

THE SPR CONNECTION

A Newsletter for United Methodist Women Secretaries of Program Resources

ISSUE FIVE | FALL | 2009

Greetings!

As **Secretary of Program Resources**, you carry the primary responsibility for promoting the Reading Program. This requires that you have a good understanding of how the program works and can answer the many questions that arise. You should also be familiar with the Reading Program Online Community, and should check the site often to help you promote upcoming activities and information. Answers to many of the questions you may be asked can be found in the

Reading Program Catalog.

The information inside this issue, which is also located in the first two pages of every Reading Program Catalog, is

updated each year to include new information, as available, and some great ways to participate in the Reading Program using the books during the year.

The Basics

The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women members:

- 📖 to expand understanding of and participation in God's mission;
- 📖 to increase sensitivity to all human beings, their needs, interests and concerns;
- 📖 to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today;
- 📖 to grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life;
- 📖 to enhance self-knowledge and to act from that knowledge; and



IN THIS ISSUE

ONE: The SPR's Role in Promoting the Reading Program.

TWO: Cool Answers for Burning Questions.

THREE: Promotional Ideas and How to Participate.

FOUR: Hot off the Press.

- 📖 to strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

About the Books

The Women's Division Reading Program Committee (made up of Women's Division directors and staff)

(See **2010 Reading Program**, continued on page 2.)

MUSINGS FROM MRC

Liz and I are both back from attending each of the Regional Schools of Christian Mission, and were again impressed with the choreography that went in to ensuring that all parts ran smoothly. As we traveled to the different schools, we were able to appreciate the same topics offered with a slightly different flare depending on the region of the United States. We returned with additional suggestions about how MRC can further tweak the consignment process, which we will be implementing as soon as possible. The

updated Order Form has been posted to the Online Community in the section specifically designed for the Secretaries of Program Resource, and we will also be posting each of the Consignment Order Form components on the MRC e-Store at www.mission-resourcecenter.org through the "Conference and District SPR" link on the left toolbar.

As we approach the September 1 release of the new 2010 Reading Program Catalog, our MRC warehouse is filled with this year's

offerings. We look forward to the excitement that these new titles engender in the members, through the continued diligent work of the SPRs promoting the Reading Program. On page 2 and 3 of this issue of *The SPR Connection*, Brenda will explain in greater detail the exact role the SPR plays in advertising and supporting the Reading Program books at all conference and district events. This year's book selections will be easy to market because of the timely topics and emotions they will evoke.

MRC is looking forward to a successful season of annual meetings, and hope you enjoy this year's Reading Program selections.

We'll also look forward to seeing many of you in St. Louis at Assembly 2010. MRC will have a large number of resources available, and hope you'll all take the time to stop by to say hello, and purchase something, of course!

Sandra Patterson
Membership Services Manager

Eliza (Liz) Davis
Membership Services Call Center Supervisor

BURNING QUESTIONS COOL ANSWERS

Q: What are ★**Bonus Books**?

A: BONUS BOOKS count either as two books in the same category or as one book in each of two categories, as noted in the Reading Program Catalog.

Q: Can other products, such as Fair Trade coffee, be sold at our events?

A: Outside products can be sold at events; however, they should not be sold in the Resource Room.

Q: Why do business with the Mission Resource Center?

A: We receive questions from time to time asking whether there is a good reason to purchase non-consignment Reading Program books and other resources, such as Program Books and Mission Studies, from MRC. The answer is “YES.” Your purchase proceeds go back to United Methodist Women. How? Money received from Reading Program books and other resources is put back into the purchase of additional Reading Program books, and into the production and sale of the yearly Program Book, Prayer

Calendar, mission study materials and free resources used at our events. It makes sense to support MRC.

Q: How are sales and receipts to be handled at United Methodist Women events?

A: There has been some confusion and questions about the handling of money at United Methodist Women events. The treasurer is bonded by the Women’s Division, but she SHOULD NOT be the person that makes sales or counts the day’s proceeds at an event. The SPR should prepare the accounting forms, and the treasurer and SPR must reconcile them together. The treasurer deposits the cash and individual checks in the bank, and writes **one** check for the total cash/check sales and a separate check for Sales Tax (only applicable in Texas). The treasurer then sends the check(s) and credit card receipts (if credit cards were accepted) to the Mission Resource Center within one week after the event.

You can always refer to the Consignment Training Manual for more cool answers.



E-mail Orders and
Customer Service:
cs@missionresourcecenter.org

Newsletter Contributions:
newsletter@missionresourcecenter.org

Customer Service Phone:
800-305-9857

Customer Service Fax:
214-630-0079

Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CST

Mailing and shipping address:
Mission Resource Center
1221 Profit Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

2010 Reading Program *(continued from page 1)*



chooses the books after evaluation. Three evaluators (local members of United Methodist Women) read each book before the committee reviews it.

The current book lists (2006-2010) can be viewed on the Reading Program Online Community at www.umwonline.org; <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/resources/reading-program>; and at the e-Store www.missionresourcecenter.org. There is also an order form in the Reading Program Catalog.

Many considerations influence the decision to choose a book: the purpose of the Reading Program; the relationship to United Methodist Women concerns; the approaches to issues, from familiar to

new; our diverse membership; the cultures represented; the suitability for children and youth; readability and language (the lists also include large print and “larger than average” print books.)

If there are suggestions, recommendations or comments about Reading Program books, email bathomps@gbgm-umc.org. Please include as much information about the title as possible.

Getting Reading Program Books

The books are stocked at the Mission Resource Center. Books are now available. Prices and availability are subject to change by publishers.

Some older books may not be available at the Mission Resource Center. Titles on the Recommended Reading list are not available at MRC.

The Reading Program is a five-year program, meaning that

the books on current lists can be read for credit during that time. The current reading lists are from 2006-2010. As noted in the Plan descriptions, books read from the oldest list (which is dropped from the program once a new list is published), can be read for credit through the end of the year in which it was dropped; i.e., the 2005 books can be read for credit through December 31, 2009.

The Bible is the foundation of all Christian reading, including that of the Reading Program. The program's Scripture base is Proverbs 8:1-21 – The Gifts of Wisdom.

Promotional Ideas for Local and District Units

- 📖 Order Reading Program certificates (#1531, 25 for \$4) from the Mission Resource Center to present to those who complete reading plans.
- 📖 Display progress charts in a prominent place, showing readers' names, books being read and the reading plans being followed.
- 📖 Show special recognition to units and/or individuals who complete Plans III and IV.
- 📖 Capture interest by attractively mounting quotations from Reading Program books and posting them throughout the church. Include titles, author name and publisher, and year title was featured on the list; add a review from a unit member.
- 📖 Develop permanent and portable displays to encourage book sales, especially around holiday seasons and vacation times.

How to participate

Secretaries of Program Resources work with the United Methodist Women executive committee to promote the program. SPRs explain program procedures, enroll individuals, and assist members and units by:

- 📖 Using Suggestions for Action as a guide for choosing titles and mission responses;

- 📖 Circulating books among members and units;
- 📖 Encouraging individuals to suggest titles to local and church libraries for purchase;
- 📖 Encouraging units to exchange books;
- 📖 Securing books and circulating them among unit and circle members;
- 📖 Distributing copies of the Reading Program catalog;
- 📖 Encouraging members to join the Reading Program Online Community at www.umwonline.org;
- 📖 Encouraging district and local SPRs to join the SPR Online Community (please send an email 'request for invitation' to bathomps@gbgm-umc.org);
- 📖 Ordering copies of the brochure "Your Reading Program" (#M5016, free for postage and handling, and by download on the Reading Program Online Community and at mission-resourcecenter.org) for distribution.



Anyone can participate in the Reading Program by following one of the four Plans listed in the Reading Program Catalog. When the required number of books and magazines are read, readers are to report their reading to their local unit secretaries of program resources.

Below is information on how the books relate to the issues and concerns of United Methodist Women, and easy ideas to act in mission once you have learned more about an issue.

The Reading Program leads to Action!

For almost 140 years, members of United Methodist Women and predecessor organizations have been involved in mission that includes prayer, study and action. The Reading Program is a study opportunity; but it should also lead to action. Here are a few suggestions to assist you.

1. **Pray.** Books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time at home and at unit or circle meetings.
2. **Organize.** Contact the Office of Community Action to work on social action plans for your local unit or circle and church. To obtain resources for community organizing e-mail Carol Barton at cbarton@gbgm-umc.org.
3. **Host a program.** Use the Program Book and Reading Program resources for ideas for programs.

Action Suggestions for 2010

Take a look at *Suggestions for Action* in the current Reading Program Catalog and use them to plan your reading and mission actions.

TIPS for Resource Rooms:

- 📖 Having three sales stations (cash, checks, credit cards) moves the line along much faster and there's less confusion.
- 📖 Use standing, plastic photo holders with a picture of your book choice on the front and price lists on the back, facing you for quick access to pricing at sales stations.
- 📖 Remember that the sales price is the dollar amount shown on the consignment pack list that came with your books.

Brenda Thompson

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bathomps@gbgm-umc.org
212-870-3733

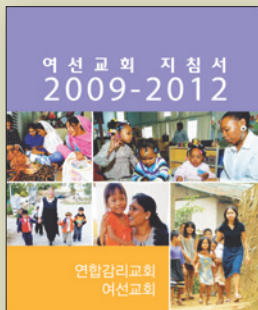
United Methodist Women

Mission Resource Center
1221 Profit Drive
Dallas, TX 75247

ORDER TODAY! www.missionresourcecenter.org or call 1-800-305-9857

Hot off the Press

Handbook 2009-2012 (Spanish)
Wire Bound (#M3033-2009-01) \$17.00
3-Hole Punched (#M3034-2009-01) \$17.00



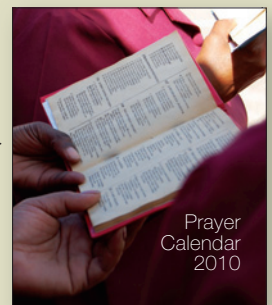
Handbook 2009-2012 (Korean)
Wire Bound (#M3035-2009-01) \$17.00
3-Hole Punched (#M3036-2009-01) \$17.00



2010 Date Book
(#M3068-2010-01) \$1.00



2010 Program Book
Let's Get Together!
(#M3069-2010-01) \$7.00



2010 Prayer Calendar
(#M3061-2010-01) \$11.00

Prayer
Calendar
2010