



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Mary and Martha Mail Circle

Be Just. Be Green.

United Methodist Women
Christ United Methodist Church
Mobile, Alabama

April 2016

Response magazine posed five questions to the Jurisdictional guides:

- 1) What is your personal reason for getting involved in this movement?
- 2) In your jurisdiction, what are the direst environmental concerns?
- 3) What is your biggest fear globally regarding this issue? What is one thing every United Methodist Women member can do to improve the environment?
- 4) And, last, how does your faith instruct and guide you in caring for the earth?

The text under each jurisdictional guide's name is their words. The women's passion and commitment is evident; now they face the challenge of inspiring others to follow their lead.

Phyllis Terwilliger, Northeastern Jurisdiction



I composted, clotheslined, recycled, did not use Styrofoam, wrote a burn barrel ordinance for our township, community gardened, turned the heat in the winter to 50 degrees at night and 60 degrees during the day. But no matter how much I did, it wasn't enough. In frustration, I called out to God in prayer: "God, this isn't making a dent." I finally realized it's not just about what I can do but what we can do collectively to implement change. So the Be Just. Be Green initiative involves the coalition of all United Methodist Women members, who have the capability to accomplish so much more environmental justice—that would make a dent!

The Northeastern Jurisdiction has a past and a present laced with manufacturing, coal mining, Superfund sites, conventional farming, mountaintop removal mining and hydraulic fracturing. We have raped the land, air and water with extractive and chemical-laden industries without forethought to the earth and her people. The jurisdiction's poorest residents are typically those in closest proximity to contaminated sites. So how we are cleaning up our sordid past and building a healthy and sustainable future need to be addressed.

My biggest fear globally regarding our environment is greed and profit without regard to the well-being of people and our planet. My Northeastern Jurisdictional partner, Cecilia Williams, touts the importance of bringing a water bottle to United Methodist Women meetings and events and not buying or using Styrofoam. We should question every purchase, from a cup of coffee to a pair of shoes.

In order to care for God's world, we need to think of ourselves as global citizens. The Holy Spirit helps us to be astute observers of the human condition and to

identify and claim and presence and grace of God in all that is common, all that is good. By becoming human, Jesus used earthly elements—water, mud, bread and wine—and made the simple sacred. So our universe is a sacred place and we have to treat it accordingly.

Emma Samson, Southeastern Jurisdiction



My commitment to living green evolved from preservation of resources for future generations to passion to care for God's creation. My first home is the Philippines. As we know, economically disadvantaged people are seriously affected by climate change. We started talking about pollution and acid rain way back in the 1980s.

In my jurisdiction, we have multiple concerns. Toxic chemicals, storm water runoffs, hydrofracking and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that will move natural gas through Virginia and North Carolina.

U.S. politics impact the world. It would be ideal if this country led the recent Paris climate summit to do more than volunteer to make cuts on carbon emissions. Big polluters have big money to pay lobbyists.

United Methodist Women members have the power to shape the future of efforts on environmental and economic justice. We are many and we are strong. We can impact our homes, neighborhoods, communities and churches. There are grassroots efforts already going on. We need to harness this positive power. We can follow the 13 principles of Be Just. Be Green.

Psalm 24:1 speaks to me about God's call for us to take care of God's creation: "The Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."

Miok L. Fowler, Western Jurisdiction



For me, climate justice is a natural evolution from the human rights and civil rights concerns we have focused on. The core issues are equality, equity and democratic values to be implemented to all of humanity. It is such a natural progression that drives my passion and enthusiasm about environmental justice.

There are two urgent concerns in my jurisdiction: First, the Animas River wastewater spill from the Gold King Mine in August 2015 and its related environmental disasters. Two Native American communities, the Ute and Navajos, experienced extreme agricultural losses. Second, the hydraulic fracturing issues. Metro Denver and adjacent communities are very concerned with big oil and gas industries fervently promoting fracking in the Front Range.

(Continued on page 3)

Selections From the Prayer Calendar + *Mary and Martha Birthdays*

- APR 1 Alex Awad
 APR 2 Friendly Center, Toledo OH
 APR 3 Henderson Settlement, Frakes KY
 APR 4 Ellyn B. Dubberly
 APR 5 Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA)
 APR 6 Glorymar Rivera-Baez
 APR 7 Mariellyn Dunlap Grace
 APR 8 Margaret Madison
APR 9* Good Neighbor Settlement House, Brownsville TX
 APR 10 Nan Gordon
 APR 11 Chin Cheak Yu
 APR 12 Center for Victims of Torture:
 APR 13 Alma J. Navarro
 APR 14 Pauline Shongo
 APR 15 Pat Warden
 APR 16 Gum Moon Residence Hall, San Francisco CA
 APR 17 Houchen Community Center, El Paso TX
 APR 18 Serna Samuel
 APR 19 Rosie Guadarrama
 APR 20 Vickie Sigmon
 APR 21 Emma Samson
 APR 22 Dieudonne Karihano
 APR 23 Hattie B. Cooper Community Center, Roxbury MA
APR 24* Huston-Tillotson University, Austin, TX
 APR 25 Soraya Montano Mosquera
 APR 26 Yvette Diaz
 APR 27 Sarah Wilcox
 APR 28 Glory Ilunga Kapyia Mulimba
 APR 29 Russia: Providing physically disabled children
 Myra Martin
 APR 30 Otshi Ombaku Rose
 Kim Pratt

Happy Birthday April 4!

Ellyn Benson Dubberly is a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church serving as leadership development coordinator of the Evangelical Methodist Church in El Salvador. She was commissioned in June 2013.



The Evangelical Methodist Church of El Salvador is a young community of slightly more than 1,000 members, of whom half are children. It also has many young adult participants. El Salvador has gone through a great deal of social upheaval in recent years, but its resourceful, resilient people are reconstructing a country committed to human rights, health, and economic prosperity. Through its programs and projects, the Methodist Church has become an expression of social conscience.

Ellyn is a native of North Carolina, where she is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rocky Mount in the North Carolina Annual Conference. She received a Bachelor of Social Work from Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina, and a master's degree in Christian Education from Pfeiffer University, Charlotte, in 2011. She also holds a United Methodist certification in Christian education and children's ministry. Ellyn has worked as a pre-kindergarten teacher, and from 2005 to 2013 was director of children's ministries at her church in Rocky Mount.

Her parents exposed Ellyn to mission at an early age and she came to understand, she says, that "God's love is way bigger than his love for me and my loved ones; that it stretched across the world." She says that God has given her a desire to share her gifts with others. "I am humbled to be a light of Christ wherever he plants me, and am strengthened by faithful trust in the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit."

Her first mission trip was to Puerto Rico when she was in the fourth grade, the first of many such experiences. "The majority of our work was throughout Central America," she recalls. "I remember struggling to understand why there were people with so little, when I saw so much materialism in my home country.... Then I realized that while others might be poor in material things, I was poor in spiritual things. The people I met on those earliest trips were a witness to me of the joy that is present in a living, dedicated relationship with Jesus Christ."

Ellyn's interest in El Salvador began with her husband, Brian, who felt called to serve the young church there as a long-term volunteer. At first, he planned to spend three months in Central America and three at home, but came to realize more concentrated attention was needed there. The couple moved toward Ellyn becoming a missionary in the place where she had received such a warm welcome when visiting Brian.

In El Salvador, Ellyn was drawn in by the way in which the church includes children, youth, and women in worship. There are several women pastors. Young people are actively involved in worship leadership and evangelism. "My heart melted in Communion when all the children were served first, a beautiful reminder of Jesus welcoming children in his arms and blessing them," she says.

***Saturday, April 09, 2016**

10 am to NOON

Mobile District UMW Spiritual
Enrichment Day



[New Hope United Methodist Church](#)

**JESUS,
JUSTICE,
JOY**



**Speaker:
Norma Spiller**

**Celebration of Ministry

Sunday, April 24 at 5 PM - 6 PM

Christ United Methodist Church

Thanks Faye Sellers for serving on the planning committee for our circle!

(Continued from page 1)

Personally, I think climate refugees are the most critically endangered and of immediate concern. We might say that they are political and economic refugees based on war and poverty. But we are now finding that climate change is also a major factor in the displacement of people across the globe. It's all interconnected. This displacement leading to the migration across borders has placed tremendous strain on the host countries. Their motivation to seek life in another location is driven by sheer survival realities. Refugees are forced to find a home in some of the most difficult circumstances, alienated from their familiar language and culture.

I strongly believe recycling is practiced among United Methodist Women members. Consuming less is the next step in the progression of a larger context of environmental justice. The Western world is much more saturated with a "buy, buy and buy" mentality.

There are more than a few important Bible verses regarding environmental justice: Ezekiel 34:18, regarding sustainable living, Isaiah 24:4-5 and 2 Chronicles 7:14. But one of my favorites is John 6:12, which is simple, prophetic, precise and all encompassing: "And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, 'Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost'" (ESV).

Ellen Lipsey, South Central Jurisdiction



My personal reason for getting involved in this movement is layered. I live in the desert of west Texas on the border of Mexico. Several years ago I returned to this small community where I grew up. I was trained by my parents (especially my mother, a very dedicated member of United Methodist Women) to consider the impact of my choices on others. It was also influenced a few years ago when I attended a National Farm Worker Ministry meeting in California to learn from and be in solidarity with farmworkers picking table grapes. It expanded my awareness of environmental and economic justice related to the choices we make every time we visit a grocery store. I'm excited to be part of an organization that has clout, understanding and makes the connections between justice and care of creation. Be Just. Be Green is the way to be intentional about our planning choices that honor those connections.

The devastation to land, water and air by the oil and gas industry is one of the current environmental concerns in my jurisdiction. The very industries that provide livelihood for so many people are contaminating our earth. Working for a just transition to other forms of energy is vital.

My biggest fear globally is the warming of the planet along with what seems like very slow action to find alternatives to the activities that harm the environment. The effects, including weather disasters, almost always disproportionately impact the most vulnerable communities, and voices from those communities must be heard.

The one impactful thing that every United Methodist Women member could do for the environment is reduce waste. Right now, my favorite inspiration to keep working in our effort to plan sustainable meetings is the song "For

Livets Skull" (For Sake of Life) by Per Harling [which can be found in *Global Praise 1* published by the General Board of Global Ministries].

Jeanne Long, North Central Jurisdiction



Like many people my age, I grew up without a clue that someday landfills would become small mountains, that our air and water would be polluted, and that huge garbage dumps would float into our oceans. When I first became aware of recycling, about 30 years ago, I enthusiastically got on board with it, thinking I could help save the environment.

Fast-forward to today. When I retired from my career in education, I wanted to do something with environmental justice issues, so I was excited to hear about the Be Just. Be Green initiative because I saw it as a way to pursue my passion. As one person, I can't do much. But this is a wonderful opportunity to help organize many, and together we can accomplish something.

The Water Crisis in Flint, Michigan, is an extremely dire situation. Because a city manager was brought in to get the budget under control, decisions were made to use the Flint River for the city water supply without considering the quality of the water or the abilities of the water treatment plant. It has proven to have a high lead concentration, and many people, especially children, have begun to experience irreversible health problems. The Flint River water caused lead from aging pipes to get into the water supply, and these city and household pipes need replacing. Since the population of Flint is mostly low-income people of color, this is a racial and economic issue as well as an environmental one. United Methodist Women in Detroit and West Michigan conferences are helping to deal with the needs of the people, but we all need to be asking what we can do beyond donating bottles of water—for Flint as well as other cities that are in similar situations.

I am concerned that so many are ignoring or discounting the issue of climate change. Irreversible damage is being done, and even though the world agrees that we need to act, politicians in the United States are convincing people that there's no such thing as global warming.

We can all do so many things. But if I had to choose just one, it would be to avoid single-use plastics and convince as many people as possible to do the same. Whether it's not buying plastic water bottles, refusing plastic straws in restaurants or taking reusable bags to the grocery store, we just need to change our mindset about things that are "convenient" but so bad for the environment.

What inspires me is Psalm 37:3: "Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and cultivate faithfulness" (NASB). I'm sure that God did not expect for us to trash the earth and waste its resources. I'm embarrassed at the damage we've done and at the mess we've made for future generations. This spurs me on to try my hardest to care for the earth, to do no further harm and to try my best to influence others to care and to act as well.

Learn more about the Guides and **Be Just. Be Green** at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>

Responsively Yours

by Harriett Jane Olson

Like people, organizations have “personalities” that shape their activities and structures. Like people, organizations are most vital and effective in activities that call on all of their attributes and strengths.

United Methodist Women’s personality has at least four components. First, our reason for being and our energy for the work comes from our faith in God, from saying yes to God’s saving work through Jesus Christ and allowing the Spirit to move us to lives of discipleship and growing faith. Spiritual growth and spiritual foundation are essential to who we are. We know God calls others, too, and that they are fully capable of responding to God and offering their own gifts. This means that we are sisters to those we serve, not “in charge” but in partnership.

Second, we invest in and create leadership development opportunities for members and for women, children and youth in all the places we work. From organizing and participating in the work itself to programs at mission institutions and other supported organizations, leadership development is everywhere you look in United Methodist Women. Many women are already leaders, and to them we offer support and skills enhancement. Other women and girls don’t think of themselves as leaders but can be. We also believe that our church, communities and world need the leadership of women in order to flourish.

Third, to equip ourselves to be partners, we study and learn from experts of many kinds, including through the stories of women near us and far away. Our learning is not just to acquire information and understanding—we allow the learning to change us. This means that our learning has many dimensions and takes place in structured settings and when we least expect it.

Finally, the expression of all of this learning, formation and relationship-building is consistent work providing direct service and participating in advocacy to change systems and conditions that exclude and oppress. Our serving, faith and learning compel us to get involved. Resolutions at General Conference, bringing concerns to business and government attention and working for policies that recognize women’s gifts and needs are the natural outgrowth of our United Methodist Women personality.

These aspects of our personality are deeply interconnected. For example, this year’s new mission study is on climate justice. Our theological rootedness is in God’s creating work and God’s love for all of this diverse creation. God has invited humanity to see themselves as deeply connected not only with our own “kind” but with the whole creation. How we treat the creation, including one another, and how we honor or exploit it is a profoundly spiritual matter. So we study and learn and allow ourselves and our patterns to be changed.

We also develop leaders through seminars,

scholarships, grants and projects. Our “be just, be green” jurisdictional guides have been increasing attention to our commitment to environmental care and social justice concerns. Beginning at Assembly 2014, we have incorporated our 13 Steps to Sustainability in our contracts with meeting venues, affecting menus, linens reuse, recycling, racial justice and other matters to align our practice with our commitments.

Finally, in addition to learning from scientists and experts, we are listening and responding to those who are most affected by environmental exploitation so that we work in solidarity to advocate with businesses and governments to prioritize the wellness of marginalized communities.

Thanks be to God for the precious opportunity to stand as stewards and caretakers of creation and to bring all of who we are to this work. May God bless our learning and our doing!

Harriett Jane Olson
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Member Involvement

Beginning anew in this New Year 2016

*Your involvement will be published
 here as you accept responsibility*

- ☛ **Weekly Prayer Focus - Norma Spiller**
- ☛ **Members Cards - Patsy Adams**
- ☛ **Missionary Cards - Melissa Motes**
- ☛ **Circle Coordinator - Vera Moore**
- ☛ **Reception April 24 - Faye Sellers**
- ☛ **Bake Sale Workers - Glenda Contos**
- ☛ **Bake Sale Bakers - Glenda Contos, Sheila Hare**
- ☛ **Bake Sale Contributor - Vera Moore**

Service Projects

- ☛ **Shay Bruton - Camp Rap-A-Hope**
- ☛ **Tips 20% to Service Persons - Renea Burns**
- ☛ **Magazines to Nursing Homes - Patsy Adams**
- ☛ **Ryan LaSource - Bone Marrow Transplant - Vera Moore**

*Your involvement in service projects will be
 published here as you report them to us.*

This publication is the monthly virtual meeting of the Mary & Martha Mail Circle, United Methodist Women at Christ United Methodist Church, Mobile, Alabama. Our Circle is just like each of the other Circles of Christ UMW with the exception that we do not have monthly meetings other than by this “virtual” program, devotion, prayer calendar/concerns, and Response moments. We make annual pledges to mission and participate in the projects of CUMW in all ways possible. We attend General Meetings as we are able. We constantly keep each other and each woman of UMW in our prayers.

Questions? Contact: Circle Coordinator
 Vera Moore e-mail - vmoore4474@gmail.com