Across the years, our ministries with women, children, and youth have fed the hungry, healed the sick, educated millions, changed laws and policies, and transformed lives. What a great legacy we have inherited!
For almost 150 years, members of United Methodist Women have been putting faith, hope and love into action.

And now it is up to each of us to make sure that we do the same for the next 150 years.
Some people ask us why, in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century, a women’s church organization is still relevant.

Why, in the 21\textsuperscript{st} century?
Because, in the twenty-first century, one in four women will experience domestic violence.

Source: National Domestic Violence Resource Center
Because, in the twenty-first century, the more hours of television a girl watches, the fewer options she believes she has for her life.

Source: The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media
www.seejane.org/research
Because, in the twenty-first century, there are more slaves on earth than at any other time in the history of the humankind.

Source: Not for Sale
www.notforsalecampaign.org
We are indeed leaving our daughters and granddaughters with a legacy filled with so many challenges it can seem overwhelming.

We’d also like to leave them with a different legacy...one that allows them to address these challenges head on and affect real change.

So while, in the 21st century, we celebrate the past 150 years of mission work, we also need to prepare for the next 150. And to do this, we’ve started an endowment called The Legacy Fund.

The Legacy Fund is a forward-thinking permanent endowment with income dedicated to strengthening United Methodist Women. The total program of United Methodist Women is mission. United Methodist Women service, advocacy and transformative learning opportunities equip members to be agents of change and promotes the empowerment of women that is essential to address the root causes of so many conditions harming women, children and youth.

The Legacy Fund will provide for distribution of United Methodist Women's grants, scholarships and coordination with mission personnel and support for finance technological updates like operating systems for data and communication, and more.
And how we’ll fund the next 150 years and beyond.

We’re asking that each member of United Methodist Women commit to two things. We’re challenging you to consider the question “what will my legacy be?”

The first thing we’d like to ask you to do is to increase your annual pledge to mission every year. This will keep the current work going at the local, district, conference and national levels.

The second thing we’d like you to do is to consider giving an additional amount to the Legacy Fund. We would like you to consider giving in amounts that honor the legacy of United Methodist Women. Maybe that is Fifteen dollars, or one hundred and fifty, or even fifteen hundred. If you are ready to make that commitment today, we thank you. If not, spend some time with your family prayerfully considering what level of giving is right for you, and when you’re ready, mail back the commitment card and your gift.

You are also able to make this commitment through our new mobile giving platform.
Planned Giving

We’d also encourage you and every member of United Methodist Women to include this legacy through your will or estate planning. If you check off that box on your commitment card, someone will contact you about how you can honor the legacy in those ways.
Finally, the third component of the celebration will be a carefully-planned approach to members of the organization who have the interest in, and means to, make significant contributions to The Legacy Fund.

These will be five-, six-, and seven-figure gifts, probably structured over three to five years. If this is you, please check off that box on your card and we’ll be in touch.
Other ways to build the legacy

We’d also like for you to prayerfully consider other ways to build the legacy of United Methodist Women.

Maybe you can commit to inviting one woman a month to your unit meeting. Maybe you can commit to providing a ride or even a scholarship to a Mission U event. Maybe you can commit to taking a meal to a new family on a nearby military base.

Maybe you can commit to discovering what the needs are in your community and taking one single step forward. Only you know what is right for you, but we would like you to commit, on paper, to taking at least one single step beyond all the amazing work we know you’re already doing.
And, as you know, these single steps add up to a legacy transformed.... A world transformed.
The story of the Wesley House Community Center in Mississippi began in 1904, when Methodist women began by teaching the wives of local mill workers to sew and their children to read Bible stories.

Poverty and illiteracy were rampant, and the Methodist ladies responded with generosity, finding shoes for barefoot children, warm clothes, toys and food at Christmas, Bibles and storybooks to uplift mind and spirit

Today, Wesley House works with hundreds of trained volunteers and continues to offer programs to help break the cycle of poverty and abuse.

In the 21st century, members of United Methodist Women are breaking the cycle of poverty and abuse.
Ngoy Banza Joel is 16. She works in a field as part of a youth training program funded by United Methodist Women. The project is located in Kamina, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and provides academic education and agricultural training.

In the 21st century, members of United Methodist Women are providing academic education and agricultural training.

YOU are providing academic education and agricultural training.

(PRONUNICATION NEEDED)
Margaret McNulty is a resident of the Mary Elizabeth Inn, which provides safe and permanent housing in San Francisco for women who were homeless or survivors of domestic violence. Here she reads in the top-floor sunroom of the Inn, which is supported by the Women’s Division of the United Methodist Church.

Founded by Mrs. Lizzie Snyder Glide in 1914, Lizzie's legacy has provided a safe haven for women and her commitment to the community is still evident today.

In the 21st century, members of United Methodist Women are providing safe housing for women.

YOU are providing safe housing for women.
And as always, we are already being led by those who have gone before us. We are thrilled that The Legacy Fund Campaign has already received almost $400,000, over half of which has been as challenge gifts from the generous retired missionaries and deaconesses at Brooks-Howell Home and in honor of the life and work of Theressa Hoover.
And we thank you. For being a part of the legacy yesterday, today, and for the next 150 years.