

## How to be an Effective United Methodist Women's Unit

- Create a welcoming, Christ-centered atmosphere
- Provide programming that is exciting, motivating, and nurturing
- Get to know each member as well as possible: interest, talents, concerns, and involvements
- Assign a "mentor" to new members to help them get acquainted
- Do every task to the best of your ability; finish it completely in a timely manner and with a smile
- Start and stop on time
- Be flexible (have ready Plan B, C, and D!)
- Prioritize tasks. Do not set unreasonable goals, however always set a deadline for completion of a task.
- Choose your battles. If someone did not complete a task or do it poorly, try to figure out why. Anger, humiliation, negativity is never acceptable.
- Don't assume everyone knows UMW abbreviations and terminology. Take the extra time to thoroughly explain what you are discussing (such as Candle Burning, pledge to mission, world thank offering, etc)
- Say thank you when a member surprises you and completes a task unbidden, goes above and beyond or thinks outside of the box. Treat ideas with excitement, not as irritants.
- If anyone says to you "We've never done it that way before, smile and say "thank you!"
- You are part of the Team – not beside it, not behind it and not always in front of it. You are in the middle of it. Do not hold yourself in too high esteem, or you will lead without a team.
- Be approachable; maintain an open mind when communicating.
- Praise, praise, praise for a job well done.
- Don't be concerned nor be surprised if what you do is criticized. For there are always those who usually can find fault with every different plan Mistakes are made but only by folks who try.
- Realize that you are not perfect, some of your decisions will not be good ones and that you will make mistakes. You are not infallible. Being able to say "I'm sorry, or I made a mistake" are invaluable words.
- Place an easel in the narthex to highlight events
- Change your UMW bulletin board often
- Pastors are members of the UMW as highlighted in the UMC Book of Discipline. Strive to better communications with pastors so they will help promote and share info with parishioners.
- If the focus of your efforts is to further the work of our Heavenly Father, you are sure to succeed!

*People say, what is the sense of our small effort? They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There is too much work to do. --Dorothy Day*