

## Mission Coordinator for Social Action

### *Let's Put the "Action" back into Social Action*

United Methodist Women is specifically charged to "support ministry with and advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women, children and youth." To fulfill this charge UMW Conferences, Districts and Units set priorities to work on through the year.

The Virginia Conference UMW priority for 2016 is Poverty. Poverty is a big umbrella. Persons are trafficked because of poverty. Domestic violence victims remain trapped because of poverty. Pay Day lenders prey on those in the margins of poverty. Medicaid Expansion impacts those in poverty. The Bishop will be focusing on child hunger and poverty this year.

The Arlington District UMW will also focus on the issue of Poverty in 2016 which includes all of the issues mentioned in the previous paragraph. Your Unit can focus on any aspect of poverty in the church or community. Some of the things your Unit can focus on are:

- Host a Children's Sabbath Service;
- Make sure that ALL of your meetings are green meetings and if you can, push hard to get ALL meetings at your church to be green meetings;
- Ask your trustees to consider changing the bulbs to energy efficient lighting and install motion sensors in the various rooms so the lights are automatic;
- Host or support a poverty event in your community;
- House or support a clothing closet in your community;
- Collect toiletry items for the local jail or prison;
- Bake cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry in your community. Email [webmaster@kairosva.com](mailto:webmaster@kairosva.com) to find a ministry in your area.

The **MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SOCIAL ACTION** shall coordinate the unit's programs of study and action relating to current local, national, international and global social issues. She shall:

- Work with the Executive Committee to support the District's focus of poverty by local unit prayer, study and action, taking into consideration district and conference priorities;
- Sign up for the National UMW Action Alert network - [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)
- Sign up for the General Board of Church and Society action network - [www.umc-gbcs.org](http://www.umc-gbcs.org)
- Sign up for the VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy - [www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org)
- Sign up to the United Methodist News Service - [newsdesk@esp.umcom.org](mailto:newsdesk@esp.umcom.org)
- Promote and interpret the biblical basis for social action and the position of The United Methodist Church on social issues utilizing The Book of Discipline, The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church, and the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church;
- Promote the Charter for Racial Justice;
- Promote the Living Into Our Purpose Award and encourage unit to strive to the achievement of the award;
- Attend District events.

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