

SW MN Synodical Women of the ELCA
Domain: swmnwelca.org.
Board Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2019

Several board members met at the Redwood Falls, MN Area Community Center at 9 a.m. for a walk through with their staff. Purpose of the walk-through was to determine whether the Center would be suitable for the 2020 Convention.

Meeting at the Synod office was **called to order** by President Joan @ 9:50 p.m. Morning snacks were brought by Betty Brandt & Linda Magnuson.

In attendance were: Jane Tongen, Betty Anderson, Christina Nelson, Karla Conrad, Louise Ferry, Linda Magnuson, Betty Brandt, Kim Christianson, Joan Iverson, Maria Lokensgard, Diane Fredin. Absent: Marcella Chapman & Barb Wurtzberger.

Opening Devotions - given by Christina Nelson (Matthew 11:28, When was the last time....).

Time of sharing & prayer concerns: Jane's sister has broken her leg; Christina's close friends' families have lost their sons; Christina is hopeful that their financial situation improves & is feeling much anxiety because of this situation & is looking for a job opportunity; Louise Ferry's husband continues his chemo & she is in the "retirement" process; Betty Brandt has also experienced several family deaths recently; Betty's husband's Parkinson disease is not getting any better; Kim C. remembers with prayer a Marshall family who lost their son; Joan has a few aches & pains; Maria has a family member who has had breast cancer & now has stomach cancer.

Agenda at this point had no additions.

Secretary's Board Minutes from November 4, 2018 as sent to board members were approved on a motion by Betty Anderson & second by Kim Christiansen.

Correspondence: None presented.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Maria went over the details on the Treasurer's Report. The report will be placed on file. She has between \$5,000 & \$6,000 to be paid to Churchwide before the end of January.

Unfinished Business:

1. Convention site for 2020 – A motion by Betty Brandt & seconded by Christina was approved to choose the Redwood Area Community Center as the site. Rental costs were given to the group visiting earlier in the morning by Community Center staff which matched the costs previously given to President Joan. A check for \$250 will be drawn upon booking by President Joan. The remaining balance will be paid 30 days prior to the event day. Total approximate cost will be \$510 for the rental of the rooms; food & beverages are not included in this price & will be arranged by board members Betty Anderson & Linda Magnuson.
2. Triennial prize drawing slips from Fall Gatherings were gathered.
3. 2019 Convention preparations were gone over; many preparation items were finalized. President Joan will take care of noting all changes & additions on the worksheet. Board members will receive an updated copy prior to the next board meeting.

New Business:

1. Future convention sites were discussed. A synod map was furnished & discussion led to the rotation of convention sites.
2. President Joan will be attending the Synodical President's meeting on February 21 & 22. Board members gave personal responses to questions from Linda Bushkofsky.
3. Linda Bushkofsky also asked questions in regard to SW MN offerings to Churchwide. Maria discussed her thoughts on the question of differences in final giving totals for 2015, 2016 & 2017. Maria will investigate the possibilities of why such large difference between 2015 & 2016.
4. Maria will be working on a new budget. After she has put the figures together, the administrative board will review those figures & give their approval prior to the next board meeting.
5. Joan will be working on the publicity packet for the 2019 Convention prior to March 1.
6. It has been communicated by SW MN Synod of the ELCA that for now the realignment of conference for SW MN Synod is on hold.
7. Please make a copy of the SW MN Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA Policy Statement & keep on file. Throw all old copies prior to this updated November 16, 2018 copy for less confusion.
8. The *Communicator* deadline is March 1 for those board members writing articles.

Committee Reports:

1. No reports were given by Mission Action, Mission Community or Mission Growth.
2. Synod Nominating – Betty Brandt, Synod Nominating Liaison, said their committee is looking for more people to sign up as a nomination, willing to serve as a voting member to the Triennial.

Conference Liaisons:

1. There were no conference concerns, issues or announcements.
2. The Spring Gatherings that have been received are listed in the last copy of The *Communicator*.

The next board meeting will be held on March 9, 2019 at First Lutheran in Marshall at 9:30 a.m. Snacks will be brought by Christina & Joan. Opening devotions by Barbara Wurtzberger; closing devotions by Betty Anderson.

Closing Devotions by Louise Ferry (“joining at the table”). The Lord's Prayer was recited.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Fredin,

SW MN Synod WELCA Board Secretary
difredin@mnval.net

Other Dates:

May 3 & 4, 2019 32nd Convention of SW MN SWO Women of the ELCA@ First Lutheran, Marshall, MN – will be voting on the 11th Triennial voting members.

2019 SW MN SWO CONVENTION

First Lutheran, 100 Church Street, Marshall MN 56258 507-532-2429

Friday, May 3 & Saturday, May 4

THEME: Embraced by the Winds of Grace

THEME VERSE: Ecclesiastes 1:6 *“The wind blows to the south, and goes around to the north; round and round goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns.”*

THEME HYMN: “Spirit of Gentleness” 396
ELW

(Karla gave a neat devotion on this hymn at Nov. mtg. Board feels she should verbally share some of this sometime during the convention).

OFFERING OBJECTIVES:

50% to Churchwide Women of the ELCA

Shetek Lutheran Ministries

?Campus Ministry? ?Hope Harbor? (Kim checking into these)

IN-KIND OFFERING:

School Kits for LWR

All LWR Kits/Quilts, etc.////Christian Literature

WORKSHOPS:

Sara Larson – Writing/Journaling

Tim Tomasek – Identity Theft/Scams

“The Spirituality of Dreams” – Dreamwork by Janet Ruth (Kim C. sister-in-law)

Archivist from Luther Seminary? (Betty B. will check into)

Hope Harbor? (Kim check on)

Rolling Bandages????? *(this was not talked about at Nov. mtg. – but was suggested in Sept)*



SPEAKERS: Brad Bigler, Marshall? (Kim checking on him)

Between Kim & Linda – they had some other ideas to check out for speakers.....

COST: Friday only: \$25;

Saturday only: \$50;

Friday & Saturday: \$65

Friday, May 3 Schedule:

(see next sheet)

Saturday, May 4 Schedule:

(see next sheet)

Closing Worship: Hallelujah Hooligans

YES – they will come. *Board will present
them with an offering*

CONVENTION COMMITTEES:

CREDENTIALS/REGISTRATION: (Maria L. & Marcy C.)

DISPLAYS: (Betty B. & Jane T.)

WORKSHOPS: (the board)

ELECTIONS: (Louise F. & Jane T.) *and the* MC & MG Conference Chairs [VP/SECT/4 BOARD & 9 TRIENNIAL VOTING MEMBER]

IN-KIND OFFERINGS: (Barb W. & Christina N. & Karla C.) *and* MA Conference Chairs

MINUTES: (Diane F.) & Conference Secretaries

OFFERING: (Maria L.) & Conference Treasurers

PUBLICITY: Joan I.

PROGRAM BOOKLET: (Christina N.)

RESOLUTIONS: (Linda M.) & Conference VPs

SCHOLARSHIP MENTORS: *suggested: Kristy Henriksen*

and Joanna Rustad (Joan will ask)

WORSHIP SERVICE: Kim C. & Marcy C. (Saturday morning - Worship/Holy Communion) *(Kim asking Sara Larson & Scott Fuller from First Lutheran, Marshall)....others suggested: Pr. Joyce Capp from First/Pipestone and Pr. Janelle from Cottonwood.*

CHAPLAIN: *Joan will ask Pr. Joyce Capp/Pipestone...or possibly use our new Synod Liaison?*

FOOD: (Betty A. & Linda M.)

PARLIAMENTARIAN: *Joan will ask JoAnn Pedersen*

PHOTOGRAPHER: *Louise will ask Jan Kittelson*

SYNOD STAFF LIAISON: *? should know who this will be by first of 2019 year*

ORGANIST: *Kim will check with First Lutheran*

CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENTS:

REGISTRATION: Friday – Board ; Saturday – PRAIRIE CONFERENCE (Linda will line them up)

GREETERS: Friday – Board ; Saturday – PRAIRIE CONFERENCE (Linda will line up)

TABLE DECORATIONS: Saturday – LAC QUI PARLE CONFERENCE – (Kim will line up)

(Friday – not necessary or use what church has)

HOSTESSES: Friday: Board Saturday: SHETEK CONFERENCE (Karla will line up)

USHERS: Friday: Board Saturday: MINNESOTA VALLEY CONFERENCE (Diane will line up)

CLEAN-UP: Friday: Board Saturday: SCENIC VALLEY CONFERENCE (Marcy will line up)



SIGNS: (decide at future meeting who has signs needed or who will make new ones)

SCHEDULE:

FRIDAY (May 3)

- 1:30 p.m. VOTING MEMBER registration – dining room w/coffee/treat
- 2:15 p.m. Devotion/prayer by Sara Larson
- Offering
- Theme Hymn
- 2:30 p.m. Orientation
- 2:45 p.m. Plenary Session 1
- 5:00 p.m. light meal
- 6:00 p.m. Plenary Session 2
- 7:00 p.m. Magic Time entertainment Jette Skiren from Marshall (35 – 40 min)
- 8:00 p.m. Closing Vespers – Mission Growth chairs (on Synod Board) will lead this

Displays set up Friday AM
So they can be available to
visitors on Friday
Board come in 8 a.m. Friday
to set up – line up lunch to be
brought in to church for noon
board meal

SATURDAY (May 4)



- 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. In-Kind Offering drop-off
- 8:00 a.m. Visitor Registration w/coffee/treat
- 8:30 a.m. Plenary Session 3 (if needed) in dining room
(others use this time to visit Displays)
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Worship w/Holy Communion/Offering
- 10:00 a.m. Introductions, Greetings
- 10:15 a.m. Churchwide Rep
- 10:45 a.m. Break – coffee – visit displays
- 11:00 a.m. Speaker
- 11:45 p.m. Triennial News – Triennial Gathering drawing of 3 - Credential Report
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 12:45 – 1:30 p.m. Workshop 1
- 1:45 – 2:30 p.m. Workshop 2
- Gathering Music
- 2:30 p.m. Scholarship report
- 2:45 p.m. Installation – announcements – credentials
- 3:00 p.m. Closing Worship “Hallelujah Hooligans”
- 4:00 p.m. Closing of Convention

Kim will check into a
truck/trailer for the LWR in-
kind offering & report back

Diane will create the
Convention logo

SOME ADDED ITEMS OF CONVENTION THAT NEED ATTENTION:

I feel it's important to decide how much we will be paying the different speakers, groups, etc., and a few other things ahead of time here's a list that I've come up with so far to discuss at either the January or the March board meeting

Workshop leaders: \$ _____
Main Speaker: \$ _____
HALLELUJAH HOLLIGANS: \$ _____
Worship leaders? \$ _____
Do we pay Sara Larson for Friday dev.? If so \$ _____
Parliamentarian? \$ _____
Photographer? \$ _____
First Lutheran Church \$ _____
First Lutheran Women?? \$ _____
Organist \$ _____

Any other honoriams?

Who writes thank-you notes to whom?? **All board members**

Who buys the outgoing board gifts? **Maria** Do we set a \$ amount? **Maria tries to stay in the \$15-\$20 budget**
(Diane, Betty A., Marcy) *do I have the right names for outgoing?*

Does the board have extra gifts or an IOU available ☐ a board member running again is not elected????

TO BE DECIDED YET: (these areas are all assigned to a board member to find & report to Jan. meeting)

Closing Vespers Friday night (Synod MG chairs)

Main Speaker – Sat. (Kim)

Offering objectives (Kim)

Finalize Workshops (Betty B; Kim; bandages???)

Truck/trailer for In-Kind (Kim)

Scholarship Mentors (Joan)

Worship leaders/helpers w/Communion etc., for Sat. a.m. (Kim & Marcy)

Organist (Kim)

Chaplain (Joan)

Food: (Betty A. & Linda)

Noon snack for board on Friday noon

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Meal for Friday evening

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Meal on Saturday.....anything for 4:00 p.m. – end of Saturday??????

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2020 Convention Site/date - **Betty B. has info on Hutchinson – Joan will get info on Redwood Conv. Center**

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POLICY STATEMENT

SW MN Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA

DUTIES OF BOARD MEMBERS

1. The duties of the Officers and Board members shall be stated in the SW MN SWO Constitution with the addition of:
 - A. The Vice-President shall provide for the duties of Historian for the organization.
 - B. The Secretary shall post the Board approved Board meeting minutes on the SW MN SWO website so that interested individuals may view them.
 - C. The Secretary shall send Administrative Committee minutes to the SW MN SWO Board.
 - D. Each SW MN SWO Officer and Board Member (excluding the President) shall be liaison to a Conference within our synod. Liaisons shall be matched to the Conference by the Board and follow procedures as listed on the attached, "POLICY STATEMENT FOR SYNOD LIAISON TO CONFERENCE".
 - E. Due to the advances in technology it is optimal for Synodical Officers and Board members to be computer literate, effective May 2012.
 - F. Due to advances in technology it is required for the treasurer to be computer literate and have knowledge of bookkeeping skills, effective May 2012.
2. The duties of the Constitutional Committees shall be as follows:
 - A. The Mission Action (Stewardship), Mission Community (Justice) and Mission Growth (Discipleship) Chairs shall see that the Program Areas and Aims, as established by the CWO, the directives issued by CWO be carried out by her respective Mission Area Committee. She shall also:
 - 1) Encourage her committee to carry out the goals established by the SW MN SWO Board and attached to this POLICY STATEMENT.
 - 2) Be responsible for a timely article in each issue of *THE COMMUNICATOR*.
 - 3) Be accountable to the SW MN SWO Board for submitting all expenses relating to the function of her committee. These expenses shall be reimbursed in full, but may not exceed budgeted amount for her committee.
 - B. The Leadership Committee, which is the SW MN SWO Board, shall be responsible for the Leadership Event conducted by the SW MN SWO Board. SW MN SWO Board expenses for this event including mileage, housing and food, shall be paid by SW MN SWO funds. The SW MN SWO will pay two (2) drivers per conference for mileage to attend the Leadership Event, effective June 2005.
 - C. The Communications Committee shall consist of the SW MN SWO Board. THE COMMUNICATOR (*SWO Newsletter*) policies established by the board shall be carried out and attached to this POLICY STATEMENT.
 - D. The Finance Committee shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the SWO Board and shall be responsible for compiling a proposed budget and submitting it to the SW MN SWO Board for approval before it is presented to the SW MN SWO Convention.

- E. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of one member elected in each conference for a two-year term, with half the conferences electing in even years and half in odd years as directed by the synodical board and shall follow the guidelines established by the SW MN SWO Board and attached to this POLICY STATEMENT.

BOARD MEMBER EXPENSES

1. SW MN SWO Members will be reimbursed at cost for the following incurred during the performance of the duties of their position:
 - A. Mileage using synod guidelines, effective June 1, 2005
 - B. Telephone
 - C. Postage
 - D. Copying/printing – please bear in mind to use the most economical copying/printing available
 - E. Meals for SW MN SWO Board meetings
 - F. Expenses incurred as Conference Liaison
 - G. SW MN SWO Convention registration fees, lodging and meals
 - H. Other expenses incurred as a direct result of board position please be specific on expense voucher.
2. Expenses incurred for meals purchased during authorized travel on behalf of the Board will be reimbursed at the rate of \$5.00 for breakfast, \$7.50 for lunch and \$10.00 for dinner.

SYNODICAL CONVENTION

1. Officers and Board Members will chair the following convention committees: Publicity; Registration; Facility and food; Signs; Worship; Speakers; Workshops; Displays; Program Book; Hospitality, etc.
2. Election, Credentials, Minutes, Offering and Resolutions Convention committees shall be chaired by SW MN SWO Officers and Board Members as determined by the Board. Conference Officers shall be asked to serve on these committees.
3. The SW MN SWO will pay the registration fee for the Conference president or the vice-president in her absence, effective 2005.
4. Convention fee refunds will be issued after published deadline ONLY by consent of the Board.
5. No SW MN SWO Board Member may be a SWO Convention delegate for her congregational unit.
6. Convention offering objectives shall be established by the Board.

GENERAL








1. The roster of the SW MN SWO Board, Conference Officers and Leaders and Congregational Unit Leaders will NOT be given to anyone outside the Women of the ELCA except by the discretion of the Board.
2. Solicitations for inclusion in a SW MN SWO sponsored event shall be brought to the Board for approval prior to the event.
3. Financial support to any “cause” other than budgeted items shall be determined by the Board.

4. When acting on behalf of the SW MN SWO Board, no personal honorarium will be accepted by members of the Board. If the group insists on giving an honorarium, the Board member should inform them that she will give it to SW MN SWO.
5. SW MN SWO has designed its own logo and stationary to make recognition of materials from the SW WO easily identifiable. Permission to use this logo shall be at the discretion of the Board.
6. Retiring SW MN SWO Board members will receive an appropriate gift of approximately \$15.00.
7. In the event of the death of an immediate family member of a current SW MN SWO Board Member, a memorial gift of \$10.00 will be sent, by the SW MN SWO Treasurer, to Women of the ELCA as a designated gift and a card stating the Board's condolences will be sent to the family. A card only will be sent in the death of another family member.
8. **In the event of the death of any SW MN Synod personnel and CWO personnel, a memorial gift of \$10.00 will be sent, by the SW MN SWO Treasurer, to Women of the ELCA as a designated gift and a card stating the Board's condolences will be sent to the family.**
9. The SW MN SWO Women of the **ELCA POLICY STATEMENT** should be reviewed annually by the current members of the SWO Board.
10. The SW MN SWO of Women of the ELCA will pay the triennial gathering registration fee for officers and general board members (non-voting members, who are in office at the time of the triennial convention) to attend the Triennial Gathering if synod money is available, effective July 2009.
11. **TRIENNIAL GATHERING PROMOTER (TGP) GUIDELINES.** The SW MN SWO Board shall seek for a volunteer TGP following the close of a triennial gathering. The position of the TGP is considered volunteer and will be in play the two years prior to the next triennial gathering. The TGP will work with the SW MN SWO Board and Conference Liaisons in preparation plans for the next triennial gathering. She will be invited to general board meetings to share ideas and serve as the SW MN SWO "go-between" the churchwide organization and synod board as to expectations and promotion of the triennial gathering. The SW MN SWO Board will reimburse the TGP up to \$500.00 for mileage and expenses relating to promotion of the triennial gathering, effective September 2011. The SW MN SWO Board will pay the triennial gathering registration fee for one promoter.

SW MN SWO POLICIES of the SWO Newsletter

1. The name of the Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization newsletter is **THE COMMUNICATOR**.
2. The contents of THE COMMUNICATOR shall be in accord with the doctrine and policies of the ELCA and the Women of the ELCA.
3. The editor of THE COMMUNICATOR has the authority to change the masthead as she sees fit.
4. THE COMMUNICATOR shall normally consist of a SW MN SWO president's message, articles from the committees of Mission Action (Stewardship), Mission Community (Justice) and Mission Growth (Discipleship). Other SW MN SWO Officers and Committees may submit articles to THE COMMUNICATOR. Conferences, Congregational Units and individual participants within our synod, may also submit articles.
5. The editor of THE COMMUNICATOR may ask the assistance of the SW MN SWO President to review all articles before they are printed in THE COMMUNICATOR.
6. THE COMMUNICATOR shall normally be published four to six times a year.
7. THE COMMUNICATOR will be published on-line only at the SW MN SWO website.
8. The SW MN SWO Board will review this policy as needed.

POLICY STATEMENT FOR SYNOD LIAISON TO CONFERENCES

1. The Synod Liaison to your Conference should be notified and invited to all your Conference board meetings. She will share ideas, but has no vote.
2. Your Conference minutes should be sent to the Synod President, Synod Secretary,        editor and your Synod Liaison.
3. Your Synodical Liaison should be at your Conference Gatherings and be given time to bring greetings and pertinent information from the Synod board to your Conference women.
4. Your Synod Liaison will bring relevant information about your Conference back to the Synod board.

CONFERENCE GATHERING PRESENTATIONS





Suggestions for Liaisons

INTRODUCE YOURSELF – Tell something of interest about your family, the day, or whatever seems comfortable to you. People like to know that we are “one of them”. If you have an appropriate story that helps to get the attention of those attending, use it.

BRING GREETINGS – on behalf of the entire Synodical Board.

REFER TO – the theme and scripture verse of the Gathering.




EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR:

-  Each person attending; their interest and involvement in the Women of the ELCA
-  Commitment to support Women of the ELCA offerings and their ministries
-  Creative planning to interest women in our programs
-  Prayer support for each other and the Synodical Board members

ENCOURAGE STUDY OF – our three mission areas to help in better understanding of the organization.

COMMUNICATIONS – emphasize value of THE COMMUNICATOR; CWO RESOURCES; CHURCHWIDE NEWSLETTER – Interchange; CHURCHWIDE MAGAZINE – Gather; INTERNET PUBLICATIONS – Café; Bold Connections, and talk about and promote the Bible study.

COMMUNICATE:

-  Interest in their CONFERENCE
-  Enthusiasm for Women of the ELCA activities
-  A desire to assist their congregational units and the interest and help available from their conference officers and synodical board

Express availability to answer questions during lunch or coffee time.

May the Holy Spirit bless you as you make presentations on behalf of the Synodical Board. Please remember to pray for each of the other liaisons as they make connection with their designated conferences. Thank you for your enthusiasm, dedication, and service, as we work together to do God's work through the Women of the ELCA!
YOU ARE SPECIAL!

SYNODICAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE

1. The Nominating Committee shall be comprised of one member elected from each conference for a two (2) year term, with half the conferences electing in even years and half in odd years as directed by the synodical board.

CONFERENCE	YEAR 2019	YEAR 2021	YEAR 2023	YEAR 2025	YEAR 2027
CROW RIVER	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
GLACIAL RIDGE	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
GREAT RIVER	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
LAC QUI PARLE	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
LAKELAND	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
CONFERENCE	YEAR 2020	YEAR 2022	YEAR 2024	YEAR 2026	YEAR 2028
MINNESOTA VALLEY	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
PRAIRIE	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
SCENIC VALLEY	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
SHETEK	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM
WATONWAN RIVER	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM	2 YR. TERM

2. The committee shall nominate two (2) persons for each vacancy. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections.
3. Consideration shall be given to names submitted by the units. No more than one person from a congregational unit will be elected as an officer or board member.
4. In selecting nominees as voting members to the Triennial Convention of the Churchwide Women's Organization of the ELCA follow these guidelines:
 - a. As nearly as possible, at least 10% persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English.
 - b. At least one-fourth of the voting members shall be women attending the convention as voting members for the first time.
 - c. Rank order process will be used to determine delegates.

MISSION ACTION *(Stewardship)*

Connects us to the world to act on our faith! Stewardship is providing for the ministries that God has entrusted to our care.

We share what we have learned with friends and neighbors by:

- Making Quilts, Personal Care Kits, School Kits, Baby Care Kits, Fleece Tied Blankets, Soap for Lutheran World Relief
- Collecting Christian literature for International Christian Literature Distributors
- Participating in Food Packaging Events
- Finding bold ways to contribute to organizations by acting on our faith in Jesus Christ

MISSION COMMUNITY *(Justice)*

Connects us to each other as we extend our arms to hold our neighbor's hands as we walk together and grow and act on our faith! To enable each woman to value herself and others as created in God's image and redeemed through Christ; and to build up and celebrate relationships which are global, diverse and interdependent. Serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, society, and world.

Women of the ELCA justice initiatives include combating commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking and supporting families with special needs.

MISSION GROWTH *(Discipleship)*

Provides experiences which will help each woman grow as a whole person, develop her potential, and equip her for ministry. Women grow with each other and through each other, developing their faith and spiritual lives, enabling them to go beyond their personal circles and witness in their daily lives and the life of the church.

Discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. We are active disciples in many ways. We practice the seven marks of discipleship through prayer, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving and giving.

Ways in which women grow:

- *Gather, Interchange* and other resources
- Participating in Thankoffering Sunday
- Promoting heart health education
- Participating in grants for programs for leadership seminarians and lay development
- Sharing new resources prepared
- Serving on Congregational, Synodical and Churchwide committees and boards
- Talk about and sharing your faith, witnessing in natural, everyday ways