

# Conference Gram

May 2018 ~ Volume 67, Issue 3



## Mission u 2018: Life...Abundantly

Jesus came so that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10). What does a more abundant life look like for the Body of Christ? Join us at Pfeiffer University July 19-22, 2018, to explore our privileges and responsibilities for our neighbors, our planet, our church, and ourselves. Registration opens May 1 and runs through July 5. There is no onsite registration, so register early.

Our **Spiritual Growth** study is **Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living**. This is a companion study to “Living as a Covenant Community” and connects wonderfully with the “Climate Justice” study, although you will enjoy this study whether or not you attended the other studies. This study invites us to work toward “stronger and healthier relationships with creation, our communities, ourselves, and God.” The study book is available at Conference events and at [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org). A Kindle edition is available from Amazon.

Our **Social Issue** study is **What About Our Money? A Faith Response**. Did your stomach just clench up? Money is a challenging topic for most of us—we would rather discuss almost anything else. Fear not, this is an invitational study that explores ways we relate to money that can “actually free us from many of the financial dilemmas we face. The focus of this study is both personal and communal.” The study book is available at Conference events and at [umwmissionresources.org](http://umwmissionresources.org). A Kindle edition is available from Amazon.

Our **Geographic** study repeated this year is

**Missionary Conferences of the US**. We will explore the Biblical “home missions” of Paul, our church history with missionary conferences, and the present day mutuality of mission with these conferences, as well as how the relationship of the Church with these Conferences has changed and is changing.

Our **Resident Youth Camp** is for rising ninth graders through 2018 graduates and is limited to 20 participants (boys and girls). The theme is **Is It Just Money? Our Dollars, God’s Economy**. As always, the camp includes hands-on ministry, activities, study, worship, and fellowship.

The **Workshop for Leaders of Children** is an excellent resource for those who will be leading the children’s study **Money Matters** in their local unit or church. An overview of the study and sample activities will be shared.

In addition to the full-time studies offered Thursday evening through Sunday morning, we offer one-day overview studies on Friday and Saturday.

Registration forms and more information may be found at our Conference website: [wncumw.org](http://wncumw.org). Registration forms must be received by **July 5, 2018**.

Join us as resident or overview students on the welcoming campus of Pfeiffer University for study, workshops, worship, and fellowship. Don’t forget to pack a water bottle, blanket and sweater, and enthusiasm! (You’re still reading this? Stop and go register!)



*Lisa Bacon, Dean*

### Study Leaders: Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living



The Rev. Dr. **Patty Meyers** is Professor of Christian Education and Practical Theology at Pfeiffer University. She has written dozens of books, articles, songs and curricula for persons of all ages. She is married to Bob Meyers and they have a “four-legged child” at home, their Chihuahua, Tacy. Patty served as Study for our 2017 study, *Living as a Covenant Community*.

**Sandra T. Williamson** is a retired faculty member of the History Dept. at NC A&T and concluded a two-year term as Mission u Dean in 2014. Sandra is married to Dr. Alex N. Williamson, Sr., and they have two adult sons and one daughter-in-law. Sandra served as a National Office Study Leader for this study.



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## Study Leaders: What About Our Money? A Faith Response

**Laquetta Barbee** has served United Methodist Women in the Northern Piedmont District. She is married to John. They are parents to two adult sons. Laquetta enjoys her grandchildren and traveling. She is a member of Collins Grove UMC.



**Anita Fox** is a lifelong Methodist and a graduate of UNC-Greensboro. She works with a family owned insurance agency and has two children and a daughter-in-law. At her church, she has worked with the Youth Program, teaching Sunday School, and serving in various positions within UMW.

Anita serves as the Committee on Nominations chairperson for Catawba Valley District UMW. She led the Climate Justice study for Mission u 2016 and at the District level.

**Janice Lentz** is a retired school librarian who lives in North Myrtle Beach. Originally from Western North Carolina Conference, she has taught previous Mission u studies (including Climate Justice in 2016) and participated in Volunteer in Mission (VIM) trips. When Janice is not spending time with her 4 daughters and 5 grandchildren, she loves to travel.



**Jennifer Burton Lineberry** is the President at Century Mutual Insurance Company. She recently served as the Conference Treasurer for WNCN UMC. She has extensive experience in how finances and stewardship are related.

**Jaye White** is another guest from North Carolina Conference, where she serves as Conference Director of Outreach Ministry. Jaye claims Fayetteville as her home base. She graduated from Duke Divinity School in 2010 and was ordained a Deacon in full connection in 2014.



**Steve Taylor** joins us from the North Carolina Conference, where he serves as the Executive Director of Connectional Ministries and Church Vitality for his

Conference. Steve is a United Methodist Home Missioner serving in faith-based community transformation. He is trained in Sabbath Economics, a Wesleyan ministry model leading Christian communities to a more sustainable household economy. Steve led the study on The Bible and Human Sexuality in 2016 for the NC Conference Mission u.



## Study Leader for Missionary Conferences of the US

**Barbara E. Campbell** is a retired deaconess living at Brooks-Howell Home. She coordinated national plans for Regional and Conference Schools of Christian Mission (now Mission u) and taught in Schools each summer. The March, 2017 issue of **response** magazine included her Bible study, "Bright Hope for Tomorrow." Barbara led this study for our Conference Mission u last year.



## Study Leaders for Youth Camp

**Renee Hayes** is the WNCN UMW Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach. She is a National Board-certified teacher. She is actively involved in mission to Lithuania through Gifts of Grace Ministries. Renee is in the process of becoming a Deaconess in the UMC. This is Renee's third year working with the Mission u Youth Camp.

**Sherry Sink** has served in all levels of UMW over the last 17 years. She has taught one-day overview classes for several years at the School of Christian Mission and taught the Teen class at *Mission u* for six years. She has also taught several district mission studies and has served as Mission Coordinator of Membership Nurture and Outreach and served as Scholarship Committee Chair for the conference.



## Workshop for Leaders of Children

**Sandy Hieronymus** is a retired Pre-K teacher and an active certified lay servant. She has been involved in previous Mission u events as both a study leader and in conducting this workshop. Sandy likes reading, arts and crafts, and being a "beach bum." She and her husband, Gerry, were blessed with three sons. Their two grandchildren provide much love and joy.



## **MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH — RENEE HAYES**

While we usually think sustainability is mainly associated with environmental concerns, one of the greatest UMW natural resources are our members. Principle 13 of our Steps to Sustainability, "Wellbeing of Participants" outlines several ways we can help our membership practice self-care in the midst of our events.

Select sites that provide natural spaces. Pace schedules to allow for informal fellowships and reflection. Include hospitality and community building activities. Consider naming some compassionate

listeners or a right relationship team whenever difficult topics may be discussed. Incorporate practices from transformative education that allow for learning to be interactive and empowering. More suggestions may be found on the UMW national website at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice/sustainability/well-being>. Tackling a few principles at a time enables us to take baby-steps toward fully nurturing our units.





# My Vision...

There is never a dull moment in the life of WNC UMW! Some of you have accepted my challenge to move outside the box and pose behind the camera lens. Since early January we've had several phone conversations with **response** photojournalist Richard Lord. As a result, look for WNC to be featured in upcoming articles. Richard has been quite complimentary about our conference involvement in mission. Even though conferences across the nation continue to merge, creating larger memberships and larger amounts of Mission Giving per conference, WNC continues to be at the forefront in areas of social action, Mission u, and Legacy Fund. It is my privilege to be counted among your membership.

Thanks to volunteers around the conference who worked at Mission Response Center in Terrell during Pfeiffer University's filming of a promotional video. This video is designed to raise awareness of the

efforts to assist individuals and families in need and how to get involved. It was a humbling experience to prepare shipments of UMCOR kits to help those in need and Christmas shoe boxes for children in Armenia. I believe we enjoyed being "stars" and being filmed by the Pfeiffer drone! Dr. Ken Russell says the video should soon be available.

Our 149<sup>th</sup> anniversary was an exciting day that launches us on the countdown to 150! Remembering our past accomplishments and rich heritage has been interesting...but imagining what new, exciting, and BOLD ventures are ahead is very exciting. The more involvement I have with our YAUMW (Young Adult United Methodist Women) the more hope I have for the next 150 years of United Methodist Women.



*Julia Willis, President*

## VICE PRESIDENT — JOANIE STROHM

As vice presidents you are always on the lookout for interesting and challenging programs; think about the great resources you have at your disposal.

Assembly 2018 was wonderful! The worship, speakers, workshops, exhibits and Ubuntu events were all wonderful opportunities for programming. If you could not attend, ask your district and conference officers, or someone from your area who attended and I am sure they will be happy to share about this gathering of United Methodist Women from all over the world. And to illustrate we are ecumenical, I met some Presbyterian Women in Louisville four years ago at our last Assembly in 2014!

As we approach our 150<sup>th</sup> year in mission in 2019, we are reminded to celebrate our foremothers and help support the women, children and youth who come after us with giving to the Legacy Fund. This endowment fund will ensure that mission work will continue for 150 more years. Plan to have your unit become a 100% Legacy Fund unit.

Using the Program Book, Reading Program

books, Prayer Calendar and **response** magazine will keep your unit in tune to what is happening in the world of United Methodist Women.

Are you planning on attending Mission u at Pfeiffer University? The spiritual study challenges us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation. The study about money will bring conversation and perhaps action to your unit.

**"The Power of Bold"** is the theme of our September 14-16, 2018 Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska. This is the time when conference-wide we celebrate you! You will enjoy enthusiastic speakers, beautiful worship, honoring missionaries, deaconesses and home missionaries, informative and active workshops, fun on Saturday night, and fellowship with our sisters in Christ all week-end. Further details will be in our July/August newsletter. Online registration with discounted rate of \$15.00 begins June 18 and ends September 9. Make plans to attend and bring a friend or two! Live **boldly** for the Lord!

## SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES — SIBYL LONG

It is hard to believe 2018 is traveling by so fast. By now I hope you are well on your way to reading at least Plan I for 2018. I will see you at the Spiritual Growth Retreat and as always I will have a variety of UMW reading books 2018 and the Mission Study books for this year's Mission u. Be there or "Be Square"!

Brenda Thompson is the Reading Program administrator and welcomes book recommendations,

as well as questions and suggestions about the reading program. You can suggest books for future years by emailing the title, author, publisher, date of publication and price to her at [bthompson@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:bthompson@unitedmethodistwomen.org)

As always if you have any questions for me you can contact me by either email at [sibyl.long@gmail.com](mailto:sibyl.long@gmail.com) or calling me at 704-535-9240. **HAPPY READING!!!!**



## TREASURER — NANCY REIGEL

The 2017 Giving by Conference results are in. Again, Western NC Conference United Methodist Women have taken a leadership position. WNCC United Methodist Women led the nation in giving in the following channels:

✠ Special Mission Recognition	\$33,108
✠ Gift to Mission	\$51,425
✠ World Thank Offering	\$67,944

**How** do we continue to do that? Well YOU do it. Thank you for your dedication to United Methodist Women Mission.

**Why** do you continue? Hopefully, in part, because you understand how **powerful** and **vital** United Methodist Women Mission is across the world. YOUR giving makes mission possible. Hopefully you also know how **well managed** your mission funds are and **what careful consideration** is applied to the allocation of your mission funds to the programs they fund.

As your treasurer, those last thoughts lead me to share my enthusiasm on learning about one of our Mission studies at **Mission u** this year: “What About Our Money? A Faith Response.” Looking at the study book’s Table of Contents, some of the chapters make me even more intrigued. Included are:

What the Bible Has To Say About Money. A chapter that includes sections titled: God Provides What We Need, Cultivating a Sense of Enough, and Money can Easily Get the Better of Us.

The Systems That Shape Our Lives, Systems including: economic, political, educational, financial, and more. Scarcity or Sufficiency? which asks “where do we find security that allows us to live out God’s call in our lives?”

Consumption: Need I elaborate??

Giving: Stewardship of What is Ultimately God’s, Including “The ‘Ungenerous’ U.S. Christian” and “Giving Wesley Style.” Topics to make a treasurer’s heart sing!

Along with the other Mission studies, the worship, the singing...never forget the singing...and the opportunity to spend real quality time with United Methodist Women across the Conference, once again Mission u 2018 is a gathering to savor and absorb.

As always there will be Gift to Mission cards for you to sign for those in mission and to purchase for you to use to send messages of Mission.

Come, Learn, Renew!



## PARLIAMENTARIAN — JATANA ROYSTER

At your meetings, you do not need a motion and a second to approve the minutes from your previous meeting. If the minutes have been sent, the president states, “The minutes of the previous meeting have been distributed. Are there any corrections to the minutes?” If there are no corrections, the president states, “If there are no corrections, the minutes are approved.” If there are corrections to be made, those

are completed and the president states, “If there are no further corrections, the minutes are approved.” If the minutes are not sent via email or regular mail, they will need to be reviewed at the meeting before they can be approved. (Adapted from Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)



## SOCIAL ACTION — CAROLYN PAYNE

As United Methodist Women we have accepted the responsibility to fulfill our PURPOSE to develop and nurture our gifts and talents, to be creative as far as it is in our ability to do so, to be supportive of women, children and youth and to expand Christian concepts by means of our missional outreach. The organization of United Methodist Women has provided us with all the tools we need to complete our directive. A few that come immediately to mind are The Reading Program to expand our perspectives, Mission u to educate our minds and Spiritual Growth Retreat to regenerate our spirits.

As your conference Social Action Coordinator, I would be remiss if I did not mention

the tremendous opportunities to be effective stewards of our calling through our commitment to be the voice crying in the wilderness, advocating for safe schools for all children, advocating for common sense gun laws, and advocating for racial justice.

I implore you to take action, keep in touch with your state and federal representatives to voice your opinion on matters that have an adverse effect on society. Take full advantage of the tools available, read, learn, and grow.

Remember, “*All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action.*”  
*James Russell Lowell*

## MISSION EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION — LINDA GREER



**New Mission Today** criteria for 2018 is available on the website: [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)! There were just a couple of changes for 2018. If you do not have internet access, give me a call and I will be happy to mail a copy to you. Let's have 100% of our units attaining Mission Today status in 2018! Being a Mission Today unit proudly celebrates that your unit is participating in the activities that make your local unit a healthy UMW unit.

**UMW in Mission** Did you know that we support nearly 60 mission projects internationally and nearly 100 mission projects nationally? You may find a wealth of information about our numerous mission projects in the United States and throughout the world by using our Prayer Calendar, *response* Magazine, and our UMW websites: [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org) and [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org). You can find maps on the national office website and in the February, 2018 issue of *response* that let you see where all our mission projects are located. Keep in mind that all of our mission projects supported by our Five Channels of Mission Giving are designed to empower women, youth and children so that their lives can be improved. Our Mission Giving changes lives!

**Our hands-on mission projects** for this year include Hygiene Kits for Spiritual Growth Retreat, School Kits for Mission u, and Christmas Boxes for Project AGAPE in Armenia for Annual Celebration. Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards will also be part of our Mission Projects at Annual Celebration. When you attend the Spiritual Growth Retreat, you will receive a bag for your School Kit along with a list of items that need to go into the bag. Fill this bag and bring or send it along with more filled bags to

Mission u! (Please bring your kits in boxes that you can easily lift. Remember that if you are unable to lift them, those working at the kit intake station cannot lift them either.) Included in your bag, you will find an updated list of items for items for Project AGAPE; however, if you want it before then, go to: [www.wnccumc.org/project-agape](http://www.wnccumc.org/project-agape).

**Thank you** to all of the UMW members and friends who came to the Mission Response Center on March 13 to help inspect and pack UMCOR kits and be filmed for a video that is now in production; the purpose of the video is to inform congregations about the work and mission of the MRC! Help is always needed at the MRC so if your group is looking for a project, contact Dwaine Morgan, Manager at (828) 478-2106. **Prayer Calendar** I continue to urge you to use yours and communicate with our Mission Personnel and Staff. The Prayer Calendar contacts are posted on our conference website as well as our Facebook Page each week. This communication will help you to learn about Mission work as well as to meet a criteria on your Mission Today list. Using the Prayer Calendar at each meeting enables your unit to meet an additional criteria as well. I love working in Mission Together with YOU!



## MISSION MOMENT

**Mission Witness:** It is easy to see the glory of God in the beauty of the Caribbean Sea, the sounds of the rushing river, and life going on around me. However, I've learned that the relationships I have built with people make the scenic beauty fade into the

background. God's true beauty is in each face that makes this place feel like home away from home.

*From Hilary Glover, Global Mission Fellows International Missionary, Grenada, Grenada — 2018 Prayer Calendar, page 41.*

## SECRETARY — ELIZABETH LOOKABILL

We will be going to Spiritual Growth and Mission u soon. What a wonderful time for us to learn more about our mission projects around the world. Your team is working hard to make this a wonderful event. Hope all of you are planning on attending.

A tip for District/Local Church Secretaries: Document! Document! Document! Record each motion exactly as stated....and who made the

motion...who seconded it and if it was passed or defeated. This may save a lot of discussion and confusion months (or years) later. The best way to be sure you have made this exact is to use the "Motion Form."

"Opportunities multiply when they are seized, they die when neglected" *Author Unknown*



**What will YOUR Legacy Be?  
Support the Legacy Fund!**

- ◆ Make a gift to the Legacy Fund through your local unit United Methodist Women treasurer.
- ◆ Use our Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment Form, available on our website at [www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund](http://www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund)
- ◆ Online on the national office website at [unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund)
- ◆ **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, M-F)

- ◆ **Text** Legacy150 to 41444
- ◆ **By check:** note "Legacy Fund" in memo and mail to: United Methodist Women, Treasurer's Office 15th Floor, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115
- ◆ **Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making a gift like this, contact the national office at 800-278-7771.



**SCHOLARSHIP — CATHY McCAULEY**

The scholarship committee met in April and made awards for the 2018-2019 academic year to 5 young ladies. We are proud to announce this year's recipients:

Yajaira Chavez	Brevard College
Hannah Dunlap	High Point University
Rebecca Dyer	Pfeiffer University
April Martin	Pfeiffer University
Cathy Morrison	Bennett College

Keep them in your prayers! Remember that contributions to the General Scholarship Fund are always welcome! Also please help by spreading the word on the availability of scholarships.

**2018 CONFERENCE OFFICER LIST — WNCC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

OFFICE	NAME	PHONE	E-MAIL
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Treasurer	Nancy Reigel	828-268-0637	nancy@reigelridge.com
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MC—Memb. Nurture & Outreach	Renee Hayes	336-434-3582	renee.hayes1956@gmail.com
MC—Social Action	Carolyn Payne	366-766-5568	reginaldtpayne@bellsouth.net
MC—Spiritual Growth	Martha Efird	704-992-8727	mdjefird@outlook.com
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Mission u (Dean)	Lisa Bacon	828-586-8399	lisabacon304@gmail.com
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***PURPOSE of United Methodist Women***

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of Women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

**2018 Upcoming Dates:**

June 15-16, 2018	WNC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat, “Glory Gifts”, Lake Junaluska
June 21-24, 2018	WNC Annual Conference, Lake Junaluska
July 19-22, 2018	WNC UMW Mission u, Pfeiffer University, Misenheimer
September 14-16	WNC UMW Annual Celebration, Lake Junaluska
October 20, 2018	Ubuntu Day of Service (Various Locations)

For more information, visit: [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)  
Visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wnccumw](http://www.facebook.com/wnccumw)