

Report to the World Secretary of WFMUCW
Joint European Area Seminar
7th-11th June 2018 Belfast, Northern Ireland

Europe Continental Area - Hungary

Chosen People: Called to Proclaim Women's ministry in Hungary

1. Worship: Practicing God's presence

We as women usually spend a lot of time in the kitchen to cook, to bake, to roast, to fry or to toast something. I've read about a monk from the seventeenth-century who lived in France, in a Carmelite monastery. His name was Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection. „*He was assigned to the monastery kitchen where, amidst the tedious chores of cooking and cleaning at the constant bidding of his superiors, he developed his rule of spirituality and work. (...) He admitted that the path to this perfect union was not easy. He spent years disciplining his heart and mind to yield to God's presence <As often as I could, I placed myself as a **worshiper** before him, fixing my mind upon his holy presence>*” –said Lawrence. (Source: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/people/innertravelers/brother-lawrence.html>) He is a role model for me in practicing God's presence, being a worshiper each day, each moment.

As women in our unit we live and love, serve and act because we know the Source of all love. Our programs and retreats, minutes of different meetings worship God. It is good to offer Him everything in worship. Let me report you some of the highlights of last years women's ministry.

2. Relationships: sharing our chosenness

We are 6 women in our workgroup. Out of these 6 in the last year 4 of us were very active. Usually we meet twice in a year. (For a planning session of our National Seminar and during the Seminar itself) We do a lot of our discussion in e-mails and we do a skype conference too. It helps us to hear the ideas from each of us directly and it is good to pray together as well. Our relationships with each other became more and more intimate, we could work in harmony. It is such a blessing to have so dedicated and faithful co-workers in my women-group. After the planning session I as a leader made a list of different duties and the team members replied in e-mail saying who wants to do what. We also have involved many other women, not just the working group. The work is done by a lot. We did a better job in involving more and more. For example our theme was this: *Sing to the Lord a new song*. At the end of our closing worship service on this annual national seminar we asked one of

our ladies to compose a new song using our name tags that had the shape of a music note. We were 44 participants and she composed right there a new melody that contains 44 notes. This was a very creative and uplifting moment telling us that we all are a note in the chorus of faith. This was a wonderful parable to show that everyone has a place in God's song, in God's plan. Each voice is important. I am convinced it is true.

Even the pastors wives are very important and special members of our communities. We realized that often they face a lot of challenges and a lot of expectations. It is very much like a „super-power“ to live, parent, serve and be a wife of a pastor in our church. We decided to express our appreciation and empathy. At the official Annual Conference of our UMC in 2017 we as a Women's Committee made a motion: appoint the 20th of January as the day of pastors spouses day. The Annual Conference accepted this motion, so this year we celebrated it the first time in Hungary. Susanne Wesley the "mother of methodism," was a pastor's wife, and was born on January 20, 1669. This is the reason we chose January 20. Our Women Committee commits itself to commemorate this day every year. This, of course, is only a beginning, a small sign that we express: we appreciate the services of the pastor's spouses, we acknowledge their presence and show our love to them. Anyone who wants, of course, can join hungarian methodist women in celebrating this day year after year.

The United Methodist Women in Romania are our partner group. We pray for each other and share little gifts form time to time. It is also a meaningful partnership as there used to be a lot of hatred among hungarians toward romanian people. We do not want to follow the world but live in peace with our neighbors.

3. Social Action: our mission on the earth

Our women are involved in many different ministries. Let me just mention two examples. Being a methodist in Hungary means that we care for roma children, women and men. Our church offers work places for roma women and our church supports them to study missions and theology. We also organize regional roma-retreats and children camps in roma villages. Many times these camps are led by american missionary teams. We are in mission together. Another field where our social action is needed is among homeless people. Our two churches in the capital city of Hungary do worship services outside church where homeless and broken people used to gather. We also provide help to find a job or prepare a meal every two week in our church building.

Thanks be to God for all the work and the good things that can happen through us
and among us!

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