



Regional Education Events  
Learning Together For Transformation of the World

United Methodist Women  
Alaska Conference



## CALL FOR 2017 MISSION u CERTIFIED STUDY LEADERS

The Executive Team of the Alaska United Methodist Women is receiving applications for two Study Leaders to serve the Alaska Conference of the United Methodist Church throughout the Fall 2016 and Winter and Spring 2017.

Those responding to this call will become "certified" and are expected to teach at a minimum of three or maximum of four Mission u Events held regionally throughout the Alaska United Methodist Conference. Certified leaders do not have to be a member of the United Methodist Church.

As leaders in Christian Mission u Education framework it is important that we are informed and challenged by the insights of others in fields that enhance our study leading beyond the "content" of the subject we teach. The certification process includes attendance and full participation in all aspects of the three day *Mission u Leader Training* and reading from a reading list compiled to assist you in knowing the field of study and in making selections to enhance your background.

The studies that we are recruiting teaching leaders for are:

- **Spiritual Growth:** A Covenantal Community (Part I)
- **Geographic:** The Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church

A summary of each study is attached.

The Study Leaders selected will attend the **Mission u Leader Training** during one of the following projected weekends:

- Pittsburg, PA April 27-30, 2017
- *Charlotte, NC May 17-20, 2017 (tentative)*
- Houston, TX June 8-11, 2017

It is advised that all selected study leaders and the Dean attend the same event.

Expenses to attend the training and to teach at our conference Mission u Events will be paid by the Alaska United Methodist Conference UMW. Continuing education credits are available. The Dean and the Mission u planning team will work closely with the certified leaders to schedule events at convenient times.

If you are interested in being considered to teach a study, please complete the attached Call for Study Leader Form and return to:

**Jennifer Miller, Dean of Mission Education**  
**Alaskan\_miller\_girl@Yahoo.com**  
**8124 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave**  
**Anchorage, AK 99504**

**The deadline for submittals is November 18, 2016.**

**ALASKA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
CALL FOR STUDY LEADER FORM**

**Deadline November 18, 2016**

**Please complete and return to:** Jennifer Miller, email address: alaskan\_miller\_girl@yahoo.com You may attach a Circum Vitae. **The preferred proposal format is a Word file attached to an email.** If necessary, your form may be mailed to: Jennifer Miller, 8124 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave , Anchorage, AK 99504.

**If you have any questions, please contact:** Jennifer Miller, email address: alaskan\_miller\_girl@yahoo.com or by phone (907)338-1434 and (907)351-0274.

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**Study of Interest:**

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Phone:

Email:

Home Church:

Please fully answer the following questions. You may use additional space if needed.

**Why are you interested in leading this study?**

**What specific qualifications do you have that relate to this topic?**

## **2017 Geographic Study:**

### **Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States**

By J. Ann Craig with special contributions by Deborah Bass

The 2017 Geographic Study tells the story of the three missionary conferences of The United Methodist Church: Alaska United Methodist Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference, and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. You will learn about the history and how each conference is founded as well as how they add to the richness of the United Methodist connection in the United States. The study explores church history alongside U.S. history in these regions, our ability to both welcome and marginalize those we consider different from ourselves, and the ways in which the church comes together to welcome and support our sisters and brothers through creative and authentic ministry.

We are a church shaped by race and class that was birthed at the same time as “Manifest Destiny,” an ideology that promoted the idea that Euro Americans, and Christians in particular, were destined to dominate what we now know as the United States.

The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Red Bird Missionary Conference, and the Alaska United Methodist Conference are a hybrid of home and international missionary work. These conferences are a product of United States empire building. While some Christians were driven by Manifest Destiny from which they rationalized grand larceny and genocide, others were inspired by the gospel to serve “the least of these” by challenging the violence of military and political domination, as well as by addressing the needs of those doing the invading and those setting up towns in the middle of great upheaval. Most of them thought of themselves as good people. It is in this context that the conferences were born.

The aim of the study is to give an overview of the three missionary conferences in The United Methodist Church, the contexts out of which they grew and their current engagements. What does the future look like for these conferences? Broad-ranging conversations are taking place around this question. The General Board of Global Ministries and the missionary conferences are exploring best operational and structural options for maximizing mission and ministry going forward in these unique locations. These dialogues, different in each case, have begun and will take place across the 2017–2020 quadrennium. The objective is mutuality in mission partnership and collaboration, which provides the heartbeat of all productive mission within the United Methodist connection.

**Leaders guide by Judith Pierre-Okerson**

## **2017 Spiritual Growth Study:**

### **Living as a Covenant Community**

By Evelyn R. McDonald

Covenants are found in the Bible from the moment God created man and woman until the last page of Revelation. The 2017 Spiritual Growth Study examines major covenants throughout the Bible and what they reveal about God's character and eternal love for us. This study will enhance your understanding of how God works with us, in us, and through us.

As we explore these covenants, we will discover that covenantal living calls us to acts of mercy and justice, not only with those in our community, but with all—regardless of their social, political, financial, or religious standing. Through covenantal living, we are connected to God, others, and the whole creation.

We may make a promise for a day and sometimes cannot keep it. We enter into a contract and then may hunt for a way to make it null and void. Even our marriage vows are subject to cancellation. Human contracts or promises may be created out of unjust and selfish motives. Yet, alone we cannot make covenantal promises that will last for a lifetime or beyond. Only God is capable of that.

As we grow to understand the divine covenants made by God with our ancestors, and thus with us, our faith and our lives will transform. Our responses to God's covenants will guide our lives towards greater compassion and openness.

Each covenant reveals a new dimension of humanity's relationship with God and with each other. The covenants do not stand alone, but instead build on each other. The latter covenants do not supersede the earlier ones. When the people failed to keep a covenant there was not an alternative divine plan, which God could have called "Plan B." God did not scrap the human model for something else. God continued and continues to work through us to make God's will evident on earth as it is in heaven. Our covenant agreement with God can be summarized as learning to love God with all of our heart, all of our soul, all of our mind, and all of our strength.

Through this study, we come to marvel at our covenant God, grow in our love for God, for each other, and for our neighbors near and far.

**Participant and leaders guide by Elmira Nazombe**