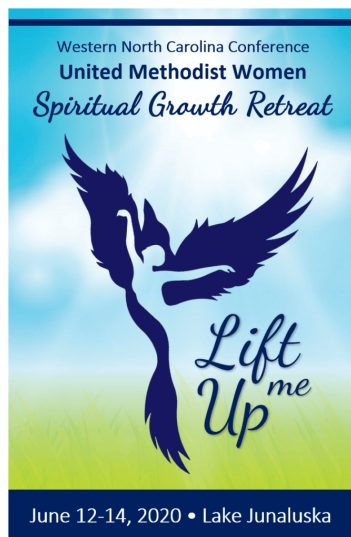




Conference Gram

April 2020

Volume 69, Issue 2



YOU LIFT ME UP! Psalm 145:14 tells us that God lifts us up when we are bowed down. Not only does God lift us up, but we lift each other as sisters in Christ. There is no better place to be lifted up, and to lift our hands and voices in response, than at Lake Junaluska, Friday, June 12th–Sunday, June 14th at our annual WNCC UMW Spiritual Growth Retreat.

The 2020 retreat has expanded programming for more “God time”, time for reflection and fellowship. Retreat information to share with your unit and friends may be found at this link:

wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2020/

Retreat Leader: Rev. Lisa Beth White, pastor at Tabernacle UMC in Black Mountain. She is also the founder of Sister of Hope Ministries. Lisa Beth specializes in short-term mission and believes in the “quiet heart of Christian action” as



Christians “seek to live out their faith by helping their neighbors, feeding the hungry, and stepping in to help when disaster strikes”. You may remember Lisa Beth as a study leader from Mission u 2019.

Music Leaders: Rev. Mark L. Barden and Catherine Ritch, back by popular request from our 2019 Annual Celebration and the many other times they have blessed us with uplifting music at past events. Mark is senior pastor at Central UMC in Shelby and a past Conference Director of Mission/Outreach and Director of Communication. Catherine is known as an author, composer, comedienne, entertainer, inspirational speaker, teacher, musician and missionary, but her favorite way to be acknowledged is “friend”.

Programming: You’ll enjoy favorite retreat elements, such as the gathering & praise singing and inspiring messages from our retreat leader. We will kick off our retreat with a dinner buffet at the Terrace and Lambuth Inn for lodging guests Friday, June 12th, and the retreat formally opens at 6:45 p.m. with Gathering and Praise. **Saturday morning will include break-out sessions for Bible study, prayer and meditation, spiritual walks around the Lake, a boat ride, trolley tour, and the World Methodist Museum tour.**

Saturday evening after our worship service, we will be watching a movie—The Shack. As you may recall, this popular book was a part of our United Methodist Women’s Reading Program several years ago. The movie will be shown in Stuart Auditorium.

Communion will be served during the Sunday morning session. We will need communion helpers so if you would like to help serve, contact your District President or me. Helpers will need to attend communion practice, which starts Saturday afternoon at 4:00 in Stuart Auditorium. **The Sunday morning session will have a later start time to allow time for check-out and a relaxed breakfast, the last meal of the retreat.** The retreat will conclude by noon Sunday.

(Continued on p. 2)

(Spiritual Growth Retreat 2020, continued from p. 1)

Online Registration: Open February 3 through June 6, **online advance registration is \$25.00**. On-site registration will be \$35.00. Check in at Harrell Center 2:00 – 6:30 pm Friday to pick up the program book and other materials. Check-in for later arrivals will be available.

Room Reservations: ROOMS AT TERRACE AND LAMBUTH ARE STILL AVAILABLE. Call Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center 1-800-222-4930 to reserve accommodations. Room rates, inclusive of meal plan and taxes, can be found on the WNCC UMW website at www.wnccumw.org and within the retreat flyer. Use the **group attendee code 43975**.

Room check-in at the Bethea Welcome Center opens at **4:00 p.m. on Friday. Check-out time is at or before 11:00 a.m. Sunday morning.** Sunday lunch is not included since we will end by noon.

Childcare: you may make arrangements in advance by contacting Darlene Gardner at 336-766-1552 by June 6.

Hands-on Mission: Participate by bringing assembled Hygiene Kits to the Lake. Information regarding proper contents and assembly of the kits may be found at umcmmission.org/umcor/serve/relief-supply-network/hygiene-kit


Help is always needed to receive, count, and load the kits, so please consider volunteering. Some jobs can be done while seated. Contact Linda Greer, Conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation, at jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net.

Memorial Chapel will be open for prayer, meditation, and quiet time throughout the retreat. Program Resources, Social Action displays, and other important UMW information will be located with retreat registration in the Harrell Center.

June is a beautiful time at Lake Junaluska. Dress comfortably. Most facilities are air-conditioned, so bring a sweater. Wear comfortable walking shoes, especially if you want to walk around the lake. You will have time to visit the various gardens available to us on the grounds.

Darlene Gardner, Conference Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

gardnerdarlenel@gmail.com or 336-408-4364



Dedication of Annual Report Book

Each year, the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women Annual Report Book is dedicated to a special woman who has served on the local, district, and conference levels of United Methodist Women. The honoree will have demonstrated leadership abilities and the ability to work well with her peers. She will be honored at our Conference Annual Celebration in September at Lake Junaluska. **Nomination forms must be completed and returned by June 1, 2020.**

Request forms by contacting Nancy Reigel, 828-268-0637 or nancy@reigelridge.com.

Justice Today: Personal Reflections on White Privilege

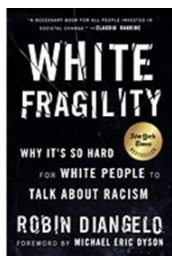


I grew up during the racial unrest of the 1960s and 70s. I am a career social worker who took courses and workshops on multiculturalism. I thought my life experiences provided me with a good grasp of race and racism. Although I understood racial inequities still existed in our society, like many other white folks, **I harbored the illusion that we had made strides into a post-racial society.**

That illusion was shattered 24 years ago when I entered a dating relationship with an African-American man, now my husband. Being followed in stores and trailed by police cars, encountering housing discrimination and being subjected to threatening stares, all became the norm. These were things I had never before experienced as a white female and would even now experience only when in the presence of my husband, a Black man. Without him around, I hold the white privilege of a store clerk's assumption that I will not shoplift. If I am stopped for speeding, I will probably get a warning or ticket but I will not be afraid that I could be shot and killed.

I discovered the harsh and ugly reality that a very different set of rules exists for persons of color. When I am with my husband, I need to abide by these rules. I was forced to recognize that I am steeped in unearned white privilege and, regardless of how much I want to escape this fact, it is a systemic reality interwoven into the fabric of our society.

It is very difficult for those of us who are white to understand this concept. I wasn't able to fully comprehend unearned white privilege until I was in situations where I experienced "guilt by association". Listening to those impacted by both blatant and subtle incidents of racism helped me to understand how we who are white turn a blind eye and inflict harm on our siblings of color.



We white folks have the power to change the racial injustices of white privilege, but we need to better understand how we benefit from this construct. I encourage you to read the book [White Fragility](#) by Robin DiAngelo. It may be painful, but it will open your eyes and hopefully allow you to see a better way for us to truly love all our sisters and brothers in Christ.



(Shared by Kathy FitzJefferies, UMC Racial Justice Charter Support Team and 2020 Mission u Study Leader. You may also remember Kathy from our 2019 Legislative Advocacy Day, where she spoke on Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline.)

Help Linda make [UMCOR School Kits](#) better so they "get there" sooner!

Conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation Linda Greer often says, "I don't make UMCOR kits; I make UMCOR kits better." What Linda means is that she receives many UMCOR School kits that aren't acceptable for use "as is". We can all help Linda get kits into the hands that need them by carefully following all instructions for buying and packing items in the kits.

Pay special attention to these items:

- Scissors must have **very rounded** tips. "Blunt" doesn't always mean they are rounded enough.
- **One-subject** notebooks. Composition books aren't usable.
- **Erasers** must be at least two inches long.
- Remove **packaging** *except for crayons and notebook paper*.



Then and Now: Women Affirming and Supporting Women



Margaret Newton Van Cott was born in New York City on March 25, 1830. She joined the Methodist Church and felt a personal call to ministry. In a conversation with her husband and her pastor, she proclaimed, **"I believe my tongue is my own, and I will use it when I please, where I please, and as I please."** She gave her first public address in 1866.

In September 1868 she received an "exhorter's license" that allowed her to "exhort" and conduct prayer meetings, and in March 1869 she was given a local preacher's license. On her 50th birthday in 1880 it was said that she had traveled 143,417 miles and held 9,933 revival meetings. Van Cott served as an evangelist from 1866 until 1912.

Coincidentally, Van Cott received her local preacher's license on March 6, 1869, just a couple of weeks before [the famously rainy meeting in Boston on March 23](#) that was the beginning of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, a predecessor organization of United Methodist Women. **The Society was formed because women were tired of raising the money while men on mission boards decided how to spend the money.**

United Methodist Women members have always advocated for women to have equal voice and vote. In 1888, five women were elected as delegates to General Conference, but **they were seated in the balcony and allowed to observe only, with no voice or vote** ([January/February response](#), p. 6).

Our Conference Love Offering, ["Honoring and Affirming Clergywomen: Past, Present, and Future"](#), will continue to support women's voices through a Gift to Mission in their honor.

Would you or your unit like to honor those clergywomen who have had meaningful impacts on your lives? Make your Love Offering in their honor by adding the name(s) to the memo line on the check or including it on a separate slip of paper. A full list of honorees will be made available in 2021.



A Gift to Mission
Honoring and
Affirming
Clergywomen:
Past
Present
And
Future

Help Linda make [UMCOR Hygiene Kits](#) better so they "get there" sooner!

Conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation Linda Greer often says, "I don't make UMCOR kits; I make UMCOR kits better." What Linda means is that she receives many UMCOR Hygiene kits that aren't acceptable for use "as is". We can all help Linda get kits into the hands that need them by carefully following all instructions for buying and packing items in the kits.

Please pay special attention to these items:

- **Toothbrushes** must be in single packs only. **It doesn't work to cut a "two-pack" in half.**
- **Combs** must have at least six inches of **"teeth"**. Handles on combs are fine **but shouldn't be** counted in the six inches.
- **Nail clippers only**; no emery boards or metal nail files.
- **No Ivory or Jergens** soap b/c of high-moisture content which causes molding.
- Remove **packaging** *except for toothbrushes and soap*.



Trea\$urer Tidbit\$

Questions are GOOD!

I am one happy Conference treasurer! In my article in the first 2020 Conference Gram, I reported on our 2019 WNCC Giving, including our Undesignated Giving of \$577,481. Recently one of our awesome District treasurers forwarded a question from a local unit, who had seen that number and wanted to know more about it.



They wrote: “We were looking at the financial report from the conference. We noticed a large sum for undesignated giving that goes to the national. \$577,481 is the amount. What is eventually done with this undesignated giving and who decides how the money is spent? **Can we get an accounting of how the money is dispersed? Is there some report that breaks down the giving?**”

What an absolutely wonderful question!

First, a brief primer on what makes up this category called [Undesignated Giving](#). There are five channels of Undesignated Giving: Pledge, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering. In addition, in Western NC Conference, the Walk for Mission is treated as Undesignated Giving.

Why does Undesignated Giving matter?

[Undesignated Giving is the lifeblood of United Methodist Women Missions](#). These are the funds that support our [National Mission Institutions](#) and our [International Missions](#), as well as properties such as [Brooks-Howell Home](#) and [Church Center for the United Nations](#). Giving within these channels allows the National Office to react quickly to emergency needs as well as form new projects or support existing ones that aid women and children.

United Methodist Women believe the determination of where the money goes is best left to those who know where it is needed the most. **The people who are out there in touch with the real needs and who know what programs can best address those needs** are the very people making the recommendations regarding where and how the funds are used. Who makes the final decisions? Your representatives on the United Methodist Women Board of Directors, members of United Methodist Women elected by you, with additional input from the members of the Program Advisory Group, and volunteer members of United Methodist Women elected by you.

Finally, is there a report that breaks down the giving? Absolutely! The best source is on the United Methodist Women website: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org, a website brimming with information about our missions, our goals, and the issues we support along with information about exactly which programs are funded and by how much. Specifically, you will find multiple reports that answer these questions and more if you go to: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finance.

Questions you **should** ask....thank you for asking!

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer
nancy@reigelridge.com/828-268-0637

Give Thanks.
Give Now.

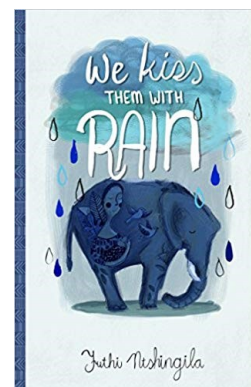


Where the
Money
Goes

Recommended Reading During “Social Distancing”

A silver lining to our suddenly empty calendars is an opportunity to participate (or increase participation) in the United Methodist Women’s Reading Program.

I recently finished the book [We Kiss Them With Rain](#) by Futhi Ntshingila. A 14-year-old girl’s perseverance leads ultimately to triumph in this modern-day fairy tale set in a squatters’ camp outside of Durban, South Africa. This story of abuse, disease, and poverty is told with both humor and tragedy and leaves the reader with hope for the future.



We plan to have limited amounts of Mission u study books for sale at the Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat June 12-14. Buying them at the retreat will save you shipping costs, and you can be reading and studying them for Mission u July 22-26. There will also be free literature for you to pick up at both events.

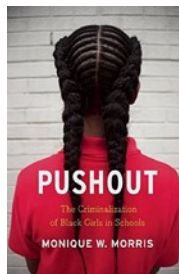
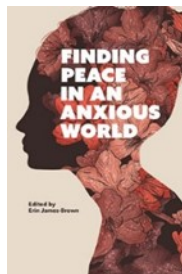
If you choose to purchase Mission u study books on your own, be aware that two of the study books are available **only** from UMW Mission Resources, while the third is **not** available at Mission Resources.

Ordering information:

To order the spiritual growth book [Finding Peace in an Anxious World](#) by Erin James-Brown (\$10.00), go online at umwmissionresources.org/ or call 800-305-9857. (Note: shipping cost for one copy is \$7.40. Shipping cost is considerably less per copy for two or more copies.)

To order the special anniversary study [Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission](#) by Ellen Blue (\$10.00), go online at umwmissionresources.org/ or call 800-305-9857. (Note: shipping cost for one copy is \$7.40. Shipping cost is considerably less per copy for two or more copies.)

To order the issue study book [Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools](#) by Monique W. Morris, go online at smile.amazon.com/ or check your local book store or library. Price may vary with location.



If you order [Pushout](#) online, we encourage you to use AmazonSmile and select United Methodist Women as the supported organization so a **portion of the sales price will be donated to UMW**.

Shalom to all,

Kathy Chadwell, Conference Secretary of Program Resources
k.sc2008@hotmail.com/336-475-1261

District Communications Coordinator updates:

Appalachian District: Jan Taylor is filling in as ComCoor while continuing as Secretary. j.kay.tay@gmail.com or 336-957-3024

Yadkin Valley: Gail Caudle has a new e-mail address: gacaudle01@windstream.net; 336-705-9462.

Legacy Fund Update

To Date:
\$31,069,377

Our Goal:
\$60,000,000

We have exciting news to report! As of January 31, 2020, the [Legacy Fund Endowment](#) is at **\$31,069,377** and growing. The endowment is performing well, already bringing in **over \$4.9 million** in interest. This is money that is **working now** for us!

**1869
Society**

As a permanently invested endowment, The Legacy Fund will forever be a source of income for United Methodist Women. As such, we will continue to fundraise, promote, and grow the fund to reach and surpass our \$60 million-dollar goal by securing major gifts, [1869 Society Planned Gifts](#), monthly [Legacy Builder](#) pledges, and gifts to Every Member Campaign.

Western NC Conference United Methodist Women are leading-edge investors in the Legacy Fund as we continue to *Lead the Nation* in our support of this critical building block for continued support of Mission.

Mission Giving must always come first because it supports all of the current mission and advocacy work we are doing as an organization. The Legacy Fund Endowment is money for our future. Proceeds from the invested funds will endow future core expenses so that even more money can be directed to support and grow vital mission work throughout our country and the world.

We ask you to continue to promote and support The Legacy Fund throughout your conferences and districts and within your local units. [Our gifts are at work!](#)



(Article by Nancy Reigel, Legacy Fund Committee member and Conference Treasurer)



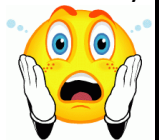
**THE LEGACY FUND
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN**

Give Thanks.
Give Now.



Have you tried our Hyperlinks? If you read the Conference Gram online, click on text that is blue and underlined, and it will take you online to related content.

Help us get Conference Gram into the right hands! Do us a favor and check with your fellow officers to see if they are receiving the Conference Gram. Let us know of any additions or corrections. This newsletter is mailed or e-mailed to all Local Unit Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, and Circle Chairs. You may choose to receive the newsletter via e-mail by contacting Lynne Gilbert at lynnegilbert2@gmail.com. If you prefer a hard copy via "snail mail", it is essential we know that and have a correct address for you. Thank you!

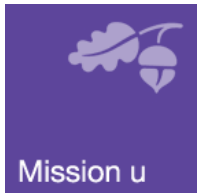


Lisa Bacon, Conference Communications Coordinator
(contact info on back page)

**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women**

Lisa Bacon
1028 Old Cullowhee Rd
Sylva, NC 28779-6539
lisabacon304@gmail.com

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



My Mission u Story

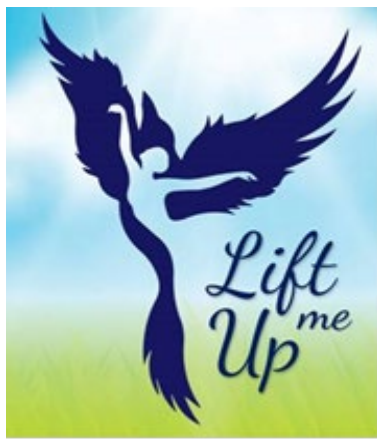
I first attended Mission u in 2015 on a District scholarship, and I was hooked when I learned about the wonderful things United Methodist Women do all around the world. In 2018, as we studied about [our money](#) and the ways in which we use it for our resources, I was astounded and started to think about all of the “stuff” that I have procured and “wasted”. I was reminded of Carl Bard’s quote, **“Although no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.”** We learn so much about [other countries](#) at Mission u, but I have learned through my Mission u experiences that we also can have a big impact in our own communities or our churches. **If there is one thing that I have learned from Mission u, it is that we are all accountable and even the littlest things can have the biggest impact**, such as bringing a [reusable water bottle to events](#). See you at Mission u 2020!

(Shared by Kelli Smith, Northern Piedmont District Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth)



Save the Dates!
Mission u 2020
July 23-26

For more information, visit www.wnccumw.org



JOIN US AT THE LAKE FOR THE
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE – UMW
2020 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

YOU LIFT ME UP

Friday, June 12th – Sunday, June 14th

Go to www.wnccumw.org for complete retreat information

Opening Session 6:45 pm Friday – Closing by noon on Sunday
in Stuart Auditorium, Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd

LODGING & RETREAT REGISTRATION OPENS

Lodging Reservations for Lake Junaluska (details on reverse side)

On-line Retreat Reservation www.wnccumw.org

**EXTENDED RETREAT &
EXPANDED PROGRAMMING**

**more
God-Time**

2020 RETREAT LEADER

PASTOR LISA BETH WHITE
TABERNACLE UMC BLACK MOUNTAIN



On-line Registration \$25/person 2/3 through 6/6

On-Site registration \$35/person

Note: On-line Registration fees
are transferable, but non-refundable.

EXPANDED RETREAT PROGRAMMING

Friday Dinner: Buffet dinner at Terrace and Lambuth for lodging guests

Friday Evening: Opening Plenary – Speaker Rev. Lisa Beth White

Saturday Morning: BREAK-OUT SESSIONS may include

- Book study & Bible study
- Meditation and prayer settings
- Boat ride (weather permitting), Trolley tour, World Methodist Museum tour
- Singing round the Lake, WNCC UMW Choir & MORE

Saturday Afternoon & Evening: Speaker Rev. Lisa Beth White

Sunday Morning: Closing Session with Rev. Lisa Beth White

CHILD CARE AVAILABLE
DETAILS ON WEBSITE

QUESTIONS

Retreat Information

Darlene Gardner

Mission Coordinator-

Spiritual Growth

Darlene Gardner

gardnerdarlenel@gmail.com

Phone: 336-766-1552

Online Registration

Lynne Gilbert

Webmaster

Lgilbert.umw@gmail.com

336-207-3479

Online Payments

Nancy Reigel

Conference Treasurer

828-268-0637

Lodging Reservations

Lake Junaluska

Reservations Center

1-800-222-4930



MUSIC LEADERS

Rev. MARK L. BARDEN

CATHERINE RITCH

HANDS-ON MISSION PROJECT HYGIENE KITS

See updated kit contents
umcor.org/UMCOR/relief-supplies



LAKE JUNALUSKA ACCOMODATIONS & RATES

Lake Junaluska Conference & Retreat Center, P.O. Box 67 Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

Housing Reservations
OPEN FEBRUARY 3rd

TO RESERVE
YOUR ROOM

CALL

Lake Junaluska
1-800-222-4930

Select 1 for reservations
and the next available
agent will assist you.

The reservations team is
on duty from 8:00 am until
5:00 pm Monday-Friday

Group Code: 43975

No reservations for the
WNCC UMW Spiritual
Growth Retreat Lodging
Package Rates may be
made on-line

The Terrace / Lambuth Inn (renovated rooms)

TWO-NIGHT LODGING PACKAGE -Minimum 2-night stay

Rooms include: private bath, free WiFi, cable TV, air conditioning, mini-fridge

Packages below include 2 night lodging, 5 meals*, all taxes & gratuity

***5 Meals:** Friday Dinner; Saturday Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner; Sunday Breakfast

| TERRACE / per person | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Single | \$332.83 |
| Double | \$206.29 |
| Triple | \$178.91 |
| Quad | \$165.22 |

| LAMBUTH / per person | |
|----------------------|----------|
| Single | \$310.63 |
| Double | \$195.19 |
| Triple | \$167.81 |
| Quad | \$154.12 |

Hillside Lodge & Junaluska Apartments & Lambuth (non-renovated rooms)

PER NIGHT/PER PERSON LODGING W/O MEAL PLAN

Rates include 11% room tax and meals may be added

| | |
|--------|----------|
| Single | \$ 99.90 |
| Double | \$ 49.95 |
| Triple | \$ 38.85 |
| Quad | \$ 33.30 |

Junaluska Apartments provide a great setting for young families to share our retreat experience in a cozy relaxed setting. Most apartments have a small kitchen w/mini-fridge, countertop burner, microwave, limited dishes and cookware

Rooms include private bath, air conditioning, TV & coffee maker no elevator

APPLICABLE TO ALL ABOVE LODGING:

No additional room charge for children age 11 and younger staying with parent or guardian

HOUSING GRATUITY AT GUEST DISCRETION

Rates for all facilities exclude incidentals and/or room damage

Important Lodging Information:

- Telephone Reservations: \$100.00 credit card or debit deposit due at time of reservation. Exception: Payment of deposit by check – Lake Junaluska must receive check within 10 days of reservation or room will be released.
- Check-in: 4:00 p.m. on June 12 and Check-out: BEFORE 11:00 a.m. on June 14
- Cancellations made by May 28th will receive a refund of their deposit LESS \$15 /person fee.
- No refund for cancellations on or after May 29th.
- Photo-ID and Credit Card required of each guest at check-in.



Visit our website: www.wnccumw.org • Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/wnccumw