

UMW Reading Program Summary

As you know, one of the opportunities we have to grow and learn is through participation in the UMW Reading Program. The purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women:

1. to expand understanding of and participation in God's mission;
2. to increase sensitivity to all human beings-their needs, interests, and concerns;
3. to encourage critical thinking about issues facing humanity today;
4. to grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life;
5. to enhance self-knowledge and to act from that knowledge;
6. to strengthen involvement in local and global Christian mission.

Over the course of a year—from August to the next July—you can participate in one of 4 plans. Even if you don't follow one of the plans, we are all encouraged to read a book from the reading list.

READING PROGRAM PLANS

PLAN I

- 5 books each year.
- 1 from each category.
- Selections from the reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth books).
- Regular reading of Response.*

PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 from each category.
- Selections from the reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth books).
- Regular reading of Response and New World Outlook.*

PLAN III

- 15 books each year.
- 2 from each category.
- 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's books).
- Regular reading of Response and New World Outlook.*

PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 from each category.
- 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the reading lists if not included in previous reports (including youth and children's books).
- Regular reading of Response and New World Outlook.*

* Copies of Response and New World Outlook are placed on the Reading Program bookshelf in the Parlor as received. Please return copies to the bookshelf when you are done reading them.

For those of you who have not participated in the past, you are encouraged to do so this current year. Each year a new listing of books eligible under the plan is announced and you can read any books from the current year and the previous 4 years for a total of 5 years worth of listings. A copy the reading program books are in the library on the bookshelf. Any requests for books during this upcoming year should be directed to the local unit Vice President.

A current listing of books purchased for the most recent years can be found on the bookshelf in the parlor. A full listing of the reading list is available on the St. James UMW website at http://www.stjconnect.org/Ministry_UMW.htm.