

GBGM Women's Division: What is a Mission Today unit?

The purpose of the Mission Today Unit is to:

- Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action;
- Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so that United Methodist Women understand where their money goes;
- Encourage use of mission resources through United Methodist Women; and
- Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.
- [Click here to see the new Mission Today Poster!](#)



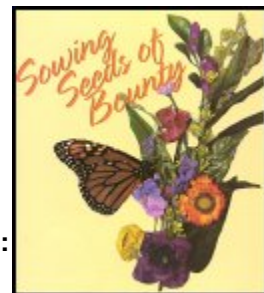
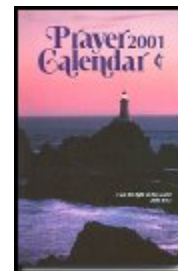
Conference Adaptability:

Conferences can adapt the criteria for a Mission Today Unit by creating different levels of achievement such as a silver unit for those completing 12 of the 17 criteria or a gold unit for those fulfilling all of the criteria. Units of under 15 members may be asked to complete at least half of the criteria.

Criteria for Becoming a Mission Today Unit

Units are encouraged to complete a minimum of 10 of the following criteria, including 5 of those marked with an asterisk(*). The criteria are to be fulfilled EACH YEAR, based on the time line of each conference.

- Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and for our mission work with women, children and youth.*
- The unit will make and meet its pledge to mission.*
- The unit will add at least two members to its roll.*
- The unit will have at least two members subscribing to Response magazine. (Order from Service Center, \$18 for a year's subscription. New World Outlook magazine is available at Service Center - \$19.95 for a year's subscription.)
- The unit will use two programs from the Program Book for United Methodist Women each year.*
- The unit, circle or subgroup will conduct at least one Mission Study a year. (Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies and textbooks are for each year).*
- The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least 2 ways during the year.* Suggested plans of action:
 - Plan a joint unit meeting with a unit of a different racial/ethnic background, using programs from the Program Book
 - Develop bi-racial/cultural or multi-racial/cultural Koinonia groups
 - Become an enabling group to help the local church -- through the Administrative Board, Council on Ministries, and Work Areas to become involved in the implementation of The Charter by:
 - encouraging joint Vacation Bible School
 - encouraging pulpit exchanges
 - sharing joint worship services on special occasions



- encouraging support for equal employment practices in the church & community
- encouraging the church to sponsor a refugee family
- helping to promote the Quadrennial Emphasis on the Ethnic Minority Local Church

Contact your conference committee on the [Charter for Racial Justice Policies](#) for further action plans.



- At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the conference or district [School of Christian Mission](#).
- At least two members of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the district or conference annual meeting.
- The unit will have at least one person join the [United Methodist Women's Action Network](#) to receive and respond to legislative information. (To join, contact the Women's Division Washington Office at 202-488-5660 or write to UMW Action Network, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20002).
- Members shall write to five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least twice a year.
- The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children in at least two ways.

Possibilities for action:

 - Help sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth needs.
 - Sponsor a Children's Sabbath, promoted by the Children's Defense Fund. (Order *The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Handbook - Repairers of the Breach*, Stock # 3224, \$6.00 from Service Center)
 - Get involved with children in mentoring, tutoring, and "big sisters" programs.
 - Write letters, e-mail or call Congressional representatives and/or others in government regarding children's issues.
 - Visit your local schools.
 - Attend a school board meeting.
 - Learn how our schools are funded.
 - (Order the Campaign for Children-UMW, Phase III booklet - #3223, \$10.00 from Service Center)
- The unit will be a Five Star unit, contributing to all five channels of [Undesignated Mission Giving](#).
- The unit will select a project from the Women's Division's [Material Resources for Mission Catalog](#) and will contribute the needed materials to the mission project. (Order from Service Center, Stock #2579, \$4.50)
- Each unit, circle or subgroup will include a Response moment where an article from Response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story. *New World Outlook* magazine provides another good way to tell the mission story.
- Have at least 2 persons from the unit, circle or subgroup complete one of the [Reading Program Plans](#) and report on one of the books read; encourage all members to complete Plan One; have a book review program. (Order *The Reading Program: Your Window to the World*, Stock #5547, free from [Service Center](#)).
- The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than that of a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year.



More Information:

- Promoting the Mission Today Unit
- Resources for Mission Today

Email: MissOpps@gbgm-umc.org **What is Mission Today?**

The purpose of the Mission Today Unit is to:

- Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action;
- Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so that United Methodist Women understand where their money goes;
- Encourage use of mission resources through United Methodist Women; and
- Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.
- *Click here to see the new Mission Today Poster!*



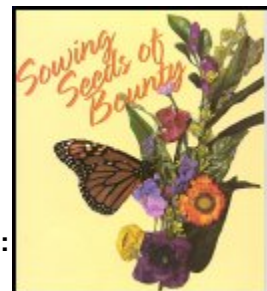
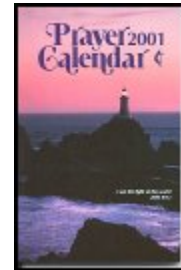
Conference Adaptability:

Conferences can adapt the criteria for a Mission Today Unit by creating different levels of achievement such as a silver unit for those completing 12 of the 17 criteria or a gold unit for those fulfilling all of the criteria. Units of under 15 members may be asked to complete at least half of the criteria.

Criteria for Becoming a Mission Today Unit

Units are encouraged to complete a minimum of 10 of the following criteria, including 5 of those marked with an asterisk(*). The criteria are to be fulfilled EACH YEAR, based on the time line of each conference.

- Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and for our mission work with women, children and youth.*
- The unit will make and meet its pledge to mission.*
- The unit will add at least two members to its roll.*
- The unit will have at least two members subscribing to **Response** magazine. (Order from **Service Center**, \$18 for a year's subscription. **New World Outlook** magazine is available at **Service Center** - \$19.95 for a year's subscription.
- The unit will use two programs from the Program Book for United Methodist Women each year.*
- The unit, circle or subgroup will conduct at least one Mission Study a year. (Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies and textbooks are for each year).*
- The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least 2 ways during the year.* Suggested plans of action:
 - Plan a joint unit meeting with a unit of a different racial/ethnic background, using programs from the Program Book
 - Develop bi-racial/cultural or multi-racial/cultural Koinonia groups



- Become an enabling group to help the local church -- through the Administrative Board, Council on Ministries, and Work Areas to become involved in the implementation of The Charter by:
 - encouraging joint Vacation Bible School
 - encouraging pulpit exchanges
 - sharing joint worship services on special occasions
 - encouraging support for equal employment practices in the church & community
 - encouraging the church to sponsor a refugee family
 - helping to promote the Quadrennial Emphasis on the Ethnic Minority Local Church

Contact your conference committee on the [Charter for Racial Justice Policies](#) for further action plans.



- At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the conference or district [School of Christian Mission](#).
- At least two members of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the district or conference annual meeting.
- The unit will have at least one person join the [United Methodist Women's Action Network](#) to receive and respond to legislative information. (To join, contact the Women's Division Washington Office at 202-488-5660 or write to UMW Action Network, 100 Maryland Ave. NE, Suite 530, Washington, D.C. 20002).
- Members shall write to five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least twice a year.
- The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children in at least two ways. Possibilities for action:
 - Help sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth needs.
 - Sponsor a Children's Sabbath, promoted by the Children's Defense Fund. (Order The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths Handbook - Repairers of the Breach, Stock # 3224, \$6.00 from Service Center)
 - Get involved with children in mentoring, tutoring, and "big sisters" programs.
 - Write letters, e-mail or call Congressional representatives and/or others in government regarding children's issues.
 - Visit your local schools.
 - Attend a school board meeting.
 - Learn how our schools are funded.
 - (Order the Campaign for Children-UMW, Phase III booklet - #3223, \$10.00 from Service Center)
- The unit will be a Five Star unit, contributing to all five channels of [Undesignated Mission Giving](#).
- The unit will select a project from the Women's Division's [Material Resources for Mission Catalog](#) and will contribute the needed materials to the mission project. (Order from Service Center, Stock #2579, \$4.50)
- Each unit, circle or subgroup will include a Response moment where an article from Response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story. New World Outlook magazine provides another good way to tell the mission story.
- Have at least 2 persons from the unit, circle or subgroup complete one of the [Reading Program Plans](#) and report on one of the books read; encourage all members to complete Plan One; have a book review program. (Order The Reading Program: Your Window to the World, Stock #5547, free from [Service Center](#)).



- **The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than that of a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year.**

More Information:

- **Promoting the Mission Today Unit**
- **Resources for Mission Today**

Email: MissOpps@gbgm-umc.org