



Rainbows for Mission: An Installation Service

February 18, 2011

Preparation: Be sure to get the name of each officer and the office to which they have been elected. Have flowers (or ribbons) in the appropriate colors as named in the service.

(Call those to be installed to the front by name and office)

Leader: (to the congregation and officers)

Flowers in the gardens and the rainbow in the sky Reflect for us God's colors that are pleasing to the eye. The flowers look to heaven as they tell us of God's love, And the rainbow tells it also, shining in the sky above. (Author Unknown)

After a fierce summer storm passes we often see a beautiful rainbow with its many colors arching across the sky. The Bible tells us this is God's promise which has never been broken. It has become a symbol of happiness, of blessings which come when God is present in the lives and experiences of people.

The many colors of the rainbow are caused by the reflection of sunlight as it passes through drops of rain in the air. If we let God's light of truth and love reflect through us those about us will see God's beauty and be blessed. When we do our share in Jesus' name, we are fulfilling the Purpose of United Women in Faith and will create a beauty that will last, without fading. To represent the beauty of the rainbow, I will give a different color flower to each officer.

President (name), I give you a purple flower. Purple has always been a royal color, worn by queens and kings of old to signify their leadership. You have been honored by being selected to lead this unit. May your dedication, devotion, and earnestness coupled with true humility, guide it wisely into fruitfulness, as you actively seek to advance all phases of the work of United Women in Faith.

Vice-president, (name), you receive this green flower symbolizing growth. It is your blessing to lead the group as they plan programs for the year, helping members of the unit to grow in many ways. Use the resources available to you to challenge, encourage, and support the women of (name of church) United Methodist Church.

Secretary, (name). Your flower is dark blue because blue has always been the symbol of truth and loyalty. Record the work of this unit faithfully and accurately, and in so doing assist the President in the details connected with the unit.

Treasurer, (name). You have a flower of light blue because you must keep, with honesty and truthfulness, a record of the finances of this unit. Set your sights on guiding our members to carefully consider mission opportunities and obligations.

Communication Coordinator, (name) your job is more than "black and white and read all over" because you have the responsibility of keeping all the members up to date on

everything that is going on. (black and white flower) Telling others our story, and publicizing programs and activities has now taken many forms and uses lots of color.

Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth, (name). Yours is the golden flower to signify the golden hours spent in prayer and Bible study. As you find ways to affirm the worth of each person and seek to provide opportunities for women to realize personal growth and spiritual renewal, you will strengthen every phase of our work.

Mission Coordinator for Social Action, (name). You will add a splash of brightness with your yellow flower. Yours is the task of bringing to the unit information on the social, economic and political issues that effect God's children here and around the world.

Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation, (name). Your flower is pink. Not because you will spend the year looking at your work through "rose colored glasses", but to represent the pink glow of satisfaction that comes as you see women grow upon completion of mission studies and educational opportunities.

Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture, and Outreach, (name). The strong vigorous color of red represents the many hats you wear in your job. Red is a warm color, signifying the warmth of your spirit as you guide, encourage, and lead women in new ventures both in the local church and the community, remembering that helping others is the heart of the work of our unit.

Secretary of Program Resources, (name). To you I give a white flower, as a reminder of the background of the printed page. You will search for new materials to encourage members to participate in the reading program that all women may become better informed about the causes for which United Women in Faith labor.

Chairperson, Committee on Nominations, (name) your flower is the color of silver. It represents the silver "notes of harmony" as you actively work toward securing leaders to give guidance and leadership through the year.

To all the officers: Will you carry out your duties to the best of your ability? If so, answer, "I will, with God's help."

To the members of this unit: Will you support these officers for the coming year? If so, answer, "I will, with God's help."

Closing: These colorful flowers truly remind us of the rainbow and God's promise. It reminds us too, of the promise Jesus made when he said, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth." May God's presence be real to you as you serve the Creator well as a part of the leadership of this unit during the coming year and throughout your life.

As the officers stand before us, let us sing together one verse of hymn #557 in the United Methodist Hymnal, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds."

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