

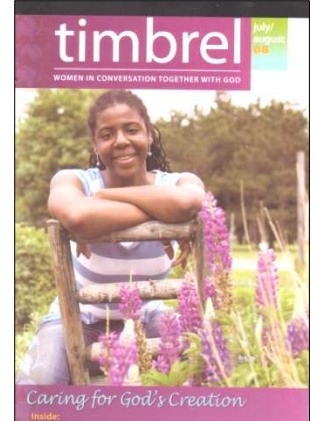


Mennonite Women USA Annual Report

February 1, 2008–January 31, 2009

Highlights from 2008–09

“Women in conversation together with God” describes the mission of *timbrel* magazine, currently the only North American magazine specifically for Mennonite women. In the past year, *timbrel* brought together women’s voices on issues of “Our spiritual models,” “Fostering healthy sexuality,” “Embracing the gift of parenting,” “Caring for God’s creation” (pictured), “Transitions,” “Celebrating traditions,” and “Embracing the gift of diversity.” Sample articles and individual and group subscriptions are available at www.MennoniteWomenUSA.org or from the Newton office.



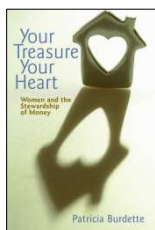
Sister-Care seminars, providing training in effective lay caring in the congregation, became a core program of MW USA at the 2008 spring board meeting. This followed a pilot Sister-Care seminar hosted by Virginia Conference Mennonite Women leadership.

Franklin Conference hosted a second Sister-Care seminar (pictured). Sister-Care addresses how we care for each other *in the church* in the context of our lives today.

- Calling our giftedness
- Attending—being present
- Resource sharing
- Encouraging

In 2008, MW USA opened a newly redesigned web site. For more information on Sister-Care and other resources and programs of MW USA, including current Sister-Link relationships, go to <www.MennoniteWomenUSA.org>.

These 12 women received **International Women’s Fund scholarships** for church leadership training: Sandra Campos, Costa Rica; **Albania Molina (pictured)** and Rosario Rosales, Honduras; Elizabeth Vado, Nicaragua; Viviana Machuca, Yesenia Avila, Martha Gomez, Liliana Ocampo and Zarai Gonzalia, Colombia; Teresa Ibarra, Paraguay; Emilia Amexo, Ghana; Monica Parada, Chile. In addition, five women selected by the African Anabaptist Women Theologians received scholarships through this Sister-Link.



2008: Your Treasure, Your Heart: Women and the Stewardship of Money, by Patricia Burdette, is the third in the Bible study series on time, talent and treasure. Developed by Mennonite Women USA and Canadian Women in Mission, the guide is published by Faith & Life.

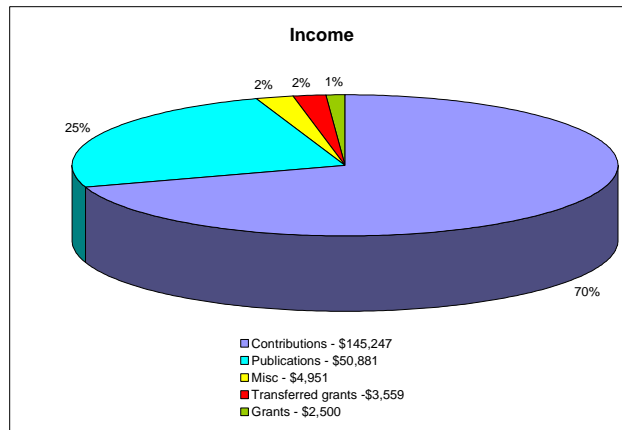
Women in Conversation, the biennial women’s retreat held in Pennsylvania and Kansas, was a highlight of 2008. Keynote speaker **Carolyn Holderread Heggen (pictured)** spoke to 270 attendees on “Daring to Let Our Spirits Soar.” MW USA and Laurelville Mennonite Retreat Center co-sponsor the retreats. **Plans are underway for 2010 retreats** “Living a Life of Gratitude” with speaker Megan Ramer scheduled for April 9–11, 2010 at Laurelville, Mt. Pleasant, Pa. and April 30–May 2, 2010 at Cross Wind Conference Center, Hesston, Kan.



Mennonite Women USA financial report February 1, 2008-January 31, 2009 (fiscal year)

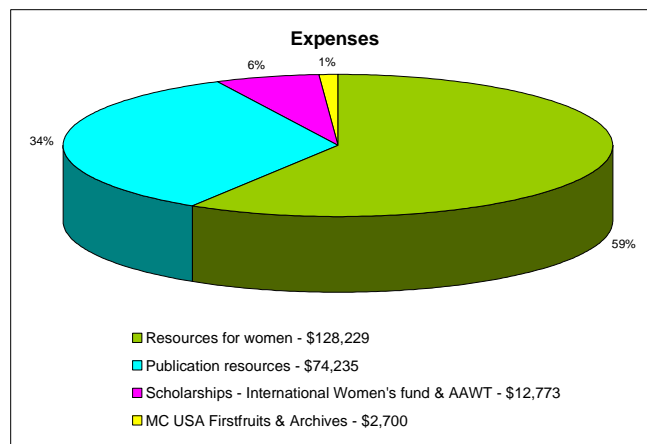
Income

Contributions	\$145,247
Groups, churches, and conferences: \$68,818	
Individuals: \$76,429	
Grant income:	2,500
Miscellaneous and interest income	4,951
Publication income total:	50,881
<i>timbrel</i> subscriptions	\$48,878
-Total paid and gift subscriptions, 1/31/09: 4,176	
Bible study guide/Women Together	637
Canadian Women in Mission publication partnership	1,366
Total	\$203,579
Transferred: former grants, donor and board designated funds	3,559
Total:	\$207,138

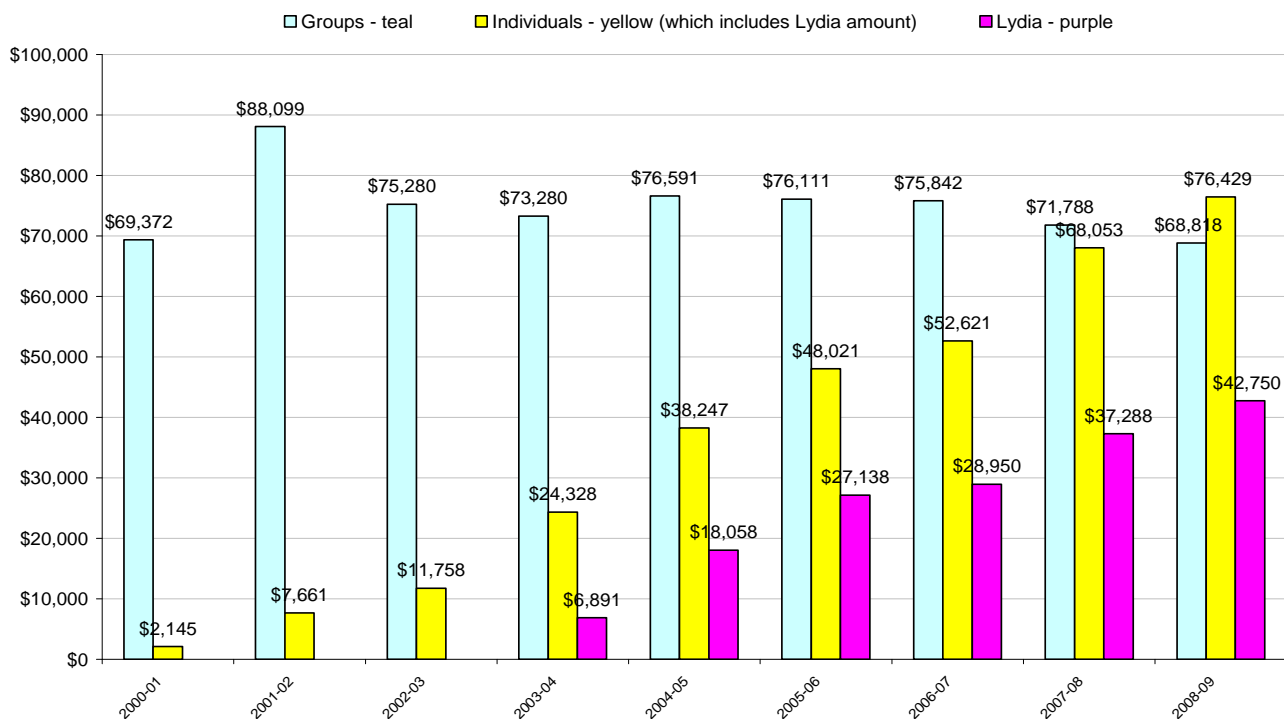


Expenses

Resources for women	\$128,229
-Board of Directors	
-Support and networking for group leaders, annual conference leaders' week-end, Sister-Care seminars	
-Women in Conversation retreats	
-International Women's Fund administration,	
-Sister-Link connections and administration	
-Web Site resources: < www.MennoniteWomenUSA.org >; Postcard & Prayer e-letter	
-Connection to MC USA: Assembly events for women, Constituency Leadership Council	
Publication resources (<i>timbrel</i>, Bible study guide)	\$74,235
Scholarships: International Women's Fund and AAWT designated women	\$12,773
Mennonite Church USA Firstfruits funding and Archives	\$2,700
Total	\$217,937
Net decrease in undesignated reserve funds	(10,799)
Current cash reserves are at \$55,481 (about 3.1 months operating expenses).	



Mennonite Women USA Contributions



2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
\$71,517	\$95,760	\$87,038	\$97,608	\$114,838	\$124,132	\$128,463	\$139,841	\$145,247
3% Individual	8% Ind.	12% Ind.	25% Ind.	33% Ind.	39% Ind.	41% Ind.	49% Ind.	53% Ind
97% Groups	92% Gr.	88% Gr.	75% Gr.	67% Gr.	61% Gr.	59% Gr.	51% Gr.	47% Gr



The **Lydia Circle**, begun in 2003, is comprised of individuals who contribute \$500 or more per year to the ministry of Mennonite Women USA. In 2008–09, new and continuing Lydia Circle gifts were donated by **59** persons/households. Since its beginning, **105** persons/households have given at the Lydia level.

The Miriam Circle, begun in 2006, is comprised of women’s groups who make contributions and purchase *timbrel* subscriptions at the combined level of at least \$1,000 per year. A total of **22** groups and churches have given/purchased at this level since its beginning, with **18** in 2008–09.

Projected budget needs for 2009–10: \$215,449

Our mission at Mennonite Women USA is to resource women’s groups and individuals as we: nurture our life in Christ, study the Bible, utilize our gifts, hear each other and 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.

Guiding Mennonite Women USA

Board of Directors



From left to right, board president Rebecca Sommers, Goshen, Ind.; president-elect Ruth Lapp Guengerich, Goshen, Ind.; vice president Gail Harder, Reedley, Calif.; treasurer Jean Killeffer Hess, East Petersburg, Pa.; secretary Gail Shetler, Goshen, Ind.; Editorial Advisory Council, Mary Clemens Meyer, Fresno, Ohio



From left to right, African American Mennonite Association, Cora L. Brown, Elkhart, Ind.; West Coast, Carolyn Holderread Heggen, Corvallis, Ore.; Central States, Barbara R. Voth, Henderson, Neb.; Great Lakes, Regina Shands Stoltzfus, Elkhart, Ind.; East Coast, Twila King Yoder, Harrisonburg, Va.; **Positions being filled:** Iglesia Menonita Hispana; Native Mennonite Ministries

Mennonite Women USA Staff

From left to right, (front) projects and volunteer coordinator Lois Loflin, Halstead, Kan., executive director Rhoda Keener, Shippensburg, Pa.; (back) administrative assistant Berni Kaufman, Moundridge, Kan.; editor Patricia Wells Burdette, Butler, Ohio

