



Mennonite Women USA

Annual Report

February 1, 2005-January 31, 2006

OUR MISSION

Mennonite Women USA seeks to minister to the women of Mennonite Church USA by resourcing groups and individuals as we:

- **nurture our life in Christ**
- **study the Bible**
- **utilize our gifts**
- **hear each other**
- **engage in mission and service**

Our vision is to promote woman-to-woman links both locally and globally through mission and fellowship within our diverse church, embracing women of different backgrounds, and encouraging mutual support, discussion, partnership and worship.

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Mennonite Women USA board of directors (meets semi-annually to guide overall organization)

Rebecca Sommers, president, Sarasota, Fla.

Paula Brunk Kuhns, vice president, Colorado Springs, Colo. (term completed July 31)

Gail Shetler, secretary, Goshen, Ind.

Jean Kilheffer Hess, treasurer, East Petersburg, Pa.

Cora L. Brown, African American Mennonite Association, Elkhart, Ind.

Maria Magdalena DeLeon, Iglesia Menonita Hispana, Mathis, Texas (term completed July 31; she will be replaced by
 Wilma Padilla, Goshen, Ind.)

Patricia Burdette, Editorial Advisory Council, Butler, Ohio

Anne Hege, West Coast, Aberdeen, Idaho

Barbara R. Voth, Central States, Newton, Kan.

Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Great Lakes, Elkhart, Ind.

Evie Hertzler, East Coast, Harrisonburg, Va.

Editorial Advisory Council (meets annually to review publications)

Melissa Miller, vice-chair, Canadian Women in Mission (CWM), Winnipeg, Man.

Patricia Burdette, chair, Mennonite Women USA board of directors, Butler, Ohio

Ann Weber Becker, CWM member at large, Toronto, Ont.

Juel Yoder Russell, MW USA member at large, Salem, Ore.

Laurie Oswald Robinson, editor, Newton, Kan.

Rhoda Keener, MW USA executive director, Shippensburg, Pa.

Mennonite Women USA staff

Rhoda Keener, executive director, Shippensburg, Pa.

Laurie Oswald Robinson, editor, Newton, Kan.

Berni Kaufman, administrative assistant, Newton, Kan.

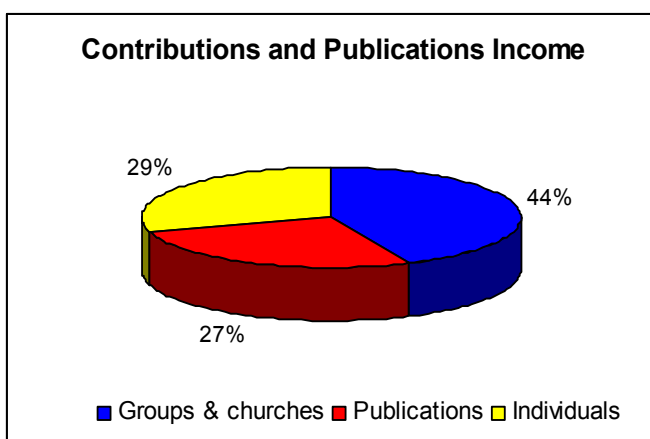
Lois Loflin, project/volunteer coordinator, Newton, Kan.

**Mennonite Women USA financial report
February 1, 2005-January 31, 2006 (fiscal year)**

Income received from:

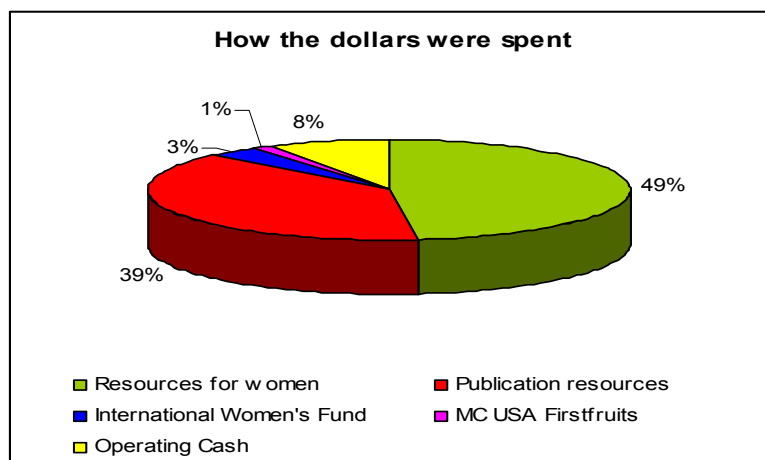
Contributions		\$130,132
Groups, churches, and conferences	\$76,111	
Individuals (Lydia Circle: \$27,138; all other \$20,883)	\$48,021	
Matching Lydia Circle grant	6,000	
Miscellaneous and interest income		\$ 427
Publication income total:		\$51,632
Timbrel subscriptions	\$40,697	
-Total paid and gift subscriptions, 1/31/06: 4,479		
Bible study guide/Women Together/other purchases	\$ 4,776	
Canadian Women in Mission publication partnership	\$ 6,159	
Total		\$182,191

(Above budget giving for African Women Theologians - \$11,486)



How the dollars were spent (see also page 4):

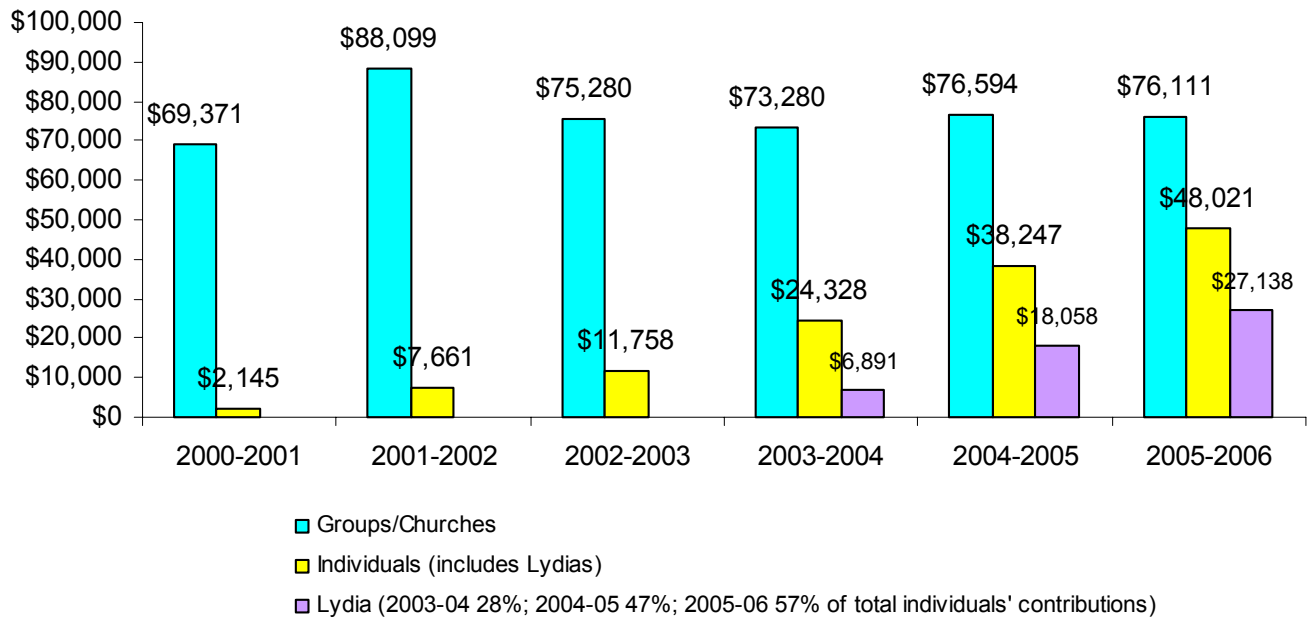
Resources for women	\$87,568
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support for group leaders, annual retreat, newsletters, regional retreats, -Denominational events and retreats, Constituency Leadership Council -Board of directors guidance with cultural, racial, and geographic diversity -International Women's Fund administration -Sister-Link -Website, Postcard & Prayer e-letters, requests from women -Mennonite World Conference 	
Publication resources (Timbrel, Bible study guide)	\$71,000
International Women's Fund scholarships	\$ 6,316
Mennonite Church USA firstfruits funding	\$ 2,500
*Operating cash reserves	<u>\$14,807</u>
Total	\$182,191



***Operating cash reserve note:**

Mennonite Women USA began as a national organization on February 1, 2003 with reserve operating funds of \$42,748. In 03-04 fiscal year MW USA used \$11,077 of these funds to begin the 04-05 fiscal year with \$31,700. In 04-05 MW USA replenished cash reserves by \$10,042 for a current total of \$41,728 for fiscal year 2005-06; in 2005-06 MW USA replenished cash reserves by \$14,808 bringing the total cash reserves to \$56,536 (3.6 months operating expenses).

U.S. Contributions



	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
Individuals	3%	8%	12%	25%	33%	39%
Groups	97%	92%	88%	75%	67%	61%

Projected budget needs for 06-07: \$188,474 (\$15,706 needed per month)

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The Lydia Circle began in 2003 as a response to increased funding needs for Mennonite Women USA. The Lydia Circle is comprised of individuals who contribute \$500 or more per year to the ministry of Mennonite Women USA.

Since its beginning, 57 persons have given at the Lydia level. In 2005-06, new and continuing Lydia Circle gifts were donated by 51 persons. Twelve of these matched the anonymous grant given by two individuals for an additional 6,000 to help grow the ministry of Mennonite Women USA.

Living our mission in 2005 by...

Connecting and providing resources for group leaders

- *Annual conference leaders' retreat, Preparing, Resourcing, Encouraging, Praising, held at Dyck Arboretum of the Plains, Hesston, Kan. April 15-16, 2005 (29 women from 12 conferences); Lee Schmucker led an interactive workshop on "Leading from Within."*
- *Bi-monthly leaders' newsletters sent to 120 conference women*
- *2005 group report (17 out of 21 conferences reported 313 groups; 3,166 women)-for full group report, contact office@MennoniteWomenUSA.org.*
- *Speaker resources for regional retreats; staff and board spoke in many areas.*

Denominational connections for women

- *Charlotte 2005 women's dinner and booth planned jointly with Canadian Women in Mission. Michele Hershberger (U.S.) and Andrea Weber Steckley (Cdn.) provided program (400 attendees). Seminars suggested by Mennonite Women USA included Women Addressing Pornography (75), and Finding One's Way as the Spouse of a Pastor, jointly with Mennonite Men (90 women, 10 men).*
- *Constituency Leadership Council attended by board president and executive director*
- *Planning for 2006 "Women in Conversation: Treasuring Time," retreats with speakers, June Alliman Yoder and Mandy Yoder Schrock co-sponsored with Laurelville (in Wichita and Pa.).*

Publication connections for women

- *Timbrel magazine published bi-monthly. MW USA said farewell and many thanks to founding editor Cathleen Hockman-Wert (eight year staff), and welcomed new editor Laurie Oswald Robinson.*
- *Annual Bible study guide trilogy on food, shelter, and clothing--2005 Clothe Yourself with Love; 2004 Secure in God's House; 2003 Bread to Strengthen the Heart*
- *2006 BSG: My Times are in your Hands: stewardship of moments, days, and seasons (May 06)*
- *Women Together: Ideas for Groups, Vol. II; Vol. I available at www.MennoniteWomenUSA.org*
- *Postcard & a Prayer e-letter—a monthly hello from Mennonite Women USA*

Global connections

- *International Women's Fund Scholarship recipients in 2006: Sandra Campos Cruz (Costa Rica); Monica Gallardo (Chile); Elizabeth Vado (Nicaragua); Patricia Rosero, Viviana Machuca, Ana Ruth Ramirez (Colombia); Grace Samweli (Tanzania); Rosario Rosales, Albania Molina (Honduras); African Women Theologian choices (as a group)*

Sister-Link connections (2005)

- *African Women Theologians and Mennonite Women USA – a new type of Sister-Link!*
- *Prayer shawls for Gulf States Mennonite Women following hurricane devastation (150+ donated)*
- *Threads of Hope weavers in Guatemala and Franklin Mennonite Women (\$4,815 marketed)*
- *Arusha Mennonite in Arusha, Tanzania and Weavers' Mennonite in Harrisonburg, Va. (Quilt story!)*
- *Mennonite Disaster Service Housewarming quilt banners and U.S. Mennonite women (51 banners)*
- *South Central Conference MW and AIDS support group in Tanzania (through MCC)*
- *Hively Ave and Hively Jesus Churches connecting with each other and S. Korea—visited in 05*