



World Federation
of Methodist and
Uniting Church Women



2022 WORLD FEDERATION STUDY DAY PROGRAM

PREPARED BY: SOUTHERN AND EAST AFRICA AREA.

Theme: Poverty, Hunger and Education: Focusing on developing sustainable women empowerment programs.

INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere.

Now is the time to change. Covid 19 has upended our lives. The ways we work, the way we interact, the way we move about, this can be a turning point. Let us seize the moment and change course- towards more sustainable lifestyles.

Small changes in your daily life can save you money, improve your health and help harmful pollution. www.un.org.

This year's study program is focusing 3 Sustainable Development Goals [SDG]

www.un.org/sustainabledevelopmentgoals

SDG 1: No Poverty

Eradicating poverty in all its forms remains one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Too many are still struggling for the most basic human needs.

SDG 2: Zero Hunger

This is the drive aimed at ending hunger, to achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable Agriculture. Hunger and malnutrition are barriers to sustainable development because hungry people are less productive, more prone to disease and less able to improve their livelihoods.

SDG 4: Quality Education

In addition to free primary and secondary schooling for all boys and girls by 2030, the aim is to provide equal access to affordable vocational training, eliminating gender and wealth disparities to achieve a universal access to quality higher education.

Education is the key that will allow many other Sustainable Development Goals to be achieved. When people can get quality education, they can break from the cycle of poverty.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/news/education-ambition-independence-mathilda-johnson-shares-hope-for-her-sisters-in-africa>

1. WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

2. DECLARATION OF COMMITMENT

WE BELIEVE

in God, who gave life to us and all creation.
In Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, God with us, who died,
Is Risen, ascended, and will come again,
In Holy Spirit, who is with us to inspire and direct,
To empower and strengthen,
For Christ is risen Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

WE AFFIRM

That the earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;
all that God has made was very good.
that Jesus came that all might have life and have it in fullness.
that we are called to go and make disciples of all nations.
that we are bound together as one family.
that we seek "To Know Christ and To Make Him Known".
For Christ has risen Christ has risen indeed. Alleluia!

WE CONFESS

that our lives have often denied what we have professed.
that we have sometimes failed to see in our neighbours
those for who Christ died.
that we have erected and maintained
barriers of race, class, and gender.
although we have sinned, we can know
the assurance of forgiveness
and begin anew to follow the Living saviour.
For Christ has risen Christ has risen indeed. Alleluia!

WE COMMIT OURSELVES

to worship God in spirit and on truth.
to further the work of God's Kingdom among all people
to uphold and live Christ's way in all areas of life.
to love the Lord our God with all our heart and soul,
With all our mind and strength.
To love our neighbours as ourselves.

3. OPENING SONG: Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, Hymn 66 Methodist English Hymn Book

4. BIBLE READINGS: ON POVERTY AND HUNGER

Acts 4 verses 32:37

Acts 11 verses 27:30

Isaiah 58 verse 10

Proverbs 14 verse 31

Leviticus 19 verse 9 - 10

Deuteronomy 15 verse 11

BIBLE READINGS: ON EDUCATION

Acts 6 verses 1: 7

Ecclesiastes 9 verse 18

Proverbs 9 verse 9 :10

5. DISCUSSION POINT

SHARE EXAMPLES OF ACTIONS TAKEN TO REDUCE POVERTY IN YOUR UNIT OR AREA.

What can we do to eradicate poverty and hunger?

6. PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

LET US PRAY: POVERTY, HUNGER AND EDUCATION

Almighty God, while we appreciate with humility the power of your Holy Spirit that has sustained us as humankind throughout time immemorial, we confess our sins for deepening the poverty that already exists in our world. We have made the poor become poorer rather than get them out of both slavery and the abject poverty. Forgive us for this sin. Help us Lord to help one another to end poverty instead of fanning its ugly face on earth. We confess our sin of using other people to become wealthy.

We confess our sins for causing hunger through lack of access to resources that we personally withheld for our own reasons. In certain instances, we have sold food meant for the less privileged for our own selfish reasons, forgive us O God. Liberate our selfish minds. Help us to appreciate that we can be a blessing to other people especially those that are hungry by feeding them. As your word says when we feed those who are hungry, we do it for the Lord, help us to provide for the needy at all appropriate times. Remind us Lord to share the little that we have with those in need.

We confess our sin of denying basic and quality education to our people in the global village. In some instances, we have denied access to education to deserving individuals and communities, robbing them of the opportunity to receive their enlightenment and empowerment. Merciful God forgive us. Lord, we depend on you to capacitate us to be able to provide adequate resources to educate our society for the benefit of all humankind.

We pray all this in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, AMEN.

7. DISCUSSION POINT

ARE WE DOING ENOUGH TO ENABLE THE GIRL CHILD TO ATTEND SCHOOL? IF SO, SHARE OWN EXPERIENCES?

LET US PRAY

Leader: Almighty God, on this day we come to you as it is difficult to see children die from hunger. We pray to You to give them today and every other day their daily bread and end their persistent hunger. Provide the food they need to grow and thrive. Pour out your Grace over hungry families, especially parents struggling to feed their children despite dwindling resources.

Response: Lord you are our bread of life.

Leader: Sharing yourself in the bread and wine,

You called all to the table, O Lord.

Give us the hunger to be a part of feeding the nations and the healing of this world.

Nourish us with your Grace and open our eyes and hearts to recognize those in poverty

And increase our love for one another in order to share in the one loaf.

Response: In your name we pray for the end of hunger.

Leader: Great deliverer, we pray against the ripple effects of Covid-19, wars etc. that create poverty in this world. Everything is possible for one who believes so help us to believe and continue praying for our people.

Response: Father hear our cry and heal our land.

Leader:

Let us pray for the farmers, those who lack access to water and other resources, and for the light of research and support services to shine in the lives of all God's people.

We pray for health and strength of women, that in building families be empowered to strengthen their communities and repair the bridges which divide nations and peoples.

Response: Father in your name open the flood gates of Heaven.

Leader:

Let us pray for an end to the waste and desecration of God's creation, for access to the fruits of creation to be shared equally among all people, and for communities and nations to find sustenance in the fruits of the earth and the water God has given us.

We pray for all nations and people who already enjoy the abundance of creation and the blessings of prosperity, that, their hearts may be lifted up to the needs of the poor and afflicted, and partnerships between rich and poor for the reconciliation of the world may flourish and grow.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer and open up our hearts to those in need.

Leader:

Father God, in the power of the Holy Spirit we bring our concerns and worries about education and all people involved in this work.

As your spirit of wisdom fills the earth and teaches us your ways. Look upon these educators and let them strive to share their knowledge with gentle patience and endeavor always to bring the truth to eager minds. Grant that they may follow Jesus Christ in everything they do.

Response: Teach us Your ways O God and renew the spirit wisdom in us.

Leader:

Let us realize that we are not more intelligent than You. You are the source of Wisdom and we ask You to be the wisdom and knowledge that our students need. Let the fear of God spread throughout our educational system so our students can know wisdom. As a nation, we have traded the truth for a lie therefore open our eyes and minds to Your wisdom and truth.

Response:

Our future is in Your hands Heavenly Father; we need You now more than ever.

Amen.

HYMN. The 14th World Assembly Hymn

We will delight in the Lord:
souls that rejoice in the goodness of God,
for he has redeemed us,
loved us and freed us,
to flourish and praise him forever. Amen!

*Rooted and grounded in love,
friends of the Saviour above.
Sent to bear fruit,
holy fruit that will last
- a harvest of heavenly grace*

We will abide in the Lord:
lives that are rich with the fruit of his Word.
We'll carry his healing,
our worship revealing
the depth of his love for the nations. Amen!

Rooted and grounded in love ...

We will remain in the Lord:
children of hope with a song to be heard.
Our harmonies grow
till all the world knows
we live in the love of the Father. Amen!

*Rooted and grounded in love,
friends of the Saviour above.
Sent to bear fruit,
holy fruit that will last
- a harvest of heavenly grace*

*Sent to bear fruit,
holy fruit that will last
a harvest of heavenly grace. Amen!*

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8. PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, how can we ever thank you enough? Lord, you endured more pain, more shame, more sorrow, more grief than we can possibly fathom.

ALL: We give thanks

LEADER: For the laughter of the children, the gift of neighbours and friends for our own breath and for the abundance of food on our tables.

ALL: We give thanks O God

LEADER: for all who have laboured and suffered for a fairer world, who have lived so that the hungry will have something on their table.

ALL: We give thanks this day

LEADER: for every answered prayer for those who are trapped in extreme poverty and were feeling hopeless and helpless.

ALL: Show us how to respond

LEADER: for all those women who have challenged the stereotypes of society and risked standing alone for less fortunate in the communities.

ALL: We give thanks this day

LEADER: for those women who have struggled in their time to minister to the needs of those who are hurt, disadvantaged, and alienated in our land

ALL: We give thanks O God

LEADER: for all government leaders who make education a priority through where they invest their resources.

ALL: We give thanks this day

LEADER: for all who have labored and suffered for a fairer world who have lived so that the hungry will have something on their table.

ALL: We give thanks O God

LEADER: for every individual taking a firm commitment to make education opportunities for the vulnerable and marginalized in our communities a privilege.

ALL: We give thanks O God

PSALMS 100 WHILE ALL KNEELING DOWN

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise be thankful unto him and bless his name. For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

All: AMEN! PRAISE BE TO GOD FOREVER

9.NB: INTRODUCE SERMON OR SPEAKER TO TALK ABOUT ELIMINATION OF POVERTY.

What are the three major challenges to poverty eradication?

How can we solve the poverty problem in communities?

10. PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Heavenly father, our Everlasting God, the God of the universe, thank you that every good and perfect gift of life comes from you, the father of lights. Thank you that there is nowhere we can go that is beyond your presence, the Prince of peace, thank you that we are never alone.

As we come Lord before your throne of grace as the women in this world, standing in gap asking for your immediate intervention to release your power to deliver us from evil and uncomfortable situations that your people in the whole world find themselves struggling to cope with.

Cleanse our hearts oh mighty God, show us as we want to repent any unconfessed sins in our own lives so that our prayers for others will not be hindered.

We Live in difficult times where the Devil is in high competition fighting with all those who are called to proclaim your Gospel, the masses in this whole world have lost hope feeling hurt, dismayed and despondent because of the storms that are hitting their progress, beliefs and faith in knowing you God who saves and provide in time where they need your visibility the most. Regardless of whatever is happening right now, we still believe you are the God who will never leave us nor forsake us Your Presence calms the troubled sea of our lives and speaks peace and prosperity in our lives.

Dear God please rise up leaders who will serve you faithfully at all costs, turn the hearts of fathers towards their children and families towards you, help them to exemplify your values and make them strong and bold in their faith.

We pray for Teachers, for students and for all those in Authority and Leadership in different countries, give them, give them your mind, and surround them with Godly counselors who will exercise integrity and work for justice, morality, and freedom for all who cannot speak for themselves assist them dear Lord not to dismiss you but to Esteem you instead.

Your people Lord are Hurting Physically, Psychologically, Emotionally. Economic instability emanating from the Global warming, the war between Russia and Ukraine, natural disasters, Civil unrests, and poverty, even in times of Crisis like these you always remain a faithful God, as you have proved to Love the World that you gave it your only begotten son that whoever believeth in him should not perish but have an everlasting life.

We pray Mighty God for the different Pandemic, that comes, kill and destroy your people, we pray to you God to heal all the sick people with communicable and non -Communicable diseases.

Gender based Violence Lord has stolen many lives of your people, some have lost their identities and crying uncontrollable in different Psychiatric hospitals, some have even lost their lives in the hands of all those who claimed to have loved them. We invite you God, the God of peace to heal and comfort them.

We Pray God for unity in diversity in our Churches, stop all the infighting among your people in Churches.

In your name Lord we know that all what is not possible with Men is possible with you. We trust and believe that you will create more employment opportunities for all the graduates sitting at home wanting to kill themselves because of stress and frustrations. you will be the father God to all the Child headed families, we believe you God that you will intervene in all the broken marriages, guide and bring back all the children that are lost and under the influence of Alcohol and drugs abuse. You will indeed bring back confidence and hope to all those who fell alone and neglected at the moment.

We have so many needs Lord but, we believe very strongly that you are adequate for every need. Your name is powerful, and your power is great.

May our Love for you help us to love and forgive others to make a difference in our world. May all what we have prayed and asked for in your name happen in Jesus Christ of Nazareth Amen.

11. HYMN/ OFFERING

An offering is taken during the Study Day Worship as part of our commitment to be thankful for what God has given us.

The offering is the Unit/Area's annual gift to the work of the federation. It is to be sent to the World treasurer.

Contact: world.treasurer@wfmucw.org or to give the World Treasurer at the World Assembly.

12. CLOSING HYMN: THE FEDERATION SONG

“To know Christ and to make him known”:

this we believe and shall proclaim.

We are Federation women here,

all daughters in God's family.

From high mountains and oceans wide

we'll praise our one Creator God.

We will sing our song of liberty,

we will sing our song of unity.

To love Christ and to spread his love:

This we believe and shall proclaim.

We are Federation women here,

from scattered isles and mighty plains.

East and west, and from north and south,

We'll praise our one redeemer Lord.

We will sing our song of love and hope,
we'll sing our song of peace and joy.

13. WORLD FEDERATION PRAYER

Creator God, rooted in your loving care
Nurtured through your son Jesus Christ,
Challenged by your Holy spirit,
We are in the world to bring peace and justice,
Reconciliation in love and hope for all people.

May our lives extend as the branches of our Tree of Life,
Bearing fruit of Unity, and Love,
We offer praise and Thanksgiving
Through our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ Amen.

14. BENEDICTION.

GO BEAR FRUITS: FRUITS THAT WILL LAST!