



Blue Ridge District Newsletter 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.

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women's 2020 Annual Meeting

Moving Beyond 150 Years through Celebration

Webinar on August 31, 2020
7PM



**In memory of our Blue Ridge
District President:
Mrs. Fran Jordan, May 7, 2020**

In our efforts to care for the safety and well-being of all of our members, we are planning **virtual Conference and District Annual Celebrations for 2020**. We will be using Zoom Webinar, on wncumw.org.

We all look forward to the day when we can again gather safely in person, and experience the joy of that wonderful supportive community of United Methodist Women that is a part of every Annual Celebration.

**The love offering:
A Gift to Mission Honoring and Affirming Clergywomen:
Past, Present, and Future**

**BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2020 OFFICEERS**

<p><u>President:</u> Fran Jordan (Black Mountain) PO Box 447 Black Mountain, NC 28711 (828) 778-8087 fjordan93@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Vice President:</u> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC28714 (828) 682-4589 gwenaharris68@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Secretary:</u> Jo Pyatt (East Marion) PO Box 1621 Marion, NC 28752 (828) 652-2530 pyattjo@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer:</u> Linda Johns (Skyland) 22 North Oak Terrace Arden, NC 28704 H:(828) 684-9366 C: (828) 712-9266 lljturtle58@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Spiritual Growth, MC:</u> Lucy Earls (Oak Grove) 913 Race Path Church Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-8566 jlearls@att.net</p>	<p><u>MC, Education & Interpretation</u> Tracey Owens (Marion First) 249 Fleming Ave Marion, NC 28752 (828) 246-6006 traceybhh@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Social Action MC.</u> Kathy Kennedy (Grace) PO Box 2556 Leicester, NC 28748 H: (828) 683-4678 C: (828) 231-3229 kenkat12003@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Membership Nurture & Outreach:</u> Connie Martin (Addie's Chapel) 350 Holly Hill Dr. Marion, NC 28752 (828) 652-5506 conniemartin8078@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Secretary of Program Resources:</u> Jeannette Byrd (St. Paul's) 203 Aurora Dr. Asheville NC 28805 (828) 230-5308 jbyrdasheville@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Communications Coordinator:</u> Tammy Long (Moore's Grove) 240 Seasons Circle Apt. 102 Fletcher, NC 28732 (828)774-6010 lynntb79@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Data Processing:</u> Carol Bryson (Grace) 14 Buckner Road Leicester, NC 28748 (828) 776-0678 csbryson64@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Parliamentarian:</u> Betty J. Letzig (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 MoHar1926@outlook.com</p>
<p><u>Historian:</u> Barbara E. Campbell (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 charlie585@msn.com</p>			

Committee on Nominations

<p><u>Chairperson:</u> Delores Meadows (Mills River UMC) 248 Cardinal Road Mills River, NC 28759 (828) 891-7638 delores248@att.net Class of 2020</p>	<p>Maureen Carr (Central UMC) 1680 Hendersonville Rd. Apt B-08 Asheville, NC 28803 (828) 277-7065 mcparrishnurse@aol.com Class of 2020</p>	<p>Vennie Abrams (Tryon Comm. Interdenominational Church) 630 Blackwood Road Columbus, NC 28722 (828) 863-4274 aluenia@yahoo.com Class of 2021</p>	<p>Bess Redmond (Biltmore UMC) 19 Wright's Cove Trail Fairview, NC 28730 (828) 231-7625 missbess@charter.net Class of 2021</p>
<p>Thelma McGraw (Skyland UMC) 90 White Pine Drive Fletcher, NC 28732 (828)684-7106 vtmcgraw@broadriverrehab.com Class of 2022</p>	<p>Donna Anderson (Central UMC) 7 Duncannon Street Weaverville, NC 28787 828-484-8963 danderson45@charter.net Class of 2022</p>		

Member at Large
Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, lliggett3@charter.net

Honorary Member at Large
Martha Phillips, (Oak Grove), PO Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647, (828) 765-7009, mcwphillips@gmail.com

Western North Carolina Conference District Advisor for the Blue Ridge District
Joanie Strohm, (Weaverville), 111 Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 649-1156, ssjsmars@charter.net

PROPOSED BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2021 OFFICEERS

(New officers, officers taking a different position, or officers taking a new two-year term in **Bold**)

<p><u>President:</u> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-4589 gwenaharris68@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Vice President:</u> Lucy Earls (Oak Grove) 913 Race Path Church Rd. Ellenboro, NC 28040 (828) 453-8566 jlearls@att.net</p>	<p><u>Secretary:</u> Jo Pyatt (East Marion) PO Box 1621 Marion, NC 28752 (828) 652-2530 pyattjo@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Treasurer:</u> Linda Johns (Skyland) 22 North Oak Terrace Arden, NC 28704 H:(828) 684-9366 C: (828) 712-9266 lljturtle58@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Spiritual Growth, MC:</u> Jennie Greenway (Oak Grove) 164 Emma Drive, Ellenboro, NC. 28040. (828)453-9637 or (828) 289-1642 jengreenway@bellsouth.net</p>	<p><u>MC, Education & Interpretation</u> Tracey Owens (Marion First) 249 Fleming Ave. Marion, NC 28752 (828) 246-6006 traceybhh@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Social Action MC.</u> Kathy Kennedy (Grace) PO Box 2556 Leicester, NC 28748 H: (828) 683-4678 C: (828) 231-3229 kenkat12003@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Membership Nurture & Outreach:</u> Martha Phillips (Oak Grove) PO Box 49 Linville Falls, NC 28647 (828) 765-7009 mcwphillips@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Secretary of Program Resources:</u> Jeannette Byrd (St. Paul's) 203 Aurora Dr. Asheville NC 28805 (828) 230-5308 jbyrdasheville@aol.com</p>	<p><u>Communications Coordinator:</u> Tammy Long (Moore's Grove) 240 Seasons Circle Apt. 102 Fletcher, NC 28732 (828) 774-6010 lynntb79@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Data Processing:</u> Carol Bryson (Grace) 14 Buckner Road Leicester, NC 28748 (828) 776-0678 csbryson64@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Parliamentarian:</u> Betty J. Letzig (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville, NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 MoHar1926@outlook.com</p>
<p><u>Historian:</u> Barbara E. Campbell (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 charlie585@msn.com</p>			

Committee On Nominations

<p><u>Chairperson:</u> Thelma McGraw (Skyland UMC) 90 White Pine Drive Fletcher, NC 28732 (828)684-7106 vtmcgraw@broadriverrehab.com Class of 2022</p>	<p>Vennie Abrams (Tryon Comm. Interdenominational Church) 630 Blackwood Road Columbus, NC 28722 (828) 863-4274 aluvania@yahoo.com Class of 2021</p>	<p>Bess Redmond (Biltmore UMC) 19 Wright's Cove Trail Fairview, NC 28730 (828) 231-7625 missbess@charter.net Class of 2021</p>	
<p>Donna Anderson (Central UMC) 7 Duncannon Street Weaverville, NC 28787 danderson45@charter.net Class of 2022</p>	<p>Dorothy Johnson (Addie's Chapel) 63 Tomahawk Trail Marion, NC 28752 (828) 738-8148 (828) 460-3778 dot.johnson47@gmail.com Class of 2023</p>	<p>Leith Tate (Black Mtn. UMC) PO Box 208, Montreat, NC 28757 (828)669-5564 tateleith@gmail.com Class of 2023</p>	

Member at Large
 Dixie Liggett, (Skyland), 8 Springside Park, Asheville, NC 28803, (828) 684-1831, lliggett3@charter.net

Western North Carolina Conference District Advisor for the Blue Ridge District
 Joanie Strohm, (Weaverville), 111 Collins Road, Marshall, NC 28753, (828) 649-1156, ssjsmars@charter.net

The Blue Ridge District Newsletter is published quarterly. Send any information you would like to have included to the Editor, Tammy Long. (Acceptance of articles will depend on space available and interest to the entire District.)

2020 NURTURING PARTNERS (SHEPHERDESSES)

Your Nurturing Partner is a personalized connection between your district leaders and your unit. Please call your Nurturing Partner during the year if you have any questions or needs. She will be notifying you to remind you about special events throughout the year. Your Nurturing Partner would like to come visit your unit and would appreciate an invitation any time. Our goal is to visit every unit throughout the district during the year.

PLEASE ASK YOUR NURTURING PARTNER TO COME VISIT YOUR UNIT.

Nurturing Partner	Church	Nurturing Partner	Church
Vennie Abrams (828) 863-4274	Caroleen Columbus Tryon Spindale	Betty J. Letzig (828) 225-0414	Balfour Fletcher Mills River
Donna Anderson (828) 253-5550	Central UMC	Connie Martin (828) 652-5506	Clinchfield East Marion Ebenezer Marion First Snow Hill-Morganton
Carol Bryson (828) 776-0678	Avery's Creek Emma Reeves Chapel	Jeanette Byrd (828) 230-5308	Montmorenci St. Paul Trinity- Asheville
Maureen Carr (828) 277-7065	Skyland Windom	Barbara E. Campbell (828) 225-0414	Abernethy Biltmore
Lucy Earls (828) 453-8566 (828) 223-1325	First Forest City Providence Trinity- Nebo	Gwen Harris (828) 682-4589	Bald Creek Higgins Memorial Mars Hill Weaverville
Fran Jordan (828) 778-8087	Addie's Chapel Piney Mountain	Kathy Kennedy (828) 231-3229 (828) 683-4678	Grace Oakley Salem
Betty J. Letzig (828) 225-0414	Balfour Fletcher Mills River	Delores Meadows (828) 891-7638 (828) 883-7289	Edneyville Hendersonville First Moore's Grove
Tracy Owens (828) 246-6006	Black Mountain	Martha Phillips (828) 765-7009	Asbury Memorial Concord Spruce Pine
Jo Pyatt (828) 652-2530 (828) 803-0363	First UMC Rutherfordton Gilkey Kistler's Chapel Nebo Oak Grove Pleasant Grove Pleasant Hill-Marion	Bess Redmond (828) 231-7625	Bethel Groce Sardi
Joanie Strohm (828) 649-1156	Alexander Clark's Hope Wells Spring		

A Message from Your President

United Methodist Women, even in the midst of a pandemic, is putting faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

We're currently helping fund a fish farm in Mozambique that will soon provide income to local women. Closer to home, Brooks Howell staff is working constantly to keep residents safe from Covid-19 and provide for their needs. Our local units are meeting online or in person, being careful to follow NC guidelines for small groups.

I say all of this to tell you that we (and the other seven districts in our conference) *are* having our Annual Meetings. They will be virtual Zoom webinars orchestrated by our Conference Executive Committee. **The new date for the Blue Ridge District Annual Meeting is August 31 at 7:00 P.M.**

As we always do, we will approve the budget for next year, honor retiring officers, and elect/install a new slate of officers. The proposed budget and officer list--plus the digital annual report--will be available for review at www.wnccumw.org by July 15.

The details of exactly how all this will happen are evolving. Conference President Julia Willis refers to our current predicament as "building a bridge while we're walking on it." Right now I know that everybody has to register online to attend. Every District UMW member who registers is eligible to vote. The process will be easy and will occur online on the Conference website cited above.

I also know our virtual Annual Meeting will provide us with the opportunity to participate in the Love Offering, just as we would at a "real" meeting. With fewer unit, district, and conference meetings, giving is down, but we still have six months to rectify the situation.

Other Conference events will be available online. The Conference will provide an online study of the Mission u book, Finding Peace in an Anxious World. The dates have not been decided. Also, we have an online Conference Annual Celebration. More information for both will be available soon.

Since only officers receive our newsletter, please share this information with your unit. They can experience our meetings without leaving home!

Visit www.wnccumw.org often to stay abreast of what is happening in our Blue Ridge District and in the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women.

Gwen Harris, Blue Ridge District, Interim President

District Secretary

Well, everyone, what can I say in this section of the newsletter that I haven't said before? Keep good notes. Even though your unit may not be meeting in the traditional way, I would suggest a note in your secretary notes on the date you would normally meet about what is going on. I have kept notes regarding cancellations, changes and new ways of meeting (ZOOM to be one) in the district minutes. It was a challenge for me to do the minutes on the ZOOM meeting when I could not look someone in the face when they were speaking. There's a lot to be said about non-verbal communication (facial expressions, etc). That's why I disliked the OR where faces were covered constantly with a mask. Speaking of masks: KEEP THEM ON! Take care of yourselves and your loved ones!

Remember also in these unusual days the Spanish proverb: "There is not enough darkness in the world to extinguish the light of one small candle!" Let your light shine!

Jo Pyatt Blue Ridge District Secretary

Treasurer

I hope you and your families are doing well and are healthy. These current times can be viewed two ways, as a trial or as a challenge. I prefer to think about the challenges that we have been faced with and how we have risen to adapt. On-line church has been different, but I have enjoyed the a la cart menu my church has created on You tube each Sunday. I especially enjoy the songs which I sing along with loudly much to the chagrin of my family. We are doing small groups, UMW circles, Sunday brunch (a time to get with church members and talk), and classes related to Implied Bias through Zoom.

It is important to keep in touch with our church family, friends, and our own family so we do not feel so isolated. Remember we have all types of cards that can be sent and if you need any, get with your unit treasurer or contact me and I will be glad to get them to you. The Gift to Mission cards are purchased at a minimum of \$5.00 each and you pay for Gift in Memory cards when you use them so I can send you those. Please reach out to your family, friends, UMW sisters or church when you feel alone. Chances are others may be feeling the same way.

For the times you may need to go out, please remember to wash your hands, use hand sanitizer, practice social distancing and wear a mask. Has anyone seen a UMW mask? There's an idea for a fund raiser if I could only sew. I am looking for jazzy masks to wear while out so if you have any good suggestions, please pass them along.

Our district is behind on fulfilling our pledge, but we still have time to meet it. We have currently met 37% of our pledge which is great considering how topsy-turvy our worlds have become. I realize our sisters may not have the same resources or the opportunity to have made a pledge. Our country is facing the most food and economic insecurity that I have seen, but the missions we support do not have much in the good times and even less right now. They need us and United Methodist Women have always responded to the call for help in the manner they could. If you feel so led, please consider making a pledge, buying cards, doing an individual walk for mission, or supporting the Legacy Fund. Contributions can be made any time during the year. If you have not had a chance to pledge, you can send in a pledge to your unit treasurer or to me. Did you know you can also make a pledge on-line? Go to the Western North Carolina conference site at www.wnccumw.org. Look at the top for the button that says on-line giving.

Through all the sacrifices we must make to keep our families, friends and others well, know we will get through this with God's help, and we will enjoy reunions as we are able to gather again. If you have any questions that I may be able to help you with, please feel free to contact me.

Linda Johns, Blue Ridge District, Treasurer

**2020 Financial Goal for the Western NC Conference of the
United Methodist Women**

Increase unit pledge giving by at least \$5.00 per member

Communications Coordinator

Happy Summer Season!!!

I am hoping you are enjoying your summer. I know this Coronavirus has taken some of our fun out of this summer, but know that God still wants us to reach out and show his love thru our prayers. We as United Methodist Women should be praying not just for one another but for our nation and churches and for the people in our community that need help especially with this epidemic happening.

If your church is doing something to reach out to your community please send me a few pictures and a little info about it and we will showcase your church in our Community Outreach Unit Projects. It's great to see how our churches are reaching out and getting involved with our communities.

Have a great summer! God Bless you all.

Tammy Long, Blue Ridge District, Communications Coordinator

Spiritual Growth

Greetings UMW sisters,. It seems like so long since we could be physically together. Are you tired of staying home and socially distancing? So am I. How is your patience with everyone you have been quarantined with? Your spouse, roommate, children, grandchildren...? Can we have the patience of Job? He endured so many hardships. Can we have the patience of Noah? When the flood subsided, Noah did not rush out of the ark thinking everything was back to normal. He had patience to wait until it was safe. Lord, give us that patience. Psalms 27:14 tells us to "Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord."

2020 will go down as one of the most unusual, trying years of many of our lives. We feel like we have missed so many things this year. One thing many of us missed was our annual trip in June to Lake Junaluska for the Spiritual Growth Retreat. Thanks to the Retreat Committee you can still be a part of that. If you haven't already, you can still log in to the SGR Virtual Event, "*For Such a Time As This. . .*" Access the retreat at the wnccumw.org website. It is time well-spent. Again, thanks to all those who made this happen.

Please remember to pray for all those who have experienced difficult situations during this time . . . sickness, death, loneliness, fear, intimidation. Let's truly be a "New Testament" people during this time and practice the message of Ephesians 4: 32. "Be kind to one another."

Lucy Earls, Blue Ridge District, Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth

Social Action

Black Lives Matter to God and Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women continues to grieve the extrajudicial killings of Black people in America. It has only been a few weeks since we spoke out against the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, and in that time two more killings have shaken the country: the death of Breonna Taylor in her own home in Louisville and the death of George Floyd on a public street in Minneapolis. United Methodist Women grieves with the families of those who have been killed.

United Methodist Women condemns the culture of White supremacy and the racism it nurtures. We decry the criminalization of Blackness as it shows up in these most extreme, fatal cases *and* as it appears in the everyday harassment that disrupts everyday life—from coffee shop meetings to street corner catchups to, most recently, even solo birdwatching. Such racial harassment exhausts the mind, body and spirit of many in the family of God.

At times, United Methodist Women members and leaders have been complicit in this violence: When Ida B. Wells invited legendary lay leader Frances Willard to join in the anti-lynching movement, Willard said no, in a haunting refusal of solidarity under the false belief that lynching was “necessary” to protect White women. At other times, however, United Methodist Women—of all racial identities—have been inspirational leaders in the work of racial justice: 90 years ago, Jessie Daniel Ames helped found the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; Mary McLeod Bethune, in addition to an incredible legacy of educational leadership, also campaigned actively against lynching and other forms of racial violence; and in the mid-20th century it was United Methodist Women members who led the struggle for the denomination’s adoption of the Charter for Racial Justice even as their mission dollars helped finance bail funds for those jailed in the Civil Rights Movement. Then, as now, work for racial justice does not just come naturally; it is work against resistance, and therefore must be an active discipleship choice we make each day.

We are committed to choosing justice. We also realize that there is no easy fix. There exists no single, one-time action that can undo a multigenerational legacy of racist violence. But we at United Methodist Women commit to engaging in the ongoing work, guided by the promise that God’s future is far brighter than the present moment. To that end:

Mission Giving: United Methodist Women National Office is making a special gift this week of \$21,000 to organizations demanding justice and accountability for the recent deaths of Arbery, Taylor and Floyd. We will be granting \$7,000 each to support **NAACP Georgia** in its work with Just Georgia, the **Louisville Community Bail Fund** organized by Black Lives Matter Louisville, and the **Minnesota Healing Justice Network**. We are grateful for the work of both emerging, next-generation organizations and long-serving civil rights groups. We hope that this gift inspires others in our organization to give, likewise, to the local organizations that are most effectively doing antiracist work in their own communities.

Witness for Justice: United Methodist Women commits that we will continue to speak out against extrajudicial killings and the culture of White supremacy and racism that undergirds these killings. We will use our public voice to bear witness. We will seek to amplify the voices of others who have been speaking out and whose voices are underrepresented in media. We will do so via virtual means, as long as is necessary, and we will do so in bodily presence, whenever it is again safe to gather. We encourage all members to do the same.

Transformative Education: United Methodist Women encourages members to engage in the work of ongoing antiracist learning, recognizing that—especially for White folks—ongoing antiracist learning and self-reflection is not a one-time experience but must be, instead, a sustained spiritual practice. If unsure where to begin, we recommend that you read and study *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, an important introduction to this work. This is a 2020 United Methodist Women Reading Program selection bonus book. You may also join a free, self-paced, [online class on the book](#), if you so choose.

We invite conferences, districts and local units to join this work in the ways that are most appropriate and fitting to their settings, committing to support and work in partnership with the local groups that are most effectively doing the work and leading the way.

Posted or updated: 6/1/2020 12:00:00 AM response article

Kathy Kennedy Blue Ridge District Social Action

Program Resources

God, Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and the Wisdom to know the difference.

I continue to hope that each one of you is finding peace and relief from anxiety during these trying times. Along with the pandemic, we have been shaken by the events in the news showing that hate and racism continue to flourish in our society. We have been saddened by the death of our leader, Fran Jordan. And, missing the warmth of handshakes and hugs, we have been confined to home most of the time, having to communicate with friends, our church/UMW community, and loved-ones by the use of technology.

As a help to us all in finding peace, I would like to highlight a book in this issue that is very relevant to the anxiety, fear, and sadness that we are experiencing during these days.

The book Finding Peace in an Anxious World was to be used for the Mission U Spiritual Growth study for 2020. While we are unable to hold Mission U this year, it is my understanding that the study will be offered online. All presidents in the district will be alerted when we receive further information concerning when the study will be available.

The purpose of the book and study is to recognize the prevalence of anxiety today and its impact, as well as to explore ways to find peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ, using “The Serenity Prayer” as a scaffold. Quoting from the book, “The Serenity Prayer does not deny that anxiety exists, nor does it suggest it is not powerful – quite the opposite in fact. The prayer equips humans to manage the very real forces of anxiety and fear by placing their trust in God’s power to work towards good. The prayer instructs the pray-er to act in courage by becoming a co-conspirator with God in working towards God’s intended future.”

The Book of Proverbs is also essential to the study of Finding Peace in an Anxious World. Patricia Moore, WNCC Mission U Dean suggests using the Book of Proverbs for daily devotions, (reading and meditating over a chapter per day), during the months of July and/or August as it has 31 chapters. She further suggests that we take ownership of the chapter that matches the day we were born, sharing the good news we gain from our study.

In the June 2020 Conference Gram on page 3, Dr. Sandra Williamson, Mission U study leader, gives some practices to help us deal with our stress and anxiety during these trying times.

If you do not yet have the study book, you can order it from United Methodist Women for \$10. Go to umwmissionresources.org - or telephone 1-800-305-9857.

Again a reminder: Don’t forget to continue gathering old Reading Program Books to donate to the district. You can bring them to our next event, (whenever that is). We will sell them for a nominal price with the receipts going to missions.

Please continue to be in prayer for our nation, for our world.

Jeanette Byrd, Blue Ridge District Program Resources



Nomination Committee

The Committee on Nominations is pleased to be presenting a full slate of officers for election at Annual Celebration. Because of recent difficult events the District has faced and the complications caused by Covid-19, some officers agreed to serve an additional year to give the Committee more time to search for replacements. We are grateful to them, to those who are vacating one office to serve in a new capacity, and to those who are serving for the first time as an officer or returning to office after being away for a time. Our job is easier when people are willing and eager to serve.

Delores Meadows, Blue Ridge District Nomination Committee Chair

Historian

We're making History!

These days without face-to-face meeting may feel like nothing is happening! In fact, *not meeting is historic!* Our structure and strength is built of relationships and connectedness! Circle meetings, unit meetings, district, conference and jurisdiction meetings are all times of education and inspiration. Achieving this as we are separated is our challenge.

1. For future records, the Secretary should prepare a monthly or periodic "Minutes." a. Note the reason for not meeting (summer vacation and the Covid 19 restrictions). b. List contact activities – regular phone calls, e-mail or letter message etc. c. Note the member concerns that would have been highlighted during joys and concerns: illness, deaths, new grandchild.
2. The Love Offering for the Conference Celebration honors women clergy. The Special offering flyer includes a history timeline. United Methodist Women (and predecessors) began championing clergy rights for women in the 1920's. Members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service submitted almost 2000 supportive petitions to the 1956 Methodist General Conference which many believe "tipped the balance" in favor of the action. This is part of our 150 year anniversary remembrances. (Be sure to send your offering and list of Honorees to the Conference treasurer.)
3. The Legacy Fund was central to the 150th anniversary. It is a permanent endowment in the National Office of United Methodist Women to help underwrite future ministries. Given current and future financial uncertainties it was both a strategic and historic action. Be sure your unit is a part of it.

Barbara E. Campbell, Blue Ridge District Historian

Hands on Mission Projects

At a recent Zoom meeting Linda Greer, Conference Education & Interpretation Coordinator, relayed the most recent information she had about our Hands on Mission Projects. She said that the Terrell Center does not need any Cleaning Kits (formerly known as Flood Buckets) at this time. Hygiene Kits and School Kits, however, are needed. Since churches are for the most part still closed, we are recommending that our members put together Hygiene Kits and School Kits as they normally would be doing this time of year and just keep them at home or store them in their local church, if possible. Later in the fall, we will designate drop-off points in different locales across the District where people can take them. Then the District will arrange to transport them to the Terrell Center for distribution to the places where they are most needed.

For the time being, do not make up Agape Shoe Boxes. Initial information says Project Agape has enough shoe boxes for this year. As we learn more, we will update you on other ways to help Project Agape.

response Subscription

response, an award-winning publication, is the official magazine of

United Methodist Women and is published by the national office.

Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind.

Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work.

response features include:

- Bible studies
- opportunities for spiritual growth and development
- program suggestions
- articles on where the Pledge to Mission money goes
- regular features such as "Bright Lights" and "Responsively Yours"

response helps United Methodist Women reach out to:

- New and potential members of United Methodist Women
- Every woman in your church who shares our commitment to mission and welfare of women, youth, and children
- High school and college students, especially the young women in your congregation
- Sunday school teachers who can share **response** mission stories with all ages
- Leaders in your congregation, including your pastor, who will appreciate knowing more about the women's role in your church's mission outreach
- Your friends and neighbors in other faith communities who share our passion for children and youth and for social justice.





Community Outreach Unit Projects

This section is for any upcoming projects from our local units that they would like to share with the UMW community.

When the Grace Circle in the Skyland UMW unit came together March 13, 2019, they became the newest United Methodist Women's circle formed in the Blue Ridge District. This circle is composed of ladies at Givens Gerber Park and an answer to many prayers. These ladies are dedicated to serve others. The garden they

planted this spring was healthy and helpful in many ways. It gave the members a reason to get out and plant flowers and vegetables to share while getting some much needed fresh air as they had to "shelter in place."

(Pictured below is Betty Thompson, chair of Grace Circle, Givens Gerber Park.)



Legacy Fund Information:

- Visit our website- www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund/
- Visit the national office website- www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/

Ways to Give

- Make a Legacy Fund gift through your local unit UMW treasurer, directly to your district treasurer, or at district or conference events.
- By phone- 1-800-278-7771
- Text- Legacy150 to 41444
- By Check-note "Legacy Fund" in memo and mail to :UMW treasurer's office 15th floor, 475 Riverside Drive, NY, NY, 10115
- Other methods includes gifts in stocks, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of giving, contact the national office at the website or phone number above.

2020 Conference Love Offering

A Gift to Undesignated Mission Giving...

Gift to Mission Cards

A Gift to Mission honors someone in her or his name with an undesignated Gift to Mission of at least \$5.00. Gift to Mission is one of the five channels of Mission Giving. Mission Giving supports the total program of mission carried out by United Methodist Women. With your gift, you honor someone, and you make a difference in the lives of women children, and youth...around the world.

To order Gift to Mission Cards

Individuals or local units should send at least \$5.00 for each Gift to Mission card through their local unit treasurer to the district treasurer. Cards and envelopes are available singly or pre-packaged: 10 cards of a single design. The Christmas and Birthday card assortment packages have 5 cards in a pack. Please specify the number of cards or packs of each design wanted. Sender fills in recipient's name and any personal message and mails the card to recipient. Cards are also available at conference and district events.

What is on the Inside?

Each of the Thank You, Baby, Thinking of You, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, Special Day, and Peace cards have a message printed on the inside. The Happy Birthday and Merry Christmas cards are blank on the inside. All of the cards have a message on the back of the card to indicate that a Gift to Mission has been given in the recipient's honor through United Methodist Women...and includes a short description of an example of a mission project supported by Mission Giving.



School Kit Materials

Value: \$11.00 per kit

- One pair blunt scissors
 - Round tip only
 - No plastic scissors
- One box of 24 crayons
 - Only 24-count boxes are accepted
- Three one-subject notebooks
 - No marble composition books
 - No 3 or 5-subject notebooks
- One pack of loose-leaf paper
 - 100-200 page packets are acceptable
 - Wide or college rule accepted
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
 - 1-inch or longer
 - Remove from packaging
- One ruler
 - 12 inches or 30 centimeters long
 - Sturdy or flexible material accepted
- Six unsharpened pencils
- One eraser
 - Two inches or larger
- One two-gallon re-sealable plastic bag
- **Assembly Directions**
- Stack all paper items on top of each other,

- Place all loose items on top of paper. a.
 - a. Small loose items may be placed in a smaller re-sealable bag.
- Place kit inside of re-sealable bag and seal.

• **Important Notes**

- Homemade or purchased cloth tote bags are no longer being accepted.
- All items must be new.
- Please do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

• **Packing Instructions**

- Packed box should not exceed 70 pounds.
- School kit item can be packaged inside of the large plastic re-sealable bag.
- Complete two packing lists, one for the box and one for your records.
- Attach the shipping label/packing list on the outside of each box.
- Please send a check for the total number of school kits times \$1 per kit for the shipping cost to Sager Brown. One check will cover the entire donation.

Hygiene Kit Materials

Value \$12.00 per kit

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth
 - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb
 - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth
 - No pocket combs or picks
 - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper
 - No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)
 - No Ivory or Jergen's soap
 - Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush
 - Do not remove from packaging
 - Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)
 - Common household bandages acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

Assembly Directions

- Lay hand towel flat on a table.

- Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
- Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
- Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
- Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
- Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols.

Packing Instructions

- Complete two packing lists, one for the box and one for your records.
- Place the shipping label/packing list on the outside of the box.
- Make check payable to Sager Brown for the total amount of hygiene kits times \$2 per kit for the cost of toothpaste and shipping. One check may be written for all of the kits.
- **DO NOT PACK CHECKS INTO KITS.**

Blue Ridge District United Methodist Women
Central United Methodist Church
27 Church Street
Asheville, NC 28801-1218

Mark Your Calendars for 2020

Blue Ridge District UMW Events for 2020

August 31@7PM
November 14

WNCC UMW District Annual Meeting- Zoom Webinar
District Leadership Development Day-Groce UMC

Western North Carolina Conference UMW Events for 2020

Dates TBA
September 26-27
October 24

Virtual Mission u
Virtual Annual Celebration
Leadership Development Day, St. Luke's UMC