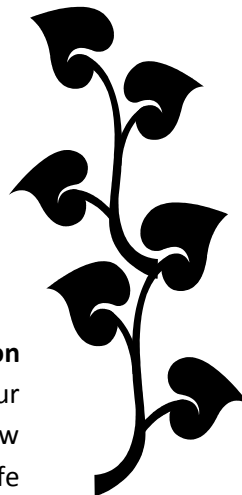


CENTRAL PLAINS MENNONITE WOMEN

Who are Mennonite women today?
We are all ages and belong to many races and ethnic groups.
We meet in Bible study groups, coffee hours, mission and service groups,
one-on-one in friendships, and at retreats.
We are women who juggle work, family, and spiritual growth –
yet seek to be part of faith circles that fit our needs.



Central Plains Mennonite Women partners with Mennonite Women USA in their **Vision** ...To invite women across generations, cultures, and places to share and honor our stories, care for each other, and express our prophetic voice boldly as we seek to follow Christ ... and **Mission** ... to empower women and women's groups as we nurture our life in Christ through studying the Bible, using our gifts, hearing each other, and engaging in mission and service.

Some of the ways that CPMW are living their Mission in 2010-2011:

- by gathering at the Annual Conference in Mt. Lake, MN on June 26. We spent our time together sharing our stories of how our congregation's women's groups are caring and ministering to one another and sharing ideas.
- by hosting the MWUSA PREP meeting (Prepare, Resource, Encourage, Praise) at Bethesda Mennonite in Henderson in August. This was the Conference Mennonite Women Leaders annual resource meeting for a time of networking and sharing resources and ideas, to reflect on God's calling, and to worship and pray together with women from around the US.
- by hosting a Sister-Care Seminar on November 5-6 at Kalona, Iowa. Seventy women attended the Seminar, "*Effective Lay Caring in the Congregation*," and addressed the question of how we can care for each other *in the church* in the context of our lives today, acknowledging women's gifts of caring and equipping them to respond more effectively and confidently to the needs of others in the congregation. Presenters for the weekend were Ruth Lapp Guengerich, President of MWUSA and Rhoda Keener, Executive Director of MWUSA.
- by gathering at area Women's Retreats:
 - * Swan Lake Christian Camp, Viborg, SD, annual Women's Retreat was held September 18-19. Lynn Duerksen Stoneking, Jackson, MN & Ruth Entz Buller, Newton, KS, shared their life stories around the theme of *Giving & Receiving* during difficult times.
 - * Nebraska Women's Retreat in Aurora, NE was held on March 5-6 with Diane Zaerr Brenneman sharing on "*Finding Joy in Your Life*."
 - * Women In Conversation Retreat last spring hosted by MWUSA in Hesston, KS with Megan Ramer, pastor of Chicago Community Mennonite Church...a retreat on *Living a Life of Gratitude*.
- through *Timbrel* – a publication of MWUSA – and *Postcard and a Prayer* – a monthly e-letter. To subscribe, go to www.mennonitewomenusa.org or call (316)283-4396

- using the Anabaptist Bible study guide in our Women’s Groups produced annually by MWUSA. This year’s guide, *Seek Peace & Pursue It: Women, Faith, ad Family Care*, was written by Elizabeth Soto Albrecht.
- by gratefully sharing our financial resources with women at home and around the world

Since June 1, CPMW have generously given \$22,000 to supported projects and other designated projects. CPMW projects for the year provide financial support for the MWUSA **International Women’s Fund Scholarships** that help women around the world receive training for church leadership. Women’s Groups also financially support the **MCC Bangladesh program, Pobitra**, which is an alternative job training program for former sex workers in response to the Resolution against human trafficking that MWUSA brought to the delegates at Columbus 2009.

Support for MCC projects (school kits, health kits, relief kits, comforters, etc.) is one area that remains strong and we know these gifts of love are cherished around the world. Local endeavors as well as cash projects continue to be an important part of the work done by Mennonite Women groups.

Mennonite Women Groups across our Conference continue to see the effects of busyness on our lives. Fewer groups are gathering together as “sewing” circles. But our desire is to share ideas and resources with one another so that we may be “sowing” circles of care and healing and hope.

You can find information about CPMW events on the Central Plains web-site by following the MW link. We invite women’s groups to share news, ideas, and photos through this communication tool. Thanks to Shana for her expertise on managing the web-site.

We look forward to hearing from Patricia Urueña, from Quito, Ecuador at our Annual Meeting in the Quad Cities.

Current Executive Committee members:

President	Carol Janzen, Henderson NE
Vice President	Marjorie Baerg, Butterfield MN
Secretary	Phyllis Hofer, Marion SD
Treasurer	Marlinda Beachy, Kalona IA
Member-at-Large	Marlene Swartzendruber, Shickley NE
Member-at-Large	Bethany Shetler, Wellman IA

Go on-line to www.centralplainsmc.org and follow the Ministries link to Mennonite Women