

CENTRAL CONNECTIONS

News about Women Ministries of the Central Conference

Connecting women...impacting our world!

Fall 2016



100 Years of Women Serving God

A lot has happened in our lives since our last gathering... the names of ministries and positions have changed throughout the Covenant Church. However, the one constant is that we continue to serve a mighty God who desires us to walk closer to Him on a daily basis in our lives. I believe women ministries offers that to each and every one of us if we so desire. As we continue on this life journey, my hope is that you find that connecting with us leads you into a more purposeful life in Christ, to serve Him and connect with women who are facing some of the same challenges as you and may be on the other side of them and able to encourage you to stay with God and grow deeper in your walk.

Women ministries is an open door to relationships that are to strengthen us each time we connect. I have had the awesome privilege to attend two Boot Camps for Presidents throughout these United States led by our fearless and capable leader Director of Women Ministries Meagan Gillan, who I am sure you have met personally or seen on our website. If you are in the Central Conference I am certain you have had opportunities to connect.

Make and Deepen Disciples is the umbrella women ministries we as women are now under. The roles of women in the church have truly evolved and the Covenant has opened the doors for us to step in as our gifts and abilities are nurtured through various avenues through women in ministry. If you are meeting in your homes, local churches, coffee houses, during walks or runs in the park, schools, etc. there is a place for you in women ministries.

I look forward to meeting you at **Covenant Harbor Bible Camp** for our Fall Fellowship retreat September 16-18th along the beautiful shores of Lake Geneva—where we will be **Fortified** through the Word of God.

There is another awesome gathering of women in **The Great Lakes** region better known as the UP at Covenant Point Bible Camp along the shores of Lake Hagerman on September 23-25th. Go to our website for more information for registration.

The women of the Badger District have served us well in planning the Fall Fellowship retreats the last two years, with a team of women who have shown excellent organizational skills. It shows us what happens when we work together. Thank you for your faithful serviced ladies.

I close with saying if we as the Leadership team of women ministries have not connected with you, please let us know. We want to be a bridge in uniting as we gather in September.

Thelma E. Lawson

President of WM of the Central Conference
"There is room at the altar for all women"

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Friday & Saturday, February 17-18, 2017

WMCC Leadership Team Meeting
Place to be announced.

Saturday, March 11, 2017

WMCC 2017 Spring Celebration
"Celebrate Your Story"

Hope Covenant Church
14401 West Avenue, Orland Park, IL 60462
Hosted by the Western Suburban District



Women Ministries Central Conference 2016 Annual Project Update

The women of Central Conference have been led to support Hannah House, a part of Cornerstone Community Outreach in Chicago, IL (<http://www.ccolife.org/>). Hannah House serves 88 women, 83 children (up to age 19) and 83 men. Women are also housed at nearby Sylvia House and Naomi House. There are also quite a few employees, many of whom were homeless and the needs of ALL are great. We thank all of you who brought toiletries, purses and feminine hygiene products to the retreat. We encourage your church to continue supporting the shelter by providing these items in addition to new bras, panties, pajamas, wash cloths and bath towels. We are also grateful for Bonnie Stevens and the women at Northwest Covenant who have agreed to deliver all of our donations to the shelter following the retreat.

WE NEED YOU!!! Do you want to become more involved in Women Ministries? Do you want to be a part of helping WMCC move forward, to continue being the hands and feet of Christ? Here is your opportunity. There are several open positions on the WMCC Leadership Team that meets twice a year to help keep WMCC relevant and spirit-led. You can join the Team by stepping up to fill one of the following positions:

President Elect
Compassion, Mercy and Justice Chair
Communications Chair
Financial Secretary
Recording Secretary
Treasurer

We need your help! If you are interested in filling one of these positions, please contact Thelma Lawson at thelmawmcc12@yahoo.com today!

Being a praying woman doesn't mean you don't have bad days. It means you are willing to find beauty, even in the ugliest days. - Unknown

How can you financially help others through Women Ministries?

Become a Friend of Women Ministries of the Covenant. Visit www.covchurch.org/women to donate and discover all of the current Women Ministries projects and initiatives taking place worldwide.



Support Women Ministries of the Central Conference by giving a gift to help raise funds for the women at Hannah House (our 2016 annual project), new church plants, NPU/NPUTS Scholarships, International women leaders through Raise the Flag, Missionary Women (SIM support), AVA, and WM Leadership and Ministries. Please make checks payable to "**WMCC**" and send them to: Genoa Giles, 8569 West 101st Terrace, Apt. 212, Palos Hills, IL 60465. To learn more about the projects and initiatives of Women Ministries of the Central Conference, please visit: www.centralconferencewomenministries.com

ALL OF OUR MINISTRIES ARE DEPENDENT ON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM YOU AND YOUR LOCAL CHURCH. THANK YOU!

Great Lakes Fall Retreat at Covenant Point "Spiritual Contentment" September 23-25, 2016

The Great Lakes women's fall retreat at Covenant Point will be held September 23rd - 25th. The retreat is open to all women of the Central Conference wishing to get away for a wonderful time at Hagerman Lake in Iron River, MI.

Dawn Swanson, a pastor's wife from Grace Covenant Church in Iron River, will speak on "Spiritual Contentment." When Paul wrote "godliness with contentment is great gain" he wasn't just speaking philosophically ([1 Tim. 6:6](#)). He had learned the secret to contentment in every circumstance of life ([Phil 4:11-2](#)). And you can too.

More information and registration can be found on the internet at cpbc.com

Who is your District Liaison?

The churches of the Central Conference include 113 congregations in five states and have a combined membership of over 17,000 people. That's a lot of people to connect with! How do we do that? Well, there is a system in place that we want you to know about. There are eleven districts in Central Conference. Knowing that women love to know what's going on, each district has a "District Liaison" that is responsible for getting information to the women in the churches in her district. This includes details about WMCC upcoming events, retreats, mission projects and special gatherings. Your District Liaison also wants to hear about what you are doing and how you are serving in your local church. Do you know what district YOUR church is in? Do you know WHO your District Liaison is? Please stop by the Growth Display at the Retreat Ministry Fair to find out more about how YOU and YOUR church can stay connected with the Conference. Or, call Jan Coleman at (815) 436-1809 to get in contact with your District Liaison.

Julie's Project - a Blessing to All

This was a very exciting year for the **Northern Illinois District** since Spring of 2015 when we set a goal to make fleece-tied blankets to give to a local ministry called Rock House Kids. God set the wheels in motion and it was so exciting to watch how everything came together! Many of these kids are homeless and really have nothing, so a blanket of their own to cover themselves and be wrapped with the love of Jesus was our plan. We decided to call this project "Julie's Project" in honor of a wonderful woman, Julie Gustafson, from our leadership team who gave the first seed money to make the blankets but had passed away when we started to make them. We had ladies from seven different churches in the area come together at First Covenant five times from September to the end of November, to make 131 blankets for these needy kids. There was great fellowship as we worked together to support this wonderful cause. We delivered the blankets on December 9th to Rock House for them to give to the kids.

It was amazing how God provided the money for this project: from individual donations of money and material, finding great sales, church donations, and a memorial gift in honor of Julie. It was figured that each blanket cost an average of just \$12.16.

This year we wanted to continue this project so we decided that the Rockford Remedies, a group that comes alongside women and their children who have experienced domestic violence and addiction, would be the recipient of "Julie's Project" for 2016. We have met three times this Spring/Summer and have 55 blankets made so that these dear ones have their own blankets to cover themselves and be wrapped with the love of Jesus. The money needed to make 100 blankets has already been provided, and we are planning to meet 2-3 more times to complete the blankets for Remedies.

And God continues to bless. Julie's family had a birthday celebration and remembrance in June of what would have been her 80th birthday and collected over \$700 as seed money for our 2017 "Julie's Project!"

How exciting to see God's hand in this wonderful ministry that we are involved with. It is great camaraderie when we get together, and knowing we are being used to bless others is a wonderful feeling. How great to be a blessing to those around us!



Are the women in your church and/or district working together to serve your community in an amazing way? Let us know! We would love to include your story and photo in the next issue of the Women Ministries of the Central Conference newsletter! Email your news to Denise Truitt at ohaladybug@sbcglobal.net

2016 WMCC NPU/NPTS Scholarship



Throughout the year, funds are collected from individuals, churches and various fundraisers within the Central Conference so that we can show our support of two young women who currently attend North Park University and Theological Seminary. These women are required to be full time students and active in an Evangelical Covenant Church.

This year, we are pleased to have the privilege of awarding two outstanding young women a scholarship of \$500 each to be used for their studies. We have also invited them to attend our 2016 Fall Fellowship Retreat as our guest. Please allow us to introduce them to you.



Meztli Gonzalez is from Chicago and attends Vida Plena Covenant Church in Oak Park, IL where she has served as a Media Director, Sunday School Teacher and youth leader. She also

volunteers for Chicago Parent Power and is involved in the NPU Hispanic Task Force.

She is earning her Masters in Christian Formation and Masters in Business Administration and plans to graduate in May of 2018.

Meztli served as a speaker at Triennial XV and is an integral part of our Spanish translation efforts at the Fall Fellowship retreats.

Wherever she goes, and whatever she does, she allows God to use her many gifts and talents to minister to others.



Ashley Smith is a member of Oakdale Covenant Church in Chicago, IL where she uses her leadership, teaching and organizational gifts on the Women's Day committee. She is also active in

her church choir, Worship Team, Young Adult Ministry and the teaching staff of Oakdale Christian Academy and Child Care Center. She has also served as a Camp Counselor at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp.

Ashley is part of the Theological Education Program at North Park Theological Seminary and plans to graduate in December of 2017.

Because of her love for community and youth empowerment, she serves as a mentor to the young ladies of her church and desires to be an example of living a life that is pleasing to God.



The women from Hinsdale Covenant church have started a Mending the Soul group that will meet from 9 to 11 am every Monday at the Hinsdale Covenant church. It will run through the third Monday of December. Women who are interested can call the church or email Drusilla McLeland at: mendingthesoul@Hinsdalecovenant.com

Mending the Soul Ministries, Inc. is a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to equipping and resourcing community and church leaders around the world in an informed and compassionate response to those impacted by abuse. MTS transforms individuals and organizations by a training sequence that begins when leaders **receive** healing in relationship to **restore** the broken and **rebuild** community. MTS resources are psychologically informed, culturally relevant, and theologically precise—integrating scientific and social science research with biblical and theological truth. <http://mendingthesoul.org/>

WEBSITES TO CHECK OUT:

The Evangelical Covenant Church

<http://www.covchurch.org>

Make and Deepen Disciples

<http://www.covchurch.org/what-we-do/deepen-disciples>

Women Ministries of the ECC

<http://www.covchurch.org/women>

Women Ministries of the Central Conference

<http://www.centralconferencewomenministries.com>



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