

Committed to the Challenge of Leadership

An Installation Service

by Bernice Johnson

Opening: (*Join hands and sing or say*) "This is the day that the Lord has made, Let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).

Leader: We remember Jesus' words, " 'I was thirsty and you gave me drink, hungry and you gave me food, I was a stranger and you welcomed me' " (Matthew 25:35). We even remember the words of members of this unit; I was lonely and you visited me, I was bored and you gave me a job to do. I was confused, and you helped me clear up my frustrations. I was ignorant, and you enlightened me. I felt worthless, and you made me feel useful.

Officers: Paul tells us there are distinctive gifts of grace, but the same Spirit, and there are distinctive ministries, yet the same Lord. There are also varieties of things accomplished, but the same God does all the energizing in them all (I Cor. 12:4-6).

Therefore, we offer ~~these gifts~~ ^{ourselves}, symbolic of our responsibilities to those who are thirsty, hungry, lonely, aged, youthful, employed, unemployed, rural, urban, Asian American, Black American, Hispanic American, Native American, White American, and others.

Leader: As president and vice-president, you will lead this unit in studying, planning, social involvement, answering questions, attending district and conference meetings and other ways of participation. These are means of implementing the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women.

As you work together with other officers and members, you will remember that each one has something to contribute. You will seek to utilize those

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whenever and wherever they are needed. Remember Jesus' words, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

President and Vice-president: We offer ~~these gifts~~ ^{ourselves} symbolic of our responsibilities to meet the spiritual and physical needs of people and to carry out the PURPOSE of this organization.

Leader: Without the skills and records of the secretary and the treasurer, the team would be as a well without water. It would exist but without substance to make its existence useful. Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Secretary and Treasurer: We present our ~~gifts~~ ^{ourselves} (~~hold hands out with palms up~~). Our empty hands symbolize that we are always willing and ready to accept information and finances as they are contributed and to keep such matters updated and on hand, also to interpret to the membership the ways in which some of our resources are received and utilized.

Leader: The chairpersons for membership, nominations, and program resources work together to share human and material resources that help to keep the unit functioning. These leaders will seek and use resources that help to interpret and implement the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. In carrying out your responsibilities, you help to bring forth the needs and concerns of women along with their leadership abilities to the local units and district team.

Chairpersons: We offer ~~these gifts~~ ^{ourselves} remembering our mission to the membership of this unit, our district, and conference.

Song: "We Are One in the Spirit" (one verse)

Leader: Basic to the program of every local unit are the four mission emphases: Christian Personhood, Supportive Community, Christian Social Involvement, and Christian Global Concerns. We hear the word of the Scripture, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).

Mission Coordinators: (*All officers if no coordinators are elected*) We offer ~~these gifts~~ ^{ourselves}, remembering our work toward the totality and oneness of mission, for we believe in the scriptures "I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witness" (Isaiah 43:12).

All: *Whatever our diversity in attitudes, motives, or behavior; however diversely we may see and think concerning the way life should be; keep us,*

... united in a spirit of trust and openness that makes us aware of our common heritage in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Leader: We all share our ^{offer our selves} gifts as a symbol of our responsibilities in leading this unit in the way it should go. (All members bring forth gifts represented by the 4" x 6" cards they have completed.) As each officer has shared, you too must share your gifts, ideas, concerns, and love for the fulfilling of God's mission through this local unit.

Period of Silence

All: We commit ourselves to continued growth and enrichment by attending meetings, workshops, seminars; by studying, reading, listening and genuinely working to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women.

Closing: (All repeat the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women)