both large and small Units of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. We are here as one family united in our aim, "To know Christ and to make Him known"; to share and learn from each other; to prepare ourselves for service in the next quinquennium under a new theme: God's "Chosen People: Chosen to Proclaim".

In God's name, with God's love, and under God's spirit, let us remember that we've not given up (Bambelela) in the past 5 years, because Christ has been our Hope, and let's look forward to an exciting future in Federation.

Enjoy each other; enjoy the program; enjoy this place; enjoy the fellowship!

Blessings and shalom.

I'm so glad you are here!

from the World President

Introducing

the World Officers



Ann M. Connan
World President

I was born into a Methodist family in Australia, encouraged by my widowed mother in faith and church life. I trained as a Primary School teacher and served with the Methodist Church in Tonga (South Pacific) for 12 years with my husband, Rev. John Connan. Our children were born there. Two years in the mid-80s were spent in Los Angeles where I experienced the United Methodist Women organization. By the time we returned to Australia, our church had united with the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches.

Within the Uniting Church in Australia I became involved in the Uniting Church Adult Fellowship, becoming State, then National (Unit) President, as well as continuing a life-long involvement in Children's Ministry teaching Christian Religious Education in Government Primary Schools and training 3000 other volunteers across the State. I have run weekly Children's Clubs at each congregation we have served in and currently lead two groups.

I volunteer with John in a church charity, Second Life Pasifika, which recycles new and second-hand goods to schools, kindergartens and hospitals in Pacific countries. I also volunteer as a Legatee with the organization Legacy which cares for widows of ex-servicemen.

We have four adult children: Nicholas, a pilot; Kirsten, an Obstetrician/ Gynaecologist; Hamish, a Federal Policemen; and Rowena, a Special Education Teacher. We have five grandchildren. I sing with the Melbourne Singers, work in my native and vegetable garden and read detective novels.



Regula Stotz
World Vice President

In 1944 I was born in a Christian family in Basel, where I still live. I attended schools from 1951 to 1963. I got my training as a teacher for mathematics, biology and geography at the university of Basel. I am a member of the UMC in a small congregation in my hometown. My hobbies are hiking, reading, playing the violoncello.

I am a single and I worked for more than 35 years in different schools with children of the age of 11 to 15. This was a great joy for me and I am glad for all the experiences shared during my professional life.

After my retirement I served for twelve years as coordinator for the women's work in the UMC Central Conference of Central and Southern Europe. This included to participate during seminars, leadership-training and women's retreat as well as fundraising and organizing language courses, since we are Central Conference with some twenty different languages.

I am also a member of the board of the Swiss Methodist women's network and additionally I am on the Swiss Methodist board for mission and social work.

Thanks to these activities I got a deeper insight in many branches of the worldwide Methodist family. And now I have the opportunity to attend my fourth World Assembly.

Introducing

the World Officers



Leú Pupulu
World Treasurer

I was born and raised in Samoa. I came to New Zealand with my family in 1989 to pursue ministry work with my husband Reverend Utumau'u Pupulu. I studied as a mature student in New Zealand and achieved my dreams of graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Business majoring in Accounting, and became a qualified accountant. I played a lot of financial roles in Sinoti Samoa Synod within The New Zealand Methodist Church Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa, the New Zealand Methodist Women's Fellowship from 2008-2012 and currently the Pacific Women's Watch New Zealand (INC).

I have two children; son Mataia Uaina-o-Talosaga who is married to Erin Tania with four grandchildren: Phoenix, Summah, Lenia, Raphael and Angel and daughter Sina-i-Faleu.

I gave thanks to the Lord for walking, running, falling and carrying me through everything I had gone through during my treasurer role. As I begin a five-year journey, I am always overwhelmed by the distance it is to the end. Now at the end of my journey I look back and I am equally overwhelmed for the path that I took, and the wonderful people I met along the way in different countries. I have been honored and blessed to serve our Lord through our Federation, and am truly grateful for the people who have helped me along the way, especially the World Officers – Mrs. Ann Margaret Connan, Ms. Regula Stotz and Mrs. Carla Esmeralda Boyce Smith. As my term comes to an end, I will continue to serve the Lord, as I hope you will too.

VIA IESU!



Panama is a small country shaped on maps as a lopsided s, which is located in the central part of Latin America. It joins South and North America. It is referred to as Panama, bridge of the world, heart of the universe.



Carla E. Boyce-Smith
World Secretary

I was born Panamanian to a Methodist woman of Jamaican roots and my father's ancestors were from Barbados. I grew up with a Panamanian, Caribbean and black influence. Being my first language English and then I became fluent in the Spanish language.

I refer to myself as a Methodist from my mother's womb. I grew up in the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) and transferred my membership when I exchanged wedding vows, to the Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Panamá (IEMPA).

Participated in the Rio Abajo Methodist Church (MCCA) in different ministries, the Junior Choir, Youth league, the Sunday School and the Mission and Outreach Committee.

At the Iglesia Evangélica Metodista de Panamá (IEMPA) I have served in the Sunday school, camp ministry and the Centennial celebration of the IEMPA. Presently, I serve in the Sunday School, Women's League and the National Women's Federation.

I have bachelor's Degree in Management and Interior Designing and Post-Graduate work in Education. Have had experience teaching Business courses at university level and at vocational schools. Last October I retired from the Panama Canal after 33 years of service.

I am married to Eduardo Smith, a retired Presbyterian. I have three step-daughters, two seven year old twin granddaughters and one ten month old grandson.

Hasta luego!

Introducing

Bible Study Leaders



Rev. Grace Imathiu

Rev. Grace Imathiu, is a United Methodist minister who has served congregations in Kenya, Africa, Washington, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin.

As a preacher and Bible study teacher, Grace is in constant demand all around the world. She is especially a favorite among the youth and has been a regular preacher at the International Christian Youth Conference in Germany, USA and Ireland and the National Christian Youth Conference in Victoria and Sydney, Australia.

Grace has ministered in Kenya, Togo, Germany, Denmark, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, England, Ireland and all throughout the United States. She has led Bible Studies and has been a guest speaker in many Conferences in the United Methodist Connection. She has a son, Eric.



**Rev.
Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng**

Rev. Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng is an ordained Elder in full connection in the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. She received her B.A. degree from Yonsei University in 1981 and her M. Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1993.

Rev. Jueng served Elgin Grace, Libertyville, Tinley Park United Methodist Churches. And she also served as the District Superintendent of the Rockford District from 2006 to 2013. She is now in her second year as the lead pastor of the First UMC of Arlington Heights.

Rev. Jueng is married to Rev. Dr. Suk-Hwan Jueng, and together, they have two grown children, Joseph and Hanna, a son-in-law, Tarek Sultani, and a grandson, Gabriel.



Rev. Lauren Mathew

I am an ordained minister in the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, currently serving a community in Durban. I am also reading for my Phd in Christian Spirituality at the University of KwaZulu - Natal. In 2016 I will be finishing my term as Youth and Young Adult President of the World Methodist Council.

Introducing

the Workshop Presenters



**Dr. Catherine
Mudime Akale**
Violence
Workshop Facilitator

She is a United Methodist Church's (UMC) United Methodist Women (UMW) Regional Missionary serving within Sub Saharan African in select countries, since 2000, with a focus on women's leadership development. She is honoured to sit on the UMW Programme Advisory Group (PAG). She has been privileged to be parliamentarian of the WFU&MCW in the last two Assemblies. These and other opportunities, exposed her to global Ecumenism now embedded in her Christian life. Dr. Akale, a competent and experienced professional teacher with decades of invaluable experience in the educational sector, loves making a difference into the lives of women and prisoners. She is a mature, quietly focused positive person who always strives to achieve the highest standard possible, at any given task. She holds a doctorate degree in Political Sociology with a focus on Gendered Governing Institutions.



Rev. Steve Hickle
Basic Needs
Workshop Facilitator

Rev. Hickle is a United Methodist, serving since 1975 in the North Carolina Annual Conference where he served four pastoral appointments spanning 37 years. He is the faith outreach director for Stop Hunger Now, a post he created and began in 2012. His "hunger portfolio" includes working as a volunteer with CROP/CWS since 1981 and board service includes Stop Hunger Now (2004-2010, 3 years as chair) and on a variety of community outreach agencies (urban ministries, mission house for women, etc.). After attending and addressing the London World Methodist Council, he is currently working with the Men's Affiliate of World Methodist and Uniting Churches to roll out a program called FastPrayGive at this year's World Methodist Conference, building a world wide Wesleyan movement to end hunger. Learn more at FastPrayGive.org or on Facebook, or reach him at shickle@stophungernow.org.



Ellen Lipsey
Environment
Workshop Facilitator

Ellen Lipsey, from Van Horn, Texas, USA, is a member of United Methodist Women. She has served in various UMW positions on all levels, including on the board of directors and as the New Mexico Conference Program Advisory Group representative on the National level. She is currently part of the team of Jurisdiction Guides for UMWs be just. be green. program promoting wholeness and justice in the way meetings and events are planned based on 13 Principles of Sustainability.



John Connan
Friendship Evangelism
Workshop Facilitator

Essentially I'm an academic and a preacher – but with 51 years under my belt since my ordination as a Methodist minister I've accumulated a wide experience of life and ministry.

Originally I trained in Chemistry and Metallurgy. After 3 years in industry I candidated for Methodist ministry and in 1961 went for training to United Theological College, Bangalore, South India, to gain a B.D. (First Class) with Senate prizes in Islam and Greek, while continuing to sit for a B.D. from the Melbourne College of Divinity (Honours Old Testament).

In 1964 I went “straight back” to Australia through Europe, USA, Canada, and Fiji.

After 3 years Circuit ministry I became Victorian Secretary for Methodist Overseas Missions with the opportunity to visit Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga. I had begun studying Syriac and Arabic with the hope of returning to a position in India, when I was diverted to Tonga as Connexional Secretary for the Methodist Church.

Ann and I had been married 3 years when we went to Tonga in 1972. Our 4 children were born there.

Events in Tonga led me to seek a time of reflection and studies in Missiology at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, 1983-85. I served part-time as Associate Minister in First UMC, Alhambra, during that time.

The family went “straight back” to Australia through Europe and India.

I served as a Parish Minister in the Uniting Church for a further 18 years before retiring in 2005.

Since then Ann and my activities have certainly not diminished, but have included leadership of a small church-based charity sending shipping containers of goods to Pacific partner Churches; relief ministry in Melbourne, and longer or shorter periods as a volunteer lecturer in a variety of subjects in Sia'atoutai Theological College, Tonga.



Mary Stallings
Missions
Workshop Facilitator

She is a lifelong member of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (C.M.E.). She began her worship experience at Adrian Chapel C.M.E. Church in Adrian, Georgia. She is currently a member of Central Metropolitan C.M.E. in Jacksonville, Florida.

She has traveled extensively, attended three previous World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) Assemblies in Brazil, England and Johannesburg, South Africa. Additionally, she has done mission work in Jamaica.

Mary is very active in her Church and Missionary Society on all levels; local, district, region/state and national. Presently, she serves as WFMUCW Correspondent for the Women's Missionary Council - C.M.E. Church.

She is a retired widowed mother of four adult children, three grandchildren and spends much time volunteering with Elder Source (Aging True) and C.A.S.A. Foster Care Review Board.



Rosângela Soares de Oliveira
Prayer
Workshop Facilitator

Executive director of World Day of Prayer International Committee based in New York city. She served as United Methodist Women’s regional missionary for Latin America from 2001 to 2012, and is an active member of the United Methodist Women of St. Paul and St. Andrew United Methodist Church in New York City. She is originally from Brazil and has served as a clergyperson of the Brazilian Methodist Church in Rio de Janeiro Conference.



Christy-Anna Errington
Messy Church
Workshop Facilitator

Christy-Anna Errington is a 29 year-old student and mother of 2. She has extensive experience of volunteering and working for the British Methodist Church at local, district and national levels and has been involved with family ministry since the age of 16. She is passionate about all-age worship and was involved in implementing a messy church in her home church in 2009 which is still going strong. She has been Chair of the Youth and Young Adult Committee for the WMC for the 2011-2016 quinquennium.



Samuel Brannon
Water
Workshop Facilitator

Sam joined the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy in July of 2014 as an Outreach and Engagement Specialist. Currently, he is working on the Water Captains Program. Sam is a Texan and calls Austin his home. That aside, he has travelled abroad all over Asia, the Middle East, some of the African continent, all over the United States, and some of Mexico. Currently, he lives in Georgetown with his wife Emily and their children, Clara (9) and Stella (6). Being no stranger to the geographic sojourn, Sam is happy to limit most of travels to Texas now so he can be at home with his family most nights.

Sam graduated in 1990 from IH Kempner High School in Sugar Land, Texas and joined the US Navy for 5 years thereafter. Once receiving an honorable discharge from the military, Sam attended Texas State University, earning a BA in History. Sam then graduated seminary in 2005 from the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest in Austin, Texas.

Sam was ordained a Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America in June 2005. He has been the pastor at Saint Andrew Lutheran Church in Sand Springs, Oklahoma; Messiah Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas; and the Associate Pastor at Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus, Texas. Prior to ministry, Sam worked in the IT industry, spent time on offshore oil exploration ships, and in college worked in mental health hospitals.

Sam’s greatest joys are playing with his children, and going on dates to Sonic with his wife, Emily. He enjoys running, reading, and BBQ at the Pit.



Dawn Lynell Walker
Mentoring
Workshop Facilitator

Dawn L. Walker is a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas and the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Earnest L. Walker. After graduating from high school, she continued her education at North Carolina A&T State University from which she earned a Bachelor's of Science Degree, specializing in Manufacturing.

Mrs. Dawn L. Walker was elected the Fourth General Coordinator of the Young Adult Missionary Society at the Twenty-sixth Quadrennial Convention of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society held in Orlando, Florida in 2007. Under her leadership the Y.A.M.S. followed the mandate in St. John 9:4; "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day; the night cometh, when no man can work."

Mrs. Walker also uplifted the theme in the Study Guide with the creation of the P3 Program (Prayer-Praise-Party); a nontraditional look at prayer and fasting. A P3 program consisted of a group of young adults fasting from midday to early evening, and then the group would get together and pray for the needs of their community or society as a whole. After the prayer session, the group would then participate in fellowship time, thanking God for the blessings of life and in the breaking of bread.

For the 28th Quadrennial Convention of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society, Mrs. Walker served as the Convention Chair and the Chair of the Exhibit Committee.

Mrs. Walker was fortunate to serve as a delegate to the Twelfth World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women in Johannesburg, South Africa on August 10-15, 2011.

Mrs. Dawn L. Walker serves in many capacities in the church and society. She is the District Coordinator of Y.A.M.S. for the Chicago District of the Michigan Annual Conference, an active member of the Christian Education, Missionary Department, and the Voices of Judah choir at St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church in East Chicago, Indiana, and an active member of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Dawn Walker is a proud member of both ecumenical and community affiliations: the National Minister's Spouses and Widow(ers) Fellowship of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the National Council of Negro Women, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.

Mrs. Walker is married to the Reverend George W. Walker, Jr. and is the proud mother of George, III, Deziree', Daniel, Deleah, and Derby (the Toy Poodle dog).

Her work of missions is not limited to the church, but continues as she serves as an educator in the public school systems of suburban Chicago. In an effort to better aid her students, Dawn went on to complete a Masters of Arts in both Counseling and Educational Administration.



Dr. Sandra L. Gadson
Healing
Workshop Facilitator

Elected by the North America area to be the Area Vice-President for 2016-2021. Dr. Gadson is the International President of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

A native of White Plains, New York, Dr. Gadson is a lifelong member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion, she grew up in Spartanburg, South Carolina in Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She is a member of Martin Temple African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Chicago, Illinois. At her local church she is a member of the Lay Council and Founder of the Spoonful of Hope Community Kitchen. She is the past Vice President Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society and past Superintendent of the Buds of Promise, served as treasurer and chairperson Trustee Board and Chairperson Leaders Division of the Lifestyle Stewardship Campaign. On the Chicago District she is District Superintendent of Buds of Promise, and past

District President Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society. In August of 1999, Dr. Gadson was elected Second Vice President of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church and holds the distinction of being the first Dean for a Leadership Training Institute in Nigeria and Ghana. She resides in Flossmoor, Illinois, where she is actively engaged in several civic endeavors.

A practicing Nephrologist in Gary, Indiana, is the Immediate Past President of the National Medical Association. Dr. Gadson completed her term as the 106th President in August of 2006. Her career in medicine reflects years of distinguished service at the local, state, and national level to eliminate healthcare disparities and increase parity in medicine, especially in the area of kidney disease.



Barbara A. LaToison
Visitation
Workshop Facilitator

She was born in Wilmot, AR, where her paternal grandparents raised her. She grew up at John Wesley A. M. E. Zion Church. From her early youth, she was involved in the working of the church. She accepted Jesus as her Savior at 13 years old. Barbara surrendered her life to the Lord In 1979. In 1984, she accepted the call to the ministry and preached her trial sermon. In 1987 she received her first ordination and 1990 she was ordained an elder. As a result of the issues of rejection, Barbara organized a Ministry called "Queen of Hearts." Queen of Hearts is an interracial, interdenominational, intergenerational, international women's ministry. The focus of the ministry is to enable women to know their true worth and value in Jesus Christ, to address and deal with issues germane to women and to empower women to overcome these problems.

Additionally, Queen of Hearts exist to teach women how to become Queens of the hearts of those around them, (husband, children, family, co-workers, etc.), and most of all to recognize themselves as queens in their hearts. To help encourage, strengthen, and facilitate the healing of wounds from rejection, abuse, discrimination, frustration and lack of forgiveness that negatively affects our relationship with the Lord and others.

Barbara also organized a youth group called H. E. A. T., Holy Evangelistic Anointed Teens. This ministry focus was to work with young people in or courting gang membership in and around the Greater Metropolitan Houston Area. The mission is to transform the lives of this generation of teens.

Barbara now serves as Pastor of St. Mark AME Zion Church in Dallas, TX, Presiding Elder of the Houston-San Antonio and the Dallas-Fort Worth Districts, as well as, President of the Presiding Elders' Council of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. She holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology and Speech Communication and a Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling from Houston Graduate School of Theology. She has a Doctor of Ministry in Leadership Development from Southern Reformed Theological Seminary.

Barbara is the wife of the Rev. A. J LaToison for 33 years; they have six children, 13 grandchildren, and one great-grand.



Jackie Smith
Art
Workshop Facilitator

I am a quilter and teacher living in the East Anglia region of England and I lead a group called 'Sew Spiritual'. We are Christian women who share and proclaim our faith through making and exhibiting quilts.

For many years I have been fascinated with Celtic art and design which I often adapt and use in my own quilts.

Prayer Flags Workshop

This workshop will begin with a PowerPoint presentation showing how Celtic art and designs have evolved over time and how they can be used today.

Following this, each participant will have the opportunity of making a Prayer flag of Proclamation using some of these designs, and words in their own language.



Mary and Neil Early are "Stories & More!!!" They offer program events of traditional storytelling to non-traditional creative drama participation experiences. Using story, literature, music, puppets, costumes, and props -- when appropriate -- their material ranges from the international classics to the myths of multiple world cultures and indigenous people. Programs can be by particular theme, culture, or other requested emphasis. They are prepared to address significant social issues and are always open to your needs. In addition to storytelling, the Earlys offer Poetry and Oral Interpretation, Educator Training/In-service, and innumerable workshops and residencies which can include creative drama experiences. They also present thirty different researched individuals from Literature, History, and the Bible who are interviewed by the inimitable Ms. Mary. Programs presented by Neil and Mary Early are appropriate for all ages from pre-school through senior adults. They perform in any venue from street theatre to open floors to fully equipped stages.

Mary & Neil Early
Storytelling
Workshop Facilitator

Mary and Neil are both professional educators as well as performers. Neil is also a retired Pastor. They are prepared to offer "pre" and "post" performance study, planning, and reference materials tied to the national learning outcomes and objectives as well as those of the states or countries to which they are invited. "Stories & More!!!" will travel anywhere in the World – or out of it. The sky is never the limit. Mary and Neil are members of the Houston Storytellers Guild and the National Storytelling Network. They were founders of the Louisiana Storytellers Association and the Central Louisiana Storytellers Guild. References and other materials are available on request. They have a DVD available.

WORKSHOP: At the World Assembly, they will offer a workshop combining Storytelling approaches with creative drama techniques in exploring Scriptures and bringing the Word to life. Bring your Heart, Mind, Bible, Imaginations, and Joyful Self for a Spirit-Filled Moving Time.

"Stories & More" Neil and Mary Early * PO Box 12298 * Beaumont, TX 77726
www.storiesandmore.org



**Rev.
Jenny Pathmarajah**
Musical Director

A Methodist Minister from Great Britain, currently serving 5, soon to be 8, rural churches in the East of England in North Norfolk. Jenny was trained as a classical pianist and soon turned her hand to other instruments and enjoyed playing for her County Youth Orchestra, leading music groups, becoming a musical director of an amateur dramatics group and teaching piano for many years. Music has always been a fundamental and core part of Jenny's being, but decided to follow her call to serve God in the ministry and let music be a part of that service rather than pursue it professionally.

Jenny is excited about leading the Assembly, although somewhat daunted by this prestigious task! And asks for your prayers and encouragement as we bring our voices, talents and gifts to God. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

In her spare time, Jenny is an active Girl Guide leader and enjoys travelling. She is married to her husband, Paul who is an airline pilot for a cargo company and flies interesting freight all around the world. They live in their manse with Diesel their cat.



Introducing

the Preachers



**Reverend
Hannah Faal-Heim**

Most Reverend Hannah Faal-Heim was born in The Gambia and attended school in Sierra Leone. She returned to The Gambia and started her career in teaching. She moved to the UK where she became a nurse and a midwife at Northwood, Harefield and Hillingdon Hospitals in Middlesex. She was appointed a Midwife Lecturer, at the Guys and St Thomas' Hospitals and Kings College University. She gained an M.Ed degree, taught midwifery in London, and got involved in research and policy making.

She answered a call to ordained ministry at Wesley's Chapel London. She studied theology at Wesley House, Cambridge and finished with an MA in Pastoral Theology. She continued to minister as circuit minister and circuit superintendent in various circuits in the UK.

In February 2012, she became the first woman Bishop in The Methodist Church The Gambia and also the first woman Bishop in West Africa. This is a significant milestone for women in The Gambia and in West Africa. No woman has until now been elected to such an important role in the history of the Christian Church in West Africa.

In 2012, she also became the first woman chairperson of The Gambia Christian Council, an ecumenical body that works in partnership with The Gambian government and oversees the matters of the Christian Community in The Gambia.

Her leadership has inspired many in the church and beyond. Her mottos, "Jesus makes the difference" and "Called to build" capture the ideals that guide her work. She continues to inspire many through radio and television broadcasts.



Emmy Lou John

Emmy Lou John is a native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, and presently living in Aurora, Illinois. She graduated from The University of Iowa with a BA in Social Work and did Post Graduate work at Northern Illinois University. She is active in the United Methodist Church locally, nationally and on the internationally. She attended her first World Federation of Methodist Women's Assembly in 1976. She was elected World Treasurer in 1986-1991 and World Vice President in 1991-1996. She was appointed Facilitator for the Helen Kim Scholars at the 2006 Assembly and Archivist 2011-2016.

Presently she is a member of the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Church's Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns and is the Chairperson for the newly formed Inter-Religious Relationship Standing Committee of the World Methodist Council.

She is a Life Member of Girl Scouts and enjoys gardening and crafting. She is married to Herbert John, has 2 adult children and 3 precious grandchildren.

Introducing

the Tree of Life Editor



**Dorothy Sampath
Kumar**

Dorothy Sampath Kumar was born and raised in a Christian family in Bangalore, India. Her passion is writing. Some of her articles are published in national and international Christian publications.

Her book on the life of Susanna Wesley was very well accepted and widely circulated and translated into 3 Indian languages. This book was recommended for the United Methodist Women's (USA), reading programme for 2006. She has been an editor of many Christian magazines for the past 16 years, and now the editor of the World Magazine – the Tree of Life.

Dorothy has had a supportive role in the several responsibilities her husband has had - for 40 years in the ministry of the Methodist Church in India. She was involved in the local national level of the WSCS. In her work with women and young people, she developed leadership skills and has initiated projects to rehabilitate the tsunami-affected women of coastal areas in India and the Andaman Islands.

Dorothy and Bishop S V Sampath Kumar have two daughters who are both married, they are proud grandparents of 2 granddaughters and 2 grandsons.



PROGRAM		
DAY	TIME	EVENT
SATURDAY 27th August	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	World Executive Meeting Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship (HKMS) Program
SUNDAY 28th August	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	World Executive Meeting HKMS Program
MONDAY 29th August	10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 7 p.m. – 9.30 p.m.	Registration on 4 th Floor Opening Worship: Ballroom of the Americas, 2 nd Floor
TUESDAY 30th August	7.00 a.m. – 8 a.m.	BREAKFAST
	8.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.	Morning Singing Ballroom 2 nd Floor
	8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	Worship led by North American Women Ballroom 2 nd Floor Area Meetings South Asia – Ballroom Latin America – Ballroom All other Areas – 3 rd Floor Meeting Rooms
	10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Morning Break
	11.00 a.m. – 12 noon	Area Reports & Cultural Presentations <i>hosted by Greta Makhwenkwe & Laureen Ong</i> 1. North America 2. Latin America 3. West Africa
	12 noon – 1.30 p.m.	LUNCH
	1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Area Reports & Cultural Presentations <i>hosted by Greta Makhwenkwe & Laureen Ong</i> 4. Southern & East Africa 5. Europe: Britain & Ireland 6. Europe: Continental
	3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Afternoon Break
	3.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Area Reports & Cultural Presentations <i>hosted by Greta Makhwenkwe & Laureen Ong</i> 7. South Asia 8. East Asia 9. South Pacific
	5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	DINNER
7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	Business Session 1 Ballroom 2 nd Floor Market Passage Way 2 nd Floor Film (Room to be advised)	

DAY	TIME	EVENT
WEDNESDAY 31 st August	7.00 a.m. – 8 a.m.	BREAKFAST
	8.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.	Morning Singing Ballroom 2 nd Floor
	8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	Worship led by Caribbean Women Ballroom 2 nd Floor
	9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Report from United Nations Representatives Dr. Brenda Smith Ivonne Pereira Diaz Matilda Johnson Chloe Jones <i>Introduced by Vice-President Regula Stotz</i>
	10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Morning Break
	11.00 a.m. – 12 noon	Workshops 1A Music in Ballroom All others on 3 rd Floor (rooms to be advised)
	12 noon – 1.30 p.m.	LUNCH Market
	1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Bible Study 1 <i>Leader: Rev. Ouk-Yean Kim Jueng</i> <i>Introduced by Judith Siaba</i> <i>Thanks by Rita Doloksaribu</i>
	3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Afternoon Break
	3.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Workshops 1B <i>as for morning</i>
	5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	DINNER
7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	Business Session 2 Ballroom 2 nd Floor Opening Worship of the World Methodist Conference Ballroom 4 th Floor	

DAY	TIME	EVENT
THURSDAY 1 st September	7.00 a.m. – 8 a.m.	BREAKFAST
	8.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.	Morning Singing Ballroom 2 nd Floor
	8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	Reports from Archivist: <i>Emmy Lou John</i> Tree of Life Editor: <i>Dorothy Kumar</i> Webmaster: <i>Nicholas Connan</i>
	9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Memorial Service <i>led by Alison Judd</i> <i>Preacher: Emmy Lou John</i>
	10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Morning Break
	11.00 a.m. – 12 noon	Workshops 2A Music in Ballroom All others on 3 rd Floor (rooms to be advised)
	12 noon – 1.30 p.m.	LUNCH Market
	1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Bible Study 2 <i>Leader: Rev. Lauren Matthews</i> <i>Introduced by Vidah Mayana</i> <i>Thanks by Sarojini Nagendran</i>
	3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Afternoon Break
	3.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Workshops 2B <i>as for morning</i>
	5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	DINNER
	3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Business Session 3 Ballroom 2 nd Floor Market Passageway 2 nd Floor Film (to be advised) Choir Practice (to be advised)

DAY	TIME	EVENT
FRIDAY 2 nd September	7.00 a.m. – 8 a.m.	BREAKFAST
	8.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.	Morning Singing Ballroom 2 nd Floor
	8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	Worship <i>led by UN Representatives</i> Announcement of Elections
	9.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m.	Presentation <i>by Helen Kim Memorial Scholars</i> <i>Introduced by Lynne Scott</i>
	10.30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	Morning Break
	11.00 a.m. – 12 noon	Workshops 3A Music in Ballroom All others on 3 rd Floor (rooms to be advised)
	12 noon – 1.30 p.m.	LUNCH Market
	1.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.	Bible Study 3 <i>Leader: Rev. Grace Imathiu</i> <i>Introduced by Ann Connan</i> <i>Thanks by Leila Barbosa</i>
	3.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.	Afternoon Break
	3.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Workshops 3B as for morning
	5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	DINNER
	7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	SERVICE OF INSTALLATION & HOLY COMMUNION <i>Led by: Ann Connan</i> <i>Rev. Margarita Todorova</i> <i>Preacher: Bishop Hannah Faal-Heim</i> (TEXAS CULTURAL NIGHT for WORLD METHODIST CONFERENCE) Ballroom 4 th Floor

DAY	TIME	EVENT
SATURDAY 3 rd September	7.00 a.m. – 8 a.m.	BREAKFAST
	8.00 a.m. – 8.30 a.m.	Morning Singing Ballroom 2 nd Floor
	8.30 a.m. – 9.00 a.m.	Worship <i>led by the Local Arrangements Committee</i>
	9.00 a.m. – 10.00 a.m.	<i>Prepare for Outings</i>
	10.00 a.m.	Buses leave
	3.00 p.m.	Buses return
	3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Afternoon Break
	4.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	Thanks & Closing Worship
	5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	DINNER
	7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m.	CLOSING WORSHIP of WORLD METHODIST CONFERENCE Ballroom 4 th Floor
	9.00 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social

DAY	TIME	TIME
SUNDAY 4 th September	7.00 a.m. – 8 a.m.	BREAKFAST
		<i>Delegates leave</i>
	10.00 a.m. – 12 noon	Old & New Executive Meet 3 rd Floor Meeting Room
	12 noon – 1.30 p.m.	LUNCH
	1.30 p.m. -	2016-2021 Executive Meets



World Officer's Report



Ann M. Connan

How can you sum up 5 amazing years, countless experiences and encounters with the Federation members in just 2 pages? The completely unexpected privilege you afforded me is briefly recalled here

Area Seminars have been the obvious highlight and the most wonderful way to interact with the Federation membership.

Each Seminar was different in exciting ways:

- North America Area: Chicago, November, 2012, a wonderful mix of African American, Anglo and Caribbean Church women, buffeted by Hurricane Sandy, explored MDGs.
- South Asia Area: Bangalore, India, January, 2013, Myanmar women's involvement, black saris on Thursday, protocol and gifts, exotic outing.
- West Africa Area: Banjul, The Gambia, May, 2013, national support for the program of Food Security and Women in Agriculture, colourful clothing and dancing.
- Latin America Area: Santiago, Chile, September, 2013, costumes, food, Confederation 100 years, fervour.
- East Asia Area: Singapore, April, 2014, young women, professional, banquets.
- Joint European Areas: Rome, Italy, June, 2014, Helen Kim Scholars, workshops, Prayer Stations, church visits.
- South Pacific Area: Brisbane, Australia, July, 2014, dancing, costumes, 75th anniversary, singing.
- South and East Africa Area: Cape Town, South Africa, November, 2014, prayer, march of witness and protest, workshops.

Weaving Together Program

The 4 World Officers attended each Area seminar except Southern & East Africa (President and Treasurer only) conducting the Weaving Together Program for 2 days before the Seminar with Area and Unit leaders and some Helen Kim Memorial Scholars.

The Program included:

- Worship;
- Getting to Know You;
- What is the Federation?
- Secretary records updates;
- Financial issues;
- MDGs;
- Weaving Together exercises;
- Sharing of Unit News, "What's in Your basket?"
- Executive Meetings and World Officer Meetings.

Two Executive Meetings were held between Assemblies:

1. Hosted by Vice President Regula Stotz at the Methodist Church, Basel, Switzerland, included a trip to the U.N. in Geneva with Renate Bloom.
2. Hosted by President Ann Connan in Melbourne, Australia, included World Assembly planning, sightseeing and worship with former World Secretary Joan Stott.

At each Area Seminar the World Officers met to conduct official business as necessary.

Communications:

The development of the Website and Facebook under Nicholas has spread the message, reporting, and information of Federation enormously.

Writing the President's Pen in The Tree of Life has been a joy, as I've tried to share what was on my heart at that moment.

Writing for the web-site has been my accountability tool. Sharing my impressions of each Seminar (as well as my photos). Putting the President's prayer points up each month; keeping you informed of the Assembly through Updates.

Added to regular emails and letters to Senior Friends, the Executive and Unit Presidents. I believe we are very fortunate to be in contact regularly through regular communication.

UMW P.A.G.

I was invited to be one of two WFM&UCW representatives on the Program Advisory Group for United Methodist Women. An annual trip to Nashville to share in the leadership of our biggest Unit has been very beneficial for my understanding of the UMW, but I query the value to the UMW, as there was no opportunity in 4 years to share anything of the Federation work.

WMC Steering Committee

I represented the Federation on the 25-member Steering Committee of the World Methodist Council in Lake Junaluska, 2012; in Rio de Janeiro and London in 2013; in Atlanta in 2014; and in Houston in 2015.

The last 12 months have been difficult as the World Methodist Conference organisers put restrictions on our plans for the Assembly. While we are grateful to be able to share the Hilton Americas-Houston with them, it is not something I would recommend we do again.

Finance

The World Officers became aware of the shortage of funds after the past World Treasurer failed to hand over financial records. Many, many hours have been spent trying to find out just what money we did have, and what money was missing.

Repeated requests to all World Officers of the Quinquennium 2006-2011, to Banks in Chicago, and searches of Minute Books failed to answer questions. I took a personally-funded trip to Antigua on the suggestion of the Lawyer for the MCCA, who had been offered by their President. She would not meet with me. Shortly thereafter the past World Treasurer did provide the first and only audit for the Quinquennium. The Auditor has provided many answers, including proof that US\$100,000 was indeed lost in an unauthorised investment in the British American Insurance Company. But the Bank withdrawal (with 1 signature only) we had believed to be US\$158,000 was, in fact, US\$200,000. Naturally the loss of funds of this magnitude has impacted our 13th World Assembly.

The World Officers have travelled as cheaply as possible on low-cost airlines, taking indirect flights and staying at airports rather than hotels, to save money. This has been very tiring, but we believe such stewardship was required. Without an increase in membership fees the Federation programs cannot continue.

75th Anniversary

It was wonderful to be able to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the signing of the Federation Charter in 2014 under the theme: 75 years of Healing Leaves. Special editions of The Tree of Life were a labour of love by Editor Dorothy Kumar. Parties, cakes, T-shirts, on-line donations for the Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship program and Study Day material all celebrated the special year.

Sadly, during the Quinquennium the President Emerita Chita Millan left the United Methodist Church in the Philippines to establish her own church. This meant she could no longer hold the World Office, as she no longer belonged to a Federation member church. This meant extra tasks fell on the President.

Thanks

At my Installation I spoke of my belief that "God doesn't call the equipped, but, rather, God equips the called." And as the past 5 years have sometimes exhausted all my abilities and strength, I have remembered ...and given thanks that this journey has been underpinned all the way through by God. God has been with me through my husband ["P.A. to the W.P." he calls himself]; my family [especially Nicholas and Rowena]; my World Officers, Regula, Leu and Carla; my Executive; Past World Officers; and the hundreds of Federation women who have shared their stories and their faith.

Thanks be to God!



Regula Stotz

WORLD VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bambelela Christ is our hope!

This is an encouragement and a promise in one. It was the motto of the 12th World Assembly held in Johannesburg in 2011. I was there with the firm conviction to participate at my last international activity of the WFM&UCW.

And yet – God's plans with me were different: I was elected Vice-President of the Federation. What an unexpected and unknown role! I only could accept it with the confidence: Christ is my hope, is our hope also for the five years as World Officer.

And now – looking back at these five years I really can confirm Christ was with me. He was with me in so many good experiences but he was with me also in times of doubt.

One of the very first good experiences was the meeting of the members of the Executive which I organized in April 2012 in Basel. We had intensive business sessions, but we also had the chance to get to know each other better and to taste a bit of <Swissness>. We even had a trip to Geneva to visit the European headquarters of the UN.

Real highlights were the Area Seminars in Chicago, Bangalore, Banjul, Santiago de Chile, Singapore, Pomezia, and Brisbane.

You do not know all these places? Nor did I! These all are places where we had the Area Seminars starting with the <Weaving Together Program (WTP)>. I contributed to improve the reporting during the WTP by providing a questionnaire and using adequate methods.

The Seminars themselves showed a wonderful variety of possibilities to look at the regional context for Bambelela. I experienced new forms of worship, new aspects of the situation of women, new ways to celebrate, but we all are connected because Christ is our hope.

As Vice-President, I also was responsible for the contacts to our representatives to the UN in New York and Latin America. They opened a wonderful window for us: they can bring in matters of Christian women and can inform us of relevant issues – they can be found on the respective site of our homepage.

I myself had the privilege to participate at the NGO Forum – Beijing +20 / UN ECE Regional Review held in Geneva, Switzerland in November 2014. Firstly, an explanation of the title.

In 1995 was the 4th World Conference on Women convened in Beijing. On this historical occasion UN Member States adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

In collaboration with the UN ECE (Economic Commission for Europe which contains 56 countries in Europe, Central Asia as well as USA and Canada) the NGO representatives to the United Nations based in Geneva and assembled under the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Geneva (NGO CSW Geneva) was invited to review the process of the last twenty years.

Another duty of the Vice-President is to distribute the Study Day Material prepared by women of the following Areas:

South Asia - 2012	Elderly
North America - 2014	75th Anniversary of WFM&UCW
South Africa - 2015	MDG 6: HIV/Aids, Malaria and other diseases
South America - 2016	MDG 2: Education

Even if I am the oldest of the for WOs I had the privilege to make contact to young women who could follow a course organized by the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey near Geneva. This is a branch of the World Council of Churches and its main aim is to offer courses, which widen the horizon of the participants and enable them to be leaders in the modern Christian world. It is a pity, that it did not happen quite regularly. Sometimes there were no courses or sometimes because we could not find young women who could participate. At any rate I want to thank the United Methodist Women for their financial support to the program.

To be involved in a Global organisation with some 3.5 million members is a gift and a challenge in one. The gift: I get an insight in so many different ways of life, cultures, and biographies. The challenge: to remain authentic even if I am very much aware of the privilege of my life conditions.

At the end of this quinquennium I want to apologize for things, which I could have made better.

And I want to thank my Co-World Officers and all those who have supported us in many ways, with their activities, with gifts and talents, with their prayer. My first thanks go to our Heavenly Father for this wonderful opportunity and for all His guidance and protection. Hopefully it will be proof also to those who are ready to take over.





Carla E. Boyce-Smith

WORLD SECRETARY'S REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The World Federation experience as seen through the eyes of the World Secretary has allowed me to reach out to God through others. This is the aim of the WF and the symbol of the Tree of Life is a reminder of our service to Christ based on the twelve fruits. The diversity of the different areas depicts how the 12 symbols are part of the lives of the sisters around the world.

The experience of fulfilling the aims and the meaning of the WF symbol in my life and the lives of those I had the privilege of meeting, sharing and having the opportunity of Christian fellowship has made a tremendous impact on my life.

This report presents the scope of duties and responsibilities accomplished by the World Secretary since August, 2011 to presently.

EVANGELISM

One of the aims of the WF is evangelism, the WF experience is one which offers a means of evangelizing. It provides the opportunity of sharing the word to others throughout our visits or on returning home to continue evangelizing while sharing what the federation is all about.

In the Republic of Panama they are two branches of Methodism, The Conference of Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA) and the Spanish Evangelical Methodist Church (IEMPA-acronym for the name in Spanish).

I became aware that many of the sisters from the MCCA and IEMPA were not knowledgeable of what the WF is all about. I embarked on informative sessions to not only allow, "Christ to be Known and Make Him Known," as well, let the WF be known to them.

MEETINGS

Prepared and sent invitations along with a registration form for two (2) Executive Committee Meetings. Follow up on receiving registration forms with arrival information of participants. Prepared minutes of meetings and sent draft reviewed by participants. Complete documents in final form for signature of the World President and World Secretary.

Prepared minutes of World Officers meetings and sent drafts reviewed and put document in final form for signature of the World President and World Secretary. All these minutes has been recorded on a CD to be kept in the WF archives plus a hard copy of each document.

WEAVING TOGETHER PROGRAM (WTP)

Prepared and sent invitations to eight (9) Area Presidents and Vice-Presidents. Kept close communication with Area Presidents and sometimes Vice-Presidents to prepare a list of participants. Worked along with World President to prepare program. Coordinated with the Area President the space required, equipment needed and any other pertinent matter.

Likewise, a questionnaire was sent to Area Presidents to be filled out to be used by units as a reporting document at the WTP. I gave each Unit President a Unit Information Form to fill in with the name of the Unit's, address, contact person and telephone numbers. This form allows the World Treasurer and World Secretary to keep statistical records of the amount of members per Unit.

LATIN AMERICA AREA WTP

Coordinated the reporting of the Unit Presidents by dividing participants in groups to exchange information on the work done in their countries. Served as interpreter during this meeting from English to Spanish.

WORLD FEDERATION GUIDELINES

Since some World Officers did not have a copy of the guidelines I contacted Rosemary Wass, Past World President and she provided copies of the document online and then I distributed them to the World Officers via e-mail. Each World Officer was given a CD with the complete guideline documents will should be handed over to the incoming World Officers each quinquennium.

MODIFICATION AND TRANSLATION OF THE HANDBOOK

Presented suggested changes. Prepared translated copy into the Spanish language to be used by the Latin America Area.

CONTACT LIST

Compiled a list with names, addresses, telephone numbers and birthdates of Unit Presidents, Unit Vice-Presidents and World Officers. The main purpose of this list was to keep in touch. Nevertheless, it has served to announce birthdays and consequently receive greetings, to keep informed of whatever was occurring in our lives. This list was sent to all members of the Executive Committee and up-dates have been made during the quinquennium.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you notes were sent to Ken Millan for his contribution to the Federation Webpage and to Pamela Klimcke who designed the new Tree of Life Logo. Both notes were signed by World President and myself.

LIASION & INTERPRETING DUTIES

As World Secretary one main aim was to serve as liaison between the sisters of the Latin America Area and the World Federation. Possessing bilingual skills has allowed me to do so as a link between the World Federation and the Latin America Area. Also, I have served as interpreter during the Executive Committee Meetings.

THANKS

I am very grateful for the help and support received from the Area Officers in the planning and implementation of the WTP. Without the Area Presidents, Vice-Presidents and local committee, certainly it would have been difficult to successfully hold these programs. I am thankful to God for the opportunity He has given me to be the World Secretary and blessed to have worked along with Ann, Regula and Leu. I have met some wonderful people during our visits to the Areas which has been a blessing to have shared and experienced precious moments.





Leú Pupulu

WORLD TREASURER'S REPORT

Blame it on my old age or not, for the last five years, has gone by so quickly. Thinking back to the 12th World Assembly in 2011, I can't help but think about the amount of work that needed be done up to this point.

Before I was called upon to serve as World Treasurer, I had no idea of how much work was required. It truly was a leap of faith. Lack of information, lack of records and lack of support from the previous office, I came to rely on God's guidance and lean heavily on the support of my fellow team mates as well as the late Ruth Le Couteur, Emmy Lou John, Judy Siaba and most importantly my family and the family members of the World Officers. I am truly thankful for their support.

It was a dark time for our World Federation financially at the beginning of my term. With the limited amount of funds to work with, I had to decide on how best to use the small resources, to affect the biggest change financially, for our organisation. It is then that I created the Financial Awareness Campaign and began work on informing and rallying all our members about the situation we were facing.

The result I received was so positive and so uplifting that by working together we managed to make real progress. And I am thankful to all Units, Areas and their respective leaders for answering the call to action and going above and beyond in the support of our World Federation.

With all the progress we have made, there is a lot more work that needs to be done. The role of the World Treasurer within our organisation is critical. Having been in the role for the last five years, I have come to realise the magnitude of the work that still lies ahead.

Many of the injuries we suffered financially, could have been avoided if the duties of the World Treasurer were carried out honestly and diligently. However, it is up to all of us to ensure there are checks and balances for the World Treasurer role moving forward.

Even though I have given my all to this role I have gained so much in return. Getting the opportunity to meet many sisters from different countries has given me a better perspective and understanding on the challenges each Unit faces financially. Even though many Units faced difficult times, I am so uplifted by the charitable work that other Units continue to do.

If there is anything I have learnt from my time, it is that most of the problems I dealt with, came from the lack of communication from leaders. Some leaders have found it difficult to understand and follow the constitution, their obligations and deadlines when it came to their dealing with the World Federation.

However, I have a profound sense of hope for the future of our organisation going forward. It is a belief based on the fact that we can work together this Assembly to establish the framework required to further the security of the World Federation from any potential misconduct in the future. We need to recognise that our organisation is global, with our officers based in diverse countries, and as such we need to look at meeting the challenges that brings to the World Federation and especially the World Treasurer role.

I pray that this Assembly we can make the changes needed, and with your patience and support, we can work through this together. The future of our organisation is in your hands.

Soifua

Area Report Europe: Britain & Ireland



Alison Judd: (Britain)
Area President



Maureen Young: (Ireland)
Area Vice President

There are only two Units in this Area:

The British Unit functions as Methodist Women in Britain (MWiB). This new movement, launched in 2011, does not have a formal membership but estimates 180,000 Methodist women in England, Scotland and Wales and on this basis the levy is paid. The Ireland Unit is part of Methodist Women in Ireland (MWI), having 3000 members. Both HKM Scholars, Rachel Collins (nee Coates) and Rachel Fallows, have played a full part in the life of their Unit over the five years.

A quarterly newsletter is produced by MWiB and e-mailed to anyone who wishes to register, usually in conjunction with each issue of the 'Tree of Life'. Area Annual reports produced jointly with Europe: Continental Area are given to the European Methodist Council.

The Joint European Area Seminar (with Europe: Continental) was held in June 2014 near Rome, Italy. The Weaving Together Programme was well-attended. One-hundred seventy (170) women from 24 countries gathered under the theme, 'Forward together in Hope'. Reports were placed on the website and included in 'Tree of Life' 19th Edition, Oct- Dec 2015. After the Area Seminar, a surplus income was transferred to the World Treasurer for WFM&UCW funds. British and Ireland Unit levies have been paid in full.

Projects and programmes

MDG2 - Primary Education. Ireland provided Audibles for school children in South Africa, and MWiB supported 'Children Unite' working to help child domestic workers.

MDG3 - Gender equality and empowerment of women. MWiB in partnership with the Church of North India (CNI) raised

£65,000 to provide skills - training for Dalit women and safe accommodation for girls attending school. Exchange visits were made and a 'Dalit Solidarity resource pack' was produced. MWI supported the 'Wings of Hope' in Sri Lanka which aims to raise standards of health and hygiene among women working on the tea plantation by providing clean water & sanitation, education programs, and assistance with school uniforms for their children. **MDG7** - Environmental sustainability. At the World Federation day in October 2012, MWiB addressed the theme of 'Hope for Creation', encouraging participants to show care for the environment.

Liturgy and resources 'What shall we do Now?' a resource for groups of older women is now available on disc. A resource pack has been produced, raising awareness of the issues surrounding Dementia and encouraging the development of Dementia Friendly Churches.

Heritage project: Epworth Old Rectory, the birthplace of John and Charles Wesley now houses an MWiB -funded exhibition 'Transforming the World from the Kitchen'. This celebrates, through carefully gathered archives and artefacts, the part Methodist women have played over many years in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Migrants and refugees are a concern for the whole of Europe at this time. When Anne Browse, current President of MWiB, visited Germany recently, she saw how the church there is welcoming and offering pastoral care to refugees. A second visit is planned in order to share information and ideas.

Visit the MWiB and Ireland websites www.mwib.org.uk and www.irishmethodist.org/mwi/

Area Report Europe: Continental Area



Rev. Margarita Todorova
Area President



Alice Margareta Cooper
Area Vice President

Structures - The Europe Continental Area remains one of the most complex in the Federation, having the biggest number of Units (23) but a small membership (less than 20 000). All units are country oriented as well as language oriented and are part of different UMC Conferences and autonomous Churches. Some Churches are part of federations of different protestant churches. Methodists in this area are present in 27 countries, four of which are not members of the Federation. The Swedish Methodists formed a united church in 2013 and the new joint women's organization is to apply for membership. Five of the existing Units are in recess and officially in Denmark, Finland and Spain there is no organized women's work on a national level but only on a local level. In some congregations there are migrant groups.

Activities - In all European Continental countries the Methodist Church is often a minority church with a small membership and their Units also have small memberships. Half of these are from ex-Communist countries where the Church is still recovering from severe blows suffered during the Communist period. The reestablishment of women's work there is still continuing helped by Western European Methodist Churches. Baltic countries have been helped by Norway and Sweden. Swiss women are assisting Eastern Block women financially and with leadership training and language courses. Germany, Britain and USA have offered help and partnerships. Some of the Units, although financially dependent, are planning and organizing their own national events and leadership training programs. Women in Continental Europe are engaged in various social projects extending their witness to children, youth and elderly people both in their churches and their communities. Some of the Units are working on the Federation Action Plan goals relevant to their communities whilst others, due to the difficulties they face, organize one event on a country level. Bible studies, cultural gatherings and fellowship remain an integral part in women's work. In the Eastern European countries still struggling to revive their women's organizations, work is carried out on a regional level. All active Units organize national seminars. The Units from Central and Southern Europe

have their own Central Conference structure and meet for a leader's consultation and women's seminar every 4 years. More experienced units offer less experienced units attendance at their national seminars for encouragement and training. Some of the Units have introduced the "Thursdays in Black" campaign with a script of solidarity in their own languages.

Communication - Communication is a great difficulty with 25 different languages spoken in the 27 countries. Correspondence is carried out via e-mails and Skype.

Challenges and concerns - The majority of Units belong to tiny minority churches with a small membership and very limited resources including finance and volunteers. Work is most often on local level, with little apparent impact leaving volunteers feeling dispirited. Many do not speak English or German, the two official languages usually used and all Federation materials, including The Tree of Life, need to be translated and adapted but due to financial restrictions units usually only incorporate parts of the Study Day materials in their national meetings. High travel costs hinder many women from participating in regular meetings, both national and international, leaving the smaller Units feeling isolated and excluded, despite Unit Presidents keeping their Units informed about the World Federation. For smaller Units being part of a world sisterhood is of great importance, and they cherish their place in the Federation. A major concern for the future is the growing number of migrants and refugees flooding Europe and some Units are concerned by limited interest and participation by the younger generation. Other Units have been dissolved because much of the work carried out by the churches is no longer seen solely as women's work.

Interpretation of Area Officers' role - Due to the number of Units the Area Officers' role is one of a networker and communication skills and an awareness of cultural and language differences is essential.

Area Report: East Asia

“The threads of East Asia in the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women weaves a tapestry of evergreen hues of light and design. The fabric is always interesting, creative, new and colorful, however, behind the fabric lies the knots that binds the patterns (women) together. Knots tied together in compassionate tension, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and relentless hope to give our daughters a better future.



Laureen Ong -Tam
President East Asia Area



Rita Doloksaribu
Vice President East Asia Area

East Asia women (EAA WFM&UCW) continue in the calling of The Great Commission bringing the gospel to the people: Their mission is, “To Know Christ and To Make Him Known”. The women continue to grow in The Lord, sowing good seeds for women in Asia to be salt and light to a broken world. Membership of the East Asia Area is near 170,000.

Since 1961 to date, 11 EAA-WFM&UCW Presidents served in East Asia Area. The Area comprise Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Taiwan (RoC). Extending her branches EAA-WFM&UCW also embrace Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam in their mission fields. The World Federation motto, “To Know Christ and To Make Him Known,” resounds in every Unit. The hallmark of Prayer and Missions identifies each Unit in the various ways in which mission work is present.

The present executive members are: Mrs Laureen Ong – President, Mrs Rita Dolosaribu – Vice President, Mrs Mary Devadason – Secretary and Mrs Ngui-Ting Sing Hong –Treasurer. The Unit Presidents serve a term of 4 years each.

Area Seminar

The East Asia Area Seminar was held in Singapore from 26 – 29 March 2014. The Weaving Together Program was planned by the World officers which took place before the start of the Area Seminar.

At the East Asia Area Seminar held in Singapore in March 2014, great emphasis was placed on Young Leadership Renewal. A special session was held at the seminar to include potential young women leaders and to hear their voices. Ten (10) young women attended a separate program planned by Scranton Women’s Leadership Center, led by Dr Rev Heasun Kim, Director – Scranton Women’s Leadership, Korea; Rev Hikari Chang, Missionary - John Wesley Foundation, Japan; and Ms Emma Cantor - Missionary, UMW Asia.

By God’s grace our sisters engage in social outreach and leadership skills in planning decentralized seminars and trainings in their own local societies unique to the needs of their respective culture. This is done to further strengthen their skills and to provide a platform for potential leaders to meet together, leadership development and dialogues were held under the Asian Women’s Leadership Development and Dialogue in various parts of East Asia.

These gatherings were conducted and greatly supported by Scranton Women’s Leadership Centre and John Wesley Centre. With God’s grace and empowerment the quest for social holiness becomes a passion and joy to serve the Lord. We give grateful thanks to God.

The threads of East Asia in the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women weaves a tapestry of evergreen hues of light and design. The fabric is always interesting, creative, new and colorful, behind the fabric lies the knots that binds the patterns (women) together. Knots tied together in compassionate tension, strengthened by the Holy Spirit and relentless hope to give our daughters a better future.

Missions

Action in Missions create opportunities for the women to bring the gospel to people. With the influx of migrants into Asian countries, opportunities to do missions with migrants becomes a new reality as women and children from foreign land find their place to settle in.

Units in Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, Taiwan and Indonesia: the women in the local villages and with ethnic groups take the Message to the people. Singapore and Malaysia sends women to neighborer countries such as Cambodia, Thailand, Nepal and, Vietnam and Laos. Their trips involve programs with their local churches, leadership skills and life skills. In Hong Kong ministries to Chinese immigrants is an active catalyst. In some countries/Units support women clergy who serve as missionaries, ministering to women and children in their own country. Some places in East Asia were not spared nature's hazardous trials of floods and earthquakes. Sisters from various Units rendered aid and prayers to alleviate the sufferings which the tragedies caused. The women provided financial aid and support, together with their local churches to help rebuild homes and restore health to women and children who were affected.

As the women actively engage themselves in missions and social outreach to communities and churches, they are strengthened towards their commitments with regular Bible studies and prayer networks, working towards the path of Social Holiness.

The observances of Holy Week studies and special offerings for Prayer and Self Denial Week World Day study materials and news from the UN work, enable our sisters to create their own liturgy as they observe those special days, knowing that together with the world sisterhood their prayers are united.

With grateful hearts and special thanks to the Unit Presidents and Executive Committee who served the quinquennium together, and also to for the leadership in the World Federation who have encouraged and kept us in prayer.

We give praise and thanks to Almighty God who enables and empower us.



Area Report: Latin America

Location of all Units.



Ivonne Lorena Pereira Díaz
Area President



Leila de Jesus Barbosa
Area Vice President

List Units and Membership: Argentina 100. Brazil 9.379. Bolivia 600. Chile 800. Costa Rica 300. Cuba. Ecuador 100 Mexico 3.803. Panamá 222 Paraguay 100 Peru 330 Puerto Rico. Dominican Republic 100 Uruguay 100 (Note: Members of the World Federation are highlighted in black)

The “Confederation of Methodist Women of Latin America and the Caribbean”(CMWLAC) is an organization founded on August 18, 1928, celebrating 88 years. Its motto is “United in service and witness”. For its functioning a Board of Directors and a five-year Congress was established.

We maintain constant communication with the World Federation as well as with Unit Presidents of the Federations, sending written material such as: Biblical studies, meditations, studies on MDG’s subjects, a quarterly Newsletter in Spanish, Portuguese and English, and World’s Federation bulletin “Tree of Life”, translated to Spanish. We also share ECLAC material.

REPORTS OF SEMINARS AND MEETINGS

- Area Seminar, September 2013, conducted in coordination with the World Officers (approximately 110 attendants). First study: Contribution of Latin American women to the social and political processes of Republican life. Second study: “Recovering dignity and rights of women”
- 27-28 October 2012, participation in the XV Assembly of Evangelical Methodist Women of Panama.

- 8-11 November 2013 – participation in the First National Meeting of Methodist Women of Peru, in Miraflores, Lima, Peru. We held a second Encounter in 2014 and a third one in 2015, supporting and empowering women.
- 6-11 January 2015: We had the visit of sister Harriett Jane Olson, General Executive Secretary of UMC, who was invited by the Confederation of Methodist Women of Latin America and The Caribbean to attend the 92 ° National Congress of the Chilean Federation of Methodist Women.
- First Andean Encounter (2015): held in the city of Iquique, North of Chile, with participation of 67 Delegates from Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Chile. Themes presented: “History of Andean People” (Felipe Rojas, sociologist). “Walk of the Andean women in the Church . How Andean women face empowerment”. (Rosario Palma, teacher) . “The wisdom of the Andean people as dynamic force of change: Andean wisdom, source of hope.” (Sara Flores, Ecuador.) “Andean music” (Pablo Correa P., music teacher) . “ Information technologies and communication in the Church.” (Ivonne Pereira D.) We also shared morning retreats, liturgies, music, praise.
- Seminar of Methodist Women of Brazil, 24-26 July, 2015. This seminar brought together women from all regional Federations of Brazil (57 participants). Its theme was “Woman marked by God, get up and shine!”. Studies: “The Church, event of the Spirit” (Bishop Pedro Correa). “Building a better relationship with God” (Rev. Andreia Fernandes). “Women marked by God and their stories of violence.” (Professor Sandra Duarte). “Connecting with nature”, (Prof. Marcia Velásquez).
- Second Andean Encounter : “Cry and hope of the Methodist Andean woman”, held from 09- 12 of March 2016, in the Methodist House, Lima- Peru. Around 69 Sisters attended this meeting (6 from Ecuador, 5 from Chile, 7 members of CMMALC directory, and 62 peruvian sisters from different districts.) Studies: “Andean Women today, together to make our voice be heard”. (Prof. Dora Canales, Rector of the Wesleyan Theological Seminary). “Methodist Andean woman cries out for justice” (Patricia Wilson Torregrosa). “Andean women and their relationship with the environment”. (Lissel Zárata, Technical Secretary of the Gender Commission of the Environmental Sector.)
- As representative of ECLAC I had the opportunity to be part of the delegation of Christian Women Association (World YWCA) to the Evaluation Program for Beijing+20, held in Santiago, Chile, from 15 to 19 November 2014, invited by Mrs. Yuleida Alvarez, of the Church of Colombia.
- October 14 to 18, 2013 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – Caribbean. During my trip to the ECLAC Conference I visited the Methodist sisters of Santo Domingo and held with them meetings and encounters.
- June-July-August 2014. Three Seminars with Methodist women of the North of Chile, on “Abortion and therapeutic abortion”, and “Taking knowledge of abuse and mistreatment in old age” .

- November: 21-22 and 23, 2014. Pachuca, Mexico. Participation in a Conference with Sisters of Mexico: “Women of change” and “Filled with the knowledge of His will” (150 women.)

Projects and Programs:

- Creation of labor workshops.
- Translation into Spanish of The “Tree of Life” newsletter.
- Translation into Spanish of the Handbook of the World Federation (for the first time in the history of the Confederation).
- Publishing of the new version of the Guidelines of the Confederation of Methodist Women of Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Publishing CMMALC Book of Autobiographies, in the context of the celebration of CMMALC’s day (August 18).
- To make known ECLAC’s work.
- Material and activities on various subjects and studies related with international days and themes from World Federation and CMMALC.

Some concerns:

- To work against violence.
- Formation of new leaders with greater responsibility.
- Evangelism and Christian education.
- Protection of the environment.
- Commitment with care for ageing.
- Challenges in response to the Gospel: the biggest challenge for the Church at the beginning of this Millennium, is the task that has been entrusted to the church always: evangelization.

Plans for the future: I imagine a future where gender equality is understood by all as part of the foundations of Justice, development and democracy. There is still a lot to be done, especially at the level of churches.

Responsibilities: I’ve had under my responsibility:

- to coordinate, support and accompany the work of the Federations or Units;
- the search of resources, and chairing of meetings each year;
- to carry out the plans approved by the World Federation and the Confederation;
- presented reports every year to the World Federation;
- organization of various activities, seminars, meetings and workshops.

Finances: It has been a hard work trying to achieve that Federations pay their annual dues, both with the World Federation and with CMMALC. My emphasis was that all Federations made their due payments, except three countries have not paid: Cuba, Paraguay and Puerto Rico, because in spite of many e-mails, we have not been able to communicate with them.

To God all honor and glory.



Area Report: North America

The grace and peace be with all of you as we come to the close of a Quinquennium and the beginning of a new venture always with God as our guide. Our work in the North America Area and the Caribbean have been led by the 2011 World Assembly theme of Bamblela: Christ is our Hope. It has been a very interesting and rewarding experience to be part of the World Federation.



E Judith Siaba
Area President



Brenda Vanterpool
Area Vice-President

North America area is made up of 5 units: African Methodist Episcopal (AME), African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ), Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME), Methodist Church of the Caribbean and the Americas (MCCA), and the United Methodist Women (UMW) who are full members with the United Church of Canada as associate members.

We began the World Area Seminars with a very eventful North America Area Seminar at the end of October 2012 when Hurricane Katrina hit the southeastern coast of the United States. In spite of travel challenges, 158 women made it to the Chicago Area for our gathering. In spite of the unseasonably cold weather outside, the wonderful fellowship of all the sisters provided a lot of warmth in the gathering. Unit officers met prior to the Seminar with the World Officers who provided much needed information in the Weaving Together Program. During the seminar we all delighted in singing praises to God, worship and in learning more through the participation in the workshops dealing with the Millennium Development Goals that continued to be an emphasis in this quinquennium.

One of the challenges of the Federation in the North America Area is that our individual Units are so involved in their own ministries and mission programs that to gather in Federation fellowship becomes hard throughout the United States. The Caribbean and some regions and states are more intentional about gathering together to have their respective Seminars than others. Regions 2, 3, 4, and 10 were the most active.

Each of the Units have met individually to carry out their organization's purpose. It is good to see the commonality of our work which deals with women, children, youth and families. We all have dealt with the UN Millennium Development goals and have seen progress in the eradication of poverty, primary education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, and ensuring environmental sustainability. Yet, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done.

Unit quadrennial meetings have been had by all and the United Methodist Women who are preparing to celebrate 150 years of being in mission and ministry with and for women, children and youth in 2019.

The United States have not only suffered in these five years with natural disasters but continue to suffer with the sin of poverty, violence and racism. It is up to us women to come together and make a difference. It is within the Federation organization that we are given the opportunity to come together, all races, and share in each other's lives as daughters of God, so as to have our hearts and minds transformed with the love of God. Historically it is the women who are able to see beyond the earthly power to bring about change, but we look forward to what will make for a safer, more tolerant and loving environment for all. As the scripture highlighted by the MCCA women in their 6th Quinquennial Assembly reminds us. "With God all things are possible," Matthew 19:26. We just need to make ourselves available.

As I look on to this World Assembly in Houston, Texas, I take seriously the theme of “Chosen People: Called to Proclaim”. “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God’s own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who called you out of darkness into his amazing light. Once you weren’t a people, but now you are God’s people. Once you hadn’t received mercy, but now you have received mercy.” 1 Peter 2:9-10 (CEB)

Or as the paraphrase from the Message reads: “But you are the ones chosen by God, chosen for the high calling of priestly work, chosen to be a holy people, God’s instruments to do his work and speak out for him, to tell others of the night-and-day difference he made for you—from nothing to something, from rejected to accepted.”

So let us go out knowing Christ and making Him known to all who would hear us. Let us go and proclaim God’s love to ALL.



Area Report: South Asia



Sarojini Nagendran
Area President



Margaret Mumu Than
Area Vice President

Unit Presidents:

1. Women's Fellowship of the Church of North India: Mrs. Neerja Prasad
2. Women's 's Fellowship of the Church of South India: Mrs. Esther Prassana Kumar Samuel
3. All India WSCS, Methodist Church in India: Mrs. Aruna Samuel
4. Methodist Church of Sri Lanka – Mrs. Rajini Jegasothy.
5. Women's Synodical of Pakistan: WSCS od Upper Myanmar

We are sure that the work of the Women in other Units is going on satisfactorily but due to lack of communication, I am sad to say that we have not been able to report positively.

Our Area needs to expand and we had inquiries from Bangladesh & Nepal, and efforts made to visit Bangladesh on the invitation of the Bishop failed. Efforts to re-activate the Pakistan Unit was also not successful due to financial constraints and lack of response from them.

Weaving Together Program and Area Seminar

The Weaving Together Program & South Asia Seminar was held at the Gateway College, Bangalore, India from the 21st of January to the 30th of January 2013. The theme was "Asha- Christ is Our Helper" and indeed Christ was with us as the World Officers and Women from India, Myanmar & Sri Lanka gathered together for the Weaving Together Program and Seminar, working together and fun & fellowship. Although cultural backgrounds are similar in our Area, we still had enjoyment in the different ways of the Women in Dress, Song & Dance. The Friendship, Fellowship and Togetherness we experienced at the Seminar was wonderful.

Response from Units in attending to work

As we look at our Area Garden, I wish to count our blessings by the, "Flowers that bloom and not by the Leaves that fall". On the positive side, we have had encouraging reports of the work carried out by All India WSCS, Methodist Church Myanmar and Methodist Church Sri Lanka. Women from these Units actively participated in all area of work in their own countries and travelled to the Area Seminar enthusiastically.

Difficulties

The Allowances paid to Presidents/Vice Presidents do not cover visits to all the Units in the Area. Presidents should be able to visit their Units at the beginning of their terms (before the Area Seminars to familiarize them with the Work and Goals of the Federation). In most Units, when changes take place in those heading the Units, awareness of financial commitments to the Federation are not always made known to individuals and Churches.

Appreciation

It is with profound thanks to Almighty God that I conclude my Report. My thanks also to World President Ann, Vice President Regula, Secretary Carla and Treasurer Leu and Editor & Mentor Dorothy, not forgetting Vice President Margaret for the help and cooperation during my term of Office as President of South Asia.

Area Report: South Pacific



Lynne Scott
Area President



Joy Jino
Area Vice President

The South Pacific Area encompasses seven Island nations – Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga. Affiliated Units are: Australia – Uniting Church in Australia, Fiji and Rotuma – Methodist Church in Fiji; Aotearoa/New Zealand – Te Hāahi Weteriana/Methodist Church of New Zealand; Papua New Guinea – United Church of Papua New Guinea; Samoa – Methodist Church of Samoa; Solomon Islands – United Church Solomon Islands; Tonga – Free Wesleyan Church. (Membership : Australia – 8,579; Fiji – 26,000; New Zealand – 2,800; Papua New Guinea – 9,750; Samoa – 6,073; Solomon Islands – 4,982; Tonga – 10,409)

During this quinquennium (2011-2016) the South Pacific Area has been richly blessed through the leadership shown by our amazing young Helen Kim Scholar – Lise Jubilee (Malaeimi) Wikitera (New Zealand). Disappointingly, in spite of my repeated attempts to locate the other HKS Patsy Finderencia Beti (Solomon Islands), there has been no contact with, or from, her. Congratulations to our 2016-2021 HK Scholarship winners 'Onelea Toki (Tonga) and Teupola Waqainabete (Fiji). It is very encouraging to see so many young women serving the Lord in a variety of ways in their communities as they continue to develop their leadership skills. Please continue to mentor, support and encourage all young leaders in their endeavours.

Two of our emerging leaders have also been successful in being awarded a Bossey Scholarship. In June 2014 Liliuoka'hiani Teofilo (New Zealand) attended the workshop on 'Green Churches – Ecology, Theology and Justice in Practice' at the Bossey Institute. Malavai P-Misikei (New Zealand) participated in the YATRA (Youth in Training for Religious Amity) 29 May–11 June 2016 in Jakarta.

Units in Action

Several of our Units are comprised of many, and often remote islands where communications and transport can be difficult and expensive – and dependent on weather. Without exception all Units have experienced devastating natural disasters during the past quinquennium – cyclones, tsunamis, earthquakes, bush fires and serious drought conditions. As Units and Fellowships you have provided leadership and stability. Women and children are more vulnerable in times of natural disaster as each event impacts hugely on local infrastructure and the need to implement sustainable local programmes to rebuild communities.

Area/Unit Concerns

- Without exception all Units have a major concern and focus on programmes to address and eradicate violence and abuse particularly against women and children.
- Importance of educating all women on Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) and the impact on children.
- Pray for our girls, youth and provision of second-chance education for young mothers.
- Climate change is already causing major problems for many islands, especially the Solomon Islands where a number of island communities have been displaced by rising water levels. Some islands are now uninhabitable. It is important and critical that all countries support the recent UN Paris Convention on Climate Change, acknowledge the problems and take action!

South Pacific Area Seminar – 8th to 12th July 2014

The Theme of the Seminar was, 'A Challenge to live with Risk, Compassion and Celebration,' building on the World Assembly Theme – "Bambelela – Christ is Our Hope – Never Give Up!" Two hundred and forty women from the seven Units around the Pacific gathered at Emmanuel College, Brisbane, Australia. The theme was chosen believing that it would not be an understatement that many of our Pacific women at "grass roots" level face huge challenges and prejudice in their communities as they attempted to progress the Action Plans of the three MDGs allocated to the South Pacific Area. We believed that with the programme we had put together our sisters would be further equipped to pick up that, "Challenge to live with Risk, Compassion and Celebration," and make a difference within their home setting.

Two previous Helen Kim Scholars, Katherine Rhule (Australia) (first HKS programme), and Mataiva Robertson (New Zealand) (second group), together with a current recipient, Lise Jubilee (Malaeimi) Wikitera (New Zealand) spoke appreciatively of the opportunities as a HKS they had been afforded. It was really encouraging to hear from these young women outlining how the Helen Kim Scholarships had equipped them for service in their communities locally and overseas.

Two inspirational and challenging Bible Studies were led by Rev. Dr Elizabeth Nolan from Brisbane. Role plays and Bible studies based on 'Mary and Martha' and 'Naomi and Ruth' provided Units with new resources to enable them to reproduce the studies among the women in their local Fellowships.

A 'special guest speaker' from Adelaide, South Australia, was the Rev. Amel Manyon. Amel and her family came as refugees from the Sudan. God called her into Ministry and she trained with Uniting Church of Australia Theological College in South Australia and became the first Sudanese woman to be ordained in the Uniting Church. She shared her life story and the trials and challenges of being a Refugee. An extremely vibrant, interesting and stimulating experience.

The Seminar closed with a Communion Service led by the Rev. Jill van de Geer (New Zealand). This was a very special Service as Jill had broken with 'tradition' inviting 'young lay women' from each Unit to assist her. A very appropriate ending to a Seminar. Through extremely hard work and amazing stewardship all expenses came in well under projected budget with no need to draw down on WF finances.

Our South Pacific Area has a rotation of Unit host for Seminars. The next Seminar will be held in Fiji in 2018.

Weaving Together Programme (WTP)

Unit Leaders met with World Officers on 6th and 7th July 2014 at Emmanuel College prior to the Area Seminar. This was an opportunity to learn more about World Federation work, of programmes, activities, challenges and frustrations, and goals and aspirations for future directions in our expansive Area which has some very remote island communities. For many, journeys are long, expensive and not without risk in open seas and of course governed by the vagaries of the weather! Without exception one of the greatest challenges voiced by Unit leaders is violence, particularly against women and children. The exploitation of natural resources is also having very devastating impacts on the environment and communities in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea in particular. Global warming and rising sea levels are also extremely challenging for our island communities.

Finance

While all Units face decreasing membership and economic hardship resulting in monetary support being reduced, we are especially blessed by their ongoing support for World Federation. All Units are also to be commended for prompt payment of their Unit Membership Levies. There continues to be strong support for the Helen Kim Scholarship Programme as it mentors our young leaders. This was further evidenced at our Area Seminar during the Cultural presentations when dancers were 'rewarded' for their outstanding performances – amazing results in friendly inter-Unit rivalry!! The outcome was a very significant donation toward the Helen Kim Scholarship Fund.

Highlights

What a wonderful blessing, privilege and pleasure it has been to have served in the position of South Pacific Area President. As an ambassador for WFM&UCW entrusted with fostering and furthering the work and influence of our unique heritage in this amazing Area, I have greatly enjoyed serving in this role! It is with a deep sense of gratitude I give thanks to God, and stand in awe, of those amazing women who have gone before me. What a legacy and challenge Helen Kim left us! While for many of us our name may not be remembered, let us each feel valued as a woman – as a woman with a ministry!

Perhaps the stand-out highlight of my time as Area President was attending the Assembly United Church Women's Fellowship 3rd National Seminar – at the village of Sasamuqa, Choiseul, (North West) Solomon Islands – 1st to 8th June 2015, along with Ann Connan, World President, and 2793 Solomon Island women (as well as some children and men) celebrating their faith. Our three day journey began flying from Brisbane, Australia,

then on to Taro, Choiseul Bay. Next morning we “bounced” for 3 hours over the open ocean to Sasamuqa in a motorised canoe. Sasamuqa Village was devastated by a tsunami in 2007. Concrete foundations and remains of ruined buildings are still in evidence however the church stands high on the hill above the village centre – a refuge then and now.

Solar power is now providing 24 hours a day uninterrupted power in the nearly completed rebuild of the hospital. The wards are bright with energy saver lights and ceiling fans running around the clock. Solar power has also enabled the hospital to have running hot water in the taps. Unfortunately the hospital has been unable to recruit a doctor.

During the Seminar the stories of Esther, Ruth, Hannah and Mary of Bethany were re-enacted, discussed and led to some frank and open sharing by the women during the morning Bible Studies.

Workshops topics each afternoon covered World Federation, Disability, Child Abuse, Family Strengthening, and Health Issues including Cervical Cancer. Sunday began with Morning Worship, followed by afternoon outreach visits to families with disabled members to sing, pray and give food, clothing and health products. In the evening a 7 hour closing programme with choruses and praise songs followed by preaching, Choirs performing and a Communion Service with candle lighting “pass the light” ceremony. To bed at 2 am and up at 5 in darkness to again ‘bounce’ for over 2 hours in the open ocean in the canoe to Taro to catch the small plane back to Honiara. Sitting in the bow of the canoe Ann and I were rather salt soaked on our arrival – pleasantly cool – and importantly (for our boatmen!) – in time to catch the plane! Again, I was very conscious that these long sea journeys are totally dictated by weather and tides and are very much a part of life and one of the huge challenges faced by Solomon Island women. Extremely expensive air fares are well out of reach for most even for acute medical care. We give thanks to God for the vitality of the Church in the Solomon Islands and the wonderful work and witness of the women particularly as they cared for us and renewed our faith.

It has been a privilege, blessing and honour to have represented the South Pacific Area and World Federation at many gatherings – as we are called to do ‘To Know Christ and make Him known.’ ‘To God Be the Glory’!

In Loving Memory of our South Pacific Area Leaders ...

Rev Judith Parkes

(1935–2011)

Area Vice President : 1996–2001

Area President : 2001–2006

Margaret Gordon

(1933–2012)

Area President : 1986–1991

Ruth Le Couteur

(1941–2013)

World Treasurer : 1996–2001

Vera Dowie

(1921–2014)

Area Vice President : 1971–1976

Area President : 1976–1981

World Secretary : 1981–1986



Area Report: Southern & East Africa



Gretta Makhwenkwe
Area President



Vidah Mayana
Area Vice President

1. INTRODUCTION:

The quinquennium 2011-2016 under the theme, 'Bambelela, Christ Is Our Hope' has been an enriching journey. The sisterhood has been a vehicle of awakening women to challenges facing women in various countries of the continent. It also endeavoured to strengthen faith as women became agents of change in their communities through making the MDGs a success. Women realised they are strong in relation to their dependence on God and their active participation with His transforming purposes in their lives.

2. WEAVING TOGETHER PROGRAMME:

The World President, Ann Connan, had very empowering teachings on how to strengthen an organisation. Growth of the Federation and hindrances to growth were extensively analysed and discussed. What drives the organisation and what is the passion of the members are questions that were interrogated.

3. AREA SEMINAR:

The seminar was held in Cape Town where it was a joy to have various Units from the following countries in attendance: South Africa, Zimbabwe, Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Uganda. Though in some countries it was just one or two members, but the Unit was represented.

Members went into commissions that were divided according to the MDGs allocated to the Area. Deliberations gave direction to the agenda of the area and a programme of action to be followed by the Units.

A protest march against child and women abuse was led by Bishop Hansrod of the MCSA in the Cape of Good Hope. Thursdays-in-Black was observed by the women. As Area President, I handed over the memorandum at the police station after a speech that highlighted the plight of women as victims of abuse.

Outreach to the community was embarked upon. The Rape Crisis Centre trains women to go and do advocacy, educate young girls and women who have been raped, run support groups and give the necessary support to victims and their families. The Area donated a much needed data projector to the centre to enable the training of trainers. Toiletries and some educational consumables were donated to an orphanage in Cape Town. Lastly, a home of an elderly lady in Worcester was furnished with some essentials.

4. WORK ON THE MDGs:

MDGs 1 and 6: Always form the basis of the mission work done by the Area. The lifestyle of women is encouraged to embrace and promote achievement of these MDGs at all times.

MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education. The following are some of the activities done to promote this MDG:

- Building and partnership with early childhood development centres (ECDC's)
- Ensuring quality education by providing educational toys and better skills to teachers

MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women. Activities done were:

- Teenage mothers provided with baby clothing and taught to knit and crochet.
- Sanitary towels provided to rural schools to restore the dignity of girls.
-
- Bursaries to girls to access tertiary education
- Meaningful and intentional conversations with teenage mothers to help them realise their self-worth.
- Encourage re-use; recycle and renew to ensure environmental sustainability.

5. NEW LEADERSHIP:

Area President: 2016-2021 – Mrs. Sipiwe Chisvo (Zimbabwe)

Vice President: 2016-2021 – Mrs. Patricia Mapani (Zimbabwe)

6. CO

CONCLUSION:

As women of this Area are strengthened by Galatians 6:9, “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” As pillars of strength in our families – whether married or unmarried – we get strength from sharing our stories with other women. Promoting sound families anchored in Christian values is core of our calling in, “Knowing Christ and Making Him Known.”

Area Report: West Africa



Matilda Johnson
Area President



Conforte Houénonou-Bonou
Area Vice President

INTRODUCTION

The West Africa Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women consists of both French and English speaking countries, namely: BENIN, COTE D'IVOIRE, GHANA, LIBERIA, NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE, THE GAMBIA and TOGO. Participation at the Area Seminar in Banjul, The Gambia from 20th to 24th May 2013 was very inclusive and Senegal, attended on Observer status. Issues affecting women in the Churches are similar, likewise the Church activities – Prayer meetings, Bible studies, fellowship meetings. Income generating projects and scholarship funds.

BENIN: EGLISE PROTESTENE METHODISTE du BENIN CONFERENCE - Benin Methodist women have been battling with issues of division within the Methodist Church. Several attempts at reconciliation and peace failed due to interference of men (in women's affairs). At present, two distinct groups of Methodist women exist and each is independent of each other. **ACTIVITIES:** Bible studies, construction of a centre for girls, income generation activities. **CONCLUSION:** Reconciliation is of utmost importance to the Benin Methodist women. They need to unite and work for the glory of God, for their children and for the growth of the Church. We solicit your prayers.

GHANA: METHODIST CHURCH, GHANA: TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 40,000 - CHURCH ACTIVITIES: talks on health, child care and parenting, pre-marriage and marriage, skills training. **PROJECTS RUN BY THE WOMEN:** Hope for teens' skills training centre in Accra, providing skills in Catering, beauty and hair dressing, bead making and sewing. Capacity Building - workshops for women on leadership, report writing. **CHARITY WORK:** Susanna Wesley Mission Auxiliary (SUWMA) engaged in construction of Church buildings in the deprived areas. Women Fellowship support the Methodist Hospital and other government hospitals with equipment and food items. Women's participation in leadership and governance: enactment of laws to protect women and children. **CHALLENGE:** Women's participation in decision making- 29 women out of 275 Parliamentarians.

NIGERIA: NIGERIA METHODIST CHURCH: MEMBERSHIP: 210,000: Methodist Church Nigeria has her theme for 2016 "Chosen To Bear Fruit", John 15:16b. **CHURCH ACTIVITIES:** Inter-Church relationship; Diakonia programmer, World Day of Prayer. **PROGRAMMES:** 80th Anniversary of Women's Fellowship in Nigeria. You are my Neighbour Methodist Outreach. **WOMEN'S PROJECTS:** National Women's Work has embarked on building a uniformed 50 bedroom Chalet guest house in Four (4) Zones of the Conference Area; Support to students of Wesley School for Deaf & Dumb Surulere, Lagos. **PROJECT/ACTIVITIES AT THE DIOCESAN LEVELS:** Skill Acquisition programmes for the poor and less privileged; Feed My Lamb-Caring Ministry example - visits to Schools, Colleges, Orphanage; Building Hostels and Schools. Widows Forum. **OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Membership drive - Induction of new members into the Women's Fellowship (Daughters of Wesley's Fellowship, Girls' Fellowship and Young Women's Fellowship); Road walk, Women's Work Week). **CONCLUSION:** May the good Lord help us to move our great Church forward and bear much fruits in Jesus name. Amen

SIERRA LEONE: TOTAL MEMBERSHIP: 22,800: The Sierra Leone Unit has membership namely in three Churches- Methodist Church Sierra Leone (MCSL-12,000), West African Methodist Church (WAM-300) and United Methodist Church Sierra Leone (UMC-10,500). **WOMEN'S CHURCH ACTIVITIES:** Spiritual Development - retreats, prayer breakfast, Bible studies, thanksgiving services and group therapy. **PROGRAMMES:** Advocacy and Networking - (panel discussions, radio talks), interfaith networking to address women and children issues (teenage pregnancy, safe abortion bill, early marriage); Empowerment and capacity building - through seminars, workshops, skills training; Scholarships to support girl child education; rural women farming to reduce poverty and hunger, improve livelihood and educate children.

IMPACTS: Increased membership in Churches; more women holding leadership positions in Church and state; young women graduands are self employed. **CHALLENGES:** Impact of ebola still evident in the educational system and the economy, affecting women mostly; lack of basic needs - (water and shelter); flooding due to climate change and environment pollution; teenage pregnancy on the increase.

TOGO: METHODIST CHURCH: REPORT FROM METHODIST WOMEN - 2016: The Department of Women remains active through the Methodist Women Union commonly known as UFM, at District, Circuit and Parish level. **CHURCH ACTIVITIES:** Leadership and skills training; Bible studies – e.g. Sexual violence based on gender (2nd Samuel chap. 13: 1-22) - and the proper management of Income to avoid debt.

Sensitisation on Fellowship of the Least Coin - FLC, its purpose and use. Monies are collected and sent to FLC to support their projects. **OTHER ACTIVITIES:** World Prayer Day, 6th of March 2015; capacity building - (five women from the Togo Methodist women in Porto-Novo (Benin) were trained); step down training sessions organised by these five trainers; in-kind donations and shelters for refugees provided. **PROJECT - Dieu est Amour / (English: God is love) implemented by the Department of Children and Women with a grant from FLC. Target communities: Bas-Mono and Yoto in the Canton of Attitogon AgoméGlozu – and - Gboto-Kossidamé. One hundred fifty (150) Methodist women and a few men were trained on management of socio-economic activities and leadership to provide step down training to other women. RESULTS:** Women, girls and men in these three localities trained in the production of cosmetics; food agro-processing techniques were used to produce: bath soap, liquid soap, bleach, medical powder, soybean flour, soy milk conservation of tomatoes. **BENEFITS:** women's living conditions have improved after one year. Many spiritual impacts have been witnessed in the life of the Church - several non-Christian participants gave their lives to Jesus during our campaigns and training seminars and now attend our various Methodist communities. Acquisition of knowledge and change in behavior evident in all levels (social, economic, spiritual and physical). Women will now improve on their living conditions for sustainable development by marketing these products and also using them for their family consumption.

THE GAMBIA: METHODIST WOMEN'S FEDERATION THE GAMBIA [MWFTG]: TOTAL MEMBERSHIP-250 MWFTG comprises womens' organisations in the Methodist Church, namely - the Auxiliaries of Bakau, Bethel, Janjanbureh, Kombo Western Circuit, Wesley, Ebenezer women's group, Ladies Choral Union and Trinity women's group. **WOMEN'S CHURCH ACTIVITIES:** thanksgiving service, Bible study, talks on issues relevant to women and family life, visitation to elderly and house bound women, distribution of gifts to needy families and communities. **OTHER ACTIVITIES:** Information sharing/workshop on Area Seminar with Janjanbureh Methodist women; Donation of needy items to female prisoners; Distribution of 7 Bibles written in Mandinka (4 to CRR and 3 to KWC); Contribution to the Education scholarship fund operated at the Methodist Connexional office; membership drive to increase women's participation in the Federation; distribution of manual sewing machines to selected women's groups and Methodist schools; Fund raising- (sponsored walks, carol singing, appeals for donation in Churches). **ACHIEVEMENTS:** revitalising and strengthening women's groups; co-opting of two women's groups into the Federation; Sewing machines used by one group for income generating (sewing and selling school uniforms at reasonable cost); awareness creation – (request for follow up workshop from Janjanbureh women on FGM/C (health implications, the Act banning FGM/C etc). **CHALLENGES:** Young women's membership in the Federation; fund raising; project proposal writings. **CONSTRAINTS:** Lack of a Women's Desk Officer; adequate funds; few committed, supportive and dedicated women; information sharing among groups.

Report of the Archivist 2011-2016

Emmy Lou John

The purpose of an ARCHIVIST is to gather and preserve, in an orderly fashion, specific documents of an organization so that the history of that group can be referenced in the future. The World Federation's Archives are housed in the World Methodist Council's administration building at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, USA.

In December of 2011, my husband, Herb, and I went on our first trip to check on the archives and the display in the World Methodist Museum. While touring the Museum, the director, Amanda Riera-Gomez, said that the WFM&UCW could have 2 display cases; in the past we have only had one. The display was enlarged and updated. There wasn't time to file anything so we made plans to travel back to work on the Archives in May of 2012.

What a surprise we had when we returned in May. To make a very l-o-n-g story short, mold was growing on some of the folders; due to the fact that both the Museum and Administration buildings had a water problem in their basements. The fireproof lining of the cabinets had absorbed the moisture and the cabinets had not been opened for several years. The main problem with archives is NOT fire but deterioration caused by humidity/water. Herb and I dismantled the files, I rewrote the hanging files that had the mold on them and placed them in open filing cabinets that the WMC shared with us. Gratefully, the documents inside the hanging files were not affected. Herb took the cabinets apart and washed them with bleach in hopes of saving them. Saving the cabinets was not possible.

The World Methodist Council agreed to let the World Federation have part of the third floor where there is a window, heat and air conditioning. On our next trip we purchased metal open shelves, cardboard boxes and a table on which to work. Moved all the files up to the third floor and arranged the room. Each year since; we have returned to do more work on the Archives and to change the exhibit in the Museum.

The filing system for our archives needs to be updated, simplified and the material placed into proper archival boxes. Nancy H. Watkins, MLIS, Director, South East Jurisdiction Heritage Center has been hired to do the work with the new Archivist over the next few years.

Please come and visit the Museum and peek at the boxes in the Archives in the World Methodist Headquarters in Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, U.S.A. The Archives are open by appointment for research on the WFM&UCW. They help us understand how the organization has lived out our motto "To Know Christ and Make Him Known."

Appreciation is extended to the World Methodist Council staff, especially Jackie Bolden the new Museum director and to my husband Herb John.

EDITOR'S REPORT FOR THE WORLD ASSEMBLY 2011-2016



Introduction: The popular quotation used by John Lennon in one of his songs, “Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears”. I say this with a twist, “count the quinquennium by the number of Editions (of The Tree of Life), count the many hours spent in editing by the several Units and Areas visited. All a click away from my computer!

I acknowledge my gratitude to God for His guidance; the inspiration to carry the vision and message of the World Federation: “To Know Christ and Make Him known”, and the opportunity to pass this on to the women in the nine Areas of the Federation, as your Editor of The Tree of Life.

Apart from the few regular features that appear in every edition, other material was published in keeping with the Church calendar & Federation needs.

President's Pen: As the leader of the Federation, our President, Ann Connan, wrote on relevant World issues and Federation matters. But what touched many readers was her openness to share the challenges she faced on a day to day basis as a home maker, grandmother, with no family or personal time, sickness, weakness etc., touched a chord in readers' hearts; for we have all been there at some point in our lives. Thank you Ann.

Editorial: As Editor it was my privilege to share my thoughts in the Editorial column. It was a pleasure to invite Federation friends, Shirley Mildred Thomas, Vice President: South Asia Area: 2001-2006 & Joan Stott, former Editor of TTOL, 1991-1996 & World Secretary, the 1996-2001, for their Guest Editorials.

Exploring the Psalms: The messages of the Psalms reach down into the depths of human misery and pain, and stretch up to the most sublime reaches of heaven itself. Ms. Joan Stott, Former World Secretary guided us in this meaningful reflection.

Meditations: Through the pages of The Tree of Life we visited some mountains and reflected on their spiritual significance. Several Mountains in Palestine mentioned in the Bible are made forever sacred by significant happenings surrounding them. Together with some Senior Friends of the Federation, I wrote those meditations.

The 75th Anniversary: Highlight of the Quinquennium: The year 2014 heralded in the 75th anniversary of the World Federation. It was a unique opportunity indeed to learn of the glorious history of the Federation. Yet, I was worried as to how I could handle this tremendous responsibility of bringing history of the 75 years to our readers. God led me in the way I should go.

With very little documents available, my source had to be former World Officers and Senior Friends of the Federation, who had to be contacted; as they held our history and they needed to be involved. Some had passed on, e-mails changed etc.; but the few stalwarts I contacted – were so excited and willing to help. To top the list is Ms Joan Stott, others were Pamela Klimcke, Edith Loane, Oknah Kim Lah, Rosemary Wass and Janice Clark. So the process of network began. The first Anniversary special published an article by our most senior 98 year old Former President - Mrs Elizabeth Kissack. That triggered the excitement of many Senior Friends much younger than her, and it caught on. The four special celebratory editions focused on various aspects of the history of the Federation. An extra special edition with significant events was included; and this was printed - and you have that copy in your hands.

Tamil Editions: Some Areas translate The Tree of Life into the local language suitable to their Areas. The Tamil speaking women in the East & South Asia Areas particularly the rural women wished a Tamil translation. It would have been an expensive proposition to have for all the Editions. So only the 75th Anniversary Editions were translated into Tamil.

Documenting The Ongoing work in the Areas, is important for posterity: The Area Officers were encouraged to share the stories of the work in their Units. The 2015-2016 Editions were colourful displays of hard work, commitment and creativity of our women in the nine Areas of the World Federation.

Conclusion: The World Federation stretches over vast geographic area, and The Tree of Life is a channel to connect the women of the world. Stories of women from any Unit of the Area are read by women across the globe, so that they could generate a concern, a challenge; and maybe a desire to pray, and as a result, to become more committed “To Know Christ and Make Him Known”. I pray God blessings on the ministry of the World Federation through the pages of The Tree of Life. To God be the glory, great things He has done.



**Report of the NGO Representative
In Consultative Status with ECOSOC AND DPI
Economic and Social Council & Department of Public Information
DR. BRENDA SMITH**

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 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. This has been a wonderful experience, and certainly one that I have not taken lightly. I would be remiss if I did not extend my sincere gratitude and love to Mia Adjali, who mentored me and introduced me to the significant work and responsibilities of this position, and to World Vice President, Regula Stotz, for her support, encouragement, and her 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.

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).

Why be involved at the United Nations? Rev. Ferguson of the World Council of Churches suggested that “religious organizations 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 (NGOs) are important to each other, the UN, and themselves to fulfill the obligation to intervene and speak for all.”

Each year, we are represented at The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which is 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.

Included among the more than 5000 distinguished delegates in 2013 were Matilda Johnson, WFM&UCW's West Africa Area Vice President, from The Gambia, and Murielle Wilhelm, Helen Kim Scholar from Switzerland. It was indeed such a privilege to have both Murielle and Matilda in attendance. Unfortunately, we were not able to have additional representatives. However, it was such 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 who are also interested in the elimination of violence against women. Both Matilda and Murielle played a significant role in the proceedings of CSW 57. Matilda made a wonderful presentation, photo which I have included at the end of this report. The WFMUCW must continue to have representatives attend to these significant annual meetings. A copy of the agreed upon conclusions was placed on the website for your review.

On Friday, February 20, 2015, UNA- USA members and supporters met at UN Headquarters for the 7th Annual Members' Day to celebrate the UN's 70th birthday. It was a day of dynamic and informative discussions around the theme: **The UN at 70: A Year for Bold Action.**

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 25th. I was one of 35 whose name was drawn to sit in the General Assembly Hall when the Pope spoke. We were informed that this was the first time that a pope has ever spoken at the annual session where all member countries are represented. Unfortunately, I did not get the opportunity to meet him personally, but only saw him from afar.

Since the 12th World Assembly, I have participated in more than 100 programs and/or events at the UN or other UN venues, and have received recognition, on behalf of WFMUCW, for our involvement. My recommendations are that we: continue our work at the UN; send representatives annually to CSW, provide additional resources for greater involvement at the UN; and aggressively identify a second Youth representative to the UN.



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



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

REPORT ON UN CSW 57 & 58 MEETINGS TO WORLD ASSEMBLY

MATILDA JOHNSON

INTRODUCTION

It was a great honour for me to represent World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) at the United Nations Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) 57 and 58 Meetings of March 2013 and 2014 respectively.

- CSW 57 Priority theme: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls
- CSW Review theme: Access and participation of women and girls to education, training, science and technology, including the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work

SESSIONS ATTENDED were very revealing and I could identify with some of the issues since Violence Against Women (VAW) is cross cutting and somewhat similar in all countries and communities. The discussions were very enriching and there was opportunity for contributions and experience sharing, especially:

- ActionAid's Making Cities safe initiative. I shared with them the work of Action Aid in The Gambia and the problems we have had with some young refugee girls from the neighbouring countries.
- World YWCA Session on Human rights, security and Young women - panel discussion on: Violence against young women and girls in conflict and non-conflict areas. Several young women gave very descriptive incidences of violence, and made concrete recommendations on ending violence such as: ending impunity, need for young voices to be heard, CSOs to collaborate with government to act as one body; need for UN SR 1325 instrument to be known and understood by all.
- YWCA of Nigeria and YWCA of Zambia's joint session on: Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls, focusing on FGM and its various forms. The session was enhanced by a role play by YWCA Nigeria.
- Ecumenical Women Advocacy meeting with the Gambian Representative at the UN - HE Dr. Derrol Tommy, at The Gambia House. Discussions held with the Honourable Representative, and some members of The Gambian delegation to the CSW - they included the Deputy Speaker of the House, the Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Vice President's Office and Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church The Gambia.

I also attended a very unusual and very educative session on 'Promoting men's engagement in violence prevention - models for more effective collaboration'. Men were in the forefront of this session, discussing how they have come together to fight against violence against women.

58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women - 9th to 21st March 2014 - 58th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women - 9th to 21st March 2014

Although the "**agreed conclusions**" adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at the conclusion of its 57th session in March 2013 (E/2013/27) **cover all forms of violence against women and girls, in all contexts and settings; emerging forms of violence such as cyber stalking and cyber bullying, gender related - killings or femicide, and the need for safety in public spaces were highlighted.**

SESSIONS ATTENDED:

Ecumenical Women and the MDGs. Their priority areas for CSW58 were:

- Experiences of young feminists challenging harmful practices and traditional systems in Mozambique (the speakers each narrated painful experiences of their work with victims of FGM, Fistula (a result of FGM and child marriages). It was an eye opener that in most parts of Africa, these traditions still remain. I shared with them the practices in The Gambia and the strategies we have taken to stop such practices.
- At another session - '**Hear the voices – the African women and girls want**' – a film screened by Nana, a Ghanaian, it was suggested that there should be true gender equality and the need to match passion with action. It was also said that women need to honour and support each other and give awards to the deserving women. 'The power of We is more than the power of I'. Participants were left with the question - Are we liquid or fixed assets?

Conversation Circles were organised by the NGO CSW Forum and its purpose was for Networking, Building trust and Sharing Ideas for the future. I attended one and we were given questions to answer individually and then discuss our answers collectively. The question was – 'what does economic empowerment mean?' - my response was - to me the ability to provide the basic needs of my family and myself to live dignified lives and be able to make choices.

Strategies for enhancing women's political participation: the role of education in capacity building- [panel discussion in which I presented The Gambia's viewpoint]. I presented the view that Education is the Key.

The strategies I presented were: preparation of girls to participate in politics from an early age - grade 7, if possible - by introducing civic education - politics, government- leadership, decision-making into the curriculum.

I also emphasized the need for family support - from the husband, children.

Society and Community support is essential - especially living in the African setting where your business is everybody's business.

I pointed out that I was against the 'quota system' for women because in my own experience this does not work out. Women who get to the top and are at the top need to earn it. In conclusion, I stated that the key to unlocking and changing the perceptions of women, society and the community to women in politics and changing them from cheerleaders of men to supporters of women is EDUCATION.

Role of Religious Communities in accelerating the achievement of the MDGs for women and girls - the role of Churches in the implementation of the MDGs and the challenges/constraints faced were discussed. If women of faith don't speak out, who will?

Worship services were organised and coordinated by the Ecumenical Women Worship Team.

The Opening Worship was led by the Ecumenical Women Worship team, and the theme was the DOOR, giving ACCESS

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women prepared a service on MDG 6.

The Closing worship service was very unique - the open Door, the sign for women to go out into the world and spread the word of love and peace to all. A Praise Dance was performed, titled – 'to break every chain'; the sending forth – 'what time is it?' was a very powerful send off from the Worship team and Rev Dionne. The worship ended on a high note with the Lighting of Candles - and with lots of farewells and promises to meet again the following year, God willing.

CONCLUSION

I feel proud and honoured to have represented the WFM&UCW, together with Brenda Smith, our representative to the UN. I could not have asked for a better mentor and partner. Thank you Brenda.

My sincere thanks and appreciation goes to World Federation World Officers - Ann and Regula, Brenda and Mia for giving me this opportunity to share with women from around the globe these exciting two weeks. I thank you all and God bless you.

WORLD FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS

IVONNE PEREIRA DIAZ

- **United Nations Centre of engagement and involvement**
CEPAL; Santiago - Chile
- **Clarification of the Representative's particular area of engagement**
Countries from the Latin America and the Caribbean Confederation of Methodist Women
- **Interpretation of the Representative's role**
To make known the UN goals for the quinquennium throughout the whole area of Latin America and Caribbean. All of this has been carried out through the materials based on studies, also performing workshops related to the goals. Labor workshops has also been created as a result of this work.
- Structures in which the Representatives operate
World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
- **Specific areas where Representative has made an impact**
Gender equality, empowerment of women and information & communications technologies; abuse and ill treatment of elders and mothers and children health
- **Significant United Nations events within the quinquennium**
2013 Santiago, Chile: Summit of Andean Countries of Latin America, The Caribbean and Europe for "Social Justice, international Solidarity and Sovereignty of the countries." XII Regional Conference on WOMEN, in Santo Domingo, 2013 Dominican Republic Seminar on "Home Workers and their rights", International Seminar, "Climate change and Infrastructure Development" Campaign: "Welcome Refugees"
- **Significant Reports and presentations prepared**
Annually I sent reports to the WFM&UCW Vice President, Sister Regula Stotz
- **The nature of challenges the Representatives experiences in response to the gospel**
Understanding God's love should be translated into a commitment to the neighbor. I dream with a world where women can spread all their potential in everything they would like to be transformed. I would love that Methodist women could support all women and men of every country to build the world forging solidarity with other regions of the world in such effort. I dream about a world where the churches support women to have higher economic independence and therefore contribute to improve the world in general. In such way we comply with the Lord's command to have a fulfilled life which is the meaning of the Gospel. Knowing Christ changes our integral lives reaffirming our commitment with women rights towards the future with value and determination. Let's work for the human rights, dignity and value inherent to all persons, as well as the same rights for men and women.

Thanks God, Lord of lords, King of kings, for being at my side in this time in spite of all the difficulties we face every day.
- **Details of some of the other organizations with whom they network UN Women, entity from United Nations for Gender Equity and Empowerment.**
SERNAM National Service for Women, Chile
ANAMURI, (National Association of Rural and native women),
CEDEM, Its main objective is to back-up the overcoming situations of social exclusion.
CONS-PIRANDO: Women searching for new visions.
HUMANOS (Regional center for Human Rights and gender justice.)

IDEAS, Investigation, development, education and spreading out culture.

INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN. This is committed with the social transformation, pro democratization of the society and the change in women conditions. UNICEF

- **Financial obligations/affiliations of World Federation to United Nations agencies.**

This is a matter managed by the World Federation Executive steering Committee.

- **Future United Nations events**

Uruguay will be the home country for next Regional Conference on Latin America and Caribbean Women, which will gather representatives from Region Governments, Civil Society and some organizations from UN from 25 to 28 October 2016 in Montevideo

Some other General Assemblies called by Specialized Agencies. Also, some important anniversaries related to historical events.

- **Some other programs:**

Human Rights regarding the preparations of complementary norms on racism.

Work on Peace Program.

Committee to the exercise the Inalienable right of the Palestine people.

Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Working Group on migrant trafficking among others

- **Photograph**



Translation: Nancy Carmona



World Federation: UN Youth Representative Quinquennium Report

CHLOÉ C. GRIMES JONES

My journey as UN Youth Representative for World Federation Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFM&UCW) began during 57th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW57) in 2013, where I toured the UN headquarters and attended events with Dr. Brenda Smith, UN Representative, and Murielle Wilhelm, CSW57 Delegate from Switzerland. Since then, life has greatly changed. Here are some highlights:

Global Student Video Conference “Forever Free: Celebrating Emancipation” 2013 - This student centered video conference recognized the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on March 25th. Primary and secondary school students from several countries performed brief oral histories of the transatlantic slave trade and reparation efforts, songs and dances.

12th Youth Assembly 2013 - Thanks to funding from World Federation, fellow Youth Representative, Sohyun Han and I attended the three-day conference enriched by panel discussions and workshops with both UN officers and UN affiliated NGO officers. An introduction to how the UN works, networking opportunities with other youth and an informative trip to the US Mission to the UN was held. The theme was increasing youth involvement and integrating youth/youth perspective in policy-making and working towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

UN Youth Representative’s 3rd Youth Led Briefing 2014 - Music: An Avenue Towards the World We Want. - The Youth Led Briefing created conversation about advocating social justice issues that plague youth (e.g. quality healthcare and education, scarce job opportunities, and healthy food and water access) and promoting the post - 2015 agenda sustainable development goals through music as part of the Youth Outcome Document for the 65th DPI/NGO Conference. Included, several foundation and NGO representatives addressed their achievements and questions such as, “how important is music to you, how do you see the UN and other government using music as an advocacy tool and how has different cultures affected music?”

UN 65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference 2014 - During this conference I joined the registration committee, greeting and screening conference participants’ confirmation letters and government issued IDs at security checkpoint. I also led or provided directions for on-site registration and workshop/lecture program locations.

CSW 59 & 60 - World Federation Worship Service 2015, 2016- (Themes: “Women in Economy: Women of Power and Decision making” and “Women’s Empowerment and its link to Sustainable Development”, respectively. I attended and participated in both services, even having the opportunity to be a worship leader in support of UN representative Dr. Brenda Smith.

Forward → Education for Global Citizenship: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals Together Youth as Agents of change 2016 - In addition to remarkable panelist presentations and musical selections, they were group discussions addressing, “What does global citizenship mean to you and why is it important?” What does education (formal, informal, advocacy and public information) mean to you and how does it impact your life and society? How will you contribute toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?” Two of the seventeen goals I expressed particular interest in were gender equality and quality education.

It has been a unique and gratifying experience being a Youth Representative for the World Federation. I have learned so much about the UN and affiliate groups’ efforts to make the world a better place in the near future. There is much to do, and more importantly we need Christ at the center of it all!





World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women