



Happy 150th Anniversary! Let's Celebrate!

by Sandy Wilder

In just a matter of months, we will celebrate together our 150th year, as women organized for mission. In the midst of this busy fall season of conference, district and unit events and leadership meetings, we don't want to lose sight of the biggest celebration of all!

We're fast approaching our anniversary year of 2019. How will you celebrate? With whom will you share the story of United Methodist Women in these upcoming months? If you don't already have your celebrations planned, let us offer a few 150th suggestions for you:

- March 23, 2019, our actual 150th anniversary date, is a Saturday, so consider organizing a celebration of United Methodist Women that lasts for that entire weekend (March 22–24). Activities might include, on Friday: a service day, a unit program. On Saturday: a 150th birthday party or special event, a women's slumber party, a retreat, a service day, participation in the Day of Giving (March 23). On Sunday: a worship service planned and conducted by United Methodist Women, a festive luncheon, a prayer service.
- Plan a Fun-Raiser and announce the amount raised at a 150th birthday party over the March 23 weekend. What is a "Fun-Raiser"? It is an activity your unit, circle or conference creates to raise money for the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. Details about how to Fun-Raise for the Legacy Fund can be found at the Legacy Fund website: unitedmethodistwomen.org/150.
- Remind your members that because every woman needs to have a valid will, everyone can easily plan for a gift of any size to United Methodist Women in her will. Could we get 150 bequest commitments from each conference in our anniversary year?

- Promote the legacy of your United Methodist Women community and global work by sending a story to your local newspaper or pitching a news story to your local news station.
- Challenge all your members to “stretch” during the anniversary year by giving an amount every month during 2019 to the Legacy Fund. For instance, if only 179,000 of us gave only \$18.69 twelve times—once per month—we would exceed our entire campaign goal! Could you suggest that each member give \$20 per month, or more?
- Honor your leaders by presenting them with the special 150th Mission Recognition pin or the 150th necklace.
- Continue your 150th celebrations in 2019 at Mission u, Annual Conference, conference and district Annual Meetings, and all conference and district and local events next year.

Where do you find the resources you need for your regular Legacy Fund displays and for your anniversary celebrations? First, contact your conference Legacy Fund Liaison. She can help provide commitment (pledge) envelopes, blank “150” note cards, a one-pager describing the Legacy Fund, a promotional flyer for the special 150th anniversary pin and necklace, and copies of the new “fun-raiser,” planned giving, and Legacy Fund brochures. If you don’t know who your conference Legacy Fund Liaison is, ask the Legacy Fund team by e-mailing: legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org. And finally, you’ll find further information and resources such as the Legacy Fund toolkit on the Legacy Fund website: unitedmethodistwomen.org/150.

You may already have your 150th birthday celebrations planned and, if so, please share your ideas and photos with Anissa New-Walker, awalker@unitedmethodistwomen.org, at the National Office so we can in turn share your creativity with other members.

“God will make our love fruitful, whether we see that fruitfulness or not.” (*Bread for the Journey* by Henri Nouwen). What a privilege we have: to be faith, hope and love in action at this time in the history—and the future—of United Methodist Women.

Together, we are building our legacy!

