

As we begin a new year, I look forward to us working together, while keeping this year's theme in mind: "[Letting our Light Shine.](#)"

Focusing on our mission, as stated in the *Book of Discipline*, we are charged to "support ministry with and advocate for the oppressed and dispossessed with special attention to the needs of women, children, and youth."

Our mission is our way to let the [light shine](#) in UMW through our local units, our district and our conference programs and projects. Some activities may be monetary programs; of course, there will be projects that will involve using our time and talents.

Each member is a very important part of our charge. Planning, preparing and participating in a mission project begins with prayerful consideration, identification of the mission, gathering of resources, and finally the implementation of the project.

This year, let us keep our focus on the UMW Purpose by letting our [light shine](#) through our programs and projects in mission.

Blessings to all,  
Patsy Elliott  
Vice President