

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mothers' Union is a Christian organization which promotes the well-being of families worldwide.

PROMISE

Every member of Mothers' Union must make the following promises: -

- (1) To confess the faith of Christ crucified and to continue to be a faithful soldier and servant the end. (2) To fight under the banner against sin, the world and the Devil.

PURPOSE, AIM AND OBJECTIVES

The Purpose of the Mothers' Union is to be specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves marriage and Christian family life.

The aim of the union is the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In order to carry out this Aim, its Objectives are:

- To uphold Christ's teaching in the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding.
- To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
- To promote conditions in society favourable to family life and the protection of children.
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

WE ACHIEVE THIS BY:

- Developing prayer and spiritual growth in families.
- Studying and reflecting on family life and its place in the society.
- Resourcing our members to take practical action to improve conditions for families, both nationally and in communities in which they live.

CORPORATE STRATEGIES

To establish the Mothers' Union voice as an authoritative Christian contribution to the debate on marriage and family life.

To describe the Mothers' Union's distinctive spirituality and ethos and to establish ways of communicating and sustaining it throughout the society.

To identify those common value and stands shared worldwide, celebrate cultural differences and through them energise and unite the Mothers' Union into a coherent organization.

To increase the membership and expand the funding base to support practical action.

To develop and publicise effectively the project and other community initiatives of the Mothers' Union.

To develop and implement a broad range of training programmes in order to help members participate effectively in the mission of the Mothers' Union.

Awareness is being created about the Mothers' Union concern for families, emphasizing the need for Christian mothers to build and maintain stable Christian homes. Vibrant activities, including training programmes are organized for both young and old, married and unmarried, female and male alike, all in an effort to equip and encourage people to build and maintain stable Christian homes.

The M.U has Provincial Trainers who organize Leadership training Programmes for members. Skill acquisition for self-reliance is always included in our Training Programmes. **Mothers' Union members in Nigeria have been working on the empowerment of woman and young girls with dioceses organizing prayer conferences with themes such as "Those who wait upon the Lord" and include young woman and girls prayer days, where there has been a focus on health issues. In other diocese women have been learning how to make stain removers and disinfectants in order to provide themselves with an income**

The M.U in Nigeria has link Dioceses both within and outside Nigeria with whom members communicate and unite in prayer, worship and service. Membership to M.U in Nigeria is open to women who are baptized, confirmed and wedded in the church. The numerical strength of members is very high.

MOTHERS' UNION MOTTO

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" Phill. 4:13

THE FOUR UNIT COMMITTEES

These are Action and Outreach, Prayer and Spirituality, Finance and Central Service and Marketing. Each has a coordinator at the Church of Nigeria level.

At the Provincial and Diocesan levels, each unit also has a coordinator.

ACTION AND OUTREACH

This unit is concerned with promoting activities that will help the Mother Union to achieve its aim – the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

The unit plans and executes training programmes and workshops that educate people (men, women and the youths) on issues that promote Christian marriage and family life. Participants are always exposed to skill-training for self-reliance in addition. Evangelical Outreach programmes are often planned and carried out in order to reach people at the grassroots level. This unit is also the overseer of the Mothers' Union project.

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

This unit is concerned especially with the third M.U objective to maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service. The Prayer and Spirituality Unit plays a central role in the life of all Mothers' Union members because prayer is central to everything M.U. does. This unit helps members and non members to grow in Christian faith through writing and publishing prayer for special services, Bible study guides, Gospel tracts for adults youth. It encourages fasting and prayers at all levels for special occasions..

FINANCE AND CENTRAL SERVICES

This unit is now known as Faith and Policy Unit at the Church of England. A qualified accountant is in charge of the Union's finances and the accounts are audited and published every year. Central Services underpins the headquarters organization. It supports members, organizes election, and constantly revises the data base of members.

MARKETING: - The marketing Unit is responsible for increasing membership, generating income through fund raising and sponsorship, etc. and augmenting public awareness of the aims and activities of Mothers' Union.

Women's Guild

The Women's Guild is an important Women Organization in Anglican Communion. Women are first admitted into Women's Guild before being admitted into Mothers' Union. It was founded with more open membership. Women who are full church members but not eligible to join Mothers' Union are free to be members of Women's Guild and serve God

with commitment in the Church. In Nigeria, Women's Guild was founded by Mrs. Malina Jones in 1921.

Aim and Purpose

Women's Guild is specially concerned with all that strengthens and preserves family life. To learn very well the best way to live a wholesome life and draw people to our Lord Jesus Christ through good conduct, selfless service at home, church and society.

Objectives of Women's Guild.

1. To read the Bible and pray daily.
2. To keep the marriage vows and bring up all children entrusted to us with loving care and teach them to pray daily.
- 3 To avoid debts and abstain from strong drinks, except with strict moderation.
4. To attend regularly Church Services, Bible class and Guild meetings.
5. Try to win others for Christ through a life of service for his sake.
6. To visit the sick and the bereaved.

Women's Guild Prayer.

O God our heavenly father, we pray you to bless every member of our Guild. Cleanse us with the blood of Jesus Christ our Savior so that we may be cleansed from all our sins. Bind us in love and prayer. Help us to keep all rules of the Women's Guild. Make us trustworthy women and loving mothers. Help us to use all efforts to make others know you, that at last we reach the heavenly joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

These two women organizations in Anglican Communion namely Mothers' Union and Women's Guild, produce women of virtue and integrity who are good Christian Mothers. They build their homes with God's wisdom and raise godly children. They also bring positive changes in their families, communities, society and the world at large. Every soul is very important to GOD because He loves us and Jesus died for everybody. Hence these Women Organizations are organs in Anglican communion through which women unite themselves as one body with one mind and one goal to serve God effectively and efficiently.

Differences Between Mothers' Union and Women's Guild

A member of M.U. belongs to Women's Guild because she is first admitted into W.G. before M.U. A member of mothers' Union must be baptized, confirmed

communicant, wedded in the church and keep the marriage vows but it is not so with Women's Guild members. e.g. A single mother, or a second wife, and unwedded wife can only be a member of W.G. and serve God faithfully but she cannot be a member of Mother's union which emphasizes marriage ministry.

Women's Ministry in Nigeria.

Parish Level :-The Rector's wife is the leader of women in each parish she is assisted by other priest's wives. **Archdeaconry Level**: - The wife of the Archdeacon in-charge of Archdeaconry leads the women in meetings , conferences and other activities.

Diocesan Level.

The Bishop's wife is the President of Mothers' Union , Women's Guild and Girls' Guild. She has an office in the Diocesan Headquarters. A women's worker is employed and paid by the Women of the diocese. She helps the Bishop's wife to do office work. The women carry out project each year.

At each level, election is conducted for women's committee who takes decisions and plan activities for the women both in Diocesan, Archdeaconry and church level.

Fund: -Diocesan Women make yearly Budget which is shared to parishes and churches according to their numerical and financial strength. This strength is determined through annual reporting of the churches

Uniform: - Each Diocese is identified by a uniform. They can also raise fund through uniforms. As a new diocese, we need a general uniform for everybody in the diocese. With time Mothers' Union and Women's Guild can have their own uniforms which is exclusively for their members. Diocesan women can go into publication like magazine, diaries etc. to raise fund. All these are done under the leadership of the Bishop's wife. All money raised are sent to diocesan purse.

Diocesan women holds Annual Women Conference which is their own Synod. There will be Presidential Address launched by delegates, bible study , intercessory prayer, teaching and other discussions concerning the family, church, and society at large.

Each of these levels must have representatives of the four unit committees who meet from time to time to move the activities of the women forward.