

October 2020



From Your President:

It has been a difficult few months as we all try to navigate our new normal. However, I know you all have taken to heart our UMW purpose. You have been supporting each other, taking care of each other, and reaching out to others in your communities. You are worshipping in new ways and attending UMW district events using technology some of us had to learn in order to participate. United Methodist Women have always risen to challenges and we will face many more.

Be informed and educated about the issues and candidates. Don't forget to vote as each vote is critical. I hope you filled out your census form so YOU will be counted and encouraged everyone you know to fill out their forms as well. We may not always agree but we respect each person's right to vote. Encourage female friends, sisters, grand-daughters, nieces to join UMW as we can make more impact by a large group of women advocating for women and children. Let's advocate locally as well to make our children our #1 priority.

I hope by now you have accessed the conference Spiritual Growth Retreat and that you know you can access the conference Annual Celebration on the web site too. The conference teams try very hard to provide speakers that will be interesting and uplifting. Deaconess Cindy Johnson is a speaker for Annual Celebration. Close your eyes and you can pretend we are at Lake Junaluska celebrating together. The conference web site is wnccumw.org. You need to register for events using that site.

Also, on the conference web site is the information about our district missions festival/leadership development on November 14th. I hope everyone who reads this letter will register to participate. The district team is working on ways to make this an informative, fun, and spiritual event. The year-end forms that the units will need will be available on this site too. Please plan to return the year-end forms to me by December 1st.

Please donate what you can to UMW through your local unit. Your pledges support the missions that are so important to women and the children they love.

The current issue of *Response* has several articles about how we can be good neighbors. We are making masks and soap, holding virtual teas and love feasts. Check out Cindy Johnson's Wonder Woman apron that was part of an apron drive at a migrant camp. Physical distance won't change our being good neighbors.

We continue to pray for each other, for those impacted because of Covid, and our country. See you on November 14th if not before. If you have questions or needs please contact me.

Debbie Ray, (acting) President (wsray@charter.net)
569 Country Club Drive, Waynesville, NC 28786, (828-400-3499)



WHAT'S IN THIS NEWSLETTER THAT I'D BE INTERESTED IN?

Page 1—A message from our District President, Debbie Ray.

Page 2—A Table of Contents...so you can find the things you really want to find first!

Page 3—Information about Mission u for 2020. This study will be done by Zoom over four evenings and will center on the book *"Finding Peace in an Anxious World."* WOW...what a perfect book for this year!!!

Page 4—UMW Local Unit 2020 Mission Study Report (Complete and submit this report to our District President once you know who, in your unit, attended this Mission Study.)

Page 5—Information about our Leader Development Day for individuals in all districts (Saturday, November 14th at 10:00 am). We've called this our "Missions Festival" for the last few years. Yes, it will be different this year, but still fun and worthwhile.

Page 6—Spotlight on Spiritual Growth

Page 7—Notes on Membership, Nurture & Outreach and Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund.

Page 8—Eyes on Mission Education & Interpretation plus a "NEWS FLASH/PRAYER REQUEST!"

Page 9—The Ever Changing World of Program Resources.

Page 10—2021 Annual Sampler Order Form

Page 11—Notes from Your District Treasurer and Social Action Plan: Climate Justice.

Page 12—One Issue Under Climate Justice.

Page 13—Flyer on our 2020 Conference Love Offering (It's never too late to donate to this very worthy cause!)

Page 14—Leader Development Day for District Officers and Can We Talk?

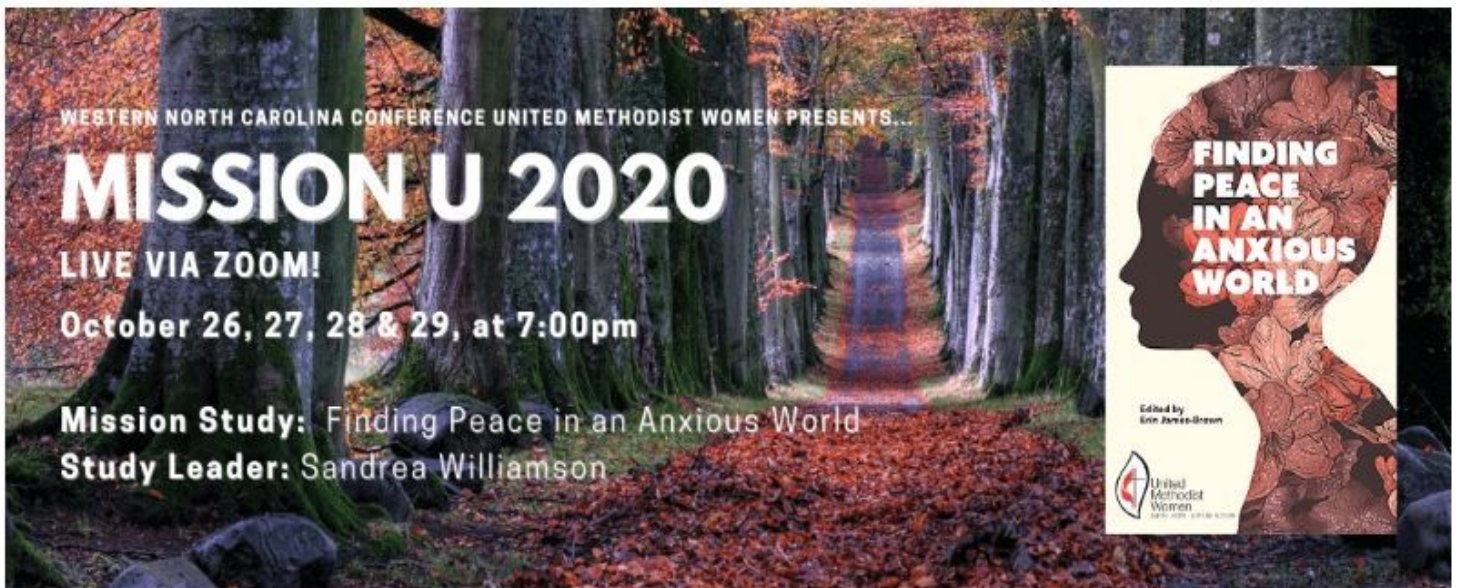
Page 15—2020 Mission Today Unit Guidelines—Revised due to COVID-19.

Page 16—Calendar of remaining events/activities/studies in 2020.



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.



Mission u Spiritual Growth Study:

[Finding Peace in an Anxious World](#)

Study Leader: Sandra Williamson
Music provided by Catherine Ritch
October 26-29, 2020 7:00-8:15pm

Virtual Online Study via Zoom Meeting
Online registration for the Zoom Meeting is OPEN.
We also expect to live stream each session on our YouTube page.

Please read the text book: [Finding Peace in an Anxious World](#),
continue to pray and sign up for the study.

[Finding Peace in an Anxious World](#) resource page on the United Methodist Women website
The book is available in [paperback \(\\$10.00\) from the UMW Mission Resources E-Store](#),
and also as a [Kindle book \(\\$5.95\)](#).

At this time of COVID-19 we are surrounded by much uncertainty and anxiety all over the world. We are not able to “Pass the Peace” at our houses of worship, our children are not able to attend school, so many lives have been lost and many are facing economic uncertainty. Across the country there are marches everyday demanding justice and calling for police reform following the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and others. The stress level for many of us is at an all-time high. Sandra will lead us through the study using the Serenity Prayer as a guide to help us **de-stress and refresh** so we may continue to live out our **Purpose** as United Methodist Women.

*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*

Author: Reinhold Niebuhr



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Local Unit 2020 Mission Study Report

District _____ SMOKY MOUNTAIN _____

Unit Name _____

Report Completed by _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Office in UMW _____

Virtual Mission u

Name of Study: **FINDING PEACE IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD**

Attended _____ (Attendees must have attended all 4 of the 1-hour sessions to count.)

District Mission Study: N/A for Smoky Mountain

(Only fill out if another district's study was attended.)

Name of Study

District Where Held

(Local) Sub-Groups, Circles, Fellowship Reports *

Name of Study:

Attended:

Hours:

Children or Youth Mission Study Report *

Name of Study:

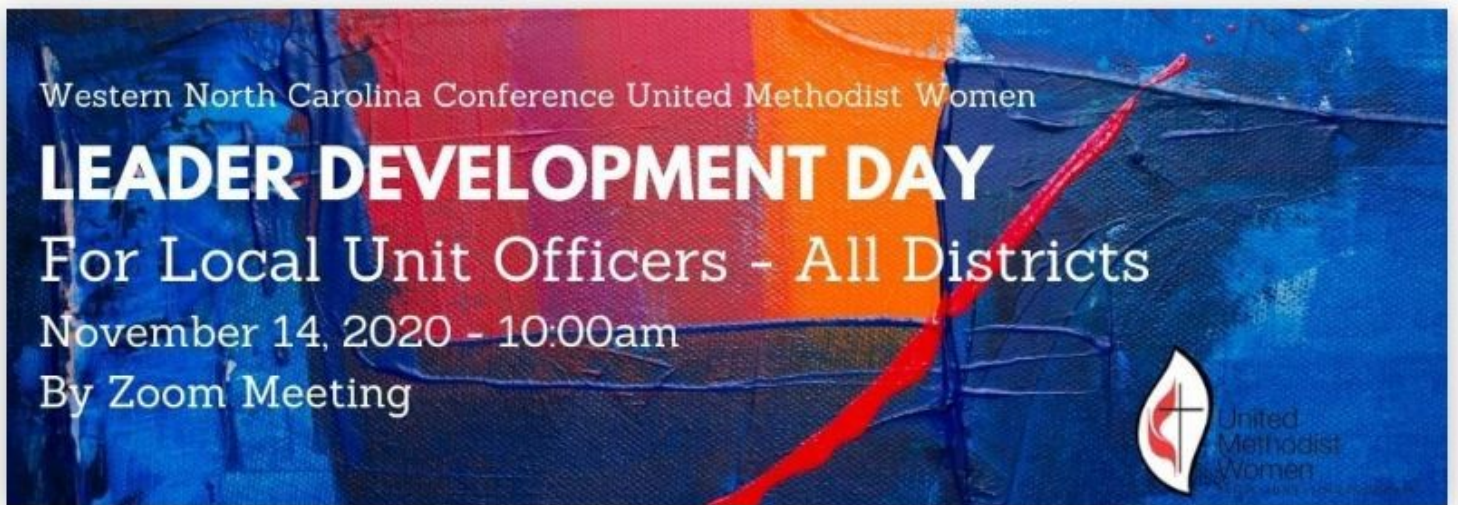
Attended:

Hours:

*** Remember that to count as a Mission Study, programs must be National Mission Study Topics and be a minimum of four (4) hours.**

Return this form to your District President, Debbie Ray at wsray@charter.net
OR 569 Country Club Drive, Waynesville, NC 28786

HEY LADIES! This event is what we have been calling our Missions Festival for the last few years. It definitely will not be as easy to do “hands-on mission projects” this year but we still have some great ideas about what we can share and do together! This event is open to any UMW individual who would like to attend so register soon so you can be sure to end up in the Smoky Mountain District breakout room!



In our efforts to care for the safety and well being of all of our members, we have planned a **virtual All District Leader Development Day for Local Unit Officers, Circle Chairs, and other leaders for 2020**. Mark this page as the place you can get complete information about Leader Development plans for ALL EIGHT districts. We all look forward to the day when we can again gather safely in person!

Using Zoom Meeting, we will have a brief gathering time with all eight districts together, and then divide into breakout Zoom Meeting rooms by District. Handouts by District should be available below by November 9th.

Registration is required for these free Zoom meetings, and **registration is now OPEN**. Just click on the Zoom Registration button below. **Register TODAY!**

[Click Here to Register for All District Leader Development Day 2020](#)

Select your district to get complete handout information.

Handouts and Reports should be available by November 9th.

Smoky Mountain

Saturday

November 14, 2020

10:00 AM

Available Downloads

Training handouts
2020 Report Forms

(This district choice can be found at

<https://wnccumw.org/districts/>

[iddlocalunitofficers2020/](https://wnccumw.org/districts/iddlocalunitofficers2020/)

Instructions for our Leader Development Day

[Video: Joining a Zoom Meeting](#)

YOU can do this!

SPOTLIGHT ON SPIRITUAL GROWTH:

You may have read in the September/October issue of *Response* magazine about the practice of the Moravian Love Feast in early Methodism, when clergy were not available to administer Holy Communion. Today, there is some differing thought about celebrating the sacrament virtually, as it has been the denomination's official interpretation that *The Holy Mystery* be practiced in-person and administered by clergy. As in the early church, The Love Feast offers a non-sacramental lay-led "opportunity for refreshment and renewal and Wesleyan expression of community." The early Love Feast or agape-meal, usually the sharing of bread and water, recalled the meals shared among Jesus and his followers. You will have an opportunity to share in a Love Feast with your Smoky Mountain District UMW sisters at the virtual Leadership Development Event on November 14th.

I also encourage you to participate in the virtual Mission-U Spiritual Growth Study based on the book *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, which takes place nightly October 26 – 29th. You can register at the WNC Conference UMW's website (wnccumw.org). You will also find recordings of Annual Celebration and the Spiritual Growth Event: "For Such a Time as This," as well as a number of other useful resources and links.

I look forward to the time we can gather together again in person, but in the meantime, stay connected, stay safe, and feel free to contact your district team at any time!

Carol Harper, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
101 Everett Rd, Franklin, NC 28734
828-349-3228 or cgh2arper@gmail.com



The secret of contentment is the realization
that life is a gift not a right.

* * * * *

*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing
into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

I Timothy 6:6,7

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE AND OUTREACH

"God calls ordinary people to do extraordinary things "

Recently Deacon Marji Hill, a United Methodist Woman, at Murphy First United Methodist Church provided the Sunday morning sermon using Judges Chapters 4 and 5 as a scriptural base. She spoke of how God used Deborah to bring about change for His people. Her sermon resonated with me as many of our local UMW units are making leadership changes for 2021 during the month of October. For the past 151 years God has called ordinary women to do His work and under His direction that work has proven to be extraordinary as reported in the March/April issue of Response Magazine. And it all began with eight women who started a movement that today has a following of more than 800,000 women. They heard God's call and, to paraphrase the prophet Isaiah, answered, "Here I am. I will do it."

We are all familiar with the saying that "God has no hands but our hands. He has no feet but our feet to do his work. "I remind myself and you that God uses our voices as well as our hands and feet. So, when your UMW sister uses her voice to invite you to accept a leadership role in your local unit or district will you prayerfully accept the challenge, knowing that whoever has held that position in the past, will be by your side to help when needed. In so doing you will help to assure that United Methodist Women will be carrying on this important work for another 151 years.

Esther Manchester

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator

828-226-7481 or ehm1@yahoo.com



Ways to Give to 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.
- ◇ Online on the national office website at unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.
- ◇ **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am–6 pm 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.



MISSION EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION: **PRAYER REQUEST!!**

I received an Email from Nara Melkonyan, Director of PROJECT AGAPE, Dated September 27, 9:31am stating:

Early this morning, the Azerbaijan military has launched a missile and serial cross-border attack on Artsakh. The attacks were launched along the entire length of line of contact. The civilian settlements are being shelled in a plethora of cities and villages, including the capital of Stepanakert. Peaceful people are under bombardment, including children and elders. The entire responsibility of the situation lies with Azerbaijan's military-political leadership.

URGENT! one of the drones flew over Berdzor and was hit over the mountains overlooking the AGAPE Center and the Children's Home. WE ASK FOR YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR THIS AWFUL CONFLICT TO RESOLVE QUICKLY AND PEACEFULLY! Nora

I ask that you share this information with your UMW and Congregation. Please put PROJECT AGAPE on your Prayer Requests that this conflict will end peacefully.

Note: Last October Nora was able to visit North Carolina and Western North Carolina Conferences

I want to thank the Units that brought used and new clothing for Project Agape and UMCOR Hygiene Kits to my house. I will deliver them to Groce UMC in Asheville when the Conference has the pickup for Project Agape.

MISSION STUDY UPDATE Since gathering together is still not possible, the Conference has a solution - it will be virtual. The study will be "Finding Peace in an Anxious World", edited by Erin James-Brown. The study will be offered each evening at 7PM, October 26-29th. Sandra Williamson will be our leader, she is also the Northern Piedmont District UMW President. Registration for the study will open on October 1, 2020 on the Conference Website (<https://wnccumw.org/events/mission-u-2020>).

If you do not have the Study Book, you can order it from United Methodist Women for \$10, via umwmissionresources.org or telephone 1-800-305-9857.

Continue to be in prayer for our nation and for our world.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance to your unit.

Beverly Bard, Acting Mission Coordinator for
Education & Interpretation
1892 Plott Creek Road, Waynesville, NC 28786
828-646-7558 OR bevandro52@gmail.com



THE EVER-CHANGING WORLD OF PROGRAM RESOURCES:

Due to the pandemic I have missed seeing and sharing the program resources at the in-person events. As we end this 2020 calendar year and embark on 2021, we will need to depend on going online to obtain our reading books and our program books and prayer calendars. Shipping is so expensive that it would be good if units could share and combine their orders.

The program book *KNITTED TOGETHER FOR GOD'S WORK* is available from the Mission Resource Center for \$10. The 2021 Prayer Calendar is available for \$14. However, shipping is expensive if you order only one. Those who purchased the 2021 Annual Sampler have already received the program book. You will need to order the 2021 Sampler to get the Prayer Calendar. If you are interested in having me order the program book and the prayer calendar, let me know and if I have as many as six orders, I will order them so that the shipping would be much less.

The United Methodist 2021-2022 Reading Program booklet is available at [United Methodist Women—2021 Reading Program](#) for downloading. All the books for 2021-2022 are listed with a short summary about each one under the five reading categories = Leadership Development, Social Action, Mission for Education, Nurturing for Community and Spiritual Growth. The reading program has been set up to cover two years.

I still have books that I ordered for last year along with five copies of our mission study for 2021, *WOMEN UNITED FOR CHANGE*. Contact me at 828-507-4556 or gailpowell@bellsouth.net if you are interested. The best deal I can mention is the 2021 Annual Sampler for \$40 (order form on next page).

Happy Reading for the remainder of 2020. John Wesley said, "It cannot be that the people should grow in grace unless they give themselves to reading. A reading people will be a knowing people."

Gail Powell, Program Resources Coordinator
(828-507-4556 or gailpowell@bellsouth.net)



**Sometimes we are so busy adding up our troubles
that we forget to count our blessings.**

* * * * *

*I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I
will remember thy wonders of old. I will meditate
also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.*

Psalm 77:11,12

2021 Annual Sampler

Offer ends April 2021

Please sign me up for the 2021 Annual Sampler!

Order the print subscription today for \$40 and save \$4.00.
The Annual Sampler[†] includes:

- 2021 Spiritual Growth study (\$10).
- 2021 Prayer Calendar (\$14).
- 2021-22 Program Book (\$10).
- 2021-24 Quadrennial Calendar (\$10.00 w/orange or purple sleeve).

[†]2021 Issue study: *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique Morris, New York: New Press, 2016. Available in stores, online and libraries. Free downloadable Leader's Guide (PDF) available online at unitedmethodistwomen.org.

The study and the calendars will ship in late fall 2020. The Program Book will ship in the summer of 2021. **Please select:**

- Orange** or **Purple** Quadrennial Calendar sleeve
 Please sign me up for the 2021 Annual Sampler.

NAME _____ CONFERENCE _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Check enclosed.

Charge my card: Mastercard Visa

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

BILLING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____



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Methodist
Women

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

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800-305-9857

ORDER BY MAIL
United Methodist Women
Mission Resources
P.O. Box 742349
Atlanta, GA 30374-2349

MS352

A NOTE FROM YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER:

During the pandemic everything has changed the way we do things in our everyday lives, but as United Methodist Women we must not let it change our support of women, children, and youth around the world through Mission Giving. The first half of 2020 Smoky Mountain District has been able to give to Undesignated Giving \$16,120.33 (Five Channels of Giving), and the third quarter the amount was \$6,227.70. We are about \$4,000 behind our numbers from last year. It is not an impossible amount to make up. It is clear that not being able to meet has made an impact on our giving. Keep in contact with each other by phone, email, or any way you can to encourage each other in spirit and to give as generously as they can to meet their Pledge to Mission. If your unit has not made a pledge, it is not too late. Write this information on a note, on the Remittance Form, or email the pledge to me. Just make a pledge.

We support many missions around the world, but also in the US. Some of the missions close to home include the two Bethlehem Centers, Bennett College for women, and Pfeiffer University. Think about the problems occurring in the US because of the pandemic. How much worse would it be in a country where people do not have the resources that we have. What we do for women, youth, and children around the world can make a difference.

2020 Financial Goal for the Western NC Conference of the United Methodist Women is to Increase unit pledge giving by at least \$5.00 per member.

Judith Bromley, District Treasurer

828-734-5512

Judithbromley7@gmail.com



SOCIAL ACTION PLAN: CLIMATE JUSTICE

Our 4th priority and the one I would like to highlight today is **Climate Justice**. With wildfires and hurricanes, I believe we have to address climate justice NOW. Some cities have set a goal to be carbon neutral by a future date. Do not let our government weaken our air or water quality regulations. We want our grandchildren to be able to breathe and not fear drinking a glass of water. I have included an article about some United Methodist Women who testified and urged stronger Air Quality Standards. For further information visit the unitedmethodistwomen.org website and click on Latest News & Releases and learn about a Global Methodist Movement .

Debbie Ray, Acting Social Action Coordinator

(828) 400-3499 or wsray@charter.net



(/Home)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

United Methodist Women Members Testify and Urge the EPA to Set Stronger National Air Quality Standards for Air Pollution



Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee at the Student Climate Strike in New York, Sept. 20, 2019.

NEW YORK—Several members of United Methodist Women recently testified and urged the Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to set stronger national ambient air quality standards for air pollution. The testimony occurred during public hearings earlier this week. Read excerpts from the leaders' public testimony:

Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, Executive for Economic and Environmental Justice at United Methodist Women (New York)

"Ground level ozone pollution is created when harmful pollutants—like nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds—react in the presence of sunlight. These harmful pollutants are emitted from motor vehicles, power plants, chemical plants, refineries, factories, gas stations and paint. The climate crisis has only exacerbated ozone levels, as hotter temperatures have led to increased ozone pollution. Ozone is harmful to breathe and attacks our lung tissues.

"At the current levels, the health of children, youth, those 65 and older, those with existing lung conditions, and especially those who are also people of color and/or poor, will continue to be harmed."

Rita L. Smith, President of North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women (Illinois)

"I support the recommendation of the [American Lung Association](#). Ozone pollution created by harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxides are emitted from power plants and motor vehicles which produces 'smog' as we know it. This smog attacks lung tissue by chemically reacting with it causing asthma attacks.

"My story is about my granddaughter, Imani, and all the other schoolage children with asthma. The best start to have clean air is by lobbying our car industry, in building more efficient cars. The transportation industry pollutes the air, causing my granddaughter to keep an asthma pump with her and one at school. While in elementary school, she had to keep at school in the office, but all Chicago Public Schools do not have nurses every day. Once, the school had to call for an ambulance to take her to the hospital. This day, I often wondered if this asthma attack was initiated from public transportation busses, the schoolbus or the cars while she was waiting for her bus. This is my reality: Polluted air causing my granddaughter and other school children causing missed day at school, thus hindering their education."

Christina Krost, Climate Justice Advocate for North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women (Illinois)

"I'm the spouse of a United Methodist clergy person and move with my family to serve as our church leadership assigns. My daughter, Madeline, has had breathing difficulties in every town to which we've been appointed since 2011. In 2019, while living in southernmost Illinois, she contracted pneumonia twice in an 8-month span. This triggered visits to specialists several hours away, at great financial cost even with health insurance. And as I watch the rates of COVID infection climb in my community, I fear what might happen to her if she contracted this dangerous respiratory virus.

"I also know that studies have found that Black Americans, Indigenous people and people of color experience higher risks of harm, including premature death, from exposure to air pollution. Of the 20 million people living in counties with failing grades for ozone and particulate matter pollution, 14 million are people of color. 74 million people of color live in a county that received at least one failing grade. And climate change is exacerbating these problems."

Phyllis Terwilliger, Climate Justice Advocate for Northeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women (Pennsylvania)

"At birth we take our first breath. A bellowing cry that announces: 'Here I am. ...' Dying of black lung from working in the anthracite mines near Frackville, Pennsylvania, my grandfather took his last breath. And, now, while breathing, we are testifying for the ozone national ambient air quality standards. EPA's proposal to keep the current, inadequate ozone standard is unacceptable. The science clearly shows that a stronger limit is needed to protect public health. I call on the EPA to follow the science and set stronger NAAQS for ozone pollution.

"I speak as a resident of the Susquehanna Watershed in York, Pennsylvania, a mother, a United Methodist Women climate justice advocate and an elementary teacher. The health effects of ozone pollution are numerous! The risk of hospital admissions of young children with asthma increased with chronic exposure to ozone pollution and children from low-income families were even more likely to need hospital admissions. Studies link lower birth weight and decreased lung function in newborns to ozone levels in their community."

For more information, please contact Jennifer R. Farmer at jenniferr@spotlightpr.org (<mailto:jenniferr@spotlightpr.org>).

Posted or updated: 9/4/2020 12:00:00 AM

United Methodist Women Communications

Contact:

Yvette Moore
Director of Public Relations & Marketing
[yyoore@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:yymoore@unitedmethodistwomen.org) (<mailto:yymoore@unitedmethodistwomen.org>)

► [Press Releases \(/press-releases\)](#)

Read the Full Testimonies:

📄 [Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee \(/Media/PDF/ElizabethLeeUMWNAAQSOzoneEPASept2020Public.pdf\)](#)

📄 [Rita L. Smith \(/Media/PDF/RitaLSmithUMWNAAQSEPAOzoneStatementAug2020.pdf\)](#)

📄 [Christina Krost \(/Media/PDF/ChristinaKrostFIPUMWNAAQSOzoneSept2020Testimony.pdf\)](#)

📄 [Phyllis Terwilliger \(/Media/PDF/PhyllisTerwilligerUMWNAAQSOzoneEPAStatementSept2020.pdf\)](#)

Internationally,
Mission Giving funds
support 121 programs
carried out by 107
organizations in more
than 110 countries.



Nearly 100 National Mission Institutions in the United States supported by United Methodist Women's giving are empowering women, caring for children, educating and building youth, looking after the neglected, advocating for social justice issues, creating economic opportunities and changing neighborhoods.

2020 Conference Love Offering

Our Conference Love Offering gifts are above and beyond District and individual pledges. Such undesignated offerings are applied toward the Conference Pledge and become part of the monies used by United Methodist Women to create and support projects around the world to better the lives of women, children and youth.

You may bring your individual Love Offering or your unit's Love Offering to our Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Celebration at Lake Junaluska, or send it directly to:

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer
WNCC United Methodist Women
375 Troy Norris Road
Boone, NC 28607

Please make checks payable to:
Treasurer, WNCC UMW

On-Line Love Offerings can be made on our web site, www.wnccumw.org. Just click on the "DONATE NOW" icon in the Love Offering section by Dec 31st.

Note: Please do not send your Love Offering to your District Treasurer.

Thank you for your support of the 2020 Conference Love Offering!

United Methodist Women Western North Carolina Conference



United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

**2020
LOVE OFFERING**
A Gift to Mission
Honoring and Affirming
Clergywomen:
Past, Present and Future

Annual Celebration
~~Lake Junaluska, NC~~
~~September 11-13, 2020~~

2020 Conference Love Offering

Then

Stalwart Women Refusing to Hear "No"

- 1869 Margaret Van Cott is granted a local preacher's license ME.
- 1876 Anna Oliver first woman to receive a Bachelor of Divinity degree from an American theological seminary.
- 1878 Anna Howard Shaw receives a Bachelor of Divinity degree.
- 1880 The General Conference of the ME refused to ordain Ann Howard Shaw and Anna Oliver and denies women the right to preachers' licenses. Anna Howard Shaw joins the MP and is ordained by its New York Annual Conference.
- 1884 The MP General Conference rules that Anna Howard Shaw's ordination was out of order.
- 1889 Ella Niswonger becomes first woman ordained in the UB.
- 1894 Sarah Dickey is ordained by the UB.
- 1910 The General Conference ME denies women laity rights.
1914-1918 First World War
- 1920 The local preacher's license, the first step to ordained ministry officially extended to women in the *Book of Discipline* ME.
- 1924 Women in the ME are given limited clergy rights.
1936-1945 World War II
- 1946 Women are denied ordination by the UB.
- 1956 Women in the MC win full clergy rights. Maude Kristler Jensen is the first woman to be granted such rights.
- 1968 Merger forming the United Methodist Church**
- 1972 United Methodist Women name adopted**
- 1996 4,955 United Methodist Women ministers.



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

Today

Stalwart Women Continuing to Answer the Call

- The United Methodist Church has about 12,300 women ministers of a total of about 83,800. (2014)
- In the Western North Carolina Conference there are 356 women in ministry. Total appointed clergy in the Conference is 1,093.
- Of the eight District Superintendents, five are women.
- On January 15, the WNCC delegation endorsed a woman, Rev. Amy Coles as their episcopal nominee.

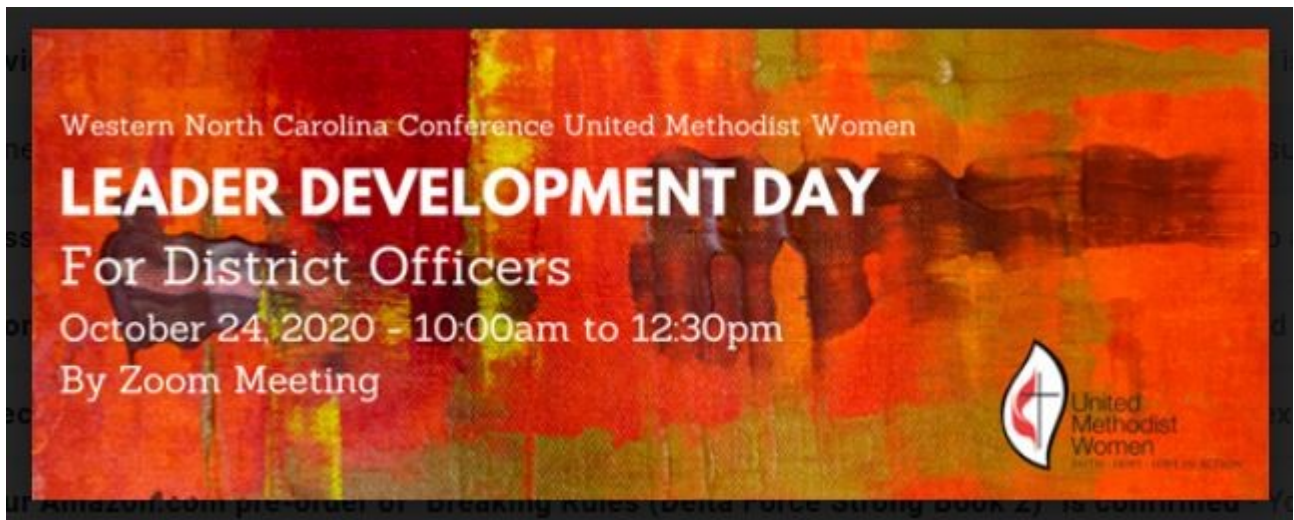
Does your unit know of clergywomen who have had meaningful impacts on the lives of your members?

Make your Love Offering in her/their honor.

Just add her/their names to the memo on the check or include it on a separate slip of paper when you send it in or place your offering in the basket at the 2020 Annual Celebration.

A full list will be made available in 2021.

For your own records: Record her/their names here:

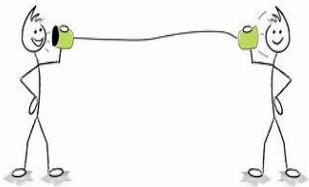


ATTENTION ALL DISTRICT OFFICERS!! This meeting is for us...whether you are currently in an office or taking one over in January. This will be a Zoom training meeting where we all gather together at the beginning and then go into breakout rooms for the different positions...Pres., Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Spiritual Growth, Membership/Nurture/Outreach, Mission Education & Interpretation, Social Action, Communications, Nominations, Program Resources. You must register for this event as follows:

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwscuCqpzsuGtYoOxTACXnVpPukUaN8Ffnb>

This will be a great opportunity to share ideas, learn new things, brainstorm projects, etc. Mark your calendars now for Leader Development Day, Saturday, October 24th (10:00 am to 12:30 pm).



CAN WE TALK?

1. Have you changed your email address recently? If Yes, please let us know at smdcommcoor@gmail.com.
2. Have you added email to your list of communication tools? If Yes, please let us know.
3. If you've stopped using email as a means of communication, please let us know that also. Why? So we can still send you the newsletter and keep you informed.
4. NOTE TO ALL SMD UNITS: When you submit your updated unit officer lists at year end to Debbie Ray, our President, would you please also send me a copy so I can make sure your mailing roster is current.
5. This publication can be helpful to all your members so forward it to your entire group or make copies and pass it out.
6. If you have questions or feedback, please contact me at smdcommcoor@gmail.com or 850-428-3636. Thanks!

Nancy Jo Willis, SMD Communications Coordinator
310 Cassady Lane, Murphy, NC 28906





Mission Today 2020 – Revised due to COVID-19
United Methodist Women
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Western North Carolina Conference
Become a Mission Today Unit!

NEW IN 2020: (Changes are highlighted in yellow.)

- Mission Today Gold – Complete 10 criteria: 6 with asterisks (*) and 4 other.****
 - Mission Today Silver – Complete 8 criteria: 4 with asterisks (*) and 4 other.****
 - Mission Today Bronze – Complete 6 criteria: 4 with asterisks (*) and 2 other.****
- **Note: "Other" may also include items with asterisks (*).

The purpose of promoting a Mission Today Unit is to:

Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes. Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

What is a Unit?

A unit is any organized group of United Methodist Women within a church or district. Some units are composed of several circles, which periodically get together for a unit meeting.

How Do We Become a Mission Today Unit?

In order to be recognized as a Mission Today Unit, (Gold, Silver or Bronze) UMW units must complete a number of the following criteria as indicated above. Activities conducted between January 1-December 31, 2020, will be recognized at annual meetings in 2021. This is an ongoing program, so strive to become a Mission Today Unit!

CRITERIA:

- *1. The unit will make a Pledge to Mission.
- *2. The unit will use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting or circle meeting of the unit to pray for persons in mission and our mission work with women, children and youth. A new Prayer Calendar is printed each year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.
- *3. The unit will use at least two programs from the Program Book during the year. A new Program Book is printed every year and may be ordered from the Mission Resource Center.
- *4. The unit or circle will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year. Contact your district or conference Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation to learn what the studies are for each year. (If members of your unit attend the conference Mission u or your District Mission Study and your unit takes an action growing out of the study, Gift to Mission, ministry related to the study, etc., your unit will meet this criteria.)
- *5. The unit will have at least two members subscribing to **response** (1 member subscribing with units less than 15 members; Local unit subscription may count as one.) Order information is printed at bottom of page 2. \$24.00 for a one-year print subscription (includes digital subscription); \$20 for a one-year digital only subscription.
- *6. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least two ways during the year. Possibilities are:
 - a. Have members read and discuss books and articles about other races and cultures;
 - b. Sponsor or attend an interethnic event between two or more units;
 - c. Intentionally recruit women of other ethnic groups to be members and officers of the unit,
 - d. Use the Resources for Racial Justice Available on our conference website on the "Downloads Available" page under "Mission Resources."
 - e. Write to elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, low-income programs, civil rights, etc.
 If you are a "Justice Today" unit, you have met this criteria. See "Downloads Available" on conference website.
- *7. The unit will have a program and/or complete an action addressing one of the Issue Priorities for 2016-2020. These are 1. Climate Justice; 2. Maternal and Child Health, 3. Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration; and 4. Economic Inequality. Find information at www.unitymethodistwomen.org/general-conference/issuepriorities2016-20
- *8. The unit will add at least two new members (one member for units with less than 15 members) to its roll.

- *9. The unit will have one program from the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church 2017-2020. Available at www.cokesbury.com for \$3.99 plus tax and shipping.
- *10. The unit will contribute to all Five Channels of Mission Giving.
- *11. The UMW Purpose will be recited at each general and/or circle meeting.
- *12. The unit will contribute \$186.90 or more to the Legacy Fund in 2020.
- 13. At least one member of the unit will attend Mission u and report back to the unit on classes and events they experienced. **Virtual participation qualifies as attending.**
- 14. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will attend the district or conference annual meeting and report back to the unit about the event and what they experienced. **Virtual participation qualifies.**
- 15. The unit will have at least one person joining the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information at least three (3) times a year. To join, contact the United Methodist Women Washington Office, 100 Maryland Avenue NE, Room 100, Washington, DC 20002. Phone #: 202-488-5660 or Visit: www.unitymethodistwomen.org/action. Attach the issue and action that was taken to Mission Today report.
- 16. Members will correspond with five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar at least once a year.
- 17. The unit will co-sponsor, with the local church, a Children's Sabbath. (This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children.) The United Methodist Women National Office and the Council of Bishops support this effort. Children's Sabbath materials are on our national website: www.unitymethodistwomen.org Type "Children's Sabbath" in the search box.
- 18. Each unit or circle meeting will include a " **response** Moment" where an item from **response** magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
- 19. The unit will sponsor one teen member (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman member (ages 18 to 39) to at least one conference event during the year.
- 20. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will attend a district Prayer Breakfast, district Day Apart, conference Spiritual Growth Retreat, or any other special district or conference event other than Ubuntu Day. **Virtual participation in any of these events qualify as attending.**
- 21. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will participate in an Ubuntu Day Event. **Units may develop their own UBUNTU event in their communities.**
- 22. At least two members (one member for units with less than 15 members) will complete Plan 1 of the Reading Program and give a report to the unit on one of the books read.
- 23. The unit will invite a district or conference officer, other than a member of the unit, to one of the unit meetings during the year and/or for their United Methodist Women's Sunday. This Qualifies as a Local Unit Visit (LUV).
- 24. The unit will add one new teen (ages 12 to 17) and/or one young woman (ages 18 to 39) circle during the year, or one new teen member (ages 12 to 17) or one new young woman member (ages 18 to 39) during the year.
- 25. 100% of the unit's active members will make a gift of at least \$18.69 to the Legacy Fund
- 26. The 2020 Conference Financial Goal is: To increase unit pledge giving by at least \$5.00 per member. The unit will help accomplish the goal by increasing giving in this channel by at least \$5.00 per member over 2019.
- 27. Each unit will be responsible for supporting at least one local mission project and participate in one Conference Hands-on Mission Project during the year. The local project should be listed on your Mission Today report.
Be a Mission Today Unit!
Mission Resource Center
 Website: www.umwmissionresources.org UMW Mission Resources, PO Box 742349, Atlanta, GA 30374-2349;
 Phone: 1-800-305-9857 (toll-free); Fax: (770)280-0061; e-mail: cs@umwmissionresources.org
Magazine Circulation (For response Toll Free 1-877-881-2385 • FAX: 1-845-267-3478
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 Conference Website: www.wrcumtw.org Updated August 2020

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2020

WNCC—UMW Calendar of Events

- Oct. 10 UBUNTU Day of Service (**Cancelled, but you can send gift cards or schedule your own local UBUNTU Day!**)
- Oct. 24 Leadership Development Day for All District Officers via ZOOM (Pg. 14)
- Oct. 26-29 Mission u Spiritual Growth Study via ZOOM; 7:00-8:15pm nightly (Pg. 3)

SMD-UMW Calendar of Events

- November 14 Leader Development Day for Unit Officers & Members—All Districts via ZOOM (We will begin together and then break out into district rooms.) See Page 5 for details and to register.