

Pledge Service 2019

by Sue Raymond*

Opening Worship

We come together to appreciate and celebrate our foremothers who left us a rich heritage in United Methodist Women. We follow in the footsteps of women who transformed the world around them because of their commitment to women, children and youth. When they saw a need, an injustice or an opportunity to speak out on behalf of those who had been silenced, they took action. We also take time to anticipate what the future holds for United Methodist Women, the role that our financial commitments will play in shaping that future and new ways to put our faith, hope and love into action.

Call to Worship

Leader: We come as women who have received a rich heritage from our foremothers.

ALL: We give thanks for those who were faithful to their call.

Leader: We come as women who use our combined weaknesses and strengths to serve women, children and youth.

ALL: We are thankful for those with whom we serve.

Leader: We come as women who look to a bright future of boldness and leadership.

ALL: We give thanks for those who are being prepared to lead us into this future.

Pray

Gracious and giving God, we look back at those who established, strengthened, and nurtured this organization and left it in our hands. We ask you to guide us and our commitment, that we may leave it even stronger and a more faithful witness to future generations of Methodist women. In Christ's name we pray, amen.

We are currently celebrating 150 years of Methodist women in mission. Though the names of the successive organizations and the makeup of the membership has changed, the commitment to being in mission with women, children and youth around the world has persisted.

We are the next chapter in the continuing history of United Methodist Women, preparing to thrive in our local circles and units, our districts and conferences. From the very beginning, in 1869, our strength and commitment was centered in the local unit and its passion for mission. Like the unnamed woman with the alabaster jar who anointed Jesus in Matthew 26:7–13, we come to the table offering what we have to support mission with women, children and youth throughout the world. We follow in a long line of forward-looking women who have made a difference.

In 2012 United Methodist Women structurally separated from Global Ministries, launching into a future that will allow us to give greater visibility to the needs of women, children and youth.

United Methodist Women is continuing to help women prepare for informed mission action through spiritual growth and transformative educational experiences, leadership development training and opportunities for service and advocacy. The goal is for the (POSITION) of United Methodist Women to be recognized as a leading organization,

To (ENGAGE); as a trusted source of leadership and inspiration, cultivate and increase engagements, membership and giving and

To (MOBILIZE) to move women to new levels of leadership and action to build a thriving organization and change the world

*Sue Raymond is an active member of Zoar United Methodist Women in Snellville, Georgia. She is the past president of the North Georgia Conference and currently serves on United Methodist Women's Board of Directors representing the Southeast Jurisdiction. She also serves on United Methodist Women's Finance and Editorial Committees. A longer version of the pledge service can be found in the 2019 Program Book.

UMW Pledge Service 2019

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As you complete your pledge card, come forward and place it in the basket on the table. The basket touches both the past and the future. It is the bridge between the two, just as we are the bridge between those who have come before and prepared us for this time, and for those who will lead the organization into the future.

Pray in Unison

God of the past, the present and the future,

We are grateful for those who came before and seek to be faithful to their example.

We appreciate those who serve and commit themselves today; we strengthen each other.

We look forward to the generations of women you will raise up to continue the journey.

In Christ's name we pray, amen.



My Pledge to Mission:

Name: _____

Circle: _____

Date of Pledge: _____

For the coming year, I pledge \$_____ to be paid: (check one) monthly quarterly yearly