

United Methodist Women's Reading Program

The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

For 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. The purpose of the program is to encourage United Methodist Women members to:

- Expand understanding of and participation in God's mission.
- Increase sensitivity to all human beings—their needs, interests and concerns.
- Encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today.
- Grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life.
- Enhance self-knowledge and act from that knowledge.
- Strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

Books are organized into 5 categories:

- Education for Mission
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth
- Leadership Development

Bonus books count as two books - either as two books in one category or as one book in each of two categories.

There are four plans to choose from for participating in the Reading Program. You can choose one plan to follow and when you've completed the plan's requirements, report it to your United Methodist Women local unit secretary for program resources. (Martha DeBerry)

Plan I: 5 Books Per Year

- One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2010-2014 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth titles).
- Regular reading of Response magazine.

If you are interested in the more advanced plans, contact Martha DeBerry for more information. The books for the 2010 Reading Program have not been located yet and will be added to the list when they are located. The books are located, in a group, in the church library. When you take a book to read, please sign the book card located in the back of the book and put it in the box provided with the books. Thank you.

UM Women's Reading List 2014

Education for Mission

- 2011 Disfigured: A Saudi Woman's Story of Triumph Over Violence by Rania Al-Baz
(326.82 ALB)
Rania Al-Baz was the smiling face of a family program on Saudi television. She was the first Saudi Woman TV anchor when her abusive husband assaulted her. Her agreement to make pictures of Her injuries public sparked criticism of Saudi culture, and as a result the first Saudi research into Domestic violence began in Riyadh.
- 2012 Because He Lives: Faith, Hope and Love in Action by Catherine Ritch Guess
(959.604 GUE)
A true and living example of the faith, hope and love that emerged from one of the most horrid Genocides in the world's history. The book portrays the many ways the UMW members' Supplemental giving helps not only the Methodist Mission in Cambodia, but the women and children there.
- 2012 We Wait You by Taryn R. Hutchison (266.0092 HUT)
Inspiring and humorous, the book is a real-life story of hearts transformed after the Revolutions of 1989 in Eastern Europe. Follow the riveting journey with one woman who made a difference during the unforgettable events that forever changed Eastern Europe.
- 2014 Awake: Doing a World of Good One Person at a Time by Noel Brewer Yeats
(261.8325 YEA)
Many of us enjoy a quality of life that much of the world couldn't imagine, and we live unaffected by the world's injustices and impossible realities. We want to help, but where do we start?

Leadership Development

- 2011 Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof (362.83091 KRI)
The authors raise a passionate call to arms against our era's most pervasive human rights violation: the oppression of women and girls in the developing world.
- 2012 The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind: Creating Currents of Electricity and Hope by William Kamkwamba (621.4 KAM)
After reading about windmills, Kamkwambe dreamed of building one that would bring to his small Malawian village a set of luxuries that only 2 percent in his country enjoys: electricity and running water.
- 2013 Outcasts United: An American Town, a Refugee Team, and One Woman's Quest to Make a Difference by Warren St. John (B MUFLEH)
Clarkston Georgia, was designated as a refugee settlement center in the 1990s and became the first American home for families in flight from war zones
- 2014 Back to Zero: the Search to Rediscover the Methodist Movement by Gil Rendel
(262.0017 REN)
How can United Methodists join in common mission to change the world? What must we risk?
How can we challenge current practices?

Nurturing for Community

- 2011 The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir by Kao Kalia Yang (B YANG))
Born in Thailand's Ban Vinai Refugee Camp, Kao Yang immigrated to St. Paul, MN, when she was six years old. In this intimate portrait of survival, Yang describes her family's harrowing escape from Laos, their life in the refugee camps, the hardships and great joy of caring for a growing family in a new land., and her own experiences with American life and learning.
- 2012 Breath: Finding Freedom to Thrive in Relationships After Childhood Sexual Abuse by Nicole Braddock Bromley (248.86 BRO)
Childhood sexual abuse is suffocating thousands of victims across our nation. With one in three women and one in six men experiencing some form of sexual abuse or assault, our world is full of survivors longing to be healed.
- 2013 Alone and Invisible No More: How Grassroots Community Action and the 21st Century Technologies Can Empower Elders to Stay in Their Homes and Lead Healthier, Happier Lives by Allan S. Teel, MD (362.1084 TEE)
Book describes how to overhaul our eldercare system, based on Teel's efforts to create humane, affordable alternatives in Maine.
- 2014 100 Simple Things You Can do to Prevent Alzheimer's and Age-Related Memory Loss by Jean Carper (616.831 CAR)
Did you know that vitamin B12 helps keep your brain from shrinking? That surfing the Internet strengthens aging brain cells? Medical journalist Jean Carpenter gives 100 simple, scientifically tested ways to reduce the odds of Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Social Action

- 2011 Not Just a One-Night Stand: Ministry With the Homeless by John Flowers (261.8325 FLO)
John Flowers and Karen Vannoy call the church again to the Christ who is Lord who appears at the margins of established, respectable life. Their long co-pastorate at the Travis Park UM Church in San Antonio, TX is a moving testimony to what can happen in a church that looks for the Lord on the margins.
- 2012 The Slave Next Door: Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today by Kevin Bales (364.15 BAL)
Slaves are all around us, hidden in plain sight: the dishwasher in the neighborhood restaurant, the kids on the corner selling cheap trinkets, the man sweeping the floor of the local department store. The author weaves together a wealth of voices and also a call to action, telling what we can do as private citizens to end this crime.
- 2013 In Our Own Backyard: a Christian Perspective on Human Trafficking in the United States by Nita Belles (364.15 BEL)
Book invites readers into the lives of human trafficking victims, survivors and the traffickers themselves with true stories.
- 2014 Finding Higher Ground: Adaptation in the Age of Warming by Amy Seidl (**Bonus Book**) (578.42 SEI)
How are you adapting to life with climate change?. Seidl brings stories of adaptation from the natural world and human communities.

Spiritual Growth

2011 Being a Christian in the Wesleyan Tradition: Belonging/ Believing/ Living/ Growing by John O. Gooch 287 GOO)

In this book you will be faced with questions and decisions about what it means to be a Christian disciple in the United Methodist tradition. It is important to know who we are, from where we came, and how we do mission, ministry and theology in the world.

2012 All Creation Sings: The Voice of God in Nature by J. Ellsworth Kalas (220.8508 KAL)

The author wants us to go further than the "green" movement and being simply conscious of the wonder of our creation and the necessity of caring for it.

2012 Laugh Your Way to Grace: Reclaiming the Spiritual Power of Humor by Susan Sparks (233.5 SPA)

Laughter is the gift that you received at birth, on thing you were able to do freely as a child. It is a gift that may fade but never fully disappears.

2013 Praying for Strangers: an Adventure of the Human Spirit by River Jordan (204.3 JOR)

As 2009 approached, New Year resolutions were the last thing on Jordan's mind. Her sons were about to go to war. All she could do was pray for their safety and hope to maintain her strength, until she came on a perfect resolution -- she would pray for a complete stranger every single day of the year.

2014 Strong Was Her Faith: Women of the New Testament by J. Ellsworth Kalas (225.9 KAL)

Kalas looks into the life and times of 11 different women and examines the scriptures to see what we can learn about these women.

2014 You're Already Amazing: Embracing Who You Are, Becoming All God Created You To Be by Holley Gerth (248.843 GER)

Women feel enormous pressure to be perfect, and under all that pressure are carrying burdens we were never meant to carry and suppressing our dreams. In this book Gerth helps women understand that we don't need to do more, be more, and have more -- because we are already amazing just the way God created us to be.