



## 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 Leadership Development Day

### Moving Beyond 150 Years through Leadership Training

Zoom Meeting on November 14, 2020  
@10AM



In our efforts to care for the safety and well-being of all of our members, we have planned a **virtual All District Leadership Development Day for Local Unit Officers, Circle Chairs, and other leaders for 2020**. 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 by November 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Registration is required** for these free Zoom meetings, and **registration will be open after October 1.**

Go to [www.wnccumw.org](http://www.wnccumw.org), click on Leadership Development Day for Local Unit Officers 2020, and use the registration box. All districts will use the same red box to register

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

<p><b>President:</b> Fran Jordan (Black Mountain) PO Box 447 Black Mountain, NC 28711 (828) 778-8087 fjoudan93@aol.com</p>	<p><b>Vice President:</b> Gwen Harris (Windom) 215 Grand View Lane Burnsville, NC 28714 (828) 682-4589 gwenaharris68@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Secretary:</b> Jo Pyatt (East Marion) PO Box 1621 Marion, NC 28752 (828) 652-2530 <a href="mailto:pyattjo@gmail.com">pyattjo@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Treasurer:</b> Linda Johns (Skyland) 22 North Oak Terrace Arden, NC 28704 H:(828) 684-9366 C: (828) 712-9266 lljturtle58@gmail.com</p>
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<p><b>Historian:</b> Barbara E. Campbell (St. Paul's) 266 Merrimon Ave. Asheville NC 28801 (828) 225-0414 charlie585@msn.com</p>			

**Committee of Nominations**

<p>Chairperson: Delores Meadows (Mills River UMC) 248 Cardinal Road Mills River, NC 28759 (828) 891-7638 <a href="mailto:Delores248@att.net">Delores248@att.net</a> Class of 2020</p>	<p>Vennie Abrams (Tryon Comm. Interdenominational Church) 630 Blackwood Road Columbus, NC 28722 (828) 863-4274 aluvonia@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) Weaverville, NC 28787 danderson45@charter.net Class of 2022</p>
<p>Thelma McGraw (Skyland UMC) 90 White Pine Drive Fletcher, NC 28732 (828)684-7106 vtmcgraw@broadriverrehab.com Class of 2022</p>	<p>Maureen Carr (Central UMC) 1680 Hendersonville Rd. Apt. B-08 Asheville, NC 28803 (828) 277-7065 mcparishnurse@aol.com Class of 2020</p>		

**Member at Large**

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Martha Phillips, (Oak Grove), PO Box 49, Linville Falls, NC 28647, (828) 765-7009, [mcwphillips@gmail.com](mailto:mcwphillips@gmail.com)

**Western North Carolina Conference District Advisor for the Blue Ridge District**

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**The Blue Ridge District Newsletter is published quarterly. Send any information you would like to have included to the Editor, Tammy Long**

### 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.

<b>Nurturing Partner</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Nurturing Partner</b>	<b>Church</b>
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**

Entering the final quarter of the year, we have a lot of United Methodist Women activities left and many opportunities to put faith, hope, and love into action for women, children, and youth in our own communities and around the world.

Two areas where we can help are finances and UMCOR kits/Agape clothing. Because we've been unable to meet as often as usual and in person, giving is down significantly. **Check out Linda Johns' article to find out how you and your unit can help.** When even the richest nation in the world is struggling with the economic downturn, imagine how those who depend on our UMW help are suffering.

Also, this is the time to prepare UMCOR kits and make contributions to Project Agape. **Read Tracey Owens' article for the latest information about both.**

We have several learning opportunities that will occur virtually. Our District Leadership Day will occur on November 14, beginning at 10:00 AM. Everybody is welcome to the Blue Ridge event. We will feature information for officers, but we also plan to offer a session on a topic to be decided that will be of interest to every UMW member. We'll share more as we know more.

Three of our Conference events are on the calendar. The next event is Annual Celebration on September 26-27. In addition to taking care of Conference business, we will have an opportunity to hear Deaconess Cindy Johnson talk about her work on the US/Mexico border with immigrants who have been waiting for months for an opportunity to apply for entry into the United States. Check the Conference website for more information.

Mission u will take place on October 26-29 on Zoom at 7:00 PM each night. Sandra Williamson will teach four one-hour sessions on Finding Peace in an Anxious World. The book is available at Amazon and [umw.missionresources.org](http://umw.missionresources.org). This study will satisfy the mission study requirement for our Mission Today criteria.

Don't forget Mission Today! With Covid criteria (see a copy in this issue), I think more units can qualify than ever before.

I'm excited about the remainder of 2020! Check [www.wnccumw.com](http://www.wnccumw.com) frequently to stay current about District and Conference events and information.

**Gwen Harris, Blue Ridge District, Interim President**

## **District Secretary**

Newsletter articles are usually easy to compose. Mostly, we can pull information regarding our office from the responsibilities as laid down in the Officers Handbook; however, that has gone by the wayside this year with the takeover of Covid 19. We have had cancellation after cancellation and worries about our mission money; we have been separated from dear friends in their time of illness and death; we have become familiar with terms like Zoom and Webinar, though most are still not comfortable with this virtual world. We miss those times less than six feet apart and the hugs United Methodist Women are famous for.

So where do we go from here? The responsibilities of whatever office you might hold continue on as before, but how you carry out those responsibilities will require some creative thinking and the ability to change your perception of what is going on about us and how it will affect you. My advice to the secretaries? Continue to keep good records and be available to the rest of your officers for whatever support they might need during this unusual time, and as far as each of you is concerned, don't be afraid to ask for help yourself!

I discovered these words of Cher: "If you really want something, you can figure out how to make it happen!" We as United Methodist Women need to take these words to heart, for in the last 150 years haven't we more or less changed the course of history for women, youth, and children around the world? And now that we find ourselves facing a pandemic like nothing ever seen before, can we do any less at "a time such as this?" My prayers are with you, my sisters.

**Jo Pyatt, Blue Ridge District Secretary**

## **Spiritual Growth**

As my momma would have said, "I am set in my ways." The older I get, the less change I like. Well, if you don't like change, 2020 has not been the year for you.

The year began with excitement and soon turned to disappointment as we had to cancel our Prayer Breakfast. Our dear district president, Fran, became seriously ill and passed away in May. We have not been able to gather in person for our church services, unit meetings, and refreshing weekends at Lake Junaluska and Pfeiffer College. We have added new words like remote learning and *Zoom* to our vocabulary.

So what hasn't changed? Our love for United Methodist Women has remained strong. Our zeal for mission continues. Our commitment to the future of our organization is as strong as ever. Sometimes change helps us focus on new opportunities. But most importantly, we serve a God who never changes...a God who is with us every moment and will guide us through all the changes that come our way. God's work continues to be done.

It is bittersweet that this is my last newsletter article as your Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator. It has been a privilege and honor to have served with you. Thank you for your love and support during these last four and a half years. I have been blessed to have worked with so many of you as you have opened your churches for our Prayer Breakfasts. I love all of you.

I am proud that Jennie Greenway will begin as your new Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator in 2021. Please give her that same love and support.

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

## Treasurer

I pray this newsletter finds all of you in good health and spirits. This has been a difficult year to say the least. While we have not been able to be together for our usual events, the work of United Methodist Women has continued. The missions we help support are struggling as we are, only their struggles have been magnified by the current issues surrounding Covid 19.

Our women in the Blue Ridge District have always engaged in generous giving. We see that in the amount that has been given thus far, despite circles and units that have not been able to meet and fund raisers that have had to be cancelled. You have given \$48,728.60 thus far.

We are now in the last quarter of the year. Our District pledge is \$82,100. As you can see, meeting that pledge is unlikely, but hopefully we can get closer during this last quarter. Remember that the money given supports missions, and shortfalls for this year impact the help that can be given next year.

Please, if you have not already pledged, it is not too late. We have several ways in which you can still give--pledges, the World Thank Offering, Conference Love Offerings, Special Mission Recognitions, cards whether Gift to Mission or Gift in Memory, and Walk for Mission. You may wonder how you can do Walk for Mission, but that is the one fund raiser that can be done with using social distancing and, of course, wearing a mask. There can be other fund raisers like the No Bake, Bake Sale. A no bake, bake sale is where you obtain donors who pledge an amount of money for you to not bake an item. It may sound unusual, but it can be fun once the person understands the importance is on the donation versus the goodies.

You may send any money you wish to donate by check to your local unit treasurer, give on line at [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org) where there is a button you can click in the upper right to do an electronic donation, or directly to me with the check addressed to Blue Ridge District UMW Treasurer. You can also give by sending your check to Nancy Reigel, WNCC Treasurer. Please make the check out to WNCC Treasurer. The addresses for myself and Nancy are at the end of this article. Please do not forget to write what the check is for in the memo section of the check.

I think we all can be proud of the money that has been given by your generosity and love for missions. Nothing can top a member of United Methodist Women when a job needs to be done or when we hear the call of the needy. I am so proud also of our local district treasurers who work extremely hard to ensure all money is appropriately accounted for and submitted as required. It is a bigger job than you might think, but all of them do it well.

At our Blue Ridge District Annual Celebration Virtual Call, I announced that we exceeded our pledge for 2019. Congratulations to all of you.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. Keep safe and well until my next opportunity to talk with you in 2021.

Linda Johns  
Blue Ridge District Treasurer  
22 North Oak Terrace  
Arden, NC 28704

Nancy Reigel  
Western North Carolina Conference Treasurer  
375 Troy Norris Road  
Boone, NC 28607

**Linda Johns, Blue Ridge District, Treasurer**

## **Social Justice**

Hi, everyone. I hope your summer has been fun, relaxing and safe. It seems as though social justice has been at the forefront of the news almost every day. We can all make a difference. Let's pray and study our Bible (racism is contrary to the teachings of Jesus), review and try to live the UMW Charter for Racial Justice, educate ourselves about the candidates who are running for government office and VOTE. Here are some ways United Methodist Women is supporting and promoting social justice in September:

United Methodist Women is a sponsor of the Faith in Place 2020 Green Team Summit (September 13-17) as part of our work toward advancing climate justice and just energy for all. Hundreds of people of faith and expert speakers from across the country will explore justice-based solutions to the crises of climate change, racism, and COVID-19. The Summit's theme is "A Just Recovery." Visit [faithinplace.org](https://faithinplace.org) for more information.

The Office of Economic and Environmental Justice United Methodist Women reports that the number of COVID-19 cases continues to climb across the country, disproportionately impacting communities of color and asks that you sign this letter urging Congress to put a moratorium on utility shutoffs and provide people-focused federal relief and stimulus packages: <https://p2a.co/33iJHcC>.

Join the Thursdays in Black campaign. Make a pledge to work toward a world without rape and violence by joining the Thursdays in Black initiative launched by Ecumenical Women at the United Nations to end all sexual and gender-based violence. United Methodist Women is a founder of Ecumenical Women at the UN. We believe in the mutuality of mission and that by working with other faith-based groups that share our concerns we amplify putting an end to oppression, discrimination, injustice, abuse and violence in the world. Take the pledge today. Visit [www.ecumenicalwomenun.org/thursdays-in-black](http://www.ecumenicalwomenun.org/thursdays-in-black).

Join the Harvest of Justice, a Program of the National Farm Worker Ministry linking United Methodist Women's Climate Justice and Living Wage Priorities. Learn and Act for Farm Workers and Climate Justice begins on Labor Day. Harvest of Justice 2020 brings attention to the impact of climate change on farm workers, the majority of whom are immigrants. With the past decade the hottest on record, it focuses on the rise in temperatures and how that pushes people to migrate, increases the intensity and occurrence of storms, requires more application of pesticides and means that people must labor in intense heat. It is farm worker bodies that literally bear the burden. Using NFWM resources you will learn about the impact of climate change on farm workers and specific ways to take action. Harvest of Justice 2020 runs from Labor Day to World Food Day (October 16), with adult and youth curricula available for United Methodist Women members to use anytime in the following year. This also coincides with the Season of Creation from September 1 to October 4, an ecumenical time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through prayer and action for the earth. The curriculum can easily be adapted for a UMW virtual circle or local unit program. It includes 7 segments-an overview and focus on global migration, heat stress, water drought and wildfires, pesticides, natural disasters, and women and children. Climate change, environmental racism, COVID-19 and essential workers, food justice, racial justice all come together in the realities of the farm workers who harvest our food. Download the Resource at Harvest of Justice 2020.

**Kathy Kennedy, Blue Ridge District Social Justice Coordinator**

## **Mission Education & Interpretation**

There has been much concern about how the UMCOR kits and Project AGAPE clothes are to be collected. I now have the answer!

The following items are needed: School Kits & Hygiene Kits for UMCOR and new children's clothes sizes 2-14 for Project AGAPE. Cleaning Buckets & Project AGAPE Christmas Shoeboxes are **not** needed.

The cost of sending the kits is \$1 for each School Kit and \$2 for each Hygiene Kit (for purchasing toothpaste). There is no set amount for Project AGAPE. All donations are appreciated. Make check out to UMW, place in an envelope (do not put check or money in kits), and put UMCOR or AGAPE on the memo line.

The Fall 2020 collection site for most of our district will be at Groce United Methodist Church, 954 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC. The drop-off dates are Monday – Thursday, September 28 – October 1 from 9:00am -5:00pm and Friday, October 2 from 9:00am – 12:30pm.

If you live in the eastern part of the district, you may want to drop your kits off at Salem United Methodist Church, 1206 Salem Church Road, Morganton, NC. Their drop-off dates are Tuesday, September 29 and Friday, October 2, from 11:00am – 6:00pm.

Please send me a list of what kits and/or clothes you donated and the approximate value so your donation is included in the year-end report. You can either send by email ([traceybhh@gmail.com](mailto:traceybhh@gmail.com)) or postal service (Tracey Owens, 249 Fleming Avenue, Marion, NC 28752).

### **Packing Instructions**

- Please pack all items in the smallest box that is appropriate. Recommended box size is 16" X 12" X 12" since boxes of that size can be reused as part of a shipment.
- List the contents on the outside of the box.
- Also, pack the boxes as full and tight as possible. That prevents boxes from being crushed as they are stacked in the warehouse awaiting the sorting process.
- If at all possible, avoid using plastic bags, since they are easily torn and do not stack well on pallets.

Many thanks to those who donate these needed items for children, youth and women around the world.

**Tracey Owens, Blue Ridge District Coordinator for Mission Education & Interpretation**



## Program Resources

*Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine; let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine. (from I Am Thine, O Lord by Fannie Crosby)*

“Staying at home” this summer, has given me more time to read, including UMW Reading Program books. Hope you have been able to do so, too. In this issue two reading program books are highlighted.

When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up shares the stories of Christian women who are a part of our spiritual history. They were ordinary women who felt called by God to do extraordinary tasks. They followed God’s leading, risking their own safety and reputation. In doing so, they changed the world forever. Some of the women will be familiar: Fannie Crosby, Evangeline Booth, or Mary McLeod Bethune. Others you will be delighted to meet.

Owen and Eleanor Move In is a children’s book, part of a series following two kids from two different families as they navigate the ups and downs of childhood. In this book the duo learns important lessons about faith, values, and friendship. It was a delight to read and I plan to pass it on to a grandnephew who just turned eight.

The Mission u 2020 spiritual growth study will happen virtually this year. Dr. Sandra Williamson will be the online study leader. If you don’t yet have the book, Finding Peace in an Anxious World, you can order it from [www.umwmissionresources.org/](http://www.umwmissionresources.org/) or by phone at 800-305-9857. Remember this is a bonus book which counts as two books. Stay tuned for further details.

In Christian love,

**Jeanette Byrd, Blue Ridge District Program Resources**

## Communications Coordinator

Well, it’s that time of the year when this is our last newsletter for the year. I can’t believe that it’s been a full year already of me holding the position of your Communication Coordinator for our Blue Ridge District. It has been a “weird” year with this COVID 19, but I feel our UMW group is using the correct protocol in order to keep us safe, and we should keep in prayer for next year’s events and make them better than ever.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Community Outreach section in our newsletter. If you would like to take part in next year’s edition, please send me a couple of pictures and a little info about what the project is. I hope you all have enjoyed the newsletters and have a wonderful rest of the year.

God bless each of you.

**Tammy Long, Blue Ridge District, Communications Coordinator**

## **Nomination Committee**

The District Committee on Nominations (Maureen Carr, Vennie Avrams, Bess Redmond, Thelma McGraw, Donna Anderson, and me) was able to present a great slate of officers for 2021. The Nominations Committee's job is never finished. When we wrap up one year, we start on the next. At each event and gathering, the committee must be on the lookout for new officers. All United Methodist Women members can help the committee as you visit your Nurturing Partners or in your own church with suggestions and contact information. The 2021 members are Thelma McGraw, Vennie Abrams, Bess Redmond, Donna Anderson, Dorothy Johnson, and Leith Tate. They would appreciate your prayers and assistance in any way.

I personally want to thank all of those I have worked with on the District Team since Doris Stone recruited me in 1995.

**Delores Meadows, Blue Ridge Nomination Committee Chair**

## **Historian**

### **Living History While Making History**

Much is being said these days about racism and social justice. These are not new ideas to United Methodist Women (and our predecessors.) We have been "making history" for over a century by actions and statements.

- In the **1920's** women of the Women's Missionary Society (MEC, S) initiated conversations with African-American women attempting to heal the social divide.
- In the **1930's**, these women shared mailing lists with the "Women's Campaign against Lynching" to help secure wider participation in local protests.
- In the **1940's** The Woman's Division "Committee on Minority and Interracial Cooperation" was co-chaired by white and African American women.
- In the **1950's** the first Charter on Racial Policies was adopted; and by 1954, ratified by 5 Jurisdictions and over 75 Conference Woman's Societies.
- In the **1960's** a second Charter was adopted; the Student Sit-in Movement supported; and Society members participated in the 1963 March on Washington.
- In **1978** the 3rd Charter was adopted and approved by the 1980 General Conference.
- In **2016**, the Charter for Racial Justice was updated and approved by General Conference for the whole church. Para. 3317.4 states, "Racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as justification for social, economic and political exploitation."

In each decade Mission u, mission studies and the Reading Program have provided United Methodist Women insights beyond our personal experiences that challenged us to respond.

**Barbara E. Campbell, Blue Ridge District Historian**

## Community Outreach Unit Projects



Kathy Woods (president of Skyland UMW) and Dixie Liggett admire baby layette items before sending them to Nome, Alaska.

One of the things I like most about the United Methodist Church and our United Methodist Women is our connectedness. Recently I was on a Zoom conference call with one of the missionaries to Brazil, who was actually calling from Austin, Texas. There were 53 participants on the call, and I did not look at the whole list. But the next day I received an e-mail from Julie Elmore, a clergy woman now in Michigan, who previously served at Community United Methodist Church in Nome, Alaska. She had recognized my name on the list. (We had connected when she was in Nome because my UMW circle sends layettes every year to the UMW in Nome. The UMW there gives a new layette wrapped with a pink or a blue ribbon with a blessing to every baby born in the hospital in Nome.) I e-mailed back to Julie that we are right now collecting baby items for the layettes, but that I had not been able to talk with anyone in Nome because the church there is still closed. Julie asked if it was ok to give my phone number to a UMW member she knows in Nome. Certainly!

The very next day Mary Reader, a Nome UMW, called to update their needs. We talked for a good 30 minutes! Mary said that for a few years pregnant women were being flown to Anchorage for delivery, but now once again the hospital in Nome is delivering more babies, serving not just Nome itself, but the surrounding 9 villages, only two of which even have roads to Nome. The nurses at the hospital told Mary that their supply of layettes is getting low. There were 65 babies born there in 2019, and already 75 in 2020. The greatest need right now is for receiving blankets and sleepers. The nurses said that for some new mothers, the UMW layettes are the only thing they have to take their babies home.

Our circle publicizes the layette project for our whole church to participate. We will be having a drive-by drop off event at the church in October. Then our circle members will pack the items to be mailed to Nome. (The best way to send is to use the Priority boxes from the post office.) Mary asked me to spread the word to other churches and UMW units in hope of involving more members to contribute. I am happy to do that!

The address in Nome is as follows:

Community United Methodist Church  
P.O.Box 907  
Nome, Alaska 99762

If you have questions, please contact me at 828-684-1831 or [lliggett3@charter.net](mailto:lliggett3@charter.net). Let's be connected!

**Dixie Liggett, Blue Ridge District Program Advisory Group**



# Mission Today 2020 – Revised due to COVID-19

## United Methodist Women Western North Carolina Conference

### MAKE A DIFFERENCE! 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:

- Have members read and discuss books and articles about other races and cultures;
- Sponsor or attend an interethnic event between two or more units;
- Intentionally recruit women of other ethnic groups to be members and officers of the unit;
- Use the Resources for Racial Justice Available on our conference website on the "Downloads Available" page under "Mission Resources."
- 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.unitedmethodistwomen.org/general-conference/issuepriorities2016-20](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.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](http://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.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.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.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.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](http://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](mailto:cs@umwmissionresources.org)

**Magazine Circulation (For response Toll Free 1-877-881-2385 • FAX: 1-845-267-3478**

**Magazines with a Mission • PO Box 395 • Congers, NY 10920-0395**

# 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  
215 Grand View Lane  
Burnsville, NC 28714

## **Mark Your Calendars for 2020**

### Blue Ridge District UMW Events for 2020

November 14 @ 10AM      District Leadership Development Day-Zoom Meeting

### Western North Carolina Conference UMW Events for 2020

September 26-27      Annual Celebration-Virtual  
October 24              Leadership Development Day-Zoom Meeting  
October 26-29          Mission u-Virtual-7:00 P.M. each night