

# PROGRAM BOOK



WORLD FEDERATION OF  
METHODIST AND UNITING  
CHURCH WOMEN

---

**14th WORLD ASSEMBLY** 9-14th August 2022 ONLINE



# CONTENTS



Welcome Message from the President	Page 1
Introductions:	Pages 2 – 4
• World President – Alison Judd	
• Assembly Parliamentarian – Janice Clark	
• Keynote Speaker – Amanda Khozi Mukwashi	
• Bible Study Leader – Jill Baker	
• Assembly Music Director – Rev Amelia Koh-Butler	
• Preacher at Closing Worship – Bishop Rosemarie Wenner	
Logo for 14 <sup>th</sup> World Assembly	Page 5
Assembly Program	Pages 6 – 7
Project in Sweden & Lithuania	Pages 8 – 9
World Officers Reports	Pages 10 – 18
United Nations Reports	Pages 19 – 28
Editor, Archivist & Webmaster Reports	Pages 29 – 31
Area Reports	Pages 32 – 49
Assembly Hymn – <i>Rooted &amp; Grounded in Love</i>	Page 50
Bible Study Outline & Discussion Questions	Page 51
Workshops – Descriptions, Leaders & Discussion Questions	Pages 52 – 58



---

## Welcome message from the World President

---

Welcome to the 14<sup>th</sup> World Assembly of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women. It has been a long time coming since it had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. It will be an Assembly with a difference! This is the first time we have held a full World Assembly online and follows the success of our two-day online event in 2021.

Our program will be spread over six short 'days', to allow us to join from every part of our world at different local times. I sincerely hope you are able to join the event live as it happens. If not, you will have the chance to watch much of the proceedings on our own YouTube channel, easily accessed from our website. Some of you will watch the proceedings in groups; some alone at home. All are welcome!

Our program contains all the usual elements of a World Assembly.

This global gathering is always valued as an opportunity to meet with women from nine different geographical areas, hear about their experiences and concerns, and more especially what God is doing in our midst. We shall worship together, be inspired by our bible study and keynote speaker, learn from each other as we hear reports and share in breakout rooms, and be encouraged by our workshop leaders. We remember those leaders who have gone to glory since we last met together in Houston Texas in 2016 when we were encouraged to be God's 'Chosen people, called to proclaim'. We shall meet our new set of Helen Kim Memorial Scholars and set out a plan for our future mission.

We shall conduct business through our voting delegates and elect new World Officers. These, and our new Area Officers will be commissioned in our closing worship. We are blessed to have Rev Amelia Koh-Butler as our music director and an Assembly hymn written especially for us by Rev Gareth Hill.

Our 14<sup>th</sup> World Assembly theme is 'Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last' (John 15:16). I hope you will be inspired to explore this theme further as you hold your Area Seminars during the next few years.

The fruit we eat comes from God's hand; the seeds are there to produce new trees and future harvests to sustain us. The spiritual fruit grows within us as we are empowered to be fruitful for the kingdom's sake. In Galatians 5:22-23, we read about the fruit of the Spirit. Each day our opening and closing worship will be led by a different Area, on the theme of a different fruit of the Spirit.

Come and taste the fruit with me!

Every blessing,

*Alison*

---

## **Alison Judd, World President**

---

Alison Judd was born in 1950 into a Christian family. She became a member of the Methodist Church in 1967. Having graduated from the University of Newcastle on Tyne, Alison spent a year teaching in Nigeria through Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO). Since marrying Les, a Methodist Minister, she has enjoyed voluntary lay work with women in various settings.



She served as Area President for Britain and Ireland from 2011 to 2016, and thus was part of the executive of the British Unit, Methodist Women in Britain, during that period. Alison has an MA in Christian Spirituality and is a former mission partner in South Caribbean, a local preacher, a wife, and mother.

She now lives with her husband just outside Southampton, near the south coast of England. She loves walking in the countryside, sharing meals with friends, and engaging with the women of the Federation. Alison trusts in our faithful God and in the power of prayerful reliance on the Holy Spirit as she seeks to know Christ and to make him known here, there, and everywhere. (Acts 1:8)

---

## **Janice Clark, Assembly Parliamentarian**

---

Janice could be described as a cradle Methodist. After training as an infant teacher and working in Lincoln for three years, she offered to work overseas and was appointed to Papua New Guinea in 1970. Whilst working in a teachers' college she met her husband Peter, a VSO. Following marriage in Britain, they returned to PNG, where sons Saimon and Daro were born.



On return to the UK Janice taught in the Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham, while Peter trained for the ministry. Whilst living in the Birmingham District Janice was part of the World Development group and on the district policy committee. The call to work overseas came again, and took them to Portugal, Mozambique, and following some time in Edinburgh, to Sierra Leone. Janice taught English as a Foreign Language in all these places. She served as the Federation World Secretary from 2001 to 2006.

Currently living in North Yorkshire, where she was MWiB President 2017–2019, Janice continues to lead worship as a local preacher. She convened the Global Relations grants stream for five years and is a member of the World Methodist Council. She enjoys gardening, singing, walking,

---

## **Amanda Khozi Mukwashi, Keynote Speaker**

---

**Amanda Khozi Mukwashi** has devoted more than 25 years to working on poverty alleviation, tackling injustice and inequalities. She has worked in both intergovernmental and non-governmental spaces, bringing in-depth experience from across the development sector.



An award-winning CEO, she was recently the Chief Executive Officer of Christian Aid, an international development and humanitarian NGO, working in Africa, Asia & the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean. Amanda has previously served with the United Nations under the United Nations Volunteer programme in Germany, as Chief of Volunteer Knowledge and Innovation and Chief of Advisory Services. She is now the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Lesotho.

Prior to this, she worked for VSO International, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa in Zambia and for the UNFPA Zambia Country support programme on Gender, Population and Development. She has served in non-executive capacities as a trustee for the British International Development Network (BOND), as President of Akina Mama wa Afrika, a pan-African feminist organization and trustee of the UK Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC). She currently serves as a trustee of Demos and is a Thursdays in Black ambassador (raising awareness of gender-based violence) for the World Council of Churches.

Amanda is a published author. *But Where Are You Really From?* on identity, humanhood and hope is her first book. She has a Master's degree in International Economic Law from the University of Warwick and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Zambia.

---

## **Jill Baker, Bible Study Leader**

---

Jill Baker now lives in Glasgow and is glad to be part of the small but friendly Methodist Church in Scotland. A previous Vice-President of the British Methodist Conference she remains a full-time volunteer with the Methodist Church in various roles, especially enjoying preaching and tutoring others on the local preacher's training course.



Over the past 10 years, Jill has led a number of retreats and pilgrimages and is working (slowly) on a book about pilgrimage from a Methodist perspective. She is married to Andrew, a Methodist presbyter and has a son, Tim, who works for 'All We Can; the Methodist Relief and Development charity. Peter, Jill and Andrew's younger son, took his own life in 2012 at the age of 18 and this great loss continues to shape Jill's theology and approach to life. When possible, Jill loves to garden and to walk in the beautiful mountains of Scotland.

---

**Rev Amelia Koh-Butler,  
Assembly Music Director**

---

Sydney-based Amelia Koh-Butler sang opera in France and studied choral conducting before being ordained as Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia.

Her doctorate explored using music in uniting diverse groups to build missional communities. Her post-doctoral research has been in developing multi-ethnic digital church communities. She is learning how to be a digital church leader in multiple languages.

She is Eastwood Congregation's Team Leader and lectures for Northwind Seminary (Fl.USA), Neighbourhood Seminary (USA), Tabor, Flinders and Charles Sturt Universities (Australia). Amelia serves as the Worship and Liturgy Convenor for the World Methodist Council and Steering Committee.



---

**Bishop Rosemarie Wenner,  
Preacher at Closing Worship &  
Installation Ceremony**

---

Rosemarie Wenner was born and grew up in Eppingen, nurtured by a small UMC congregation in southern Germany. She studied at the United Methodist Theological Seminary in Reutlingen. In 1982 she was ordained as an Elder in the Germany South West Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church. She served as pastor of congregations in Karlsruhe-Durlach, Hockenheim and Darmstadt-Sprendlingen before her appointment as superintendent of the Frankfurt District in 1996.

In February 2005, she was elected bishop at the Germany Central Conference in Wuppertal – the first woman elected to the United Methodist episcopacy outside of the United States.

Starting in May 2017, after completing her 12 years term in the Episcopacy, Rosemarie Wenner serves as Geneva Secretary of the World Methodist Council, connecting the work of the World Methodist Council with the World Council of Churches and other Ecumenical bodies like the Global Christian Forum.

Bishop Wenner is married to Tobias Wenner and they live in Nussloch, Germany.



---

## Logo of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Assembly

---

The theme of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Assembly is 'Go and bear fruit – fruit that will last'.

These words of Jesus are recorded in John 15, in which he describes himself as the true vine and his disciples as the branches, urging us to abide in him so that we can be effective in our service. He warns, 'Apart from me you can do nothing' (v 5). Yet following the example of Jesus to love one another, we become not just servants, but friends of Jesus, appointed to 'go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.' (John 15:16).

Therefore, our theme is a call to Christian spirituality, productivity, and sustainability.

The image of the tree is precious to us as women of the World Federation. We value the symbol of the 'tree of life' described in Revelation 22:2 with its leaves for the healing of the nations. This assembly logo includes **leaves** of different colours to signify the different nations from which we come. The **red and the green** in the fruit represent our common Methodist heritage and the green of productivity.

The 'tree of life', we are told, bears fruit every month. As we use our Federation prayer each month, we ask that we might 'bear fruit of Unity and Love'. The **fruit** in the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly logo contains the seeds that will in turn produce more fruit-bearing trees. The **seeds** also represent the faith that sustains us, the faith that grows and the faith we share. Thus, our faithful actions can have far-reaching effect. The **hand** tenderly grasping the fruit is clearly feminine, reminding us that the World Federation is a movement working towards the empowerment of women and a world where there is food and justice for all. The circle represents the **world** in which we are set, in need of our care as faithful stewards. As we work towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, we long to 'bear fruit that will last'.

The fruit depicted in the logo is the shape of an apple, traditionally (but without basis) thought to be the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden, plucked by Eve and shared with Adam. This reminder of our sinfulness and need for confession is at the heart of our faith in a Saviour who offers us forgiveness through grace, and the assurance of eternal life.

We are extremely grateful to Sally Bamford for her logo design. You can find out more about her work on Instagram (@littlebettydesign) Twitter (@sally\_lbdesign) or email her on [sally@little-betty.co.uk](mailto:sally@little-betty.co.uk)



Date	New York (GMT-4)	GMT/ UTC	United Kingdom (GMT+1)	Hong Kong Singapore Perth (GMT+8)	New Zealand Fiji (GMT+12)	Program
31 JUL 2022						<b>HKMS Programme:</b> Led by Rachel Allison & Luiza Pereira
6 AUG 2022						
7 AUG 2022						
<b>TUESDAY 9 AUGUST</b>	<b>DAY 1</b>					
	5:00am	<b>0900</b>	10:00am	5:00pm	9:00pm	<b>Opening Worship:</b> Introduction to the Theme Songs/prayers Drama Assembly Hymn <b>Break</b>
	6:00am 6:15am	<b>1000</b> <b>1015</b>	11:00am 11:15am	6:00pm 6:15pm	10:00pm 10:15pm	<b>World President Report including:</b> Tree of Life – Ligia Istrate Website – Nicholas Connan Archivist – Judy Siaba
	7:00am	<b>1100</b>	12:00pm	7:00pm	11:00pm	<b>Closing Devotion:</b> Europe: Continental Area – LOVE
	7:30am	<b>1130</b>	12:30pm	7:30pm	11:30pm	<b>Business Meeting:</b> Voting Delegates only
<b>WEDNESDAY 10 AUGUST</b>	<b>DAY 2</b>					
	5:00am	<b>0900</b>	10:00am	5:00pm	9:00pm	<b>Opening Devotion:</b> South Pacific Area – JOY
	5:30am	<b>0930</b>	10:30am	5:30pm	9:30pm	<b>Bible Study:</b> Jill Baker
	6:30am 7:30am	<b>1030</b> <b>1130</b>	11:30am 12:30pm	6:30pm 7:30pm	10:30pm 11:30am	<b>Breakout Rooms + Break</b>
	8:30am	<b>1230</b>	1:30pm	8:30pm	12:30am*	<b>UN Reports:</b> Matilda Johnson (World Vice-Pres)
	9:00am 9:30am	<b>1300</b> <b>1330</b>	2:00pm 2:30pm	9:00pm 9:30pm	01:00am* 01:30am*	<b>Closing Devotion:</b> South Asia Area – PEACE <b>Break</b>
						<b>Workshops:</b> available via YouTube
<b>THURSDAY 11 AUGUST</b>	<b>DAY 3</b>					
	5:00am	<b>0900</b>	10:00am	5:00pm	9:00pm	<b>Opening Devotion:</b> Latin America Area - PATIENCE
	5:30am	<b>0930</b>	10:30am	5:30pm	9:30pm	<b>Memorial Service:</b> Led by Rev Jemima Amanor
	6:30am 7:00am	<b>1030</b> <b>1100</b>	11:30am 12:00pm	6:30pm 7:00pm	10:30pm 11:00pm	<b>Break + Breakout Rooms</b>
	8:00am 8:30am	<b>1200</b> <b>1230</b>	1:00pm 1:30pm	8:00pm 8:30pm	12:00am* 12:30am*	<b>Keynote Speaker:</b> Amanda Khozi Mukwashi <b>Breakout Rooms</b>
	9:00am 9:30am	<b>1300</b> <b>1330</b>	2:00pm 2:30pm	9:00pm 9:30pm	01:00am* 01:30am*	<b>Closing Devotion:</b> North America Area – KINDNESS <b>Break</b>
						<b>Workshops:</b> available via YouTube

Date	New York (GMT-4)	GMT/ UTC	United Kingdom (GMT+1)	Hong Kong Singapore Perth (GMT+8)	New Zealand Fiji (GMT+12)	Program
<b>FRIDAY 12 AUGUST</b>	<b>DAY 4</b>					
	5:00am	<b>0900</b>	10:00am	5:00pm	9:00pm	<b>Opening Devotion:</b> East Asia Area – GOODNESS <b>Introduction to Area Reports:</b> Ann Connan (President Emerita) <b>3 x Area Presentations:</b> North America Latin America West Africa <b>Break</b> <b>3 x Area Presentations:</b> Southern & East Africa Europe: Britain & Ireland Europe: Continental <b>Break</b> <b>3 x Area Presentations:</b> South Asia East Asia South Pacific <b>Closing Devotion:</b> West Africa Area – FAITHFULNESS <b>Break</b> <b>Workshops:</b> available via YouTube
	5:30am	<b>0930</b>	10:30am	5:30pm	9:30pm	
	6:15am 6:30am	<b>1015</b> <b>1030</b>	11:15am 11:30am	6:15pm 6:30pm	10:15pm 10:30pm	
	7:15am 7:30am	<b>1115</b> <b>1130</b>	12:15pm 12:30pm	7:15pm 7:30pm	11:15pm 11:30pm	
	8:30am	<b>1230</b>	1:30pm	8:30pm	12:30am*	
	9:00am 9:30am	<b>1300</b> <b>1330</b>	2:00pm 2:30pm	9:00pm 9:30pm	01:00am* 01:30am*	
<b>SATURDAY 13 AUGUST</b>	<b>DAY 5</b>					
	5:00am	<b>0900</b>	10:00am	5:00pm	9:00pm	<b>Opening Devotion:</b> Southern & East Africa – GENTLENESS <b>HKMS Presentation</b> <b>Break + Breakout Rooms</b> <b>Action Plan</b> <b>Closing Devotion:</b> Europe: Britain & Ireland Area – SELF CONTROL <b>Break</b> <b>Workshops:</b> available via YouTube
	5:30am	<b>0930</b>	10:30am	5:30pm	9:30pm	
	6:30am	<b>1030</b>	11:30am	6:30pm	10:30pm	
	7:30am	<b>1130</b>	12:30pm	7:30pm	11:30pm	
	8:30am	<b>1230</b>	1:30pm	8:30pm	12:30am*	
	9:00am 9:30am	<b>1300</b> <b>1330</b>	2:00pm 2:30pm	9:00pm 9:30pm	01:00am* 01:30am*	
<b>SUNDAY 14 AUGUST</b>	<b>DAY 6</b>					
	5:00am – 7:30am	<b>0900 – 1130</b>	10:00am – 12:30pm	5:00pm – 7:30pm	9:00pm – 11:30pm	<b>Closing Worship, including            Commissioning new officers:</b> Led by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World President – Alison Judd</li> <li>• Assembly Music Director – Rev Amelia Koh-Butler</li> <li>• Bishop Rosemarie Wenner</li> </ul>

---

## Project for single mothers in Sweden & Lithuania

---



The women's organization in Sweden has worked with single mothers for many years. Every year several camps are arranged in different parts of Sweden. Those camps are a watering-hole for many mothers as it is the only time they can relax. They appreciate sitting down and eating a meal that someone else has made.

Every day there is a special program prepared by pastors or deacons for the mothers. The children have their own program. Every camp has a theme which often includes a variety of crafts. Doing something with their hands facilitates natural conversation.



Each mum pays a small fee to participate, but most is paid by our organization. You may think that Sweden is a rich country, which is correct, but we also have people on very small incomes or no income at all. (A tiny subsidy is also provided from the government). Many of the mothers and children have a very hard daily life. Some of them come from women's refuges and others are living in violent relationships. Diverse families come to our camps: immigrants, refugees, and also Swedish people. The children, aged from three to nineteen, are divided into different groups. Sometimes we have had new born children too.

Each day we have morning prayer, a bible talk, campfire, and evening prayers. There are also times for spontaneous talks. The program is intended to give participants tools to develop their inner strength and power to face the reality of daily life when they return home.

Our main goal is to share the Good News of the gospel. It surrounds everything we do during the camp. We also help families find a congregation or contact in their own home town so the support can continue after leaving the camp. Even the government says these camps are valuable and a very important element complementing other contributions to society in Sweden today.



New from 2022 is the development of a camp in Lithuania for young mothers with small children. (It is considered shameful in Lithuanian culture to have a baby on your own.) Most of the mothers are totally alone and come from dysfunctional families. Some families don't want contact with the young mothers, so their situation is very tough and difficult. Some of them live with drugs and violence.



The women's organization in Sweden wants to share the idea that every child is a gift from God and such a gift needs to be cared for properly. Most of the young mothers have already participated in projects attached to the United Methodist Church in Lithuania.

The goals of the work in Lithuania would be very similar to those already established in Sweden. There is an urgent need to work with young mothers, teaching them how to play with and stimulate their children, and to embrace the Good News of Jesus Christ, their helper.

*For the Women's Organization of the Uniting Church in Sweden,  
Walla Carlsson , Maria Dahlborg Bergkvist and Gun-Britt Edvardsson*

***The World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women is pleased to invite donations to this worthwhile project. For details of how to donate, contact [world.treasurer@wfmucw.org](mailto:world.treasurer@wfmucw.org) or donate as you register for the World Assembly.***

---

## WORLD PRESIDENT REPORT

---

*'We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people . . . In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world.'* (Colossians 1:3-4, 6a)



---

**Alison Judd**

---

### Introduction

What a strange period we have been through! Six years have passed since our last World Assembly, instead of the usual five. The first three years were as expected: the second and third World Executive meetings were held in Chicago and Hong Kong, and all eight Area Seminars took place as planned. But then the Coronavirus pandemic turned many lives upside down. Physical meetings were cancelled or postponed, and we started using Zoom, relying more and more on virtual gatherings while missing the physical contact so terribly. Many of our members have suffered bereavement during this time. Several of our former leaders have gone to glory. Many of you have suffered through your own ill-health, tragic circumstances, political upheaval or natural disaster. And this year we faced the possibility of a third world war. Yet through all of this turmoil, you have continued to live according to the 13<sup>th</sup> World Assembly theme introduced in Houston: 'Chosen people, called to proclaim' the wonderful acts of God.

**Prayer has sustained us.** Our monthly 'Call to pray' has focussed in turn on world events, issues facing our nine Areas, our ground-breaking online event of 2021, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the World Assembly 2022. Since February 2021, World Executive officers have shared in prayer online on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of the month, the day we encourage everyone to 'connect' with each other by reciting the World Federation prayer written by our foremothers in the 1980s. I have personally felt the power of prayer in my own life, and thank all those who pray so faithfully for the ongoing work of the Federation. As I include as a footnote in my emails, 'Prayer is the powerhouse that generates results'. Time and again I have discovered how true that is!

**Area Seminars** were exciting and diverse. I thank God I was able to meet women in Myanmar (South Asia), Belfast (Britain and Ireland and Europe Continental), Fiji (South Pacific), Ghana (West Africa), Hong Kong (East Asia), Brazil (Latin America), Chicago (North America) and Kenya (Southern and East Africa). These events provided an opportunity for women to come together, to worship God, to share knowledge and inspiring stories, concerns and achievements. In the Weaving Together Program, we used a resource called Ketso, which helped us share and learn from each other. I sincerely hope that in the years between now and the next World Assembly, Area Seminars will once again be an opportunity for women to come together for meaningful and vibrant fellowship.

**The Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship Program** was attended in Houston by 14 young women under the age of 30 years. Another (selected but unable to obtain a visa for USA) was later included in her Area and global activities. These young women are so gifted and have shown enormous commitment to the Federation since their selection and training. Some are poised to be future leaders; others already are! We thank God for all of them. Most are deeply involved in their Unit and Area; some are serving globally. I have been particularly pleased that our Tree of Life editor is one of the HKM Scholars 2016-2021 which means we have had a younger woman serving on the World Executive.

**The Bossey Scholarship** is another way in which we encourage young women to further their studies and realise their potential. We are grateful to United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith) for providing a generous grant for this purpose. Unfortunately, difficulties over obtaining visas meant some we selected as worthy scholars

were unable to travel to Bossey Ecumenical Institute in Switzerland to take up their place on their chosen course. We rejoice that in 2017 Ligia Istrate (Romania) and in 2018 Esther Macheka (Zimbabwe) successfully attended the short course at Bossey; Rhema Anu Natarajan (India) was the Bossey scholar for 2019; Monique Jack (Guyana MCCA) was able to study on a one semester course at the Institute in 2021. Rebekah Daniel (India) joined the 2017 YATRA course in Jakarta. In 2022, we supported two young women from the South Pacific Area to join an ONLINE course run by Bossey Institute. As we aim to offer this opportunity to young women under the age of 40 from different parts of the world, it is now the turn of East Asia and Britain and Ireland to submit nominations for 2023. Women from other Areas who meet the criteria may also apply.

**Our links with the United Nations** continue to be of utmost importance to us, and our World Vice- President Matilda Johnson will give more detailed information in her report as co-ordinator of this work. Our position as a recognised NGO in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) continues as long as we submit an official report on our activities every four years. I did so in 2019. Each Area has worked towards the Sustainable Development Goals and each year, one Area produces study material which is used widely, especially around Federation day in October. The Commission on the Status of Women in March is a highlight of the year and we have contributed in association with Ecumenical Women at the Church Center in New York, thanks to the commitment of Dr Brenda Smith, Joan Capel and others. The call to respond to the Climate Crisis was addressed in our global online event in August 2021 'A New Vision for a Sustainable Future'.

**Representing the World Federation** at events organised by other bodies is a huge privilege. During the last six years, I have attended the 40 Years of Autonomy celebrations of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, the World Methodist Council meeting in Seoul, Korea, the UMW assembly in Ohio in 2018 and online in May 2022 as well as their Program Advisory group meetings each March. I have contributed written and video messages of greeting to several Units as they held local events.

**The World Methodist Council** still recognises our movement as an affiliate member and I therefore have a non-voting seat on their Steering committee and have kept them informed of our activities including decisions regarding our Assembly. The next WMC Conference will take place in Gothenburg Sweden in August 2024. This unfortunately means we may not hold our next World Assembly in the same year as the WMC Conference. It will be for the new World Executive to decide.

**Thursdays in Black** continues to play an important part in our lives. I have contributed minimally as a Thursdays in Black Ambassador with others in the World Council of Churches. I am thankful that Federation women are committed to ending all forms of gender-based violence and that, because of your courage in speaking out, men are now recognising that gender equality and respect for women and girls is good news for the whole world.

**The global pandemic** has changed the way we live. Restrictions on travel and limits on close contact with others has made us more appreciative of opportunities to meet. For those fortunate enough to have access to reliable internet, zoom, YouTube, and WhatsApp have enabled new ways of communicating across the continents. Worship, business meetings and prayer groups have been accessible to more people than ever. Our Website, Facebook and Twitter keep many of us informed. I rejoice that we now have our own customised YouTube page. I am enormously grateful to Nicholas Connan for his tireless work for us for more than ten years as our webmaster, ensuring that our news reaches far and wide through our various media streams.

**The Tree of Life** international newsletter is produced faithfully every three months by Ligia Istrate and designed by her husband Rev Cristian and I am so very grateful to both of them. This publication continues to be an inspiration and a means of sharing information about our activities as a global movement. Although the editor no longer sends out printed copies, it is available to everyone via the internet. Area Officers ensure it is sent by email to Unit leaders

and it is printed for those who need it in that form. My sincere thanks go to Judith Simms for proof-reading and to those who translate each issue into other languages.

**The World Executive team.** I also wish to record my sincere thanks to Ann Connan, our President Emerita, who (with her wisdom and experience) has been a huge support to me personally since I joined the World Executive and has faithfully kept in touch with our Senior Friends. Our trusted World Treasurer, Leu Pupulu has gone the extra mile (or six!) and has patiently helped me to learn much about our Federation finances. Mataiva Robertson has been a gentle, competent, reassuring presence as World Secretary throughout her term of office, even though facing serious health issues in recent months. Matilda Johnson has engaged with the work whenever possible, and has represented us with vigour at the United Nations and WCC events. Our Archivist Judith Siaba and our UN representatives will report separately. I am amazed at the commitment shown by these and our World and Area Officers, willing to remain in role for an extra year and all offering their time as volunteers as well as holding many other responsibilities in their local church setting.

**Our memorial service** on Thursday will be led by Rev Jemima Amanor, when we will have the opportunity to remember and give thanks for those former World Officers who have died since our 13<sup>th</sup> World Assembly. I feel blessed to have met Dr Oknah Kim Lah, Dr Edith Loane, Mrs Elizabeth Kissack and Mrs Pamela Klimcke in person.

**New growth.** Looking into the future, I celebrate the news that several new Units are applying for affiliate membership within our growing movement. A new group of 17 young women will be led in the HKMS program by two current scholars and a third will be their chaplain. I look forward to supporting the new World Executive as they encourage us to bear fruit that will last, by abiding in the love of Jesus, and being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Photos: Ketso / World Executive 2016-2022



---

## WORLD VICE-PRESIDENT REPORT

---

***My God is able! He can do the impossible! He never fails!***

### **PREAMBLE**

**2016-** I recall with excitement the day I landed at Houston Airport, USA to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> World Assembly of WFMUCW, at the Hilton Hotel, Houston. Imagine the Hilton!! That is where it all began. Granted I had been a member of World Federation and had served as Secretary at both Wesley Women's Auxiliary and District Women's Work Committee. The latter position led me to the West Africa Area executive as Area Secretary a position I held for two quinquennium's. Following this I became the Area President and attended the World Assembly in this capacity.



---

**Matilda Johnson**

---

**'A journey of a million miles begins with a first step'. I began my journey when I was elected – World Vice-President, 2016-2021.**

Immediately after the close of the Assembly, the newly appointed Executive set its framework, each world officer confirmed her TOR and work commenced. We were led by a no-nonsense World President who was dedicated to ensuring that our five years in office would be a memorable one. Indeed, it has been. At the first Executive meeting in Houston, we set the timetable for the Area Seminars including the Weaving Together Programmes; Study Day material, and took time to know each other, whilst the first timers familiarized themselves with Federation guidelines. An email list was created for the group.

**2017-** I attended the second Executive meeting in Chicago, USA. It was windy and cold but we were determined to complete the tasks we had set out in the previous meeting. Emphasis was placed on Reporting to the relevant world officer depending on the issue, if it could not be treated at the Area level.

**2018-** It started with a downside as I missed the South Asia Area Seminar held in Myanmar, 29<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Notwithstanding, a report on my activities was sent to them and read by the World President.

United Methodist Women held their Program Advisory Board Meeting (PAG) in Nashville, Tennessee, USA from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018. I was privileged to attend, representing our World President. At Plenary, I headed one of the conversation circles where I spoke about WFMUCW, followed by a question and answer session. The experience was wonderful. Meeting and sharing with amazing women from all works of life, and from all over America gave me an insight as to how they interacted with each other, how they embarked on projects which have and are changing women and children's lives the world over.

My next assignment was to attend the Methodist of World Mission (MWM) Conference held at the Hayes Conference Centre in Swanwick, Derbyshire, UK, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018. The Conference theme was Africa: gospel and culture. I made a presentation, followed by question and answer session and discussions.

5<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018, I attended the Joint Europe Continental and Britain and Ireland Area Seminar in Belfast, Ireland. My experience here was one of fulfillment and hope. Hope for Ireland and the women who are now living, connecting and sharing, reaching out to each other in love. I presented on the SDGs, which provoked a lot of discussion. On a personal note I shared a table with a very old lady in her 80s. She could not speak English but communicated through an interpreter. She asked if she could touch my hand, I stretched out my hand to her she took my hand, touched my skin and the palm of my hand. Then she smiled and said that was the first time she had ever got close to a black person let alone touch one, and she never thought she would ever meet one. She said I should not be offended. I responded that I was not offended, that it was alright for her to touch my hand. This was touching and I felt sad for her, because for someone her age, she never had the opportunity to meet with black

people. But I am glad that after that experience she will come to realise that we are all God's creation, regardless of our skin colour.

I could not attend the South Pacific Area Seminar held from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018, in Nadi Fiji. This was a big disappointment to me as I had been looking forward to this event. My greetings and activity report were read on my behalf.

From the 9<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018, I headed to Accra, Ghana for the West Africa Area Seminar. The opening session was a colorful event. The reports from the various Units, raised issues which were somewhat similar in most African countries, the Bible study was thought provoking. I enjoyed the Choir's singing. During the Seminar, the Area elections were held for the incoming Area officers.

**2019-** January 11<sup>th</sup>, the National Union of Senegalese Methodist Women invited me to the third edition of their great vigil of Grace's Action Prayer held at the Canaan Temple, Mbour Senegal. Women representatives came from Dakar, Kaolack, Thiès, Mbour and other regions. We spent the whole Friday night and Saturday morning in prayer, and Bible study. I gave a talk on the Federation theme- Chosen People called to proclaim. On Sunday morning I was privileged to attend their worship service and it was full. The service was spirit-led, the women danced with joy and some of the worship songs sung were familiar to me, so I sang in English whilst they sang in French. It was a blessing being with them.

18<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019, the East Asia Area Seminar was held in Hong Kong, preceded by the Executive meeting. The business meeting was highly participative and the Area Seminar was exceptional. Madam Ting and her team really worked hard to make the seminar a success. They were so creative. It was so encouraging to see so many participants from the East Asian countries. Both the Opening and Closing worship services were inspiring. I could not have asked for more. This is one Area Seminar I will not forget in a hurry.

Again, sadly I could not attend the Latin America Area Seminar held in Brazil from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The airline cancelled all flights due to renovation and relocation to their new airport. The date for resumption of flights was not favourable to me. My activity report and greetings were read on my behalf.

In August 2019, I attended the executive meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden. This meeting of world executives and the Local Arrangements Committee, focused on the planning/ arrangements for the 2021 World Assembly to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden.

26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019, South and East Africa Area Seminar was held in Nairobi, Kenya. Despite the numerous adverse events in the southern parts of Africa at this time, the Area Seminar went on. It was a colourful, cultural event. I was pleasantly surprised to see the women ordained ministers and bishops in such huge numbers and majority of them in their prime. I was impressed by the praise time singing and dancing; prayers, Bible study were very uplifting.

The North America Area Seminar was held after much delays due to leadership issues. I did not attend but my greetings and report were read on my behalf.

**2021-** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a mini online event was held over a period of three days. It was successful and this has led to the planning of the 2022 world Assembly as an online event.

## **CONCLUSION**

In 2016, it dawned on me that I had embarked upon a journey which was daunting but fulfilling. Daunting in the sense that there was a lot of expectation; but fulfilling in the sense that God has a hand in it all and will see me through.

---

## WORLD TREASURER REPORT

---



---

**Leu Pupulu**

---

Kia ora, Talofa and warm Pacific greetings to you all. In the last quinquennium, it has been one of the most challenging times with our finances. Not only within our World Federation but globally. This pandemic has reshaped how monies are processed and exchanged. With Banks closing their doors and relying solely on online access for banking it has been difficult. Paired with Government restrictions and border closures around the world this made it harder to maintain and upkeep our accounts.

Many of our Areas and Units, also found it difficult to transfer their membership fees, something we now take for granted. Although there are many different avenues of making payments, some countries are not yet well equipped for such transactions. However, I do thank the many Areas and Units for their perseverance during the last 6 years. We have received many heartfelt emails due to the impacts of the pandemic, many had to sacrifice their membership fees to look after their families. Although it was heartbreaking to hear, we are so grateful for their courage to reach out to the World Federation.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those Units and individuals, who were able to sponsor Units who were unable to fulfill their membership fees as they were deeply impacted by the pandemic and for the donations towards the Helen Kim Programme and the Tree of Life newsletter. Many blessings to you all for the aroha and the support for our mission “To know Christ, and to make him known”.

Since the pandemic, the positive certainly outweighed the negative. We were able to save on some expenses especially with border closures around the world. World Officers were no longer able to travel and attend World Assembly preparations, World Methodist meetings, CSW gatherings and invitational travel. Airport terminals were now replaced with late night or early morning zoom calls. At present our investments in both USA and New Zealand are not generating enough interest, and we cannot depend on this income anymore. Account receivables continue to rise which is the main concern for the long-term stability of our finances in the future. If we continue to be more committed and consistent with our membership, our World Federation will flourish for many more years to come.

While being your World Treasurer for the last two quinquenniums, I do receive a lot of feedback especially around the cost of our membership fees. As a member of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women your fee is only \$0.10 US cents per year. I encourage you my sisters to put your shoulder to the wheel for the future of our World Federation, for the future of your daughters and granddaughters so they too can Know Christ and make him known, like we did.

There is a saying that goes “The more you understand, the more you can grow. The more you grow, the more you can do.” Who could have thought that I, a Samoan woman from little New Zealand at the bottom of the world be your World treasurer for not one but for two quinquennium’s? The growth I have journeyed through for the last 11 years has been nothing short of a blessing. The highs, lows and at one point scary, but I give God the glory for his grace. Thank you for all your prayers, support, love, and patience during my term as your World Treasurer. I am very honored to have served alongside two World Presidents, Mrs. Ann Connan and Mrs. Alison Judd. It has been a pleasure serving with you both, thank you for your patience and support.

To the next World Treasurer, I wish you all God’s grace and blessings for you. When times get tough rely on God and He will always make a way!

Finally, I would like to extend a special thanks to my husband Utumauu, my son Uaina-o-Talosaga and daughter Sina-i-Faleu, who have supported my efforts throughout my time as World Treasurer for the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women.

**Viia Iesu!**

---

## WORLD SECRETARY REPORT

---



---

**Mataiva  
Robertson**

---

### Greetings in the Almighty name of Jesus!

Our God is truly amazing, and His love is everlasting. My heart is filled with gratitude for the Lord is with us always, Amen! The past six years I witnessed God's hand on every situation. It has been an absolute pleasure serving as your World Secretary in what was initially a 5-year term but due to Covid19 included an additional year. As I reflect on my journey in the World Federation, I am humbled by the experiences afforded me that has enabled me to engage with sisters on a more personal level and see first-hand great work being done around the world. I want to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of Women from all 9 Areas who continue to work tirelessly to ensure Christ is known worldwide. As I end my term in office, I want to acknowledge the World Officers for their leadership, commitment, encouragement, and friendship. It has been a blessing serving alongside such God-fearing women.

It is my pleasure to provide a summary of what has taken place since coming in to Office:

### 1. Weaving Together Program (WTP).

One of my responsibilities is to organise the WTP. It has been a huge privilege working alongside both the Area Officers and Unit Presidents in preparing the WTP. Each session was unique and an amazing opportunity to engage with leaders and learn more about the issues and challenges they each face in their context. It has also been encouraging hearing the action plans each Unit will work towards. Below is a list of the respective WTP's I was blessed to be a part of:

- a. South Asia Area – Yangon, Myanmar
- b. Joint Europe Continental & Europe: Britain & Ireland Areas – Belfast, Ireland
- c. South Pacific Area – Nadi, Fiji
- d. West Africa Area – Accra, Ghana
- e. East Asia Area – Kowloon, Hong Kong
- f. Latin America Area – Sao Paulo, Brasil
- g. North America Area – Chicago, USA
- h. Southern & East Africa Area – Nairobi, Kenya

Thank you to the Local Arrangements Committee from each Area for working closely with me in organising events and ensuring each event was a success. It was a blessing to work alongside awesome teams. A highlight was seeing many young people participating in programmes. Thank you for the various training programmes that help equip and develop our young people.

I want to also acknowledge the Helen Kim Scholars for this term – it was an absolute pleasure seeing each Scholar at the Weaving Together Program and throughout the Area Seminars. We have some amazing future leaders in our midst. Keep shining Christ's light wherever he has planted you.

### 2. New Membership

During the Area Seminars we had opportunity to meet with many sisters who felt the call to join the WFMUCW. It was humbling to meet with sisters who shared our vision and wanted to join our collective movement.

- a. Affiliated Units – The following applications were received from new Units wanting to become officially affiliated with WFMUCW:
  - i West Africa Area: **Senegal Unit**

- ii West Africa Area: **Cameroon UMW**
- iii South Asia Area: **Upper Myanmar Unit** (Currently known as Unit 3)
- iv Southern & East Africa: **Mozambique UMC**
- v Southern & East Africa: **Kenya UMC**
- vi Southern & East Africa: **Zambia UMC**
- vii Latin America: **El Salvador Unit**
- viii Latin America: **Dominican Republic Unit**
- ix Europe Continental: **Romania Unit**

- b. Associated Units – The following application was received regarding a Unit wanting to become officially associated with WFMUCW:
  - i. East Asia Area: **Cambodia Unit**

### 3. Communication

- a. If there was something good that came out of the Covid pandemic, it was the opportunity to unite via online platforms such as zoom. We were fortunate to be able to remain in contact via zoom meetings. The World Officers met regularly to discuss pastoral matters and various programmes. This means of connecting enabled ad hoc meetings which included the World Executive and Steering Committee meetings.
- b. Each Area have been given the latest WFMUCW leaflets to distribute to each of their respective Units. It can also be downloaded from the WFMUCW website [www.wfmucw.org](http://www.wfmucw.org)
- c. We were very fortunate to work alongside **Nicholas Connan** who has been doing a splendid job in updating the WFMUCW website, Facebook and Twitter. We would like to encourage you to utilise our website by updating your Area Page with news from your Units each year.

### 4. Unit Information

An area of concern is the lack of engagement with regards to supplying the Unit Information updates. A friendly reminder to please answer ALL questions or contact the World Secretary if you have any questions. Thank you to the Areas who send in their Unit statistics annually. Ideally, it would be helpful to receive the Unit Information forms before the end of April each year, if you could please liaise with your Unit Correspondents. Our membership numbers fluctuate annually, but we remain optimistic that our numbers will increase each year.

### 5. Meeting minutes

All meeting minutes are stored with the Secretary records. These include meetings with the World Officers, World Executive, ad-hoc meetings, Financial Committee, pastoral matters, steering committee as others when required.

### 6. Annual reports

I encourage you to continue to send in your Annual Reports to both the World President and Officers so they are aware of the work that you continue to do. We appreciate the effort it takes to report about events in your Area however it is very important that we have a record of the various programmes/mission work you carry out.

To conclude my report, I am grateful to the World Officers and sisters worldwide for your prayers, support and sisterly love – the friendship gained throughout our time in Office has been a Godsend. Thank you to the World Officers, World Executive, Area Officers and Unit Officers for your commitment to our wonderful organisation. May God continue to bless each person as you dedicate yourselves in service to Christ and His mission.

I want to acknowledge the work of the World Assembly Steering Committee especially this year. I appreciate the time, effort and work in making this first ever online Assembly a success. I wish the incoming World Secretary all the best as you start your journey along with the newly appointed World Officers.

**In all that we do, may God be glorified!**

---

## PRESIDENT EMERITA REPORT

---



---

**Ann Connan**

---

When I was installed as World President in Johannesburg in 2011, I said I believed in the saying ‘God doesn’t call the equipped; God equips those God calls.’ I have continued to hold fast to this in these past 6 years in my role as President Emerita.

As I didn’t have a President Emerita looking over my shoulder, I told Alison, as the new World President, that I would try to ‘keep out of her way’ and allow her to develop her Presidency in her own way. This was to apply to Area Seminars in particular. However, when the South Asia Area Seminar in Myanmar was to be held, most of the World Officers were unable to attend, so I offered to assist Alison in her first Seminar and Weaving Together Program. I’m delighted I did, as the experience in Myanmar was life changing.

I did attend the South Pacific Area Seminar in Fiji as it was my ‘home’ Area; the East Asia Area Seminar in Hong Kong, as it was immediately after the World Executive Meeting; and the Southern and East Africa Area Seminar in Kenya at the insistence of the locals!

I did not attend the West Africa Area Seminar in Ghana; the Joint European Area Seminar in Ireland; the Latin America Area Seminar in Brazil; and the North America Area Seminar in Chicago.

With the amount of travelling I did during my term as President, because money was low and direct flights often too costly, my body has rejoiced in the reduced travelling in these past 6 years. (One year my travel involved 44 separate flights!)

The first task for the President Emerita after an Assembly is to prepare the Handbook for the new quinquennium. A few changes were made to the layout, so information was more easily available.

I then began to update the Guidelines which had been prepared for the 2001 Assembly – much was no longer relevant. This work was approved at the Hong Kong Executive Meeting but is not yet available.

I have been able to keep in touch with Senior Friends at Easter and Christmas; to occasionally contribute to the *Tree of Life*, especially with a tribute to former World President, Oknah Kim Lah; to join in World Executive Meetings on Zoom; and to participate in the Steering Committee for the World Online Assembly.

Another of the roles of the President Emerita is to chair the Nomination Committee for the next World Officers. This has involved many, many emails seeking nominations, profiles of candidates and video speeches for the online Business Sessions and Voting.

In all these tasks – many of which I had not done before – God continued to equip me, despite my inadequacies.

After 11 years serving the Federation as a World Officer, I am overwhelmed by the friendship of so many faithful women all over the world; amazed at God’s power working with me; and humbled by the privilege of having been able to serve in this way.

Thanks be to God!



## UNITED NATIONS REPORTS



### ENGAGING WITH THE SDGS- 2016-2021

The World Federation, in Special Consultative Status with the United Nations, engages with the SDGs through worship, social action and prayer.



*The Federation is represented in New York by Dr Brenda Smith and Chloe Jones, in Latin America by Ivonne Pereira-Diaz, and in Geneva by Rachel Allison*



### **Report from Matilda Johnson, World Vice-President & UN Co-ordinator**

When I assumed the position of World Vice- President, I took on the role of UN Coordinator, meaning all issues relating to the UN came under my purview. This included attending the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) annual meetings at the United Nations in New York.

My report is centred on the CSW meetings I attended in 2017 and 2018. Unfortunately, due to a conflicting engagement in 2019, I could not attend CSW but was ably represented by Dr Brenda Smith, our New York representative. In 2020 Covid 19 struck, and the meeting was cancelled.

2021 and 2022 CSW meetings were held online.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), established in 1946, organizes an annual two-week programme of activities at the United Nations to review the progress made by governments, NGOs, and faith-based organisations on gender equality and women’s empowerment and to formulate policies and set global standards for women.

### **CSW 2017 REPORT Dates: 13 to 24 March 2017**

**The theme: ‘Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work’** was based on the premise that women’s contribution to the economy is not recognized and counts as unpaid work. Women in the workforce are discriminated against by way of low wages, barriers to progression and recruitment, harassment, unfair dismissals which impedes the woman’s full participation and realization of her full potential in the workplace.



**Faith-based organisations such as: Ecumenical women** which comprises- Salvation Army, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW), Anglican Communion, Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), the Lutherans to name a few, participated in the annual women’s meetings through their daily worship services at the Church Center and hosting of side events.

**ORIENTATION - Day 1 (13<sup>th</sup> March 2017)** – was organized by the Ecumenical Women for their members at the Church Center. Their worship Theme and Scripture was **‘The Power of Women’s Work’....” This is the work of God that you believe...” John 6:29. ‘Women who worked and believed in their work: continuing the Legacy’.** Worship service was conducted by the Lutherans. Their theme and supporting scripture was Esther. Esther 4: 16 (possible portions).

**Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka- Under Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women** gave a powerful presentation on this year’s theme. She reminded delegates of the conclusions in 2013 to end impunity and prejudice against women; also, that was reaffirmed in 2015 in Beijing and in 2016 the SDGs were adopted. However, “implementation is the problem and the gains achieved are being lost. The erosion/pullback of the problem is enormous and frightening.” She continued, “we need to broaden the community, realize the fight we have in hand and the role we have to play- as ecumenical women are part of this.” She talked about the **CARE Economy**- which entailed creating a safe space for women to leave children and go to work; create conditions for women at the workplace /for men to bear parental burden and help their women take care of the child. She also dilated on the **FAMILY - what is the definition of FAMILY**, what does FAMILY stand for? She posed the following questions - “Is FAMILY Mum and Dad? Dad and Dad? Mum and Mum?” She called for orientation on the different types of lifestyle and stated we should not discriminate against them. “We are all made in the image of God”. Dr. Phumzile concluded by recognizing that 80% of women in Africa work outside the home, in the informal sector - selling in markets, street corners etc.

**A panel discussion followed on the Priority theme: Women’s economic empowerment in the changing world of work.** The Panellists were representatives from: UN Women, ILO and the Costa Rica Lutheran Church. The first panellist (UN WOMEN) stated, “the feminist struggle for gender equality is not just women’s equality but the strongest struggle for all peoples”. She said ADAM was Hebrew for Earthling, and that God created man and woman in His image. She asked – “Is the Holy Spirit lesser than the Trinity?” To which she responded, “No”. The Holy Spirit is the HELPER, and the Woman is the HELP MATE. SDG8, she pointed out, empowers all women and girls. Decent work can promote human dignity and she cited the example of the role of women in the implementation of UN1235.

According to her, violence against women is the authority and legacy [of men] over women’s body; violence against women’s work is the authority and legacy over women’s labour. “Faith upholds culture and Faith can also provide vision and leadership for communities to follow”. “Why are we harsh on the poorest of the poor?- Why do the police take women’s wares on the street corners and throw them away destroying the woman’s capital?” She concluded by saying that the clause- Equal Pay is the biggest robber in history and needs to be fought against because of stereotypes- beliefs, norms etc. which are entrenched in these clauses.

The new changing world of work, the informality of work which includes migrant workers. New technology and digitization classify the way work is and thus excludes people from the new work space due to lack of IT skills. This pushes women back down the economic order creating a pressure down as race and class intercedes. It needs careful redistribution of care work and occupational segregation. A challenge was posed to faith-based organisations: how can we change the norms around in terms of making sure the chances are sustainable; how can we look at and value work?

The ILO representative talked on equal pay for equal work. He cited violence in the work place and at home, also emphasizing on the Care economy. He said labour provisions are now in trade agreements, and that they are working towards eliminating forced labour, trafficking, and gender equality. He pointed out that there was a “Closed Bubble - what can one person do? What can we do”? [We need] “collective bargaining to advocate for women”. Questions and answers followed, and the concluding question was- ‘How are we going to demand these go into the Agenda?’

**The Chairman performed the official opening of CSW 61 at 10.09 am** and invited the Secretary General to give his address. The Secretary General appreciated all delegates for attending CSW despite various setbacks. He stated that, “in a male dominated world the empowerment of women must be a priority”. He highlighted the weapon of physical and psychological warfare on women such as sexual abuse, forced marriages, FGM, sex slaves and said that UN will support [women] in every step of the way. He called on men to stand up for women’s empowerment and emphasized the need

for a cultural shift. He pointed out that competent men and women are needed in our organisations and that it is not about equality but Results.

The President of ECOSOC Council, the Permanent Representative to Zimbabwe in his address focused on SDGs 1,2,3,5,9, 14.

The President of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly, talked about the UN Charter (We the peoples of UN...). He made reference to Paragraph 20 of the Agenda and pointed out SGD 5 - target 5 in which he sees his faith in women's equality restored.

Phumzile, Executive Director of UN Women informed delegates that 8,600 registrations were received for CSW 61. The meeting would "review progress on women and girls and would be the barometer to measure the achievement of the SDGs"; and would inform "how lessons from MDGs are reflecting on the SDGs. In this regard, 35 countries have already submitted country reports". She said that 750 young women were engaged in activities at CSW (Saturday and Sunday) and would be attending the Sessions in order to get a holistic view of what goes on.

The Chairperson of CEDAW pointed out that the "MDGs bypassed the most marginalized – women, therefore it is important that the SDGs are grounded in the rights and empowerment of women".

Various speakers spoke on the theme - The Chairperson, Committee on violence against women, Director General of ILO (statement read); the Youth Representatives at CSW spoke on the activities of the 61 Youth Forum.



**15 March 2017** - Daily Worship at the Church Center was conducted by the **World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women**. Our theme was: Mary and Martha: a story of two sisters. Luke 10: 38-42. The worship service was coordinated by Dr Brenda Smith who introduced the theme and set the scene for the service. A skit was presented, reflection was delivered, followed by singing and prayers said by Rev Dionne. This was followed by a panel on Empowering women through labour rights. It took the pattern of a Panel with each panellist telling their story.

*Dr Brenda Smith & Matilda Johnson during a session at the UN*

**16 March 2017** - Daily worship at the Church center was led by the Anglican and Episcopal communities. Their theme was Lydia, taken from Acts 16. Lydia the industrious woman who traded in purple fabrics, who believed in the Lord and accepted baptism together with her household. The same woman who opened her house to other Christians as a meeting place and who hosted Paul and Silas when they were freed from prison.

**Advocacy Dinners** organized by Ecumenical Women at the Church Center brought together numerous peoples from various faiths and background to meet, socialize, network and learn from each other. Members of the organizing team spoke on faith- based Advocacy, and gave brief presentations on their experiences and stories, real stories of inequality, human right violations, poverty etc. experienced or witnessed. Critical areas of concern for women were highlighted, and delegates encouraged to approach their government's missions at the UN, or with their governments back home.

#### **CSW 2018 REPORT Dates: 12<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018**

**Priority Theme: *Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.***



The Review theme was ***Participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women.***

At the Church Center, I was on a panel organized by the Ecumenical Women, of which WFMUCW is a part, to discuss the **Priority theme**. My contribution was in the form of - **Her Story** - this was drawn from experiences of a rural girl, – ‘In her own words’- a friend, who had undergone FGM, but was able to rise up from that challenge and become a leading woman in society.

I also participated in the worship sessions were held at the Church Center each morning from 08:00 to 08: 30 am, led by the various groups, organized by Ecumenical Women, with Dr Brenda Smith. Our own worship session included a sermon on the theme, and a panel discussion. Our guest speakers were Rev Addie Lisby and Dr Sandra Gadson. The worship service was deeply moving, and some participants were emotional. The services were participatory, lively and spirit led.



*Rev Dionne, Matilda Johnson & Dr Brenda Smith at the Church Centre, New York*

It was virtually impossible to attend all the meetings, side events and workshops during CSW, however, between Dr Brenda and myself, we prioritized our attendance based on our individual preferences, and the opportunities available. Most of the workshops and presentations covered the theme on challenges of rural women and girls and the opportunities for gender equality. NGOs, CSOs and FBOs working with young women and the girl child financed the participation of some of them to come to the UN and tell their story.

I was privileged to attend a session at the Africa House where the first ladies of Africa and African female Ministers held a discussion on how to mitigate the challenges and constraints experienced by young women and girls in their various countries. A selection of girls and young women were in the session, and they spoke about their experiences of life in a rural setting. They also dilated on how they were able to overcome some of the problems and what recommendations they had for their various governments. This was a very interesting and educative session.

Apart from World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women partnering with Ecumenical Women for the Worship services at the Church Centre, they were also involved in advocacy (lobbying Permanent Missions’ officials, from selected countries, on the theme and the status quo in their various countries.).

**In Conclusion**, my attendance at CSW has been of immense benefit to me, and exposed me to a variety of spiritual, social and economic issues. I have also learnt in dealing with these issues the use of **WORDS** is important. There is power in what we say and discuss which end up as recommendations, resolutions, press releases, reports and even legal conventions.

In Mark 4: 14 we are told that “the sower sows the **word**” and in Mark 4: 20 “but there are some with whom the seed is sown on good soil; they accept the **word** when they hear it, and they bear fruit thirtyfold, sixtyfold, or a hundredfold”. (RSV). We were always tasked to go back and make our voices heard, not to be shy but bold, as governments need to hear the religious and moral perspectives.

---

## Report from Rachel Allison Representative to the UN in Geneva

---



After the last World Assembly, I was honoured to be asked if I would be one of the World Federation's UN representatives and attend meetings/contribute to discussion in Geneva when necessary. At the end of January 2018, I headed out to Geneva with Rosemarie Wenner to be inducted into all things UN and World Council of Churches (WCC). I arrived in a cold and snowy Geneva excited and ready to learn.

On our first full day we went to the Head Quarters of the World Council of Churches and Rosemarie introduced me to a number of the staff members before we headed out to Bossey where The Gender Advisory Group of the WCC met to discuss the future of a Gender Justice Policy for the WCC, drawing on the work done by the Lutheran Church. At lunch we spoke to Rev. Nicole Ashwood – the WCC's new Program Executive for a Just Community for Women and Men as well as Rev Judith Van Osdol – the program executive for Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment in the Lutheran World Federation. We had an interesting and thought-provoking discussion and Rosemarie and I spoke about the support that both the UMC and WFM&UCW gives to the Thursday in Black campaign.

Rosemarie and I then went back to Geneva and met up with a couple of other staff members at the WWC headquarters. We met with Manoj Kurian, who is the Program Executive for the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance which promotes the Food for Life Campaign. We had a fascinating discussion about environmental policy and food waste and poverty. Dr Kurian reminded us that every injustice has a gender angle – for example when food is short it is often the mother/wife who is last to eat and therefore, gets the least, if any at all. It reminded me of the central role of gender in injustice.

We also met with Semegnish Asfaw, the Program Executive for International Affairs. We spoke to Semegnish about racism, xenophobia and sexism and how they interlink, cause double discrimination and make life very difficult for women all around the world. Semegnish spoke to me about how the WCC was engaging with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and gave me some tips on how best to engage with the UN as an NGO.

After this we went over to the UN, I collected my pass and then we went on a tour. Unfortunately, our trip did not coincide with any meetings Rosemarie and I were able to attend but the visit was a good opportunity to familiarise myself with Geneva.

My next UN meeting should have been the 2020 UN Convention on the Status of Women in New York. I was all set to fly out to New York in February of 2020 but as you have probably already guessed the Covid-19 pandemic got in the way and the convention was postponed. It instead took place in 2021, virtually, with many interesting talks and presentations being live streamed. I attended a few of these talks including one on multi-faith organisations working together to end violence against women and another on the rise in domestic violence during the pandemic. While the talks were interesting and informative the virtual conference missed the energy of an in-person convention, and I was gutted to miss out on meeting amazing women from all over the world to share stories and insights.

Over the last 6 years I have come to learn more about what the WFM&UCW's strengths are and what we can offer the UN. I think one of our great strengths is the sheer number of amazing and incredible women we have around the world who have such different experiences and stories. We may not have flashy statistics or huge amounts of data, but we have thousands of amazing, inspiring, and heart-breaking stories. We should be sharing these stories with those in powerful positions so that they can make the policy decisions which really help the most vulnerable in society. I hope in the next 4 years the World Federation gets the opportunity to tell the UN our stories of triumph, pain, and grace. Jesus used simple stories to change the world and to help us to live life in all its fullness, let us use our stories to build the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth.

---

## Report from Ivonne Pereira-Diaz Representative to the UN in Latin America

---



This is a summary of Ivonne's report, the full report can be obtained from either Matilda Johnson or Alison Judd.

*"The Lord, who does not change and has supported my hand until now, will also sustain my hand in the future. Today I can assure that up until now He has helped me".*

Grace and peace from God our Father.

I share the work done in CEPAL (ECLAC – Economic Commission for Latin America & the Caribbean)

### 1. I continue participating in Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO):

- 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 culture spread out

In all these interests I seek to make visible the differences that our culture has imposed for being a woman and being a man and continue playing at the expense of the feminine in our societies. The purpose therefore is part of the gender mandates relate to the various disciplines that shape our professional training, in order to contribute to social development professionals that incorporate a gender perspective in their work.

Main role of NGOs has been to commit with the Millennium Goal 1.- to eradicate poverty in Latin America and goal number 3: to promote the equity between gender and autonomy of woman.

Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays continue to participate in lectures, seminars and others at the CEPAL headquarter in Santiago.

### 2. Participation in Conferences at CEPAL, Chile

I participated in many Seminars, which are outlined in my full report.

One example of a Seminar I attended is, "**Opportunities and challenges for the autonomy of women in the future work scenario (GENDER ISSUES).**" This seminar addressed the potential impacts of technological change in transforming the nature of the jobs of the future, its impact on employment, gender equality and economic growth. The existing gender gaps in the labor market could deepen if there are no adequate policies and an educational transformation that allow anticipating the effects that new technologies will bring. Summarizing, the following was studied: Gender inequalities in the labor market. Risks and challenges for the labor insertion of women in the context of technological changes. The educational system and professional technical training. Intersectoral public policies to eliminate gender gaps. Public policies for equality in the future of work: The widening or closing of gender gaps in the labor market, in a context of rapid technological change, will depend on great extent of policy actions to address the structural knots of inequality in an integral way, and thus guarantee decent jobs for men and women. Promote policies of universal access to social protection, contemplating the different forms of work and attending to the diverse conditions of people.

Another example of a Seminar I attended is, "**Technical-professional education and labor inclusion for greater equality in Latin America and the Caribbean.**" This seminar brought together government representatives and renowned specialists in order to establish a dialogue with a gender perspective about the inclusion challenges presented by the present and future of work; the articulation of the professional technical education system and its role as an instrument

of inclusion; the identification and anticipation of the demand for skills, the dissemination of information on the labor market and the financing of technical education and training. Accompaniment in times of pandemic and talks for care against the covid-19 virus.

### **3. Works Performed**

I have never been there several days a week, then I consider this very interesting to have all that space to get aware of all that is happening and to be able to share it with women. It was comfortable to feel love from people whom I have just known there, and I feel very fortunate to have this work where I can shape many plans. I am eager to deliver to other all of this. I am looking certain projects where it is possible to work on, as there are some federations that are really interested and our limitation if financial resources. Even if we want to avoid this difficulty, we can't do anything to proceed. To be there has a monetary cost.

I can summarize this work as follows: I glorify God, and serve human beings complying with the Grand Commandment "Thou shall love The Lord thy God with all thy heart..... It has been a service to God and to the neighbor. Because God loved us first, we also love each other. This has been a personal testimony. I always thought that love was an emotion or an impulse. Now I understand that this is a decision to act. This is the decision to act without any personal interest or reward in any situation. God wants us to love effectively and truly. In this place I have shared the true love – the love of Jesus Christ with others. I have shared the true love - the love of God which was totally given in Jesus' death on the cross because of our selfish rebellion against God. By means of the electronic mail and through some places I have visited, I have share part of this task, (Costa Rica, Panamá and Peru) and in that way I am contributing to the achievement to get participation of women in the processes of development, promoting the formation of networks and channels of communication and information that make it easier to interchange knowledge and experience of women from different countries of the world. In my country I work with church and society women to see how I can contribute with these issues. I continue with the desire to create new spaces and labor workshops and in that way to focus on the Millennium Goals. The feminine is fundamental for the overcoming poverty in Latin America and the whole world, because in that way we are able under the word of God to change the deep unevenness in gender matters like income, social protection, and responsibilities distributions. Participation in lectures, seminars and others OIT (International Organization for Work) at ECLAC headquarters in Santiago and other regions.

*My embrace with the good perfume of Christ.*

*Ivonne Pereira Díaz*

*Representative ECLAC Talcahuano, Chile Junio, 2022*

*(Translated by Nancy Carmona)*

---

## Report from Chloé C. Grimes Jones Youth Representative to the UN in New York

---



Most of my journey as a UN Youth Representative for the WFMUCW began as an undergraduate at Vassar College, then as an aspiring educator pursuing a Masters degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) and developing in my young adulthood. I am privileged to reflect on the awesome opportunities and people I engaged with over the years.

Of all the UN events I always looked forward to the annual Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). During the opening worship service for the 62nd CSW in 2018, I participated in an interpretative skit of Nina Simone's song "Four Women" which complemented the CSW's theme of addressing challenges women and girls in "rural and marginalized communities" face regarding gender equality. Other participating World Federation members were the meditation speaker, President of the North America Area and International President of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society Dr Sandra Gadson, UN Representative Dr Brenda L. Smith, and Affiliate Representative Edith Mayfield.

I joined members of Ecumenical Women to assemble registration packets for the 62nd CSW. We wore black to observe Thursdays in Black, an initiative "towards a world without rape and [gender-based] violence". I also attended the International Women's Day at the UN Headquarters, themed "Time is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives" echoing the #MeToo/#TimesUp movement of women speaking out against sexual harassment and gender inequity. The event included dynamic panellists such as actresses Reese Witherspoon and Danai Gurira, and other civil service representatives. Afterwards, I briefly met with Ms Marai Larasi, Executive Director of Imkaan, a UK-based women's organization focused on addressing violence against Black and other minority women and girls. On another occasion, I participated in a panel discussion with Dr Brenda Smith, "Focus on Race, Criminal Justice, and Human Rights" organized by our very own World Federation, the United Nations Association of the USA- Southern NY Division, and the Zeta Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc; each event addressed SDGs 5 (gender equality) and 10 (reduced inequalities within and among countries). Other activity included attending an open forum prior to the 67th UN DPI/NGO Conference in August 2018, which invited UN and other civil service representatives to provide further feedback on a draft of the Outcome document reflecting the conference's theme: "*We the Peoples... Together Finding Global Solutions for Global Problems*".

The onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic stateside placed restrictions on attending UN events at headquarters, and like the rest of the world, there was a large shift to virtual events and gatherings. I engaged in the CSW65 Side Panel Discussion: Empowerment for Adolescent Girls Beyond COVID-19 organized by UNICEF, ODI, and Gender and Adolescence: Global Evidence (GAGE). A positive moment in this panel discussion was when the co-host Perna Banatin stated that adolescent girls are an "acceleration population with the potential to transform their respective nations and societies". Additionally, UN Women Representative Selin Ozunaldim mentioned her involvement in initiating a *Girls Who Code* club, an initiative to generate adolescent girls' interest in STEM fields, in her school in Turkey.

On a final note, my role as UN Youth Representative has often overlapped with my engagement as a Young Adult Missionary (YAM) and current NYC District Secretary of the Youth Missionaries Society in the W.H. & O.M Society which fully supports their Affiliate Representative's initiatives and the mission of WFM&UCW. For example, in October 2020, I and fellow missionaries attended the Region 1 WFM&UCW. In October 2021, the Missionaries also initiated a World Federation Study Day - theme: "Clean Water and Sanitation for All"(SDG 6) to share with others in the A.M.E Zion denomination.

We may currently face challenging times and uncertainty; however, I know for certain that the World Federation will always have the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide its members in its association with the UN to love and help heal the world as Christ did!

---

## **Report from Dr Brenda L. G. Smith Representative to the UN in New York**

---



It is to God that I give all the glory and praise for the opportunity to have served as the Main Representative to the United Nations in New York City, New York. This experience has afforded me the opportunity to learn so much about the wonderful work of the United Nations and how this work has improved the lives of so many of our sisters and brothers around the world. Thank you, for it has also afforded me the opportunity to grow and develop in the Christian way of life.

Additionally, it has also helped me to realize that “to whom much is given, much is also required and expected.”! Our World President, Mrs. Alison Judd, has contributed so much to my growth and development as a Christian leader and it is to God that I give all the thanks and praise for putting her into my life for such a time as this. Thank you, Madam World President, for you have made me so proud through your contributions at the United Nations – when I called upon you to bring a message. You represented our organization in such a magnificent manner, and we all were so proud to be able to say that we are members of this great organization, under your leadership. Thank you, Madam World President. For those members who desire to hear your message, I have saved the link and will gladly share it with them. I wish to also express my thanks to Mrs. Joan Capel, a diligent member of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, who has been beside me during the last two years of this journey. Thank you, Joan, for attending the numerous meetings of Ecumenical Women and other groups and for organizing programs that have well represented our organization. You are a Christian woman who loves this organization and our Church

As we may recall, our World Vice President, Sister Matilda Johnson, worked arduously to prepare a workshop for women of all communions and fellowships to be held at CSW 65, prior to the Pandemic. Unfortunately, due to her many hours of planning that went into the development of this workshop and its approval by UN Women, which was no easy feat, we had to cancel our plans. Thank you so much, Matilda, for the time you spent in preparation for this workshop. I was assured that we will be able to conduct a workshop in the near future, if not in person, we will plan to have it virtually.

I wish to express my appreciation to President Judd, who agreed to be our keynote speaker at one of our Ecumenical Women services via Zoom. I was very grateful to Mrs. Joan Capel, Mrs. Mattie Taylor, Mrs. Ruth Young and Mrs. Edith Mayfield, Rev. Robyn Anderson, Rev. Frances Campbell, and Rev. Valerie Maness who participated in the services. For those who wish to view and listen to this program, I will share with you a link and you can enjoy it at your leisure. In addition to the many programs that we were able to attend via zoom, our organization also participated in and appeared in the video, entitled “Thursdays in Black “advocating for a world without violence to women.

Although we had to attend many programs virtually, we are grateful to Dr Sandra Gadson and members of the North America Area of the World Federation who were involved in many of our meetings at the United Nations. Thank you very much.

I was so proud that we were one of those organizations who had representatives who were in Beijing 25 years ago, and we were requested to respond to several questions and to submit a report which would be sent to the United Nations for review. Special thanks to Emmy Lou and Becky John who prepared a wonderful report from our organization that we submitted to the United Nations and to Ecumenical Women. While I am unable to include it in this report, however, these documents may be read, upon request.

Each Thursday, the World Federation is included virtually in the worship experience. Under the direction of the Chaplain for the Church Center, Rev. Dionne Bossiere, we are able to attend the worship experience in person or virtually. These worship services are very inspiring and uplifting. We are appreciative to Joan Capel who makes herself available to attend each of these sessions, and our President and secretary attend, when possible.

As a part of our history of involvement at the United Nations and the trips that I was able to attend; I decided to prepare a scrapbook of memories, which I would like to donate or contribute to this organization's history. In addition to our involvement at the United Nations, we are also involved with the Westchester, New York Chapter of the United Nations and were invited to work with local Mayors in Westchester County, New York, in planning United Nations Day observances and other programs.

I wished to include in this report the draft and agreed conclusions that came out of our very lengthy meeting during CSW 66 regarding achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies, and programs. However, due to their length they had to be omitted, but they may be reviewed upon request.

In addition to these programs, our organization has been invited by other organizations to attend and participate in several advocacy programs, namely CEDAW, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, which was adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, signed by President Carter in 1980 but has never been ratified by the U.S. Senate, making the U.S. one of six countries to not ratify. The DC government is considering a CEDAW ordinance this year and because DC is not a state, Congress decides if the law can be implemented. We will work with the United Nations Association of the United States of America to raise the issue of ratification. I will continue to apprise the organization of our success in having CEDAW ratified.

Lastly, do know that it has been my pleasure to represent this wonderful organization and it is to Mrs. Mia Adjali to whom I am grateful because it was "Mia" who introduced me to this work and to key individuals in the UN System. It was through her that I met the Honorable Kofi Annan, then Secretary General.

---

## **EDITOR OF TREE OF LIFE REPORT**

---

### **Importance and significance of the 'Tree of Life' Newsletter to the functioning of the World Federation**

I believe that the Tree of Life Newsletter is the connector that helps us stay in touch with one another, that encourages us through different messages, poems, bible studies, that informs us what our ministries are about around the globe, it helps us know which are our challenges and it encourages us not only to pray for one another but also to pray for different hard situations around the globe.



---

**Ligia Istrate**

---

### **Interpretation of the role and responsibilities of the Editor**

The role of the editor (and implicit mine) is:

- To encourage women to write different articles (bible studies, meditations, prayers, news) in order to build together the World Federation community.
- To gather these articles, to edit them, to correct them, to give them a shape.
- To create each issue, to arrange it and to select photos.
- To publish Tree of Life in time, four times per year.

### **Communications with World Executive Officers, Areas and Units**

The Tree of Life editor should be always in touch with the President, Officers, Area- Presidents etc.

### **Content/themes/format/design**

The content and the themes are chosen to reflect the Christian values and the Federation's creed; all the areas were welcomed and encouraged to write.

The format and the design kept the modern standard.

### **Challenges**

I cannot say that I had big challenges, just the usual ones: regarding the length of the articles (I have received many times very long articles) and the quality of the picture (many times very low)

### **Distribution**

Tree of life has been distributed these years in an online format all around the world, to all that wanted to receive it, but I know many Area Presidents printed the issues, especially in the areas where the internet is not properly working.

### **New developments**

I have tried to put in the articles not only Bible stories, but also stories from the people I know, to give historical explanations, even etymological explanations of the words, to introduce history, psychology, and whatever I thought it would be beneficial for the messages included in ToL.

### **Plans for the future**

If I will be chosen again as ToL Editor, I would be very honored, of course. I will try to publish articles that help us in our Christian journey, that encourage us, that inform us. I will try to write as good as possible and to minister to all the Federation community.

### **Financial information**

Being the editor, I needed a laptop as mine was broken.

---

## ARCHIVIST REPORT

---



2016 seems like so long ago. I said yes to being an archivist so that I could serve the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women for another quinquennia.

I have been blessed by the knowledge and experience of Emmy Lou John. She guided me during my first visit at Lake Junaluska, N.C. and through the first year of archival work.

---

**Judith Siaba**

---

Nancy Watson had been contracted by the Federation through Emmy Lou John to assist in getting all the documents in order. Nancy is an archivist by profession and was wonderful in getting most of our documents in order so that retrieving information would be easy.

I made annual visits to redo the display case which was found in the Museum of the World Methodist Council as well as bring any additions to the archives. We were challenged by the fact that we had to find a new home for the archives since the buildings of the World Methodist Council were sold in the spring of 2021. I informed our president Alison Judd with the situation. She, along with the rest of the executive committee, met several times through zoom to try and come up with a possible location for our archives. Several locations were discussed before they decided to approach the archivist Brandon Wason of the Pitts Theology Library located on the campus of Emory University and part of Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia.

Brandon graciously agreed to drive to Lake Junaluska to pick up all our archives and transport them to Atlanta at no cost to us. Thank you, Brandon, for this great help. On my way to the United Women in Faith Assembly (formerly United Methodist Women) in Florida, my husband and I drove down and stopped to see where our archives are now found. They are being cared for in wonderful surroundings along much Methodist history. They will be digitally accessible to the leadership on the following link: [pid.emory.edu/ark:/25593/vqvq5](https://pid.emory.edu/ark:/25593/vqvq5).

Thank you for this opportunity to serve. I pray that we continue to do our part in sharing the work of the Federation and remembering to save our documents and forward them so that future generations may know the work that we have done during this extended quinquennia.

---

## WEBMASTER REPORT

---

Over the past 11 years the role of WFMUCW Webmaster has been to assist the WFMUCW with its website, manage the Facebook and Twitter profiles and assist with and manage other technical requirements, such as email accounts, email distribution lists and Assembly registration and media.

In 2016 at the 13<sup>th</sup> World Assembly in Houston, Texas, USA, the request was made for a continuation of the position for another quinquennium due to no suitable replacement being available. The five-year period has since been extended due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the postponement of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Assembly by one year.



---

**Nicholas Connan**

---

The role requires regular communication with the World Executive and virtual attendance at meetings. Material is frequently provided for publication on the website, Facebook and Twitter. This sometimes requires reformatting suitable for electronic publication, sourcing of accompanying graphics and file conversion into PDF. The website requires ongoing maintenance, including software and security updates and database backups.

Functionality on the website is available for representatives from Units to publish material but communication and material from Areas and Units has been limited. Multi-user access is also available on the website and social media platforms to allow World Executive or another approved users the ability to independently publish and share news and posts.

Cyber-attacks are regularly made against the website, but with the implementation of security products, these attacks have been mitigated and the website has remained secure and online.

Planning for the 14<sup>th</sup> World Assembly has required extensive time initially with development of a registration platform for an in-person event in Sweden prior to its cancellation and then a separate ticketing platform for the virtual event. With the move to a virtual Assembly, voting will be conducted electronically, and this has necessitated the sourcing and implementation of a suitable platform to enable timely and secure elections to be held.

During the past six months with planning for the virtual Assembly, complications have been encountered due to the lack of a legally bound non-profit status for the WFMUCW in any jurisdiction around the world and the use of foreign currency bank accounts in overseas countries. This has created some technical and administrative difficulties for the Assembly Steering Group. Some issues have been overcome but the lack of non-profit status recognition continues to be a challenge.

During the next quinquennium, the Federation should investigate:

- Revamping and upgrading the website with functionality for each Area to publish their own material.
- Implementing a full membership management system with integrated publishing, communication and financial management.
- Using a membership database with contact details to enable mass email distribution.
- Utilising Instagram and more relevant social media to reach a younger audience.
- Using YouTube to publish regular videos.
- Gaining legally recognised non-profit status in the USA and/or UK.

I thank the WFMUCW for allowing me to assist with their technical requirements over the past 11 years and I look forward to seeing what can be accomplished during the next quinquennium with a new Executive and technical support team.

---

## AREA REPORT – SOUTH PACIFIC

---



### Area President: Joy Jino

Malo e lelei, Talofa Lava, Noa'ia e Mauri, Nisa bula vinaka, Namaste, Taloha Ni, Kia Orana, Kia Ora, Gud fala de tru.

#### UNITS & MEMBERSHIP:

- New Zealand Methodist Women Fellowship – 1,285
- Australia Uniting Church Adult Fellowship – 4000
- Samoa Methodist Women's Fellowship – 6,350
- Fiji Methodist Women Fellowship - 23,000
- Tonga Methodist Women's Fellowship – 4,254
- United Church Women's Fellowship, Papua New Guinea
- United Church Women's Fellowship, Solomon Islands – 3,830

#### Greetings

I bring Greetings to this meeting on behalf of the seven Units in the South Pacific Area.

We give praise to our Lord for His mercy and grace upon us all. We have been impacted physically, mentally and challenged spiritually by the pandemic and other challenges which we experienced in different forms, but we believe that He has done wonders for us all. May His name be truly praised and honored. Great is His Love towards us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. (Psalms 117: 2 – NIV)

Be assured that South Pacific Area is with us during this week of meeting.

#### Area Leaders (From 2016)

Leadership of the South Pacific Area from 2016 to this reporting period is held by Joy Jino, Solomon Islands Unit (Area President) and Ilaisaane Kapani, Tonga Unit (Area Vice President).

“Chosen people Called to Proclaim” is the theme of the Federation this quinquennium and we believe we are called to be living instruments to witness for Christ and to make him known to

others in whatever we do and wherever we serve.

We have been enjoying working and connecting with the seven Unit leaders during our years of leadership and this has built and shaped us a lot with confidence.

#### Area Meetings

**Area Seminar** – Our Area seminar was hosted by Fiji in July 2018. It was attended by more than 500 women. The gathering was rated as one of the many exciting Fellowships experienced by women in our South Pacific Area. It was expressed that the fellowship gathering was a vital part of the WFMUCW as it gave Unit members opportunity to be part of a “Worshipful and Educational” program as well as developing new friendship through the shared fellowship with women from other units.

The presence of the World Leaders during the seminar reminded us that we were amongst the World Sisterhood and that gave us opportunity for the development of international understanding and solidarity.

**Area Leaders Meeting** – Two Area Leaders meetings were held. The meetings were attended by the Unit leaders.

The first one was in 2018 in Fiji, prior to our Area Seminar straight after the Weaving Together Program led by the World Officers. It was during that time that we elected our two incoming Area leaders.

The second one was in 2020, in New Zealand where we looked at election procedures/process for SPA Officers and South Pacific Area to have its own financial body to support the work of the Area Officers in the Units.

### Incoming Elected Leaders

I would like to take this time to introduce our two newly elected Area leaders of the South Pacific Area in the next quinquennium.



Area President:  
Olive Amani Tanielu  
(New Zealand Unit)



Area Vice President:  
Rev Gloria Marke  
(United Church Papua New  
Guinea Unit)

Congratulations to both of them and the South Pacific Area will continue to support and pray for these two leaders.

With this I would like to recommend that this meeting accept and endorse/ratify them to be our next Area leaders.

### Activities/Highlights (in various Units in South Pacific Area)

- Ongoing fellowships / fundraisings/ outreaches/bible studies/life skills training/annual conferences/monthly meetings
- Childcare training/food preservation skills
- Cultural skills training
- Setting up micro finance loans project to support women/families
- Family Safety at home

- Celebrating Thursdays in Black
- Work on SDG's, collaborating with other stakeholders in the countries
- Promoting Gender Equality in biblical perspective
- One Unit held seminar after Area Seminar in 2018
- Involving more younger women to join the fellowship
- Organising programs to support affected victims
- Salvation of Souls of members
- Developing Seafood Business for income generation
- Celebrating Mother's Day/ World Day of Prayer
- Observing WFMUCW Day of Prayer
- Mission support work and Special projects:
- Living Water Come Drink/Traveling A New Road/Safe Clean Water
- Supporting National kidney Foundation and Cancer Society
- Administering Trust Funds assisting senior secondary girls and other trainings throughout Pasifika

### Challenges

- a) *Cannot be avoided:*
  - Geographically Scattered/Experiencing unpredicted natural disasters
- b) *Need improvement/Support/strength*
  - Finance/Communication/networking

### Acknowledgement

To the tireless hard working World Leaders. Thank you to you all for your wonderful work well done.

***To God Be the Glory, Great things He has done!***

---

## AREA REPORT – EAST ASIA

---



**Area President:**  
Mrs Ngui Ting Sing Hong



**Area Vice-President:**  
Mrs Mary Devadason

**EAA Executive Members:**

Mrs Margaret Chan Pik Wan – Secretary  
Mrs Koh In Kyung – Treasurer  
Daisy Pang – Auditor since 2016

**UNITS:**

Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, and Taiwan  
Current membership stands at around 50,000

**World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women, East Asia continues** to serve under the theme of 2016 World Assembly "Chosen People; called to Proclaim," and 2019 EAA Seminar, "Here I am, Send me." Isaiah 6:8. Over the years, our women have actively responded to real world issue, such as social injustice, hardships, and inequalities in this world. We have reached out to the marginalized, migrants and foreign workers and most importantly have taken opportunities to share with them the gospel and eternal hope through Christ while physically demonstrating the love of God to them through various aids programs to face the dramatic changes of our life.

*EAA Executive Officers with World President*



**The 11th East Asia Area Seminar 2019** was held in Hong Kong with 290 participants. This seminar enabled the sisters to learn, worship, and build fellowship among sisters.

*World Officers, EAA Executive Officers, HKM Scholars & Cambodian Women representatives*



**Weaving Together Program** - This program was organized by World Federation officers before EAA Seminar and the Ketso instrument was used to share with individual unit's concerns, difficulties and strengthen the inter-unit relationships.

**The Asian Young Women Leadership Training & Dialogue** was held concurrently with 11<sup>th</sup> EAA Seminar with 34 participants. This event was led by Rev Dr Heasun Kim of Scranton Women's Leadership Center, Seoul, Rev Hikari Chang of Wesley Foundation, Japan and Ms Emma Cantor of UMC, Philippines with the assistance of EAA committee with the aims to train young women and answer to our Lord, "Here I am, Send me. Young Women, We Will Go".

**English and Chinese Leadership Trainings** were carried out in individual units with the aims to embrace women to grow spiritually and through these leadership trainings to nurture them in their own churches to strengthen their skills and provide a platform for future leaders to proclaim the good news of God.

The South Korean, Malaysian and Singaporean units have sent their sisters to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam to provide training, children schooling and upskilling even during the pandemic. In Hong Kong, assistance programs have been delivered to immigrants and foreign workers. They have also assisted Macau Methodist sisters in their church ministry. In Taiwan, they have carried out a ministry to assist single parents and also carried out missionary work to the Indigenous Taiwanese. In Japan, they have a ministry to assist the elderly and leadership training program for young women.

Special observances of Holy Week, Self-Denial Week, World Federation Day – these study materials were translated in Chinese and Tamil and observed faithfully by our women in their prayer meetings. Offerings were taken and used for their specific needs.

In an effort to bring awareness of Sustainability Development Goals, the Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan units have organized talks from the Water and Sanitation Department to educate them on the topic of clean water and sanitation.

Monetary donations have been made to provide relief from natural disasters such as typhoon, flood, earthquakes, and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. These have been fruitful ministries that draw the resources of the sisters in different regions together.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our EAA Committee who have worked and served our Lord faithfully. Thanks to the World Federation leaders for remembering us in their prayers. Although we cannot see each other in person due to COVID-19 pandemic for the past 3 years, God has provided us generously to meet online and in spirit as one body in Christ. Praise our Mighty God for His guidance and unending love for us all. May our Lord bless this moment of our time as we answer His call – "Here I am".

Ngui Ting Sing Hong  
EAA President

---

## AREA REPORT – SOUTH ASIA

---



### AFFILIATED UNITS:

- Church of South India
- Church of North India
- Methodist Church in India – 12,000 members
- Myanmar Unit 1 – 200 members
- Church of Pakistan – 1500 members
- Methodist Church in Sri Lanka – 1000 members

### ASSOCIATE UNITS

- Myanmar Unit 2 – 150 members

### APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Myanmar Unit 3 – 10,500 members

**Area President: Evelyn Mercylin (India)**  
**Area Vice-President: Sarojini Nagendran (Sri Lanka)**

***“What shall I render unto the Lord . . . I will lift up the cup of Salvation.” (Psalm 116:12-13)***

It gives me great pleasure to present my report on the South Asia Area (SAA).

The baton as President, of SAA, (being the then Vice President) was passed onto me in November 2020, by the World Officers, due to our then President, Ms Margarett Mu Mu Than, who lost her husband, and hence was unable to continue her Presidentship.

Taking over at a time of a Leadership crisis, coupled with the Pandemic looming large, in fact staring in our faces, brought work to a standstill, or so we thought.

But then God does move in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform.

After a quick discussion with our World President, Alison, and our World Secretary, Mataiva, we arranged a Zoom Meeting with all our Unit Presidents.

At our first Zoom Meeting, all our Unit Presidents and some invitees were present. Our World President and Secretary were kind enough to

provide the link and to guide us, as it was the first time, some of us were going to be tech savvy!

At the meeting Mrs Sarojini Nagendran, who was a seasoned leader, from Sri Lanka was nominated by me to be our Vice President. She very graciously accepted. Ranjini Jegasothy was requested to be our secretary for our zoom meetings.

### **South Asia Area Seminar**

The South Asia Area Seminar was conducted at Myanmar by Mrs Margarett Mu Mu Than, our ex-Area President on 18 January 2018, for 4 days. The Seminar was well attended. The key discussions were on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and also covered discussions around the Thursday in Black and Demand for Social Justice programs. The Weaving Together Program (WTP) was also conducted.

**The Study Day Program** on SDG6 – Clean Water & Sanitation, was arranged through online Zoom Meetings. The current Area President, Ms Evelyn Mercylin coordinated and ensured each unit contributed towards this Study. Mrs Dorothy Sampath Kumar was the Editor.

**The Bossey Scholarship 2019** was awarded to a young woman Rhema Anu Natarajan, from Chennai, who attended a course held in Geneva, Switzerland.

### **Call To Pray**

A monthly prayer call was organised online on Zoom with the World Federation Methodist Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW) Executive by the World President Mrs. Alison Judd, to pray for the needs of the Federation & world concerns.

### **Aid**

Each Unit in South Asia Area (SAA) contributed monetarily and physically, through their Church by reaching out to members of the community who were affected by COVID19, migrant workers, women and children in need. It was encouraging to hear women in Myanmar reaching out, to people's needs, despite the challenges they faced, during the coup.

### **Area Unit Concerns**

The work in the Area and Units during the past 2 years has been difficult due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The poorer nations suffered and recorded the most deaths due to crowded living conditions, including low access to preventative medicines.

The Christian community in Myanmar, despite challenges faced by the coup, kept the women's and children faith strong by helping the needy. They also faced severe consequences from the pandemic due to non-availability of medicines. The Church is going through a challenging time.

Sri Lanka is also facing an economic crisis that has led to shortage of food, fuel, cooking gas and access to other essential utilities has also not been easy. For example, frequent electricity outages have affected school and college going students.

In Pakistan, women and female children are not given employment opportunities nor are they allowed to participate in education.

India faces religious motivated violence against Christians.

### **Helen Kim Memorial Scholars 2016-2021**

Tharika Rajapakse from Sri Lanka and Rebekah Daniel from India.

### **Empowerment Grant for Women**

In February 2022, The Empowerment Grant for Women was awarded to Sarah Home for Women in Sri Lanka. USD8000 was given towards the improvement of lives of abandoned, abused and Victims of rape and Domestic Violence.

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow, and the blessings were abundant. We saw the hand of God on our Area and all the activities where the success is only by His Grace and His alone.*

*Evelyn Mercylin  
President, South Asia Area*

## AREA REPORT – SOUTHERN & EAST AFRICA



### UNITS & MEMBERSHIP:

- DRC Congo – 600
- MCSA Women's Association – 2,093
- Methodist Church Kenya – 15,000
- United Methodist Zambia
- United Methodist Mozambique – 4,975
- African Methodist Episcopal Zimbabwe – 1,784
- United Church of Zambia – not active
- MCSA Women's Manyano – 30,447
- MCSA Women's Auxiliary – 2,661
- Methodist Church in Zimbabwe – 14,000
- United Methodist Zimbabwe – 15,363
- United Methodist Kenya
- United Methodist Burundi – not active
- United Methodist Angola – not active

### OFFICERS:

**Area President: Sipiwe Chisvo**  
**Area Vice-President: Patricia Mapani**  
Secretary: Rebecca Matongo  
Treasurer: Jacqueline Madida

### Area Seminar – Weaving Together Program



Weaving Together and Area Seminar was held in Nairobi Kenya from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2019 at the Methodist Resort and Conference Center.

The World President Alison Judd led the program with a devotion, reminding us of all that we are a chosen people called to proclaim the wonderful acts of God, and we are messengers of joy to the world. Alison introduced Ketso which helped leaders to identify priority actions for the Area and Units.

### Area Seminar

Four World Officers attended our Area Seminar these are Alison Judd World President, Matilda Johnson Vice President, Mataiva Robertson Secretary and Ann Connan Emeritus who was accompanied by her husband Rev John Connan.

### *Area President & World President*



The Area President led the candle lighting prayer and welcomed delegates and introduced the world officers.

Five workshops were offered – Child Marriages, Well Woman, Entrepreneurship, Human Trafficking, Female Genital Mutilation, all were well attended.

*Area President presented her report outlining their achievements and travels within the Area*



New Units have been brought in and visited, these are UMC Kenya and UMC Zambia. UMC South Africa is now back and active.

*Area President visits women of the United Methodist Church, Zambia*



In attendance was DRC Congo for the first time in the Area with 16 women, 1 from Burundi.

Grace Musuka UMC Women's Regional Missionary sponsored and came with a total of 19 women from Zambia, South Congo, Malawi, East Congo and Cameroon we greatly appreciated their presence in our midst.

Our Helen Kim Scholar Phiwe Ngwadhla also attended both meetings and gave a report on a project she embarked on in her community of distributing sanitary pads to 350 girls at a secondary school.

Unit Presidents presented their Unit reports on work being done in their units and action on SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5&13 the Area is focusing on.

The reports were well received. Methodist Church Kenya reported on how they are mentoring and training girls and women on the Christian alternative rite of passage from traditional practice of female genital mutilation.

### **Activities on SDGs**

1. The Area sponsored Tendai Sheilla Muzandaka on a full scholarship at Africa University studying Social Science (Honors) in Social Work. She currently in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year and on an internship with Nzeve Deaf Centre in Mutare. She will be graduating in June 2023.
2. All our Units are assisting children with school fees and buying and sewing uniforms for those less privileged.
3. One Unit had a workshop on environmental sustainability focusing on our responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect global ecosystems.
4. 82 blankets and 5000L water tank were donated to an orphanage in Kambuzuma, Harare, Zimbabwe.

### **Covid Period**

Units were having online services.

A Unit helped the elderly by collecting their medications from the hospital and pharmacies.

The needy were fed at a church with one meal a day for 9 months.

Our Area participated fully as requested at the Global online Event in 2021. Quite a number of our members followed the event online.

Virtual study day were also held.

### **Area Concerns**

Our main concern is on Units that are not participating and not responding to emails.

### **Finance**

Our Units are trying very much to pay their levies to the World Federation, but most Units are struggling because of the economic conditions in their countries, the value of their currencies against the US dollar is very high.

Area bank balance – USD5 783.50

---

## AREA REPORT – WEST AFRICA

---



**Area President: Rev Jemima Amanor**

**Area Vice-President: Deaconess Aniema Udofia**

### Area Seminar

The West Africa Area Seminar was held on the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018. About 350 women participated. There were presentations on health, human trafficking, women in leadership and on the sustainable development goals. Togo Unit was present at the Area Seminar but has since not been active. Follow up with them yielded no results. All the other Units were actively involved in the Area Seminar. Senegal became an affiliated member of the Federation in 2021 but participated in the Area Seminar.

### Weaving Together Programme

We had Ketso resource session led by World President, Alison Judd. Ketso means 'Action.' It's an activity with an image of a tree, making it quite appropriate for the Federation (Tree of Life). This activity helped us to know each other as Area Executives, share ideas and suggest plans for future actions to be taken by the Area. Unit Presidents shared their reports.

### **UNITS & MEMBERSHIP:**

- Benin – 30,000
- Cote D'Ivoire - 4,500
- Ghana – 20,000
- Nigeria – 210,000
- Liberia – 5,000
- Senegal – 180
- Sierra Leone
  - The Methodist Church –
  - United Methodist Church –
  - West Africa Methodist Church –
- The Gambia – 300
- Togo –

### Activities & Programmes relating to Sustainable Development Goals

The West Africa Area worked on the following SDGs – 1, 3 and 4. West Africa Area prepared the Federation Study Day Programme for year 2020. The theme was on SDG 3 'Ensure healthy Lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.' It was appropriate topic for the year because that was when COVID – 19 started.

### **Area/Unit Concerns:**

It was difficult for the Units to come together for programmes due to the COVID – 19 pandemic. However, the individual Units were able to carry out their programmes and women enhancement activities.

### **Challenges experienced in response to the gospel:** None

### **Financial information / Payment of levy:**

Wiring funds from this part of the world has a lot of challenges. Members therefore choose to send their levies by cash during Area Seminar. All the Units are owing levies and have agreed to pay at the next West Africa Area Seminar if we are able to meet physically.

### **The Theme for the reporting quinquennium is 'Chosen People, Called to Proclaim'**

#### **Proclaiming Through Worship**

Prayer and Worship is at the center of the ministry in West Africa Area. We have weekly prayer meetings and monthly Call to Pray in which women gather to read Scriptures, sing songs and pray for the Church, our countries, individual needs and the entire world.

Liberia Unit has developed a devotional guide, 'Breakfast with Jesus' for women and victims of violence. This tool provides hope in Jesus Christ for victims of violence.

Ghana, Nigeria and Liberia Units joined their Christian Councils to celebrate World Day of Prayer for a peaceful and just world. We all prayed for the end of economic hardships, violence and abuse. These three Units also celebrated the World Federation Day every 26<sup>th</sup> of October.

#### **Proclaiming Through Relationships**

Women from the Presbyterian Church Ghana participated in the empowerment programmes of the Methodist women in Ghana. This has strengthened the relationship within the denominations. Rural women in Liberia are actively involved in the women's ministry. They gather for worship and skills training. The women in Liberia and Ghana continue in partnership and networking with the Ministry for Gender, Social and Children Protection – a government arm that support women and children in the two countries.

#### **Proclaiming Through Social Action**

Methodist women in Ghana continue to visit Orphanages and Prisons regularly to donate food items and toiletries to the inmates.

In Liberia, 500 women were educated on anti-Human trafficking. It created awareness on dangers of human trafficking. 6 girls were given scholarship to complete High School and 100 girls were trained in livelihood skills during period of reporting. These supports have brought hope and dignity to the women and girls.

For the empowerment of women bi-annual seminars are carried out in Ghana and women are taken through various topics such as Servant leadership, Ageing and Dependent care, Child Abuse, Family Life Education and Integrity of God's Creation.

Training for Young women on employable skills and leadership development in Ghana. The number of trainees increases every year. At the end of the training the students are given packages that enable them to start their own businesses. This is a big incentive for them and encourages more ladies to train.

In Ghana during Women's Work Sunday, women are celebrated for the vital role they play in enhancing economic security for their families and the Church. The day is also dedicated to honouring women for their social, economic and political accomplishments.

---

## AREA REPORT – EUROPE: CONTINENTAL

---



**Area President: Lidia Noffke Ribet (Italy)**  
**Area Vice President: Lilla Lakatos Kardos (Hungary)**

### UNITS & MEMBERSHIP:

Austria (UMC), Bulgaria and Romania (300),  
Czech Republic (UMC, 350), Estonia (UMC, 50)  
France (UMC, 120), Germany (UMC), Hungary (UMC, 100),  
Italy (OPCEMI, 1100), Latvia (UMC, 50),  
Norway (UMC, 379), Macedonia (UMC, 150),  
Poland (UMC, 100),  
Portugal (Evangelical Methodist Church, 50),  
Russia (UMC, 250), Serbia (UMC, 150),  
Slovak Republic (UMC), Sweden (Uniting Church, 1164),  
Switzerland (UMC, 400)

After the 13<sup>th</sup> World Assembly in Houston in March 2017 Area Presidents coming from most of the world met in Chicago, all there for the same mission. It was very important to listen to each other and discuss about the work that the churches are carrying out and how they are facing some of many problems that arise at many times and in many places to give witness to the World of God. Those days in Chicago gave us strength and encouragement for the work in our individual Areas.

### **Weaving Together Program in Belfast:**



A large group of sisters was present in **June 2018** in Belfast, Northern Ireland for the Joint European Area Seminar. It was a “delightful” experience for all of us, sharing friendship and joy. We prayed to the Lord together to “establish firmly all we do”.

**In November 2018** Lidia Ribet, Area President was invited by Brigitte Hetsch (unit president, France) to the Carrefour des Femmes Francophone in Montelimar, France, where

she again experienced that same joy. Although that same weekend the *yellow jacket* demonstrations prevented the participation of many, 47 sisters arrived in Montelimar for the gathering.

**In March 2019** the World Executive met in Hong Kong to start the organization of the next Assembly. Both European Area Presidents attended this meeting.

**In August 2019** the World Officers, and the Area President and Vice President of Continental Europe met the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) in Göteborg, Sweden for the first time to have a look of the hotel, and if they could offer all the service we needed. The draft for the program was completed and the various tasks divided between the organizers. The LAC is very active and always in touch with the World Federation.

**In 2020** a virus has completely changed our lives, the covid 19. Many countries introduced a severe lockdown. Stores, schools and even churches had to stop their activity, we were advised to avoid crowding together to prevent illness from spreading.

In this time of a worldwide pandemic we often feel exiled just as Israel in that time in Babylon away from their homes and their normal lives. In this situation we have found new ways to keep in touch, to share our faith and give support and love to those who are suffering the most. We keep on sowing the seeds of the Gospel message knowing that the Lord will send the rain necessary to make them grow and bear fruit. We have been able to continue with the planned activities, but through the internet "on line". We had to postpone the 14th Assembly until August 2022, always on line because the virus is still with us.

### Area/Unit concerns and challenges

Social action is a very important part of living our faith. "Faith divorced from deeds is lifeless" (James 2,26). At the present time the biggest problems we face are poverty and immigration and most of our Churches are involved in helping those people who have lost everything due to the economic crisis and those who are trying to escape from wars and hunger. The women in our Churches are up front in the distribution of food and clothing, in integrating into European society and Church life immigrants coming from many different cultures and economic situations.

Violence against women and children and femmicide are other problems in which we are very much involved, participating in demonstrations and volunteering in initiatives that are supporting women and children in these situations.

The war between Russia and Ukraine that started in **February 2022** is the cause of great suffering, in particular for the children and the elderly. Our sisters are involved in the work of centers that respond to their needs, to host young mothers with their children, orphans, abused women and assist the many needy. We all are against war, but still the war is not yet finished, as we are writing this report. All Europe, but mostly the neighboring countries like Poland, Slovak Republic, Hungary, Romania are welcoming and helping refugees from Ukraine. May God bless all these efforts, and let us be active for the Healing Of The Nations, all nations, as our Federation motto says.

Immigration remains a big problem especially in Europe with its mediteranean shores open to this influx. There are too many countries that do not want immigrants, too many times that governments do not allow ships to rescue people from the sea. Our churches, through humanitarian corridors and welcoming centers and communities are answering the challenge without asking: "**where do you come from?**"

### Appreciation of ministers' spouses

A book edited by the Waldensian and Methodist Women's Federation on the lives of ministers' wives, both past and present, was written in Italy.

In Hungary, a project has been started in 2015 to encourage pastors' wives and acknowledge all the services they are doing for the church, but also for their husbands and children. The hungarian women's mission task group wrote a letter to express gratitude that they are willing to follow their partners when new appointments are announced. It is not easy to change working place or schools or children and get new friends. Even if we know God is always there, still it is a great offering that deserves our appreciation. The task group in Hungary formulated a motion to their Annual Conference in 2017: Declare officially the birthday of Susanne Wesley (mother of methodism and wife of a pastor) **January 20 as "the day of pastors' spouses"**. On this special day husbands and wives of pastors shall be greeted and celebrated. We invite the local churches to do so. We also encourage sisters all over the world to celebrate and say thank you to the wives and husbands of their pastors.

There have been some changes in Italy as the national Congress in September renewed the National Council and elected Gabriella Rustici as the new President. Hungary has also elected a new president, Agnes Vadász. We remember Liljana Sjanta, former unit president in Serbia, who passed away. We miss her, but also ask God to bless Maria Virag who is the new unit president. There was another change in leadership in Czech Republic, Jolana Kruzikova is serving as unit leader from 2017. We ask the Lord to bless them in their new responsibilities.

---

## AREA REPORT – EUROPE: BRITAIN & IRELAND

---



Area President:  
Louise Wilson



Area Vice President:  
Carolyn Lawrence

### UNITS:

- Britain, MWiB – membership of approximately 110,000
  - Ireland, MWI – membership of approximately 1,500
- Both Unit's levies have been paid in full for 2016-2022*

### Joint European Area Seminar

Traditionally, because there are only two Units in our Area, we have held our Area Seminar jointly with the European: Continental Area. This provides greater diversity, as it is an opportunity to share our many different cultures and traditions. In 2018, 180 women from 19 countries attended the Seminar in Belfast, Northern Ireland. The theme was *'Chosen People, Called to Proclaim.'* One of the three ways in which we 'proclaim our faith' was the focus for each day: Worship on the Friday, with an exploration of Christian worship; Relationships on the Saturday, with a Bible Study by the Vice-President of the World Methodist Council, Gillian Kingston; and Social Action on the Sunday, with a presentation on the SDGs by the World Vice-President, Matilda Johnson.

There were several creative workshops on the Friday and SDG workshops on the Sunday. Saturday afternoon was free and included a tour of Belfast or an excursion to the Titanic Exhibition. Saturday evening involved fun and games, and some Irish dancing! Following the Seminar, a surplus income was transferred to the World Treasurer for Federation funds.



Ligia, Rachel, and Wanda, three of the four Helen Kim Memorial Scholars from both areas,

participated in the Assembly, by facilitating registration, organising the Prayer Room, and leading two of the SDG workshops.

### Weaving Together Program (WTP)

The four Area Officers, two HKMS and nine Unit Presidents joined with four of the World Officers for a time of mutual learning. This included use of the Ketso resource to identify achievements, concerns, and priorities for action. Rev Walla Carlsson from Sweden presided at our closing communion service.



## **Chosen People Called To Proclaim . . .**

A few examples . . .

### **. . . through WORSHIP**

MWiB are concerned with making worship as inclusive as possible and produced resources for churches to support people in our local congregations with visual and hearing impairments.

In response to the restrictions imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic, MWiB has provided funding for the ongoing production of a weekly short act of worship, based on the lectionary, for use in people's homes.

### **. . . through RELATIONSHIPS**

As well as attending each other's conferences, the Presidents and representatives of both Units have travelled to a variety of countries, speaking at conferences, visiting projects, and meeting local women in places such as: Fiji, Mexico, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Germany, Ghana, South Africa, India, Myanmar.

The good relationship between the two European Areas is further highlighted by the fact that one of the Area Presidents represents both Areas at the European Methodist Council and that we submit a joint report.

### **. . . through SOCIAL ACTION**

Locally, women from both Units have for many years been actively involved in a variety of social action projects and initiatives, such as: foodbanks; parent & toddler groups; carer support groups; luncheon clubs; women's refuges; and street pastors.

As a result of their overseas visits, MWiB has funded projects in Germany, Ghana, and Mexico, while MWI has funded projects in Myanmar. In addition, MWiB makes annual financial gifts to projects overseas that empower women and girls, as well as grants for projects at home aimed at fostering interest and involvement in social and community action.



**Methodist Women  
in Britain**

for women, for justice, for Christ

## **Programmes related to the SDG's:**

Much of the work of MWiB can be linked to the SDG's as well as inspired by them. Before the pandemic and lockdown, they held a World Federation Day each year, focusing on a different SDG: Gender Equality, Quality Education, Clean Water & Sanitation and have further highlighted these issues via social media and by producing a variety of resources.

The numbers of women and children suffering abuse and violence in the UK and Ireland has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic. Our Area has given particular emphasis to SDG 5 Gender Equality, producing the Study Day material in 2019 on the issue of ending violence against women. Both the MWiB and MWI Unit Presidents are members of the Connexional Committees shaping their Churches' responses to domestic abuse. MWI's current project is 'No Excuse for Abuse' raising awareness of the issue in our congregations and supporting local women's refuges. We encourage all our women to wear 'Black on Thursdays' – even in their own homes – to show our solidarity in stopping violence against women!

## **Area Concerns and Challenges:**

The Methodist Church in Ireland has recently restructured and there are forthcoming changes to the Methodist Church in Britain. Only time will tell how appropriate and effective the resulting changes in the structures of our women's organisations will be.

The challenges facing both Units are how to engage with younger women, especially through online and social media, and how to recruit for leadership posts.

As an Area, we are disappointed not to have properly followed up relationships established, and initiatives formed at the WTP, because of the pandemic. Going forward into the next quinquennium we hope to rectify that.

## **Celebrations:**

In 2021 Methodist Women in Britain celebrated their 10th anniversary. Bunting panels were made by Districts reflecting projects they supported, and a set of handmade glassware dishes were commissioned to mark the occasion.

## AREA REPORT – NORTH AMERICA



### ~ Affiliated Units ~

**African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ)**

**Christian Methodist Episcopal Church (CME)**

**Methodist Church Caribbean & the Americas (MCCA)**

**United Methodist Church (UMC)**

### ~ Associate Unit ~

**United Churches of Canada**

### ~ Officers ~

**Dr. Sandra L. Gadson, President**

**Mrs. Lois Grant-Hector, Vice President**

**Dr. Jeanette L. Bouknight, Secretary**

**Mrs. Rita L. Smith, Treasurer**

**Mrs. Judith Siaba, Archivist**

### **North America Seminar - October 13, 2019**

The Seminar used the theme, “Chosen People: Called to Proclaim”, and during the first evening, each Unit shared something of their history. This was particularly helpful for those who were first timers at such an event as it set each Unit in context and helped us to understand the background for each one. In addition, a fine display provided by the Archivist, Judith Siaba, and former Archivist Emmy Lou John, highlighted our own Federation history.

Three excellent Bible studies were led by Rev. Charlean Mapson, a minister from the AMEZ Church. She spoke about the meeting between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well and her evangelical message to the villagers (John 4), the call an response of the first disciples (Luke 5) and the call and proclamation ministry of Saul/Paul (1 Timothy 1 and Colossians 1:27. In each study we were shown how sensitive conversation can lead on to personal transformation and proclamation to others of the Good news about Christ.

World Officers were given ample time to share their reports. It was a delight to hear Dr. Brenda Smith, Federation Official Representative to the United

Nations in New York. She extended an invitation to visit her at the UN Headquarters. Dr. Smith gave a summary of the work done by the United Nations on wide-ranging global issues.

### **Region Seminars**

**July 23-25, 2020 – Region 10 Caribbean & the Americas**

**October 10, 2020 – Region 4 Midwest USA**

**October 31, 2020 – Region 1 Northeast**

### **Town Hall Meeting**

We held our Virtual Town Hall Meeting on Saturday, October 16, 2021. The theme was: “Reset, Recharge, Rejuvenate! – Post Pandemic”, with the scripture, Isaiah 43:19 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. Presidents and Mission representatives from the AMEZ, CME, MCCA and UWF participated in the program. The Keynote Speaker was Dr. Richard L. Watkins, PhD, who is a virologist at the University of North Carolina and a member of the CME Church. The World President, Alison Judd also spoke with words of encouragement. Officers for the next quinquennium were elected during the Town Hall.

### **Women's Home & Overseas Missionary Society (African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church)**

The purpose of the Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church is to promote growth in the knowledge and understanding of God and His plan of redemption for the world; teach concepts of Christian missions and provide experiences for participation in mission work and ministries; exemplify principles of Christian living and to win others to Christ; promote the cause of World Evangelism; and serve as a financial support system to undergird world mission outreach of the A.M.E. Zion Church at home and overseas.

Mrs Sandra B. Crowder, the 18<sup>th</sup> International President leads the W.H. & O.M. Society. For this quadrennium, missionaries have worked to win "The World For Christ" fighting for social justice (2019-2020), raised awareness for environmental stewardship (2020-2021), and will continue their work to provide transformative service (2021-2022), and complete the quadrennium to minister agape love (2022-2023). Our quadrennial theme mandates that we carry out the Great Commission, which calls us to make disciples for Christ.

### **Women's Missionary Council (Christian Methodist Episcopal Church)**

The Connectional Woman's Society was formally organized on September 3, 1918, at Capers Memorial Church in Nashville, Tennessee (USA). Dr. Jacqueline I. Scott was elected President at the Quadrennial Assembly in 2019. The WMC continues to support churches in the United States, Haiti, Jamaica and Africa. The mission outreach is an ongoing project to those in need.

The Helena B. Cobb Scholarship and the Princess Ann Pegues Save Our Sons Scholarship provides four-year scholarships for graduating seniors through a competition and are awarded at the Quadrennial Assembly. An online application was created to streamline the submission of the student's application. In addition, \$200 grants are given each year to students who apply.

### **Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas**

The MCCA Women continue to be guided by the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Quinquennial theme: 'Chosen people: Called to Proclaim' based on 1 Peter 2:9.

At the MCCA Women's Seminar held in Antigua in 2018, a Strategic Plan was developed to be implemented by the women over three (3) years. This was in keeping with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, each District was asked to focus on an area most applicable to the needs of their District and took steps to implement them during the period. Mrs. Jennifer Smith serves as the President.

### **United Methodist Women, now United Women in Faith**

Several initiatives were accomplished during this quinquennium:

More than 6,000 women were convened for the quadrennial, "The Power of Bold" Assembly. The Solar Equity Initiative was launched in partnership with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Vote Solar, Grid Alternatives and others to connect low-income and communities of color across the nation with solar energy infrastructure for homes and community centers, as well as skills training for solar jobs. Living Wage 4 All campaign was launched to advocate for a living wage for all. Members were mobilized to support the Preventing Maternal Deaths Act (HR 1318), which was signed into law on December 21, 2018. 150 years of service with women, children, and youth was celebrated. Spoke out against specifically anti-Black and anti-Asian racism as members joined marches and vigils. A statement was issued, "Black Lives Matter to God" and three grants were announced to organizations working for racial justice.

In 2022 United Women in Faith launched a new brand that communicates how we connect spiritual women to act boldly for justice and transform communities because we believe love in action can change the world.

**The North America Area continues to be a supportive body of the World Federation of Methodist & Uniting Church Women. As we are "Chosen People: Called to Proclaim; Through Worship, Through Social Justice, Through Relationships" at home and abroad.**

*Humbly submitted,  
Dr. Sandra Gadson, President, North America Area*

---

## AREA REPORT – LATIN AMERICA

---



**Area President:**

Leila de Jesus Barbosa

**Area Vice-President:**

Jessica Milagros Solar Munayco

**UNITS:**

Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Costa Rica;  
Mexico; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Uruguay



**"Chosen Women Called to Proclaim: Hear the Voice of God".** Our objective is to develop sensitivity to hear the voice of God, bringing hope to all of Latin America and the Caribbean, transforming the region with love. Verse 6 in Isaiah chapter 18 prompts us: *"Then I heard the voice of God, saying, whom I shall send, and who will go for us? And I answered: here I am, send me."*

I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him these nearly six years, through the Latin America and the Caribbean Area, along with my fellow officers, especially the Area Vice President Jessica Solar. What a blessing, what a challenge, but many victories!

We worked these years trying to reach out to the units/countries that were distant from our Area. With that in mind, we used all possible resources in order to reach them all, including Facebook and asking the Bishops for help. Today, we have the great joy of being able to say that we are all united. Even though not all countries are Federated Units, we can say that there are 10 (ten) affiliated units – Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay - and 3 (three) more will be received by the World Federation during the Online World Assembly - Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and El Salvador. Ecuador and Guatemala are only affiliated to our Area; Colombia, despite working hard, is solely sympathizer to the work. Nicaragua is fighting to get it organized again, and Venezuela is very interested in forming a Methodist women's group. Honduras has participated in some programs, but it still does not have an organized group. Cuba has withdrawn and does not want to be part of our Area due to long-standing problems with previous officers. Nonetheless, we are in contact with all 18 units/countries, seeking to help them organize and reorganize themselves, so that they soon will all be full members of our Latin America and the Caribbean Area.

The Seminars held in Costa Rica and Brazil were of great importance to everyone, as they were moments of training and strengthening the Christian sisterhood. Many new friendships and work emerged from these training seminars. Here we share our appreciation to the women's president of Costa Rica, Zulay Palomo, for all the support given for this event to be held, and also to Revd. Margarida Ribeiro who here in São Paulo,

Brazil, gave us all the support, including at the Area Seminar organized by the World Federation. In these seminars, we worked a lot with the theme of valuing women, and we certainly experienced very liberating moments in the conversation circles led by the Revd. Andrea Reily. The Area Seminar held in São Paulo in



April 2019 was a watershed event for us! What a unique opportunity to be able to receive and live with the World Officers for a week! I thank God for these precious moments where we were able to enjoy the dynamics of Ketso led by world officials and enjoy the company of sisters from different countries and the presence of Helen Kim Scholars. This opportunity was certainly very important to me as a leader in the Latin America Area. A lot of learning came out of being able to ask questions and hear about the work of women worldwide, with translators from our own country!

We have been working to promote the lives of women, sharing about the violence practiced against them and with women considered marginalized. In my city, this work being done in partnership with the Catholic Church. Our Area is well involved in the Thursdays in Black Campaign, including organizing marches in various places, before the pandemic.



From March 2020, with the arrival of the pandemic, everything changed! Many plans were left unfulfilled. However, God, in His sovereign will, gave us the ability to learn new ways of working and, we discovered that it was good, very good! Slowly we understood the tools we had in our hands, and soon we were reaching hundreds of women around the world. Many people gathered at the same time; many people were being able to listen and speak through the Zoom platform. Today we look at everything we did in these two years of the pandemic, and we are amazed and delighted to be able to talk to anyone at any time. Therefore, our TENT expanded; we met a lot of people who otherwise, that is in person, would be impossible. And we have preached the word of God to many groups in other countries, and we have spoken to women in other countries; we see their effort to learn and to participate. What a blessing that is!

Our area managed to help many people and ourselves. During the pandemic, through the work of Revd. Andrea Reily with the United Methodist Women who sponsored these meetings, we organized Conversation



Circles or Welcome Space every 15 days. The meetings were led by the community therapists Eluzinete Pereira and Dr. Eduardo Campaña from Muyumpa, Ecuador (Integrative Systemic Community Therapy). Also sponsored by the United Methodist Women through Revd. Andrea Reily, two Crisis and Consolation Courses were organized with the participation of several women. The courses met weekly for a period of 4 weeks. They were also led by therapists Eluzinete Pereira and Dr. Eduardo Campaña.

We are also experiencing the situation of having our in-person congress postponed twice; however, thanks to the good God, it will take place from April 28th to May 1st, 2022.

There were moments of great tension and fear, but at all times we felt the company of our God supporting and consoling us in the midst of the afflictions that this pandemic caused in the world.

All we ask God at this moment is that our congress be held according to His will and that we can be richly blessed at all times, especially when traveling!

***Leila de Jesus Barbosa***

***Area President, Latin America and Caribbean Area***

# Rooted and Grounded in Love

Words by Gareth Hill  
Music by Joe Nurse

**A** Verse 1, 2 & 3

**1** C Dm7 C/E

We will de - light in the Lord:  
We will a - bide in the Lord:  
We will re - main in the Lord:

**5** F Am7 Dm7 G

souls that re - joice in the good - ness of God, for  
lives that are rich with the fruit of his Word. We'll  
child - ren of hope with a song to be heard. Our

**9** G/B C(sus4) C Em/G# Am7

he has re - deemed us, loved us and freed us, to  
car - ry his heal - ing, our wor - ship re - veal - ing the  
har - mo - nies grow, till all the world knows we

**13** Dm7 C/E F G

flou - rish and praise him for e - - ver.  
depth of his love for the na - - tions.  
live in the love of the Fa - - ther.

**17** F/A G/B

A - - - - - men!

**19** **B** Refrain C F C(sus4) C

Root - ed and ground - ed in love, \_\_\_\_\_

**23** F/A C/G D7/F# G(sus4) G

friends of a Sav - iour a - bove. \_\_\_\_\_

**27** F C/G Em/G# Am7

Sent to bear fruit, ho - ly fruit that will last - a

**31** Dm7 G(sus4) C C(sus4)

har - vest of hea - ven - ly grace. \_\_\_\_\_

**35** C C(sus4)

---

## Outline of Bible Study & Discussion Questions

---

When we look at the story of the Bible, we see much imagery about gardening and farming. The whole story begins in a garden, with Eve and Adam seizing fruit which had been forbidden to them. What sort of harvest followed that? Where does our Federation logo, the Tree of Life, fit into this picture of fruitfulness?

As women, we may approach the idea of bearing fruit with some trepidation – not all of us have or will become mothers. How is our own physicality bound up with our spirituality and our potential to bear fruit? We will not pretend this is an easy topic and we will pause to reflect on our own emotions – painful as well as joyful, as we seek to understand the cycle of seeds and fruit, of productivity.

Later, as Abraham began to be formed by God to be the ‘father of multitudes’ his wife, Sarah, becomes ‘fruitful’ at an unusually late stage in life. What harvest follows from that? Later again, once they had settled in the Promised Land, the Hebrew people began to cultivate vineyards and other crops – indeed, their nation became identified with a vineyard. Sometimes the nation was fruitful, sometimes not. All of these stories from the Hebrew scriptures will provide the background to the coming of Jesus and to the particular passage we will study in John’s Gospel (15:1-17).

In these verses Jesus is clearly picking up on the idea of Israel as a vineyard, but now he identifies himself with the true vine in the last of the seven ‘I am’ sayings which John records in his gospel. What did those who heard Jesus say ‘I am the true vine’ understand that to mean? As we enter into that intimate evening just before the death of Jesus and hear him speak these words to his disciples, we will wonder what they might mean for us too to be called to be the branches of the vine which is Jesus? The heart of the passage, verse 11, speaks of us receiving joy. What does Jesus mean by joy – and what is the relationship of joy to bearing fruit?

We come together from many nations and many situations, but we are all called by Christ to bear fruit wherever we are in whatever conditions we find ourselves. We are all part of this same rich cycle of seedtime and harvest – planting and reaping – seeds and fruit. Can we see this cycle as the relationship between spirituality, productivity, and sustainability? How might that result in us bearing fruit today?

---

### Discussion Questions:

---

1. How do we react to the idea that Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches of that vine, who can do nothing without Jesus?
  2. What is our experience of joy? Is it the same as happiness?
  3. Are we aware of this cycle of growth in our own lives? What are the seeds we have been given by God? What is the fruit we are bearing? How is this cycle repeating itself?
- 
-

---

## WORKSHOPS

---

### **REDUCING POVERTY: Workshop 1:**

#### **Advocating Project Proposal Writing: Reducing Poverty Through Spiritual, Social and Economic Growth**

Women around the world form the larger population but are often left on the margins. This workshop will help women address poverty in their communities through spiritual, social, and economic growth. Reducing poverty starts with knowing God, self, and others, and having life skills. The workshop contents include: an introduction; goals and objectives; connecting with God, self, and others; life survival skills; and simple steps in writing project proposals and sourcing grants and funds. Women will go out bearing fruit in their family, community, church, nation, and the world at large.

#### **Leader: Dr Muriel Nelson**



Dr Muriel Nelson is Conference President of United Methodist Women in Liberia and is the nominee for West Africa Area President from 2022 to 2026. She is Dean of the Bryant Theological Seminary, A.M.E. University; Adjunct Faculty – Bishop John G Innis Graduate School, United Methodist University in Liberia. Her Doctor of Ministry degree had an emphasis on ‘Women in Ministry: Theological Education and Church Leadership.’ As a professor, facilitator and counsellor, Dr Nelson has been a long-term advocate for women, children, and youth.

She is married to Dr Julius S Nelson Jr; they have seven biological and several adopted and spiritual children.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

*(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

What word can you use to best describe poverty?

How does poverty affect your community?

Why is poverty reduction needed in your community?

How is poverty reduction related to spiritual, social, and economic growth?

Are life skills important for economic empowerment?

How was this presentation helpful?

---

### **REDUCING POVERTY: Workshop 2:**

#### **“How do you understand this phrase: poverty at every step often has a woman’s face . . .?”**

Supporting other people is an essential part of the mission and vocation of service for each one of us. No one can eradicate poverty alone, but we can help each other to do so. The work of the churches, institutions or movements cannot replace the efforts of each individual person. Helping people in need is not just a matter of money. Many of us want to contribute in other ways, but sometimes we don't know how. This workshop will attempt to give another vision of poverty and how to help in a way that is not just ‘patching over’ the problem with silence or actions.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

*(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

What are we doing as Methodist women inside and outside our churches, our communities? What do you do in your own daily life?

What is it that we are not seeing on a daily basis? Are we incapable of seeing the effects that poverty generates in the family, neighbourhoods, and communities?

What are some of the realities that challenge us to see clearly as citizens of our societies, of our own communities, where we live worried about life, family life, economic and social health?

How can we contribute to alleviating poverty and this lack of resources today and in the future? What actions can we take as women that can make a difference in the future and in life today?

**Leader: Jessica Solar**



Jessica Solar is from Lima in Peru. She is currently the Latin America Area Vice-President and is the nominee for Area President from 2022-2026. Jessica studied Economic Sciences with specialist courses in Administration and Finance. She is completing her studies for a 'Master's degree in Administration and Social Management', as well as a 'Bachelor's degree in Ministries', at the Wesleyan Theological Seminary in Lima – all while working as an Administrator at Colegio America del Callao. She also has the blessing of pastoring two Methodist churches located south of Lima. Jessica is living a new stage in her life since losing her beloved husband, Carlos, to Covid. They shared forty years together and were blessed with two beautiful children.

**GENDER JUSTICE: Workshop 1:**

**Gender Justice**

You and I cannot only be defined by a social construct, by gender; we are defined by God, by the gift of the power of the image of God, so that we can help, support, and protect people who are in need. This workshop will look at what it means to be like the 'Bent-over Woman' in John 13:10-17. We will listen to the voices of women throughout history around gender issues and reflect on their experiences.

**Leader: Deaconess Emma Cantor**



Emma A. Cantor is a United Women in Faith Regional Missionary for the Asia and the Pacific, International Ministries with Women, Youth and Children. She is a Deaconess of the United Methodist Church, a trainer in leadership development and gender education for women and

youth. She works with women and youth organizations in Asia for economic development, justice, and peace agenda. She develops young women to trust and believe in themselves as powerful leaders in creating a just and humane society. She helps organize networks for children's ministries in faith building nurturing and caring communities for children.

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

*(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

What is our vision of a just and peaceful world?

What individual and collective commitment do we all share for a just and kind world for women, men, youth, and children of earth?

What kind of systems and networks do we need to build for a just and orderly world?

What statements, creed, and principles do we as members commit to this great world body, the WFMUCW, for a peaceful Cosmic Earth and humanity?

## **GENDER JUSTICE: Workshop 2:**

### **Equality: Reconciling the Reality and the Practice**

Women created equal with men, in the image of God. Reality. Sin distorts this reality in the practice of the world systems which foster and promote inequality, and within men and women who propagate this untruth through thought and practice: men treating women unequally, with women regarding themselves as unequal and other women in the same way. Through the study of God's word this workshop will look at the ways Jesus restored this equality both before His death, through His interaction with women, and then through the Holy Spirit after His ascension, and how we can live it in both reality and practice. We will hear from three women in different parts of the world about their experiences of gender equality or inequality.

#### **Leader: Julie Caddick**



First and foremost, Julie Caddick sees herself as a daughter of God and recognises the accompanying privileges and responsibilities. Secondly, she is a wife of thirty-eight years, mother to four sons, 'grandzee' to one granddaughter, and friend to many. Julie knows that through God's grace in His nature, and the family into which she married, she has been liberated and nurtured as a woman. This fuels her passion to empower women to fulfil their God-given potential, to be

comfortable and enjoy their womanhood, however that may be for each as individuals. She is British by birth, Zimbabwean to the core, and a citizen of the Kingdom.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

*(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

Do you see or experience gender inequality in your life, at home, at work, in the community, or in the Church? If so, briefly describe it. If not, describe your experience of gender equality.

Are my thoughts, attitudes, specifically in my church, formed and fuelled by the church politics and traditions in our culture (all three can have value) or by an understanding of Jesus' life and teachings and the truths expounded in the writings of the New Testament?

What is the one thing that I would like to see changed in this area of gender either in my church or society or in the wider context of the world-wide church?

Is there something I could realistically do about what I would like to see changed?

## **HEALTH & WELL-BEING: Workshop 1:**

### **Living in Abundant Health**

As a woman who has struggled for 50 years with food – endless dieting, losing weight, gaining more – and experiencing defeat, ill health, and constant condemnation, Melanie is discovering the freedom of health, vibrancy, and restoration through eating whole foods that our Creator has made. She is absolutely passionate about sharing truths that can set us free from oppression, from the theft of our health and life as the children of God, through simple changes and truth! Melanie believes with her whole heart that we are made for more, and that our Lord desires for us to walk into abundant life! In this workshop she will share from her own experience how we can finally find victory and health!

#### **FOR REFLECTION:** *(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

We have been placed in this world to do important work which we cannot do if we do not have good health. Do you believe that we are created with all we need to be healthy? Do you know and believe that this is God's perfect will for you?

Ask God to show you where your life and your health are being destroyed, where the years are being stolen from you, where moments of joy are being stolen. (John 10:10)

Reflect on what you might change in your lifestyle in order to have life *more abundantly*.

**Leader: Melanie Douglas**



Melanie Douglas is a 61-year-old daughter of the King! Wife of John, mum to three grown up humans, step- mum to two other grown-up children, and blessed to be Nanny to eight tiny humans who make her giggle and fill her heart to overflowing. She worked as a nurse for thirty-five years and is now lay pastoral assistant in a Methodist church in a small seaside town in Northern Ireland.

**HEALTH & WELL-BEING: Workshop 2:  
Building Good Relationships**

Jesus teaches us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love our neighbour as ourselves. In this workshop we will look at how we can maintain a good relationship with God and with others, even when those relationships are difficult or cause us stress. We will also think about our relational circles and how to invest in those relationships that will build us up and to let go of those that are destructive.

**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION OR DISCUSSION:**

(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)

Simplicity in our relationships with others begins with Jesus being the centre of our lives. Is Jesus the centre of your life and being or an 'add on' to your life? Do all your decisions flow from that core relationship?

Have you been wronged by someone? What type of wrong is it?

Do you get upset and angry easily? Are you too sensitive when it comes to yourself? Do people have to walk on egg shells around you? Are you carrying a grudge over something minor that someone has done or said? Why is that? Are you depleted? Are there issues in your life you haven't dealt with? Do you need to regain perspective about what is important in life?

Are you carrying the hurt from real wrongs that need resolution and healing? We need to acknowledge the wrong doing, grieve over it, then forgive and move on.

Have you been hurt by a life shattering injustice? Do you need to seek prayer, support and counselling?

How many true friends do you have? Do your relationships cause you stress and anxiety or bring peace and calm? Are there destructive or harmful people in your life?

Are you trying to be a true friend to too many people?

What is your preferred way of receiving love from others? Reflect on the way you show love and care to your friends and family and whether you can begin to learn to speak another's love language?

**Leader: Carolyn Lawrence**



Carolyn Lawrence is the current Europe: Britain & Ireland Area Vice-President and was the Vice President of the Methodist Church in Britain for 2020-2021. She has a background in primary education and as an educational Mission Partner with the MCCA in Guyana, South America. Since returning to the UK she has worked in a voluntary capacity within the Methodist Church as a preacher and leader and has also worked with the Global Relationships team helping to engage people with the worldwide network of partner churches. She currently works in her community as a Debt Centre Manager for a Christian charity. Carolyn is passionate about the 'Great Commission' and has a heart for sharing the love of Jesus through preaching, teaching, pastoral care, and social action.

### **ELIMINATING VIOLENCE: Workshop:**

#### **Eliminating Violence, Working Towards Peace and Reconciliation**

This workshop is in the form of a discussion with Hedva, a Jewish believer in Christ, and Shireen a Palestinian Christian. They share their experiences of violence and of being women involved in a movement towards eliminating violence through peace and reconciliation. Hedva and Shireen share how their relationship as a Jew and Arab developed into a deep friendship of respect and love for one another. They challenge us through their stories and experiences to be women of God who, not only pray for peace, but are active in non-violent responses as a means towards peace and reconciliation.

**Leader: Rev. Angleena Keizer**



Angleena Keizer is a British Methodist minister. She was ordained in 2005 and served in the East Anglia district for more than 10 years. She was a minister in the Kings Lynn and Ely and Newmarket Circuits. Angleena has a passion for serving overseas and undertook many short international missions before becoming a Mission Partner. She served as a Mission Partner for two years at Kollupitya Methodist Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka, before relocating to serve with the Methodist Liaison Office in Jerusalem in 2018. Angleena enjoys travelling, walking, watching film and spending time with her family and friends. She is committed to non-violent ways to seek justice and peace.

**FOR REFLECTION:** *(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

What have you heard from Hedva and Shireen that has challenged your understanding of the Holy Land?

What forms of violence have you experienced or witnessed in your communities or your land? How has that made you feel?

What are you going to do about it? Are you going to be part of the solution or the problem? Where is the Lord calling you to eliminate violence in your home, your family or friends, in your community or nation?

## **CARE FOR CREATION: Workshop 1:**

### **A Reflection on COP 26**

During this workshop we will reflect on the United Nation's Climate Change Conference, COP26, which took place in November of 2021. Mollie will be considering whether or not the conference was a success, how it impacted wider society, and why it became a reason to put climate 'back on the agenda'.

**Leader: Mollie Pugmire**



Mollie Pugmire currently works for the Methodist Church in Britain as Communications and Advocacy Officer for 'All We Can' – an international development and relief organisation. Before that, she worked for the Methodist Church in Britain on their campaign, Climate Justice for All (CJ4A), with young people from across the globe. This campaign sought to mobilise the global

Methodist family on issues of climate justice in preparation for the United Nation's Climate Change Conference (COP26).

#### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

*(while you are watching the Workshop video on YouTube)*

What do you think when you hear the phrase climate crisis?

What are you currently doing within your own community to tackle the climate crisis?

Who are the voices that you're listening to on issues of climate justice?

Where is your support coming from to sustain you as you take action?

## **CARE FOR CREATION: Workshop 2:**

### **Why care about carbon footprints?**

This Workshop will explore why, as Christians, we are called to care for creation. Caroline will give a brief overview of the current global environmental crisis, and the biblical mandate to be good stewards of creation. Using the work of Climate Stewards as an example, she will describe how to measure, reduce and offset your carbon footprint, focusing on some of Climate Stewards' partner projects in the majority world.

**Leader: Caroline Pomeroy**



Caroline Pomeroy has been the Director of Climate Stewards since 2013. Climate Stewards provides advice and online tools to help individuals, churches, and other organisations to measure, reduce and offset their carbon emissions. Climate Stewards is part of the A Rocha worldwide family. Caroline has an MSc in Climate Change Impacts and Sustainability. She spent five years living in Ghana and Rwanda, working on community and environmental projects with Tearfund and other NGOs. More recently she was an environmental advisor to the Diocese of Bath and Wells. She is a churchwarden of her village church and loves cycling, walking and gardening.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

*(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

Why do you think it is important for Christians to care for creation?

What is your main 'take-away' from this workshop? What have you learned?

Does your church or organisation measure its carbon footprint? If not, can you encourage them to do so?

## **CREATIVE: Workshop 1:**

### **Making the most of websites and social media**

This will be a workshop based upon how to improve and encourage engagement in the online spaces of the WFMUCW, such as: the World Federation website, Facebook page, Twitter profile, as well as any other online or social media that the WFMUCW currently uses or will use in the future. The workshop will cover: content that can be added to the website and social media; how to encourage the use of these online resources; and how the website and social media can be improved overall.

**Leader: Naomi Allison**



Naomi Allison lives in London, Britain and grew up in the North of England. Methodism has always been a large part of her life, with a Methodist minister mother and local preacher father, church was, and remains, incredibly important to her. She is currently an engineering student and has taught programming in primary schools across London. Naomi will be taking over as Website Manager for WFMUCW and says that working with the

Federation to help improve the use of online resources will unite two things that have both had a huge impact on her life – faith and technology.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:**

*(after you have watched the Workshop video on YouTube)*

What have your experiences been with the WFMUCW online, whether through the website, email or social media?

If you do not use the platforms discussed above what, if any, online resources do you use?

Do you feel more connected with members of the Federation across the world because of social media? do so?

Are there changes that could be made to improve your experience with WFMUCW online?

## **CREATIVE: Workshop 2:**

### **How shall we sing in many strange lands at once?**

We are online and pre-recorded. We are in different time zones. We sing in different languages. We know this new con-COVID world is strange. Methodists sing in community. We are not soloists nor passive observers. We sing as people of God, singing for the sanctification of our communities and the sake of the world. In this Workshop we will look at how to use technology to share and participate in the Wesleyan tradition and practice of singing courageously. We will be challenged to think about how the mission-field is opening up to us in new and exciting ways. We will rethink and reimagine worship.

**Leader: Rev Dr Amelia Koh-Butler**



Sydney-based Amelia Koh-Butler sang opera in France and studied choral conducting before being ordained as Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia. Her doctorate explored using music in uniting diverse groups to build missional communities. Her post-doctoral research has been in developing multi-ethnic digital church communities. She is learning how to be a digital church leader in multiple languages. She is Eastwood Congregation's Team Leader and lectures for Northwind Seminary (Fl.USA), Neighbourhood Seminary (USA), Tabor, Flinders and Charles Sturt Universities (Australia). Amelia serves as the Worship and Liturgy Convenor for the World Methodist Council and Steering Committee.