



Mission Today

United Methodist Women

Greater New Jersey Methodist Women

Mission Today Criteria (2013-2016)

In order to be recognized as a Mission Today Unit, UMW groups must complete one of the levels that fit your unit: Bronze, Silver, or Gold. Number 3 of the criteria is not optional. You must complete this one to become a Mission Today Unit. Activities conducted between January 1 - December 31, 2016, will be recognized at the annual meeting in 2017.

The total program of United Methodist Women is mission. Working to become a Mission Today Unit helps us to be fully engaged in mission. Mission Today criteria involves activities of spiritual growth, education for mission, social issues awareness, leadership development and membership development.

Every unit of United Methodist Women is encouraged to become a Mission Today Unit.

Local Unit _____ Local Unit President _____

District _____ Report Year _____

Select the level that fits your unit: Complete the form and return to E&I Coordinator by March 1st of the next year. If you print the list in January and mark it at every meeting it should be ready to mail before December.

- _____ **Bronze-** Complete 8-12 criteria, including at least 4 starred items.
_____ **Silver-** Complete 13-17 criteria or more, including at least 6 starred items.
_____ **Gold-** Complete 18 criteria or more, including at least 6 starred items.

*Starred Items:

- _____ 1. Each unit, circle, or subgroup will open its meeting by saying the UMW **PURPOSE**.
_____ 2. The unit will use **The Prayer Calendar** at each general meeting to pray for mission workers and projects.
_____ 3. The unit will make and meet its Pledge to Mission. (This one must be done to be a Mission Today Unit.)
_____ 4. The unit will add at least 2 members to its roll.
_____ 5. The unit will have at least 2 members subscribe to **Response** magazine or **New World Outlook**.
_____ 6. The unit will use at least 2 programs from the **UMW Program Book** each year.
_____ 7. The unit or circle will conduct at least one mission study (4 hours or more a year).
_____ 8. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one way during the year:
_____ Plan a joint meeting with a unit of a different racial/ethnic background.
_____ Develop bi-racial/cultural or multi-racial/cultural Koinonia groups.
_____ Hold a joint Vacation Bible School.
_____ Hold pulpit exchanges.
_____ Share joint worship services on special occasions.
_____ Encourage the church to sponsor a refugee family.
_____ 9. The unit will be a 5 Star unit, contributing to all 5 channels of Mission Giving.
_____ 10. The unit will include Neighborhood Center, Camden, NJ in its budget, submitting funds through the district treasurer. This is the only National Mission Center within the Greater NJ Annual Conference.

Non Starred items:

- _____ 1. At least one member of the unit (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the Conference Cooperative School of Christian Mission.
_____ 2. At least 2 members (other than a conference or district officer) will attend the district or conference annual fall or spring meeting.
_____ 3. The unit will have at least one person join the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information.
_____ 4. Members will write to 5 persons listed in the **Prayer Calendar** each year.

- _____ 5. The unit will participate in the Campaign for Children in at least 2 ways.
- _____ Help sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth needs.
 - _____ Sponsor a Children's Sabbath (program promoted by the Children's Defense Fund).
 - _____ Get involved with children in mentoring, tutoring, and "Big Sisters" programs.
 - _____ Write letters, e-mail or call congressional representatives or others in government about children's issues.
 - _____ Visit your local schools or attend a school board meeting.
 - _____ Donate or collect for UNICEF.
 - _____ Donate school supplies for children; such as including children from Haiti, Camden Neighborhood Center or CUMAC.
- _____ 6. Each unit or circle will include a Response moment where an item from the magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
- _____ 7. Have at least 2 people from the unit, circle, or sub-group, complete one of the reading programs and report on one of the books read. Also to encourage all members to complete Plan One and have a book review program.
- _____ 8. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year.
- _____ 9. Make a pledge to care for God's creation and become a "Green" UMW unit, (Get information on how to become a green unit at <http://www.umwonline.org/environment> or contact Women's Division Office of Community Action.)
- _____ 10. Hold or attend a mini-spiritual growth retreat.
- _____ 11. The unit will include support for one of the following in its local budget.
- _____ A local domestic shelter, such as: The Carpenter House, NJ Coalition for Battered Women.
 - _____ A regional food bank or local food pantry, Such as CUMAC, Patterson, NJ, SJ Food Bank, Pennsauken, NJ, Food bank of Trenton, NJ.
 - _____ Support Camp YDP in Patterson, NJ, Ranch Hope for Boys in Alloway, NJ and Victory House for Girls in Williamstown, NJ or Eirene Immigration Center in Camden, NJ.
 - _____ Support pregnancy crisis centers such as: Robin's Nest, Hope Pregnancy Center, Birth Haven, The Lighthouse.
- _____ 12. The unit will contribute kits to Church World Service or UMCOR. This may include; health kits, birthing kits, layette kits and flood buckets.
- _____ 13. The unit or circle will develop a prayer shawl ministry, quilting ministry, or the making of baby caps, layette blankets