



Holston Conference United Methodist Women Mission Today Unit Criteria 2020

Become a Mission Today Unit!!

Full Name of Church/Unit _____

District _____

Contact/Name of Person Completing this Form _____

_____ Contact Person Complete Mailing

Address _____

Contact Email _____

Contact Phone Home _____ Cell _____

The purpose of promoting a Mission Today Unit is to: Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action; Increase contacts between units, mission personnel, and mission projects; Allow United Methodist Women to understand where their money goes; Encourage the effective use of mission resources through United Methodist Women; and expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a Unit? A unit is any organized group of United Methodist Women within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles, which periodically gather for a unit meeting.

How Do We Become a Mission Today Unit? In order to be recognized as a United Methodist Women Mission Today Unit; the unit must **complete a minimum of twelve criteria; including five marked with an asterisk (*)**. **Criterion #2 is not optional and a minimum of two items from Criterion #10 must be completed.**

Activities conducted between January 1, 2020 - December 1, 2020, will be recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Holston Conference United Methodist Women and at the District United Methodist Women Annual Meeting in 2021.

CRITERIA:

_____ *1. The unit recites the United Methodist Women (UMW) Purpose as a guideline for all official meetings, programs, and gatherings. _____ The unit uses the Prayer Calendar at each

unit meeting to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth. ____ The unit corresponds with at least four missionaries from the Prayer Calendar and others during the year. ____ List the four missionaries with whom you corresponded.

UMW Purpose is adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as the The "United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." The Prayer Calendar is printed each year and can be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.

_____***2. The unit makes and meets its Pledge to Mission. (This criterion must be completed.)**

The Pledge to Mission is remitted quarterly to the District Treasurer. (1st Qtr.) February 20th ____ (2nd Qtr.) May 20th ____ (3rd Qtr.) August 20th ____ (4th Qtr.) November 20th ____

The local unit Pledge to Mission is the money contributed to help fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women. All local unit pledges are contributed to the conference United Methodist Women pledge. The conference United Methodist Women in turn, pledges a specific amount to the United Methodist Women's national office for mission with women, children and youth and retains a designated percent to be used for district and conference administration and membership development expenses.

_____***3. The unit engages in a minimum of two programs from the Program Book during the year; (excluding Pledge to Mission Service and A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial). List the programs the unit celebrated and held**

are; _____

The 2019-2020 Program Book explores biblical passages of light from the Old and New Testaments, explores biblical understandings to be God's light in the world as Christ's disciples, provides encouragement to shine a light on issues that crush and marginalize God's children, and challenges us to practice justice in the world. The Program Book is printed every year and can be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.

_____***4. The unit participates in or organizes at least one Mission u study. The unit took on an action that grew out of or was related to the Mission unit study. List the study and the action taken as a result of the study;** _____

United Methodist Women’s Mission u events offer classes that provide opportunities for participants to grow spiritually and be in community with others working to put faith, hope, and love into action. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies are for each year. Mission u resources are published every year and can be ordered from the Mission Resource Center. Official mission statement of United Methodist Women helps put our faith, hope and love into action with a daily mission focus, birthdays of people in mission, holidays and space to plan schedules. Each week features stunning photographs of United Methodist Women and Global Ministries projects and partners in the U.S. and around the world. The Prayer Calendar.

_____ *5. The unit engages actively in a program and completes an action addressing at least one of the four priority justice issues throughout the 2016–2020 quadrennium. These include; Economic Inequality; Climate Justice; Criminalization of Communities of Color; and Maternal and Child Health. List the actions that were taken and for which issue.

The identifying and integrating what matters to United Methodist Women is done through engaging in these issues. United Methodist Women work to link spiritual growth, mission education, leadership development, service and advocacy in worship, community and mission work. The issues are entry points for exploring how gender, race and class differentials permeate our society, and for living out the Charter for Racial Justice in our times. The Four Priority Justice Issues can be found online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/service-advocacy.

_____ *6. The unit has at least two (units with fewer than fifty) or at least five (units with more than fifty) members who have joined the United Methodist Women’s Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. List the actions that were taken and for which issue.

United Methodist Women are focused on the four issue priorities, and their campaigns. Registered members receive periodic e-mail alerts to stay informed and to take action! Contact: United Methodist Women, 475 Riverside Dr., 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115 and/or sign up online at: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/actionalerts.

_____ *7. The unit invited a district or conference officer, (other than a member of the unit), to a unit meeting, event, or activity during the year and/or to the local unit's United Methodist Women's Sunday. Indicate the district or conference officer and describe the event.

_____ *8. The unit contributed to all Five Channels of Mission Giving, including: Pledge to Mission; Special Mission Recognition; Gift to Mission; Gift in Memory; and World Thank Offering. The Five Channels of Mission Giving was remitted the District Treasurer.

The Five Channels of Mission Giving provide opportunities for members to help empower and improve the lives of women, youth and children in the United States and around the world. The Five Channels of Mission Giving Brochure provides specific information about each channel and can be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.

_____ *9. The unit contributed \$186.90 or more to the Legacy Fund **or** 100% of the unit's active members makes a gift of at least \$18.69 to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. List the names of contributing members.

The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, launched in 2014, celebrates the legacy of the courageous women who founded this mission movement, as well as the legacy that today's members will leave for future generations of United Methodist women, to create their legacy to carry the mission of faith, hope, love in action forward in the world for years to come. For more information about the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, visit the online websites at: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org or email legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

_____ ***10. The unit must complete at least two criteria from the Charter for Racial Justice.** Adopted by the 1980 General Conference of The United Methodist Church; the Charter for Racial Justice, in part states: "Because we believe, God is the Creator of all people and all are God's children in one family; we commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and groups of persons.

_____ a. Download or place an order from the United Methodist Women website to receive copies of the Charter for Racial Justice. As the unit reflects on what the Charter for Racial Justice means and grapples with the persistence of racial injustice at every level of our church and society; Create a plan to take action (i.e. invite a knowledgeable facilitator to a meeting to discuss: What is racism? Where do we find racism? Where does racism come from?). Describe the activity that was held to facilitate a conversation about racism.

_____ b. Complete one of the eight action statements listed in the Charter for Racial Justice. As a result, we will unite our efforts with all groups in The United Methodist Church to; Eliminate all forms of intuitional racism in the total ministry of the church...etc. Describe the action taken to unite your efforts toward eliminating racism.

_____ c. Download from the United Methodist Women website; Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice.

Describe the Bible Study that was held and note any outcomes as a result of hosting the study.

_____ d. Using the Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice; Organize a worship service that specifically lifts the concepts of Racial Justice. Engage and invite others different from the members of your unit. Describe the Worship Service that was held and note any outcomes as a result of hosting the service.

This collection of resources allows the unit to explore our biblical and theological roots for racial justice, to interpret them in our current realities and to continue our faithful action for justice. Host a Bible Study as outlined in the toolkit or create a study specific to an issue to your unit.

_____ e. Organize a Book Reading or Review to explore various author’s writing about race and racism. Use the Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice; to identify books suggested by United Methodist Women that have been featured as a part of the national Reading Program (2007-2018). Identify the book read and note any outcomes as a result of reading the book.

_____ f. Participate in a community event organized for the purpose of elevating racial justice and/or co-sponsor an event with a community organization or church to present a program or workshop about racial justice. Describe the event and note any outcomes as a result of participating.

_____ g. Download or place an order from the United Methodist Women website to receive copies of the Racial Justice Timeline: Important Moments of Racial Justice History in the United States and United Methodist Women. From its beginnings United Methodist Women have tried to build a community and social order without racial barriers, as shown with this timeline. Engage the unit in a discussion and conversation regarding various periods on the timeline. Plan activities that facilitate personal growth and understand as a result of timeline. Describe the activities or actions taken as result of the conversations. List what activities or action were taken and note any outcomes as a result of the discussions.

_____ h. The General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) has produced a video series entitled Vital Conversations. The videos are designed to introduce United Methodists to basic concepts related to race and racism. Access Volume 1: Realities of Race and Racism from <http://www.gcorr.org/series/vc1/> and organize a film festival to view and engage in conversation regarding the content of the video. There is an accompanying leader’s guide to facilitate meaningful conversations and activities. Describe the event and note any outcomes as a result of participating.

_____ 11. The unit subscribes to response Magazine. An article or subject matter is lifted from the magazine as a "Response Moment" in each meeting to tell the mission story.

Response, is the official magazine of United Methodist Women and is published by the national office. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work. Featured items include: Bible studies, opportunities for spiritual growth and development, program suggestions, articles on where the Pledge to Mission money goes, and regular features such as "Bright Lights" and "Responsively Yours." The Response magazine is printed six times per year and can be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.

_____ 12. The unit organized and/or participated in A Call to Prayer and Self Denial service, program, activity, or Bible study. Describe the activity that was held and the date A Call to Prayer and Self Denial service offering was remitted to the District Treasurer.

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial is an opportunity for the members to reflect on the gospel of Christ and make an offering (separate from Pledge to Mission) that helps sustain ministry around the country and the world. In response to God's love and grace, offerings collected through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial support worthy initiatives that relate to each year's mission focus. A Call to Prayer and Self Denial program is included in the Program Book which can be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.

_____ 13. The unit developed a local budget and organized or engaged in a Pledge to Mission Service. Describe the activity that was held.

A Pledge to Mission giving is the foundation for mission work through United Methodist Women. An individual Pledge to Mission is the amount each member decides is her share of the local unit's total budget. A Pledge to Mission program is included in the Program Book which can be ordered from the Mission Resource Center. (This local Pledge to Mission is separate from the district Pledge to Mission which supports the conference budget.)

_____ 14. The unit organized and/or participated in A Penny and A Prayer service, program, and/or activity. Describe the activity that was held and the date A Penny and A Prayer service collection was remitted to the District Treasurer. _____

A Penny and A Prayer is an avenue of mission giving that is to put prayer back in our giving. Members are asked to give one extra penny a day and a prayer for our work as United Methodist Women in missions. Members set aside a penny and give a prayer as an opportunity to reflect on the gospel of Christ and make an offering that helps sustain ministry around the country and the world. In response to God's love and grace, offerings collected through A Penny and A Prayer is a way of daily reminding us to take time to pray and offer up our gifts to God.

_____15. The unit organized and/or participated in a Candle Burning Ceremony service, program, and/or activity. Describe the activity that was held and the date the Candle Burning Ceremony collection was remitted to the District Treasurer. _____

A Candle Burning ceremony is held in honor of a loved one through the local unit. Honorees may be anyone living or deceased whom the donor wishes to publicly recognize for a job well done or who has impacted the donor's life. A minimum donation of \$5.00 for each individual honored is given to missions. Funds received from candle burning do not take the place of the unit mission pledge but do go to mission giving.

_____16. The unit hosted a membership event(s) whereby at least two new members (one member for units with less than 15 members) were added to the membership roll. Describe the event and indicate the number of new members.

_____17. The unit completed three Talent Bank Information for Prospective Leadership forms and submitted them to the district and/or conference leadership team for leadership referral purposes. List the names of members referred.

_____18. The unit partnered with a local agency or ministry serving or working with woman in need of support and/or assistance. The partnership included active ongoing involvement in fulfilling the mission and goals of the agency or organization. Describe the activity that was held.

_____ 19. The unit sponsored or co-sponsored with the local church or another organization to hold a Children's Sabbaths Celebration event. Describe the activity that was held.

The National Observance of Children's Sabbaths, sponsored by the Children's Defense Fund, is designated for the third weekend of each October. The weekend celebration unites faith communities to raise awareness of problems facing children and families in our nation and engages people of faith in immediate and long-term action to nurture, protect, and seek justice for children. For more information about the Children's Sabbaths Celebration, visit the website at: www.childrensdefense.org/programs/faith-based/childrens-sabbath-celebration/#why

_____ 20. The unit partnered with a local agency or ministry serving or working with teenage or young woman in need of support and/or assistance. The partnership included active ongoing involvement in fulfilling the mission and goals of the agency or organization. Describe the activity that was held.

_____ 21. Most of the elected unit officers attended the District Annual Meeting and Officer's Training Event. All elected officers to a new position received appropriate training prior to serving their first term of office. A current and updated list of officers has been submitted to the district for the upcoming year. List the dates training was received and date the officers list was submitted.

_____ 22. The unit had at least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) completed Plan 1 of the Reading Program and gave a report to the unit on the books read. List the names of participating members and books read.

_____ 23. The unit added one new teen (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman (ages 18 to 39) to the unit and engaged her in local activities and at least one district and/or conference event during the year. Indicate the new member(s) (as teen or young woman) and the activities and/or event(s) in which the member participated.

_____ 24. The unit mentored a woman and her family who joined or regularly attends the church; providing spiritual guidance and support and encouragement on an ongoing basis or as needed. Describe the family and list what guidance, support, and encouragement were offered.

_____ 25. The unit supported at least two local (non-United Methodist related) mission projects **and** participated in at least one district or conference hands-on mission project during the year. List the mission projects supported. _____

Be a Mission Today Unit! United Methodist Women – Mission Resource Contact Information
the e-store:<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-resources>

Customer Service

Phone: 800-305-9857 fax: 770-280-0061

email: cs@umwmissionresources.org

Hours of Operation

8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. EST Monday through Friday

Please use the following address to mail in orders:

United Methodist Women

P.O. Box 742349

Atlanta, GA 30374-2349

Checks can be made out to "United Methodist Women."

