Sending good news about God’s work in action across the seas from Hawaii, Guam and Saipan

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**Dates To Remember**

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United Methodist Women are BOLD and COURAGEOUS!

Let’s recap our events in 2017. You’ll see!

• In January, 114 women convened at Kilohana UMC for our Local Leadership Training. We welcomed special guests from the Conference UMW: President MeleFaiva Blagojevich, Treasurer Eutha Hankinson, and Young Women’s Limitless Coordinator Brenda Tuita, who Sin our local UMW organizations.

• In February, 91 women attended the MidWinter Event at Susannah Wesley Community Center (SWCC). The focus was on “Welcoming Strangers,” and speakers from the Governor’s Office and Catholic Charities shared initiatives related to the homeless in our communities. Most heartening were the bold and courageous testimonies of faith in action that women from six of our churches shared about what their church/UMW do to welcome strangers in their midst.

• In April, 65 women gathered at Waianae UMC for the Spiritual Life Retreat (SLR), which provided innovative and meaningful opportunities to “Welcome God into our Hearts,” the theme that kindled flames that day for bold and courageous women to grow spiritually. In addition to personal reflection and small group sharing, prayer stations were available for contemplation and prayer. An “Ubuntu” work session to complete Hope Bags for rescued human trafficking victims, the homeless, and others in need of backpacks to hold personal items became a comfortable venue for networking and just talking story.

• In July, the Limitless Team collaborated with the District Young People’s Ministries to host the “Back to School Bash” at Christ UMC, which included outdoor and indoor community-building activities, energizing music, innovative technology, and bold and courageous affirmations of faith by 150 young people.

• In August, UMW came together for the Mission Festival at Trinity UMC. Women who attended the Conference Mission u at Cal Lutheran University in California in July led the 90 participants in an overview of the studies: Living as a Covenant Community, Missionary Conferences and Climate Justice. Sessions were in Tongan, Korean and English, and in a Bridging session for young women. Learners were encouraged to become bold and courageous teachers of the studies in their own churches.

• The UMW year ends and begins with the Annual Celebration, held on September 23 this year at Aiea Korean UMC. Retiring Conference President Mele Faiva delivered the keynote address on our theme, “Celebrating our UMW Ohana,” based on Psalm 133:1, “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity.” New and reorganized local organizations at Aiea Korean, Kona, Honolulu and Kihei were commended to our care. Continuing in the spirit of celebration after lunch, Limitless young women engaged participants in song and dance from different cultures in a Diversity Event. The 105 women in attendance were joined by friends and family for an interactive and highly participatory event that blended younger women and older women to celebrate together the array of cultures in Hawaii. BOLD and COURAGEOUS turned into FUN and FABULOUS!

• In November, Limitless hosted its second annual retreat for young women. A group of 25 bold and courageous young women and older “more experienced” UMW counterparts met at the Wesley Foundation at the University of Hawaii for a day of growing a circle of friends, engaging in an UBUNTU project, and spending time in spiritual reflection, which was brought to a close with Holy Communion. See more in this issue!
Continued from page 2.

The year was full. We grew in faith, hope and love, and translated our gifts into bold and courageous action to make our churches, our communities and our world a better place. Our personal spiritual development at the SLR, our local church/UMW initiatives on homelessness, our UBUNTU projects for rescued victims of human trafficking, our contributions to the Rehab Unit at Methodist Hospital of Southern California, our studies at Mission u and the Mission Festival, our singing and dancing together to celebrate our cultures, our development of leaders young and older, and our prayers for our organization as we approach the celebration of our LEGACY of 150 years of women in mission, all affirm our efforts to live our PURPOSE.....to 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. Our purpose is clear in all we do. United Methodist Women are BOLD and COURAGEOUS!

The blueprint for this new UMW year promises more opportunities to learn, grow and fellowship together as United Methodist Women. You will see more in this issue about events that we hope will catch your interest. We’re saving a place for YOU!

As we enter the season of ADVENT, may our lives be filled with wonder and joy as we await the One that is to come. . . . Me ke aloha pumehana.
Our Hawaii District Limitless team has been very busy these last couple of months. Overall we had events happening one after another for our young women. Below is a short description of the events that we had from August and November.

On August 26, we had our Mission Festival Limitless “Bridging” class at Trinity UMC. The girls got to learn about what living in a Covenant Society means. Focusing on the 5 covenants in the Bible: Abraham, Moses, Adam, David, and Noah.

On September 16th, we supported the Methodist Hospital by getting involved with the Walk-A-Ton fundraiser. Although we were not there physically, we were there spiritually, and supported the fundraiser.

On September 23rd, we celebrated Hawaii District Annual Celebration and Celebrating Our Cultures event. Limitless presented our full slated team at Annual Celebration in the morning. In the afternoon, we hosted the “Celebrating Our Cultures” entertainment portion featuring our young women’s talents from various cultures. We received so much positive feedback, and was glad that the seasoned women enjoyed themselves as well as they participated.

On October 20, Nicole and Rosie got to attend D’LTE, and attend the Limitless training session where job role descriptions were set, and planning for the next California-Pacific Limitless event, “The Power of Limitless.” We have chosen a date and need you to SAVE THE DATE: March 16-17 2019. Following D’LTE, on October 21, was the California-Pacific Annual Celebration, which was the celebration of the new Conference Officers and each District Limitless team was present, and showed off their unique color conference Limitless shirts. Hawaii district’s color is golden yellow like our state hibiscus. Our Limitless team had a outing to bond, and further discussed our upcoming events. We shared fundraisers and our experience of the weekend. We then decided as a team to fast on Mondays’ for 5 hours. We would each choose a time that works for each of us, due to the different time zones. We are fasting and praying for Limitless development as individuals.
Continued from page 4

On November 11, we had our Limitless retreat, “Lights, Limitless, Action” event at the Wesley Foundation. We did an ubuntu project with the HUGS organization. We made birthday cards for the seriously ill children and presented special made bead bracelets, melty bead keychains and Friendship bracelets to give to the children. We also were blessed to have guest speaker, Joy Yun who is currently the pastoral intern at Wesley UMC in Kahala. She did an amazing job tying in our Bible scripture verse of the day, Philippians 2:13 into her speech which inspired our young women and encouraged them to use their skills and talents into action to make the world a better place. Then, Kara Mark and Mapuana Ma’ilei were our honored United Methodist Women representatives from District and Conference level to do a UMW 101 and Limitless Question and Answer reflection from Cal-Pac Annual Celebration. We also asked the young women what they would like to do within the next year. We concluded the day with spiritual growth activities and communion. Overall, it was a very successful event and we all had an awesome time.

Nicole was able to attend Leadership Development Days in Tempe, Arizona and looks forward to sharing her experience and all she has learned with everyone. Additionally, we are planning to work on reaching out to our neighbor island girls this coming 2018 year. We will start to plan our Hawaii District Limitless Calendar and send it out to you all very soon.

With all our love,

Hawaii District Limitless

Hawaii District Limitless Team 2017-2018

Young Women’s Coordinator: Mele Tonga
Mentor: Nicole Nonies
College Representative: Cecilia Ma’ilei “Lia” Foster
High School Representative: Ju Hye Kim
Co-High School Representative: Juliet Ma’ilei
Tongan Language Coordinator: Mele-Tupou Fonua “Losimani”
Co-Tongan Language Coordinator: Rosie Falemaka
Korean Language Coordinator: Jennifer Lee
Program Resources Report

Two announcements:

(1) It’s time to report the reading plans that you completed this year. Certificates will be awarded in the February district event, as usual. The due date for reporting is December 20th, either via email (yilee2009@gmail.com) or US mail (94824 Lumiaaua Street BB104, Waipahu, HI 96797). You can download the “reading program report form,” at: http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram/plans. The information I need is: your full name, home address, church you attend, and the titles of the books you read by the areas.

(2) It is also time to prepare for year 2018. The best way to increase participation in reading plans is to have a program-resources coordinator (PRC) in each local church. If your church does not have a designated PRC, consider selecting one. She can assist your church members with selecting and obtaining the reading-program books. In the January district event, all new and existing PRC’s will meet to share ideas, information, and training!

Many thanks, Yean-Ju Lee, Program Resources Coordinator.
Aloha Hawaii District Local Organization Secretaries! It's that time when the Local Organizations are preparing for their new slate of officers. The Local Leadership Training will be in January 2018. Please send me a copy of your officer’s slate so that information of officers can be updated in the UMW Conference’s database. This information will be shared with our District Officers which also will be used in preparation for the Local Leadership Training, at First UMC. Remember to please continue to send me any updates as officers change throughout the year as I need to inform our Conference UMW Secretary. If you have any questions at any time, feel free to contact me, veratomumw@gmail.com. We pray for God’s blessings with our upcoming events and hope to see you at our Local Leadership Training in January.

Much Love & Aloha,

Vera Tom Hawaii District Secretary

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Spiritual Growth~

I'm sure you've heard the song that begins "It's the most wonderful time of the year". That may be so but perhaps not for everyone, myself included. I have to work extra hard to stay positive and practice self discipline. If I'm not getting caught up in all the Christmas "busyness", I tend to isolate and not easily feel or share with others the true meaning of Christmas: Emmanuel, God with us. Happy Birthday, Jesus.

I'd like to offer a few suggestions how to keep the reason for the season at the center of your thinking. Most important for me is to maintain a daily quite time to stay focused. I participate in Church activities and make an advent wreath for my home. Singing or listening to Handel's Messiah is part of my Christmas agenda. Rather than exchange gifts with all but the very young in my family, I donate what I would spend to various UMW missions (David and Margaret Home, Methodist Hospital, Wesley Foundation for example). I'd be interested in how you keep Christmas in your heart. You know there is another song sung this time of year with the words "Why can't everyday be like Christmas"? I'd be interested in hearing your ideas.

"What are you doing New Years?” Some attend watch night services, some attend parties, while others seek out wishes and resolutions for the upcoming year. However you bring in the New Year, let it be pleasing to our Lord and Savior.

We on the district team have prayer partners. I'd like to pray specifically for those concerns on your heart. Please feel free to share any with me. You may want to find a specific person to whom you can turn to at any time as well as find someone who will keep you accountable to encourage you in your daily walk.

District Leadership Training Event will be upon us in the new year. What a wonderful time to gather and share with each other as we grow closer to HIM! I look forward to seeing you all.

Mele Kalikimaka.
Hau'oli Makahiki Hou

Beverly Aiwohi District Coordinator for Spiritual Growth.
Ways United Methodists Can Take a Stand Against Gun Violence

Social Action Coordinator: Atina Pascua

As Christ followers who are called to love all persons, we recoil at the violent and senseless killings that continue to plague our country due to gun violence. To help us through these times of heavy hearts and when our spirits sink with hopeless despair and anger, we continue to turn to God’s Word and we lift our prayers to God for hope and healing. Fred Rogers, the late children’s television host and Presbyterian pastor, famously advised his young audiences that when faced with scary news, “look for the helpers.” I want to remind us that we United Methodists are among those helpers.

Living in Hawaii we may at times feel removed from these events but we know from our own States history that these horrific acts happen here as well. When we hear the tragic news of a shooting, United Methodists mourn with the victims and families of those wounded or killed. We turn to God in prayer, longing for a day when violence will cease.

In addition, many people consider what actions we could take to prevent something similar from happening in the future. So, what can we do?

The United Methodist church calls on all churchgoers to work to prevent such tragedies. Christ calls us to be peacemakers, which is why — along with our prayers — we must work to end gun violence and to do nothing is to be complicit in this seemingly endless terror gripping our communities.

A United Methodist Church has passed a resolution calling on church members to advocate at all levels for laws and procedures that prevent and reduce gun violence.

_The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church_ contains our official positions on many issues, including gun violence. Resolution 3428 in the 2016 Book of Resolutions, “Our Call to End Gun Violence,” calls upon The United Methodist Church—which means you, me, and every member of our denomination—to do several things. You can read the resolution in its entirety on the church website.

1. **Conversations and prayer:** *The Book of Resolutions* calls congregations “to make preventing gun violence a regular part of our conversations and prayer times.” In order to be part of the solution, we need to talk and pray. Congregations are encouraged to use resources such as _Kingdom Dreams, Violent Realities_, a free, downloadable resource from United Methodist Church and Society.

2. **Assist those affected:** Congregations are also called to “assist those affected by gun violence through prayer, pastoral care, creating space, and encouraging survivors to share their stories, financial assistance, and through identifying other resources in their communities.” Together and individually, we walk with others through the processes of grief and healing.

3. **Promote gun safety:** United Methodist gun owners are called upon to help prevent gun violence by safely storing and securing guns, and by teaching and practicing gun safety.
4. & 5. Join together: United Methodist congregations that have not experienced gun violence are called to join with communities of other denominations and faiths who have experienced gun violence “in order to support them and learn from their experiences.” All United Methodist congregations are also called upon to lead or join “gatherings for public prayer at sites where gun violence has occurred and partner with law enforcement to help prevent gun violence.”

6. Encourage legal sales: *The Book of Resolutions* suggests United Methodists “partner with law-enforcement and community groups” to encourage “full legal compliance with appropriate standards and laws” to the sale and ownership of guns.

7. Prohibit guns on church property
To help prevent gun violence United Methodist congregations are “to display signs that prohibit carrying guns on to church property.”

8. Advocate for regulation: Finally, we are called “to advocate at the local and national levels for laws that prevent or reduce gun violence.” Some of these measures include:
Universal background checks on all gun purchases, ensuring that all guns are sold through licensed retailers, and establishing a minimum age of 21 years for a gun purchase or possession.
Ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty.
Prohibiting those convicted of violent crimes, those under restraining order due to the threat of violence, and those with serious mental illness that may be a danger to themselves or others from purchasing a gun.
Ensuring greater access to services for those suffering from mental illness.
Banning magazine and weapons designed to fire multiple rounds each time the trigger is pulled.
Promoting technologies that help law-enforcement agencies trace crime guns and promote public safety.

Our prayers should lead us to action. We read in 2 Thessalonians 1:11, “We are constantly praying for you for this: that our God will make you worthy of his calling and accomplish every good desire and faithful work by his power” (CEB). We too pray for God to give us the wisdom and strength needed to fulfill the desires he has put within us for a world that is free from the violence of mass killings.

As United Methodists, this means getting involved in issues of gun violence and working to prevent these events.

“We call upon United Methodists to prayerfully address gun violence in their local context.” #UMC Book of Resolution
Talofa, Aloha and Greetings!
I’m Josephine Asiata-Tofaeono and I attend the Pacific Islander UMC. I am the newly appointed Hawaii District Samoan Language Coordinator, eager to work with each of you, the wonderful ladies of the Hawaii District, Conference and abroad. My experience thus far has been nothing but warm, welcoming and interesting thus far. I look forward to what God and the year 2018 has planned for all of us!
Merry Christmas and a prosperous and Happy New Year!

Communication Coordinator:
I’m a member of Kilohana UMC. I’m excited to be apart of the UMW organization that is so passionate, and caring for those around them and those they have never met. It’s an amazing feeling to be have the same cause, with women around the country … to help with the ministry for Women and children around the world!
I was fortunate to go to the District Leadership Training in San Diego and attend the Annual Conference Celebration to witness the change of Conference officers. The leadership in the Officers were a wonderful example of leading women with enthusiasm, courage and in action!
I look forward to a learn of growth, spiritual- ity and involvement with the community, locally and sharing through UMW nationally.

Aloha Bold United Methodist Women of Hawaii!
Just a reminder to register for:
Assembly 2018 and join in

THE POWER OF BOLD WHEN WOMEN UNITE,
BOLD AND COURAGEOUS ACTIONS HAPPEN
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ASSEMBLY MAY 18-20, 2018
GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER
COLUMBUS, OHIO

United Methodist Women is currently the largest faith-based women’s organization in the world and Assembly is the largest quadrennial gathering of that organization. At Assembly you viscer- ally feel “The Power of Bold” with the combined energy of 8,000 women through communal, face-to-face growth, action, celebration and inspiration- 8,000 women in ONE time, ONE place, ONE space… this is ASSEMBLY.
See you there!
Maxine Wheeler, Western Jurisdiction

Go to www.umwassembly.org to register today
Hello My Sisters in Christ,

We are almost to a close of another year and I find myself asking, “Where has the year gone, right?!”

As we are come to closer to the end of this year, we still have things to do. Thank you to those who sent their UMW End of Year Report. They were due December 3. If you haven’t sent them in, please send asap.

I ask that you empty your treasury and leave only 3 months to allow for your expenses for the beginning of next year. The remittance you send me should be to “undesignated” or “pledge to mission” so that it will be counted towards your pledge. We are moving closer to our pledge goal, but we need every local organizations help.

I also want to thank every local organization who continue to pledge faithfully every year. Without you we would not be where we are; but we need every local organization to pledge.

**If all 38 local organizations pledged $ 657.89 we would be able to meet our annual pledge of $25,000.00 to conference.** This is attainable but we need to work together as a team!

I also want to encourage all of our local treasurers to attend our local leadership training for next year in January at First UMC! We have much to discuss and share.

Aloha and Blessings,

Seneti

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**Hawaii District Pledge 2017**

**Current Status**

![Graph showing pledge vs current status]

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**SAVE THE DATE**

MidWinter Event
February 17, 2018

We will be featuring our connections with the four National Mission Institutions in the CalPac Conference.

Here in Hawaii, we will be at Susannah Wesley Community Center. They have asked us to host a Rummage/White Elephant Sale at the Center to help raise funds to replace the Multi-purpose Room flooring. More info will be sent by email to our local UMW organizations. Thank you!
Theme: “United Methodist Women are Bold & Courageous!”

Joshua 1:9 “Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismay,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

January 27, 2018

First United Methodist Church

1020 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Registration: 8:30 a.m. Call to worship: 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker: Lory Nese, former Hawaii District President and CalPac Conference President

Register by Friday, January 19, 2018 to guarantee lunch.

Cost $15.00

Childcare available for children 5 and under. Please send in $25.00 deposit per family for childcare with registration. The deposit will be refunded in full, at the event if childcare is used.

Please provide lunch, a drink and snacks for your child.

Name of church_________________________Number attending training________________

Name of responsible person____________________Phone#________________________

Names of persons attending and positions in local units or office aspiring to:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Names and ages of children needing childcare:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Make checks payable to Hawaii District UMW, mail registration form to:

Registrar: Losimani Fonua, 41-510 Flamingo St., Waimanalo, HI 96795

Email: manifonua@yahoo.com or contact Losimani at (808-425-6363)
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ASSEMBLY MAY 18-20, 2018
GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER
COLUMBUS, OHIO

Save Money! Early registration fee is $295—deadline November 30.

Save more Money! Hotels range from $139—$159 per night.

Share the cost with roommates!

Cal-Pac UMW is staying at The Drury Inn and Suites in Grove City.

Phone (614) 875-7000 or (866) 872-5690

Book under Group Number 2321741,“United Methodist Women Assembly”

https://www.druryhotels.com/BookAndStay/

(There will be a shuttle bus)

ACT NOW!