

Two Michigan women will join new Women's Division directors for orientation

YVETTE MOORE

Fifty United Methodist Women members – including Jackie Euper, a member of Owosso: First UMC (DAC) and Nichea Ver Veer Guy, a member of Grand Rapids: Trinity UMC (WMC) will begin their four-year terms as directors of the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries

with an orientation and organizational meeting at Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 4-7. United Methodist Women members elected 45 of the new directors at meetings convened in the five jurisdictional regions this spring.

"Conference United Methodist Women members nominate three people to serve as Women's Division directors, and the elections take place at the jurisdictional meetings," explained Dorothy Edmond, outgoing Women's Division director from Atlanta, Ga., and chair of the division's nominations committee. "Delegates to the jurisdictional meetings are elected by United Methodist Women in their conferences. The process is the fairest I've seen. The women aren't handpicked, but they are anointed by the Holy Spirit."



Newly-elected Women's Division directors from Michigan: Nichea Ver Veer Guy (l) and Jackie Euper. —submitted photo

In memoriam

For more complete obituaries, see the *Advocate* website: mcadvocate.org.

THE REV. JAMES BIRDSALL – holder of the West Michigan Conference Cane as the oldest clergy member in the conference – died June 19, 2008. Memorial contributions may be made to the Clark Foundation, 1551 Franklin St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506. Condolences may be sent to his son: Phil Birdsall, 352 A West Columbia St., Mason, MI 48854.

ROSZELLA HUTCHINSON, wife of the Rev. Ron Hutchinson, pastor of Silverwood UMC, died June 20, 2008. Her funeral was held June 23 at Country Christian Church.

THE REV. DOCTOR RAL-EIGH E. SAIN, Detroit Conference clergy, retired 1979, died July 2, 2008, at the age of 94. His wife, Gladys E. Sain, died June 18, 2008, at the age of 96. Condolences may be sent to: Mrs. Barbara Dwyer, 4315 Ashton Club Drive, Lake Wales, FL 33859.

Michigan woman among eleven awarded Harkness Scholarships

VICKI BROWN

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS) – Nancy Sophia Lynn, a member of Chelsea: First UMC, Chelsea, Mich., is among 11 scholars awarded the 2008-09 Georgia Harkness Scholarships. She is a student at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Ill.

The 11 scholars will visit Honduras in December as part of a continued program of global women's leadership development begun in 2007. The Rev. HiRho Park, director of continuing formation for ministry at the United Methodist Board of

Higher Education and Ministry, said the members of the selection committee found choosing this year's recipients difficult because all the applicants were highly qualified. The recipients are chosen by a committee of United Methodist elders and agency staff.

"We were also pleased to see an increase in the number of applicants from the 13 United Methodist seminaries," Park said. The board increased the number of recipients who will get the \$5,000 a year scholarship from 10 to 11 last year as part of its strategic plan for 2007-2012.

'Volunteer of the Year' tends to CRC residents

In the spring of 1998, Joyce Cook, a member of Ann Arbor: West Side United Methodist Church, answered a request she saw in her church bulletin. Chelsea Retirement Community (CRC) was looking for volunteers to give manicures to residents once a week. A recent retiree herself at the time, she decided to give it a try. Now, after ten years of volunteering at CRC, Joyce has been recognized as the Individual Volunteer of the Year by the Michigan Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (MAHSA).

As the sole proprietor of The Skate Exchange in Ann Arbor for 22 years, Cook was used to keeping busy, working six days a week. After retiring, she was looking for a way to stay active and engaged with people. Cook began by giving manicures at CRC for three hours each Monday. Two years later, Joyce was recruited to also help with resident bingo games on Tuesday afternoons. She readily agreed. Always ready to lend a helping hand, Cook also accompanies both Independent Living and Nursing residents on their trips and outings, and assists with special events such as the resident Christmas party and Hawaiian Luau. Joyce spends an average of 10 hours a week volunteering at CRC.

In her ten years of volunteering, this 76-year-old mother of three and grandmother of five has built meaningful relationships with the residents and staff at CRC. "We love it when Joyce is here," says CRC resident, Carol Steinaway. Volunteer Coordinator Hazel Barr says, "Joyce deserves this recognition (from MAHSA) because she shares her time so selflessly with the residents at CRC and because she has a way of making each one feel special."

"Generous volunteers are an important part of our commitment to serve seniors with dignity, warmth and compassion," says John Thorhauer, president and CEO of UMRC, who spoke May 1 at the annual Volunteers Tea at CRC. "Joyce Cook is



Joyce Cook is second generation volunteer at Chelsea Retirement Community. —submitted photo and story

among those sharing friendship and dedication with residents and the staff members they work alongside. Together, they form a team that upholds our mission to elevate the quality of daily life."

Cook is following in her mother's footsteps as a volunteer at CRC. Her mother, Fern Pittman, also of Ann Arbor, volunteered at CRC as part of a group from the West Side United Methodist Church, who visited shut-ins and provided fellowship for older neighbors. Pittman helped residents with sewing and mending. She later became a resident herself at CRC, living for three years in Skilled Nursing before her passing in 1995. "She received such wonderful care," recalls Cook. "That's part of the reason I spend time here."

"I get back much more than I give," says the volunteer. "I like doing for others and hearing their life stories," she adds. "I've known some so long we've become quite close – almost like having a second family."

Appointments

Appointments made by Bishop Jonathan Keaton. Name and appointed church. All effective 7/1/08 unless otherwise indicated.

DETROIT CONFERENCE

John K. Benissan, Flat Rock: First UMC, effective 8/1/08.

James O. Bowen, LaSalle: Zion UMC.

Margaret (Margie) E. Bryce, Attica UMC, effective 8/1/08.

Lisa J. Clark, Capac: Zion Community UMC.

David E. Huseltine, Beverly Hills UMC, effective 8/1/08.

Esther A. Irish, Dimond UMC as local pastor.

Aaron B. Kesson, Blissfield: Emmanuel UMC, pastor and Lambertville UMC, associate pastor.

Robert I. Kreger, Sterling Heights UMC.

Elizabeth Ann Macaulay, Trenton: First UMC.

Paul D. Perez, Livonia: Newburg UMC, deacon and Wesley Theological Seminary as student.

Janine L. Plum, Richfield UMC as local pastor.

Latha Ravi, Rochester: St. Paul's UMC as associate.

Beth D. Titus, Ann Arbor: Calvary UMC.

Alonzo E. Vincent, Mt. Morris UMC.

Henry Williams, Detroit: Christ and Detroit: Resurrection UMCs.

WEST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Christopher Kruckow, Buchanan: Faith/Morris Chapel and Brandywine: Trinity UMCs.

Janet Luchs, Schoolcraft Pleasant Valley/White Pigeon UMCs.

Theresa Little Eagle Sayles, Portage: Prairie UMC.

Linda D. Stoddard, Battle Creek: Maple UMC.

Check mcadvocate.org daily for new appointments.