

## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Have you heard of Church Women United (CWU)? Founded as a movement in 1941 in Atlantic City, New Jersey, to bring Christian women together to work for peace and justice through prayerful action, it spread around the U.S. so that now, every State and Puerto Rico have Church Women United units. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. CWU engages millions of women representing twenty-six supporting denominations and participating Christian women.

Wisconsin has units in over 15 communities. Three worship celebrations which are published by the national Church Women United are held every year. They include World Community Day, May Friendship Day and Human Rights Celebration. Many units also hold World Day of Prayer which is developed by the World Day of Prayer International Committee from material written by women of a different country every year. In 2010 Cameroon was featured. In 2011 Chile will be the country.

A new Bible Study is being written for publication in 2011. Wellsprings is a series of Bible studies that have been written over a period of time and are appropriate for ecumenical groups. The new Wellsprings is called, *Women, Water and Worship*. Go to [www.churchwomen.org](http://www.churchwomen.org) for information.

Every four years CWU leaders choose a Quadrennial Priority to guide action. The 2008-2012 Priority is "Building a World Fit for All God's Children," with building blocks of peace, environmental care, health and economic justice. Units and states choose what focus to take. An ongoing campaign for several years has been to sign petitions that will go to the President, urging for leadership for action in the U.S. Senate toward the U.S. ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. So far thousands of signatures have been gathered and mailed to the White House. In 2010-2011 CWU has launched an educational campaign to combat diabetes, a disease that is becoming more and more prevalent in the U.S.

Through the years CWU has taken positions on hundreds of issues of importance for the peace of the world, welfare of humanity and well-being of society. The CWU Washington Office has produced a Social Policies book that guides action for individuals and units.

By Susan Becker, a member of Church Women United and of the Peace and Justice Commission of the Wisconsin Council of Churches