

Report to the West African Area Seminar of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women September 10th - 15th, 2018 Accra Ghana

The United Methodist Women of Sierra Leone greet you in the name of Jesus and wish you fruitful deliberations in this West Africa Area Seminar.

Membership

Women of 30 years (graduates from the young adult) and above are welcome into the Women's Organization. To the glory of God young women have taken keen interest and are actively participating in all activities. All United Methodist Women are automatically members of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. Unfortunately, our numbers have dwindled considerably (as women are now moving to Pentecostal Churches in search of prosperity and miracle. We are however determined to win lost souls for Christ and our activities reflect this drive.

Activities

Meetings - Local Churches and Districts

All local churches meet regularly, at least once a month to discuss their affairs and once a month at District meetings which are rotational and held to plan activities for the ensuing month. All our meetings start with devotion using the United Methodist Women Organization's Devotional Guide and end with prayer time when we bring our individual and the country's needs to the Lord in prayer. Each Church has a set date for their individual thanksgiving services which are well attended by women in their Church's colorful asoebie. Funds raised are used to pay financial commitments to the District and the Desk

Planned Activities for this year include:-

1. **National Executive meetings** usually held at Annual Convention sites twice a year.
2. **Leadership Training Workshops**, are held rotation this year at Kono.
3. **National Health Awareness Workshops** held on Hepatitis and HIV Aids to be part of the Health Issues - we are focusing on this year
4. **Gender Based Violence Advocacy**:- United Methodist Women wear black on Thursdays as protest against **ALL FORMS** of Gender based Violence especially rape and sexual abuse of women and minors. In collaboration with other Faith Based Groups we have held advocacy Marches in Moyamba, Makeni and Freetown and are planning to work countrywide. These have become very traumatic as women express pent up feelings suppressed over the years.
5. **Poverty Alleviation** - In Moyamba East and West we have supported women in small scale farming activities hoping to reduce poverty.
6. **Annual Convention** - is held at various locations in Sierra Leone. This year we are going to Kono. At Annual Convention much time is spent on spiritual growth - together at Bible Study and night vigils and individually in prayer rooms situated in different areas.
7. **Ubuntu** - Women, divided into four groups in their colourful T-Shirt walk miles to neighbouring communities on an Ubuntu drive. For a few hours we share the gospel by an example of love, We work and live for a day with various household evangelist distrivites gifts, clothing toiletries, etc. Among impacts created have been paying for teacher training for an unqualified teacher, mentoring young girls and ensuring they go back to school after teenage pregnancy and lately even helping to erect a Church in a community where there was no United Methodist Church.

World Federation of Methodist and Unitin Church Women - Sierra Leone Unit

United Methodist Women provide venue for the monthly World Federation meeting, held at King Memorial United Methodist Church, Regent Road, Freetown on second Mondays of every month where we ensure the discuss social and health issues as well as prayer time. We have planned programs aimed at reclaiming our women and young people for Christ. Thus we have joined others to hold:-

1. Prayer Breakfasts annually
2. Seminars for youths drawn from all 3 units and other denominations.
3. Grand Thanksgiving Services are held rotationally.

We also actively participate in the:-

1. World Day of Prayer activities.
2. International Women's Day activities
3. Diocesan Mothers Union (Anglican) activities
4. Methodist Church Sierra Leone District/Women's Network activities
5. Local/District Women's Christian Association meetings and Love Feasts
6. United Church Women activities
7. Council of Churches Women's activities. Workshops, Training Sessions meant to empower women.
8. Interdenominational activist activities - e.g. No to election violence.
9. Children, Youth, Young Adults and Young Women's Network Camps, Gathering, Festivals and Conventions.

We also collaborate and actively participate in the activities of the Men's Organization locally, at district and national levels.

We work actively in promoting the local Church and the Conference.

We are also actively involved in friendly fundraising and sporting competitions.

Challenges – Principally

1. Women seeking solutions for their problems from spiritualist Churches
2. Finance

Conclusion

The United Methodist Women Unit continues to be a vibrant arm of the United Methodist Church. We are committed to soul winning by evangelism and by living our lives as worthy examples. As chosen people called to proclaim God's gospel we shall endeavor to work for Christ and country and win Sierra Leone for Christ.

This year our attendance at this area seminar is very small due to our difficult financial situations. We are praying that things will improve and enable a more populous attendance next time.

Thank you for your attention.

Faithfully submitted

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