



# Conference Gram

February 2019

Volume 68, Issue 1

## Happy 150th Anniversary! Let's Celebrate!

**March 23, 1869 ~ March 23, 2019**

150 Years in service of God's mission on behalf of women, children, and youth!

We are approaching **our 150th Anniversary on Saturday, March 23, 2019**. How will you celebrate?

- ◆ **Plan a celebration!** What if **EVERY local unit** had a **celebration** during March! Have a birthday party, a special UMW Sunday, a festive luncheon, a service project, a fun-raiser, etc. Check out the **Let's Celebrate** idea sheet on our website at [wnccumw.org/legacyfund/](http://wnccumw.org/legacyfund/). Be creative! Invite others! Tell our story! **Celebrate!**
- ◆ **Join in the Day of Giving** on our anniversary, March 23, 2019! Invest in the next 150 years!
- ◆ **Stretch during 2019 by making a gift to The Legacy Fund every month!** Challenge others to do the same! Consider giving \$18.69 per month, or more!
- ◆ **Honor persons** by presenting them with the special 150th Special Mission Recognition pin, or the 150th necklace. You could even **order them for yourself!**



**THE LEGACY FUND:**  
**Invest Now...Impact the Future!**



**Our Western North Carolina Every Member Legacy Fund Goal:**

That every member make a gift to

**The Legacy Fund**

**of at least \$18.69 per year,**  
over and above her Pledge to Mission,  
for five years.

**LEGACY FUND *and* MISSION GIVING? YES, BOTH!!!**



## Western North Carolina Conference 2019 Vision & Goals

*Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world*

- **Raise awareness & build relationships with the United Methodist Women mission institutions in our conference:** Bethlehem Community Center Charlotte, Bethlehem Community Center Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, Pfeiffer University
- **Raise awareness of our four United Methodist Women service and advocacy priority issues:** Climate Justice, Maternal & Child Health, Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration, Economic Inequality
- **Achieve our Conference Financial Goal:** Increase our conference giving in the Gift to Mission Channel by at least \$3,000
- **Celebrate 150 Years of United Methodist Women in Mission!**

### Economic Inequality Priority — UMW Take on Wendy's

*"All the beautiful sentiments in the world weigh less than a single lovely action." (James Russell Lowell)*

For the better part of 2018, United Methodist Women across the country engaged in an ambitious effort to urge Wendy's fast-food company to follow the lead of other fast-food companies by signing the Coalition of Immokalee Workers' Fair Food Agreement.

The effort was called *Living Wage for All Campaign: Farm Worker Postcard Action*. Postcards addressing concerns regarding farm workers who work for Wendy's suppliers in Florida were available at local, district and conference events.

A delegation of UMW traveled from New York, Florida, and Ohio to Dublin, OH, on November 15, 2018, to hand deliver 5000 postcards to Mr. Todd Penegor, Wendy's CEO; neither Mr. Penegor nor any representative from Wendy's would agree to meet with the delegation. The postcards were later mailed; **48 of the cards came from the Western North Carolina Conference.** Thank you for your action!

**Note: Please submit your nomination for Social Action Award by April 30, 2019; forms can be found at [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org).** ~ Thanks!

More information on this campaign can be found at the links listed below:

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-joins-coalition-against-wendys](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-joins-coalition-against-wendys)

[www.facebook.com/carol.CommunityAction](http://www.facebook.com/carol.CommunityAction)

or: Carol Barton  
475 Riverside Drive, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10115  
CBarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Grace and Peace to you,  
Carolyn Payne, Social Action Coordinator



UMW members demonstrate outside of Wendy's Headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. (Photo by Lenny Lopla)



Thanks to former SM District Communications Coordinator Amanda Patterson for designing the "PURPOSE" sidebars.

### Thinking Inside the (Sample) Box for Program Resources

Expect major changes in program resources at Conference and District events. National Office is streamlining procedures in an effort to be responsible stewards of our mission dollars. Conference and District Secretaries of Program Resources will now order a sample box of materials for display at events; **limited quantities of these resources will be available at events.** Local unit members may order resources at events or on their own. **Reading Program books will no longer be available through UMW Mission Resources** (except for UMW-published books such as mission studies) but may be purchased from Cokesbury and other major retailers. Individual districts will have flexibility in how they choose to provide additional resources, so contact your District Secretary of Program Resources with questions.

**You are urged to order Mission u study books before arriving at Mission u, because copies will be extremely limited onsite. (Online at [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or call 800-305-9857)**

Your flexibility during this transition is greatly appreciated.

### Getting to Know Your WNCC Mission Institutions: Bethlehem Community Center, Winston-Salem

#### From the Historian's Quill—Modest Beginnings:

In 1927, Rev. John A Hunter, pastor of Reynolds Temple Church (a church sponsored by Centenary Methodist Church, Winston-Salem) and Rev. Dr. C. C. Weaver, pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, along with Florence Weaver, the pastor's wife, became interested in providing quality, affordable childcare for the children of working mothers in East Winston. These mothers labored in the factories and mills with an average wage of \$7.00 a week.

In 1928, after trial, error, and reorganization the Center was housed in the basement of Reynolds Temple Church with an enrollment of 25 children and 16 crib babies. The cost of daycare was ten cents a day.

#### My, How We've Grown!

Today Bethlehem Community Center is a 5-Star early childhood education center serving a vital need for low-income working parents. The center blossomed in 2018 with a \$1.5-million building expansion that added 6,000 square feet with 4 additional classrooms, storage rooms, and 26 additional parking spaces. On November 13, 2018 there was a dedication ceremony for the new addition, with the ribbon being cut by Mayor Alan Joines of Winston-Salem.

To see the outstanding learning opportunities that are offered at the center, contact director Deborah Forrest at 336-722-6264 to schedule a tour for your United Methodist Women unit. If you'd like to become even more involved, your unit might consider becoming prayer partners with the staff or adopting a classroom or a teacher. Bethlehem Center is a special place where your Mission Giving is at work every day!

(Article by Betty Durham, WNCC UMW Historian, and Martha Isenberg, Yadkin Valley District President and BCC Board Member)



## Justice Today: Religious and Cultural Injustices



The Charter for Racial Justice has been a vital part of women in mission since Women's Division of Christian Service established the charter in 1952. In 1980, it was adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. The Charter is part of our *Mission Today* criteria and offers a certificate for achieving various levels of implementation.

The Charter states we believe God is the Creator of all people and all are God's children in one family. Racial Justice addresses issues about race, gender, age, socio-economics, etc. **All these "isms"** **focus on "less than" or "different from".** Martin Luther King, Jr.,'s quote, "None of us are free until all of us are free," isn't just about color. Religious and cultural injustices are brought to light in a book from our 2018 Reading Program list.

**Hiding in the Light** is a true story of a young lady's courageous decision to leave Islam and follow Jesus—no matter the cost during her four years of "hiding in the light." Rifqa Bary writes about risking everything to leave Islam and follow Jesus. A native of Sri Lanka, Rifqa moved at age eight with her family to the USA where she was secretly exposed to a new concept of love through Jesus Christ. At 12 years old she converted from Islam to Christianity despite eventually losing all contact with her family.

This book is an excellent step in implementing #6a of *Mission Today*. **As you plan your year, pay special attention to *Mission Today* #6 and select at least two ways to implement the Charter for Racial Justice.** Strive to become a bronze, silver, or gold unit this year. Not only is this book an "education for mission" "easy read" check-off on the Reading Program, a Charter for Racial Justice certificate, or a book-review unit program, it's also a heartfelt insight into what it takes to be a Christian.

(Article by Julia Willis, WNCC UMW President and Chair of the Justice Today Committee)

### The Reading Program: Educate to Advocate!

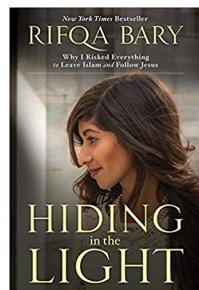
One of the best ways to keep the UMW Legacy alive is to READ! The categories are Spiritual Growth, Education for Mission, Social Action, Nurturing for Community, and Leadership Development. Reading at least one book from each category will help expand your understanding of God's mission; increase your sensitivity to the needs, interests and concerns of all human beings; encourage your critical thinking about issues facing humanity today; enhance your self-knowledge; and encourage action.

**A great way to get essential program resources and save on shipping costs is to order the Annual Sampler.** For \$40 you get a copy of the Program Book, Prayer Calendar, two Mission u study books, and date book. The sampler may be ordered by calling 800-305-9857.

Sibyl Long, Secretary of Program Resources

**(Check out Julia's book suggestion in the above article.)**

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram)



## What About Our Money? 2018 Year in Review. Moving Forward into 2019.

**YOU made the following happen for Mission in 2018:**

<b>Total Giving</b> through the 8 districts from local units	<b>\$761,717</b>
<i>A drop of \$51,463 compared to 2017</i>	
<b>Conference Love Offering</b>	
"In Honor of Deaconesses and Home Missioners: Past, Present and Future"	<b>\$14,151</b>
<b>Walk for Mission</b>	<b>\$15,876*</b>
<b>Spiritual Growth Retreat Love Offering</b>	<b>\$5,682*</b>
<b>Mission u Love Offering</b>	<b>\$2,333*</b>
<b>Special Offerings from Conference Committee Meetings</b>	<b>\$565*</b>
<b>Undesignated Mission Giving</b> sent to UMW National Office <i>(\$109,769 short of 2018 \$700,000 Pledge)</i>	<b>\$590,231</b>
<b>Designated Giving</b> to UMW National Office (includes Call to Prayer & Self Denial, general, national, international & UMCOR)	<b>\$66,062</b>
<b>Donations to other local projects</b>	<b>\$5,608</b>

An asterisk (\*) indicates those categories that increased over 2017. Four categories showed a small increase. Sadly, other categories showed significant decreases, reducing the Undesignated Mission Giving we were able to send to the National Office by \$32,129 compared to 2017.

**With these kinds of results, why would anyone want to be a Conference Treasurer?**

**What an easy question to answer.**

With every pledge, Gift to Mission, SMR, or Gift in Memory I see at least two stories. First are the stories of the lives of women, children, and youth becoming better, opportunities opened. Then, we see the generous spirits of you, United Methodist Women members, who look beyond yourselves to a world that needs your help and your response. There are many other things you could have done with those dollars, but you chose to invest them in others...to give others a chance to thrive and build better lives for themselves and their families.

That is why I am blessed every day to be a UMW Conference Treasurer.

We have a challenge ahead in 2019, a challenge for mission, but one I am confident we can meet...together. Your love and support of mission through giving is inspiring. We all need to grasp those stories of mission that most inspire us and share them even more urgently. We all must "Tell the Stories of Mission." I look forward to 2019 with anticipation and joy.

**Our 2019 Love Offering will be a Gift to Mission celebrating 150 Years of United Methodist Women in Mission. We have much to celebrate!**

Peace, Nancy Reigel (Conference Treasurer)



2019 WNCC UMW Officers	
President Julia Willis	336-685-4857 <a href="mailto:jawillis1@aol.com">jawillis1@aol.com</a>
Vice President Joanie Strohm	828-649-1156 <a href="mailto:ssjsmars@charter.net">ssjsmars@charter.net</a>
Secretary Dianne Beam	704-274-9183 <a href="mailto:diannebeam@roadrunner.com">diannebeam@roadrunner.com</a>
Treasurer Nancy Reigel	828-268-0637 <a href="mailto:nancy@reigelridge.com">nancy@reigelridge.com</a>
MC—Educ. & Inter. Linda Greer	704-585-6263 <a href="mailto:jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net">jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net</a>
MC—Memb. Nur. & Out. Renee Hayes	336-707-2980 <a href="mailto:reneehayes1956@gmail.com">reneehayes1956@gmail.com</a>
MC—Social Action Carolyn Payne	366-766-5568 <a href="mailto:reginaldtpayne@bellsouth.net">reginaldtpayne@bellsouth.net</a>
MC—Spiritual Growth Martha Efird	704-992-8727 <a href="mailto:mdjefird@outlook.com">mdjefird@outlook.com</a>
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Mission u (Dean) Pat Moore	704-502-2383 <a href="mailto:phmoore71@gmail.com">phmoore71@gmail.com</a>
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Historian Betty Durham	336-542-8077 <a href="mailto:betty.durham50@yahoo.com">betty.durham50@yahoo.com</a>
Scholarship (Chair) Cathy McCauley	704-965-6566 <a href="mailto:cathymc855@yahoo.com">cathymc855@yahoo.com</a>
Program Advisory Group Dixie Liggett	828-684-1831 <a href="mailto:liliggett3@charter.net">liliggett3@charter.net</a>
Webmaster/Legacy Liaison Lynne Gilbert	336-207-3479 <a href="mailto:lynnegilbert2@gmail.com">lynnegilbert2@gmail.com</a>

## Legacy Fund Information:

- Visit our website at [www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund/](http://www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund/)
- Visit the national office website at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/)

## Ways to Give:

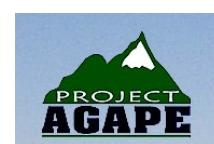
- Participate in our **Day of Giving**, on March 23, 2019!
- Make a Legacy Fund gift through your local unit United Methodist Women treasurer, directly to your district treasurer, or at district and conference events.
- Use our Western North Carolina Conference Legacy Commitment Form, available on our 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.



## 2019 Hands-On Mission Projects

Spiritual Growth Retreat and Mission u: UMCOR School Kits  
[www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/School](http://www.umcor.org/UMCOR/Relief-Supplies/Relief-Supply-Kits/School)

Annual Celebration: Project AGAPE Christmas boxes  
[www.wnccumc.org/project-agape](http://www.wnccumc.org/project-agape)



# Western North Carolina United Methodist Women 2019 CONFERENCE EVENTS

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

June 13-15 • Lake Junaluska

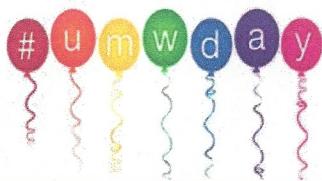


*Thorns & Roses*

## 150 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
In Your District

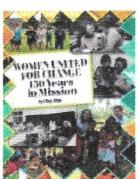
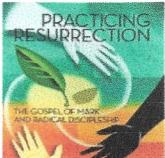
Check with your district for  
Celebration Details



## MISSION U

July 18-21 • Pfeiffer University

Practicing Resurrection:  
The Gospel of Mark and  
Radical Discipleship



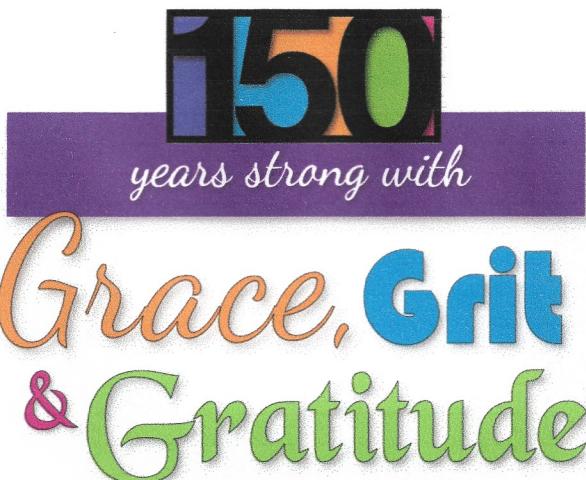
Women United for Change:  
150 Years in Mission



What About Our Money:  
A Faith Response

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION

September 13-15 • Lake Junaluska



## LEGISLATIVE DAY

*E to the Third Power: Educate, Engage, Enact*



April 27, 2019  
St. Andrews UMC  
Winston Salem



## Ubuntu Day of Service

Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>  
Across the Conference

"I am  
because  
you are"

ubuntu!

**Western North Carolina Conference**

**United Methodist Women**

Lisa Bacon

1028 Old Cullowhee Rd

Sylva, NC 28779-6539

lisabacon304@gmail.com



*Thorns & Roses*

More of what you love! We're excited to announce the new three-day/two-night format for our WNCC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat **June 13-15, 2019**. Join us as we explore **"Thorns and Roses"** with keynote speaker Alisha Gordon, National Office Executive for Spiritual Growth.

**Registration begins February 1.**

Make hotel reservations early by calling the Lake Junaluska reservations department at 1-800-222-4930.

**See you at the Lake!**

Terrace Hotel (2 nights lodging, 6 meals) **Per Person** based on occupancy:  
**Single \$327.05 Double \$204.95 Triple \$178.31 Quad \$166.10**

Lambuth Inn (2 nights lodging, 6 meals) **Per Person** based on occupancy:  
**Single \$304.85 Double \$193.85 Triple \$167.21 Quad \$155.00**

Hillside Lodge/Junaluska Apartments **Per Person** rates (2 nights lodging, no meals):  
**Single \$90.00 Double \$45.00 Triple \$35.00 Quad \$30.00**

For more information, visit [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org)