

Unit Report for United Methodist Women, Norway (UMWN)

The Board

The Board of United Methodist Women Norway (UMWN) consists of seven women from different age groups. We have met approximately four times the past year. Our board is also represented in other boards of the United Methodist Church in Norway, such as the Missions Board and the Executive Board of the UMCN.

What we have done the past year

The existing board was elected on the Unit General Assembly in 2017, where four out of seven board members were new to the organisation. We have prioritised to get to know each other and the WFMUCW, and planning how to best continue the work that has been done in our Unit, and also look ahead to the future. In our unit, we have struggled a bit with recruiting younger women to WFMUCW, and that is one of the things we have been working on. This November, we are planning a women's weekend for all generations of women, where the theme is "From crocheting to hashtag", focusing on how women in different age groups should be a part of the church, both on grassroot level, and in leading positions.

We have also supported the re-launch of Thursdays in Black that was done by The Christian Council of Norway (a eucemenical fellowship of churches and denominations in Norway), and will continue to promote this campaign.

Earlier, our Unit has co-worked with Estonia and Ukraine. Due to the political situation in Ukraine, it's been hard both to continue our communication and our work, but we lift each other up in prayer. We are still working with Estonia, and hope to do an event with them, perhaps in 2019. Of course, we also lift up our Estonian sisters in prayer.

Reflecting over quinquennium theme

The theme for this quinquennium is "Chosen People, Called to Proclaim". Our unit is still working on how to proclaim the Good News to the people in our neighborhood, country and in the world. A lot of your Unit Groups are engaged in supporting mission work done by the UMC globally, and for that, we are grateful.

Worship: The proclamation of Gods love and grace can take so many forms. Worship is one of them! When we proclaim His good works before His throne, we fuel the spark that gives us strength to go out in the world. Spending time in worship, in prayer, in contemplation, in Bible studies equip us to pass on the Gospel. It is a mighty and powerful thing, to proclaim Jesus as our Lord together as a fellowship of women, a fellowship of disciples.

Relationships: There are so many lonely people in the Western world today, despite the fact that we live in a world filled with social medias and ways to connect. We have a challenge and a mission to see others and to invite them in to fellowships where they can feel valued and loved.

Social action: We are called to proclaim justice for all people, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity and religion. That means speaking up for those with no voice, speaking up against crime, hate, violence and abuse, speaking up against harm done to our planet and

environment. When we take steps to create a better world, I believe we also get to see a glimpse of God's Kingdom, the Kingdom he has promised us.

May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15,13)

On behalf of the Board of the United Methodist Women, Norway,

Helene Benedikte Granum-Aanestad
Unit Leader