

**Eastern PA Conference United Methodist Women  
2015 Annual Conference Script**

<b>Slide 1</b>	Bishop Johnson and members of the Eastern PA Annual Conference, Barbara Drake, the President of the Eastern PA United Methodist Women sends her greetings. She is unable to attend since she is in Australia. Joy Frazier, treasurer, is here with me, Susan Dziuk, 2016 co-president of our conference UMW. It is a privilege to be with you.
<b>Slide 2</b>	For 145 years the United Methodist Women has fed the hungry, healed the sick, educated millions, changed laws and policies, and transformed lives. Our ministries, our faith, hope and love in action with women, children and youth have made this possible. We have inherited a great legacy. The Eastern PA Conference United Methodist Women continues to carry out this mission.
<b>Slide 3</b>	In March of 2015, we held the 13 <sup>th</sup> annual Girls on the Go Retreat for girls from 13 to 18 at Gretna Glen Camp & Retreat Center. Our theme was “Extreme Makeover 139” led by Margaret Keefer. Forty-one girls from throughout our conference attended. They explored how God was present in their lives and how God could use them for His work. During the UMW presentation, Barbara Drake shared our vision to begin a ministry with young women. Thirteen girls signed up to be part of the council.
<b>Slide 4</b>	The girls enjoyed their time to dialogue with Bishop Johnson and Morgan and Emma gave an inspiring presentation about their peace trip to India. It was a beautiful weekend and, thanks to Apryl Miller and her staff, plus the snow, the girls were able to participate in activities, including sledding. We’re all looking forward to next year, March 5 & 6! Our program will be “Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God”, led by Praveena Balasundaram.
<b>Slide 5</b>	Members of the EPA UMW participated in the Global Media Monitoring Event on March 25, 2015. Glory Dharmaraj has coordinated the Global Monitoring project for the past 20 years. EPA UMW members met at our conference office to monitor newspaper articles to examine whether news media offer fair and equitable representation of the role and image of women.

<p><b>Slide 6</b></p>	<p>In May, Barbara Drake, Gladys Hubbard, Ethel Malone, Ruth Carr, and Bernice McCray attended the seminar on the Charter for Racial Justice, "Making Racial Justice Happen!" sponsored by United Methodist Women. In addition to our conference, 8 other conferences from the NE Jurisdiction attended. The seminar offered ways to get involved through Bible studies, worship, workshops, programs, and action ideas to enable us to live the charter and promote racial justice.</p>
<p><b>Slide 7</b></p>	<p>As a result of this seminar, our delegates developed an action plan which included forming a Conference committee to address the Charter. Bishop Johnson has distributed copies of the Charter for Racial Justice at each of the District meetings this fall. Additional copies are available through the United Methodist Women's Mission Resource website. The speaker at the UMW Conference Annual Celebration in October was Janis Rosheval, from the National United Methodist Women racial justice office. She addressed the issue of social and racial justice and has expressed her willingness to provide a workshop to further learn about and initiate ways to promote social and racial justice.</p>
<p><b>Slides 8</b></p>	<p>Ruth Carr and Wilhelmina Young attended the National Seminar 2015 in Chicago in June. The theme was "Interrupting Indifference: Jesus, Justice and Joy." The purpose was to equip and empower participants to engage as leaders for social justice through four issue areas: Climate Justice, Maternal and Child Health, Criminalization and Racial Justice, and Gender and Economic Justice. This was an opportunity to celebrate the work God is accomplishing through the witness of United Methodist Women. If your United Methodist unit or local church would be interested in one of these programs please contact one of these members.</p>
<p><b>Slide 9</b></p>	<p>Eastern Pennsylvania Conference is one of two conferences chosen for Domestic Violence Team Training. This is a partnership between the national offices of United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men and Faith Trust Institute. The training involved two churches per district. The Domestic Violence Training event was held on June 6, 2015 at West Lawn UMC. Eventually church teams from each district will organize training for other churches in their area. Sharon Hachtman has been coordinating our training.</p>
<p><b>Slide 10</b></p>	<p>The 2015 Mission u was held last July at the Inn at Reading. Our study topics were <u>The Church and People with Disabilities</u>, <u>Latin America</u>, and <u>Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God</u>.</p>

<p><b>Slide 11</b></p>	<p>United Methodist Women received the Robert M. Pitzer award for the publication of <b><u>The Church &amp; People with Disabilities</u></b> written by Bishop Johnson. Yvette Richards, president of UMW and Bishop Johnson attended the ceremony.</p>
<p><b>Slide 12</b></p>	<p>The 2016 Mission u event will be held again at The Inn at Reading, July 22-23. The issue and youth study will be <u>Climate Justice</u> and the spiritual growth study will be <u>The Bible and Human Sexuality</u>. The geographic study, <u>Latin America</u>, will be offered again. Save the Date and plan to join us. If you have never been to Mission u (formerly Eastern Pennsylvania School of Christian Mission) there are scholarships available. Contact your local UMW unit for an application in the spring of 2016. Mission u Save the Date flyers are available today.</p>
<p><b>Slide 13</b></p>	<p>Our local units are involved with “hands-on” mission projects. We prepare meals for Aid for Friends and other organizations, make kits for UMCOR and collect a variety of items for our yearly Ingathering. Did you know that Ingathering is unique to EPA Conference UMW? In addition to collecting items for mission here in Eastern PA, our UMW units have distributed an average of \$10,000 annually to missions within Eastern Pennsylvania Conference.</p>
<p><b>Slide 14</b></p>	<p>United Methodist Women actively participate in environmental stewardship issues and ideas. At Annual Conference this year there was a table in the exhibit area where we learned about 22 uses of lemons, made a lemon-based all-purpose cleaner and shared green facts.</p>
<p><b>Slide 15</b></p>	<p>In addition to our study and work on Social Justice and Spiritual Growth, our UMW units give generously to Mission through our 5 areas of Mission Giving – Pledge to Mission, Gift in Mission, Gift in Memory, World Thank Offering, and Special Mission Recognition.</p>
<p><b>Slide 16</b></p>	<p>Our giving supports nearly 100 national mission institutions across the United States that empower women, care for children, educate and build youth, care for the neglected, advocate for social justice issues, create economic opportunities, and change neighborhoods,</p>

<p><b>Slide 17</b></p>	<p>Pictured on these slides are Neighborhood Services Centers in Camden, NJ &amp; Wilmington Delaware, the Batis Center for Women,</p>
<p><b>Slide 18</b></p>	<p>and the Brooks Howell Retirement Community for retired deaconesses. We commit 3 million dollars to support these mission institutions and others, and own and maintain 2/3 of the facilities housing these institutions.</p>
<p><b>Slide 19</b></p>	<p>Our pledge to missions supports 147 programs internationally in more than 110 countries. Pictured here are Children in Haiti, women in Cameroon</p>
<p><b>Slide 20</b></p>	<p>Youth training programs</p>
<p><b>Slide 21</b></p>	<p>Living with the dead in the Philippines where the poor live in cemeteries and are caretakers for family mausoleums and in Europe provide programs and help to the Roma</p>
<p><b>Slide 22</b></p>	<p>Grants scholarships for 73 international students in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean</p>
<p><b>Slide 23</b></p>	<p>Employs 7 regional missionaries working all over the world, each one coming from the region they serve</p>
<p><b>Slide 24</b></p>	<p>Participates in initiatives on maternal and child health</p>
<p><b>Slide 25</b></p>	<p>Empowers women in many countries through grants to local UMW groups who address the needs of their communities and provides micro loans to women to enable them to earn a sustainable living.</p>

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In 2014, the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of United Methodist Women exceeded its pledge of \$160,000. Thank you to each of you who said "Count Me In!

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At this time in our history, as United Methodist Women approaches 150 years, we have established the United Methodist Women's Legacy Fund to ensure that our ministries with women, children and youth will continue for another 150 years. It's a 5 year plan to continue the legacy of United Methodist Women. Gifts to the Legacy Fund endowment will lay the financial foundation for future generations of United Methodist Women. Information on the Legacy Fund is available today and on our website, [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).