



Conference Gram

February 2021

Volume 70, Issue 1



Western North Carolina Conference

20/21 Vision & Goals

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

- **Raise awareness & build relationships with the United Methodist Women mission institutions in our conference:** *Alliance Center for Education (formerly Bethlehem Center Charlotte), Bethlehem Center Winston-Salem, Brooks-Howell Home, Bennett College, and Pfeiffer University*
- **Raise awareness and promote personal advocacy for our two United Methodist Women priority issues:** *Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color & Mass Incarceration*
- **Build relationships, support, and encourage local units in living out our Purpose during a pandemic and beyond.**
- **Achieve our Conference Financial Goal:** *Each unit will make at least one Gift to Mission of at least \$5.00, using any cards they have, in honor of one person in Mission listed in either the Prayer Calendar or a **response** magazine article.*
- **Continue to live out our Purpose as we move into the NEXT 150 Years of United Methodist Women in Mission!**

Sincerely,

Your WNCC UMW Team

The Legacy Fund: A buffer against “Who Knew?” times



As we experience the impact of COVID-19 on our United Methodist Women gatherings and the associated drop in our opportunities for giving, my appreciation for the Legacy Fund grows daily. **We never would have guessed** we would experience a global pandemic...but here we are. This tells us similar unanticipated events are likely in the future.

For this reason, the need for a fallback cushion to get us through unexpected circumstances becomes increasingly important. As an endowment, **our Legacy Fund can provide this cushion** by shoring up short-term drops in Mission Giving to maintain the health of our Mission around the world.

The Fund is a version of “Paying It Forward.” Maybe you’ve been in a fast-food pick-up line and paid the tab for the person in the car behind you. Perhaps you were at the grocery store and noticed the mother in line behind you, clearly struggling to make ends meet. You added extra money to your payment and asked the cashier to apply it toward the mother’s bill. “Paying It Forward” allows us to commit “Random Acts of Kindness.”

With the Legacy Fund, however, **we have an opportunity to commit “Planned Acts of Kindness.”** We United Methodist Women members can “pay it forward” to bolster the capacity of our future members to support our Missions in “Who Knew?” situations.

For “such a time as this,” now **and** in the future, the Legacy Fund will be an invaluable tool to insure we continue to put faith, hope, and love into action to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world. Yes, through the Legacy Fund we can, from here in 2021, be participants in UMW Missions years into the future. Through the Legacy Fund, we become members of a special and unique community prayerfully and intentionally “Paying It Forward” for others.

That is the beauty of the Legacy Builder program. For a small monthly donation, a member (or circle or unit) can participate in building a nest egg against future “Who Knew?” times. Signing up is as easy as visiting www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/legacybuilder. Then kick back and relax, knowing each month **you are proactively creating a stronger tomorrow for UMW Missions.** How cool is that?!



(Submitted by Nancy Reigel on behalf of the Legacy 150 Committee)



Our 2020 Conference Love Offering was “A Gift to Mission Honoring and Affirming Clergywomen—Past, Present, And Future.” In addition to the names in our hearts, the names of the following clergywomen were submitted to Nancy Reigel in 2020. We give glory to God for all clergywomen and their gifts shared with us then and now and going forward.

Jill Alventosa-Brown
Veranita Alvord
Lauren Anderson
Laura Hubbard Auten
Tammy Bales
Sherri Barnes
Sarah Belles
Arnetta Beverly
Pamela Blackstock
Patience Brumley
Laura Byrch
Dean Campbell
Shirley Canty
Michelle Chappell
Phyllis Coates
Amy Coles
Faith Conklin
Patricia Connelly
Megan Sweeny Cook
Bev Coppley

Elizabeth Coppedge-
Henley
Beth Crissman
Ashley Crowder Stanley
Pat Dixon
Kelly Dotson
Karen Doucette
Renee Easter
Carter Ellis
Lynda Ferguson
Peggy Finch
Stephanie Foretich-
McKey
Kaye Fry
Meg Gaston
Jane Goodman
Mary Gordon
Mae Graves
Janet Greene
Kelley Groce

Martha Halliburton
Jody Halstead
Stephanie Hand
Julia Trantham Heckert
Elinor Heermans
Jessica Henson
Lynda Hepler
Faye Herbin
Sharon Howell
Lory Beth Huffman
Kim Ingram
Tammy Ingram
Alycia Johnson
Mitzi Johnson
Charlene Kammerer
Linda Kelly
Denise Kilgo-Martin
Hea Sun Kim
Laurie Knoespel
In-Yong Lee

Katie R. Lineberger
Tracy Fulbright Love
Suzanne Michael
Linda Moore
Caren Bigelow Morgan
Joy Moss
Karen Mouw
Patricia Murphy
Virginia Myers
Angela Pleasants
Delores Queen
Sally Wooten Queen
Nancy Rankin
Lisa Rettew
Julie Roberts
Karen Roberts
Leigh Ann Shaw
Debra Short
Dot Simpson
Donna Smith

Toni Ruth Smith
Amelia Stinson-Wesley
Melissa Swofford
Carol Thompson
Jacqueline Tookey
Margaret Wannemacher
Shelly Webb
Susan Suarez Webster
Cindy Wechter
Marilyn Weiler
Lisa Beth White
Carol Williams-Gilbert
Aryn Williams-Ruebel



The Story Behind the Numbers: 2020 Giving News

What a year we just finished! Gatherings were cancelled or converted to online virtual events, meaning loss of opportunities to worship, learn, create community, and bond personally. But despite all that, you, Western NC Conference United Methodist Women members, remained faithful in mission. Our GIVING NEWS below serves as proof of that. Let me comment on each element:

Total Giving through the 8 districts from local units

\$604,339

(A drop of \$136,012 compared to 2019)

*During a year with few opportunities for Local units to meet or for District gatherings to provide giving opportunities, **you** overcame those barriers to fund Missions in the amount of \$604,339. AMAZING!*

Special Offerings

(Spiritual Growth Retreat, Mission u, Annual Celebration, and Conference Committee Meeting Love Offerings)

\$18,927

(A drop of \$3,361 from 2019)

Reflect on these numbers. Historically, Special Offerings were in-person offerings—picture “passing the plate”—which was not possible for most of 2020. But you remained undeterred. We offered you opportunities to give online and you took those opportunities, actively remaining in Mission.

Undesignated Mission Giving sent to UMW National Office

\$530,817

(A drop of \$45,664 from 2019)

*******\$5,817 over our 2020 Pledge of \$525,000*******

*We **exceeded** our PLEDGE? How was this possible? As District and Conference in-person gatherings transitioned to virtual, meeting expenses dropped dramatically. At the same time, the decline in giving was far less than the drop in expenses, meaning we WNCC United Methodist Women members were able to **meet and exceed our 2020 Pledge**. A happy outcome to a difficult year.*

Designated Giving

(includes Call to Prayer & Self Denial, General, National, International & UMCOR)

\$55,905

Donations to other local projects

\$3,335

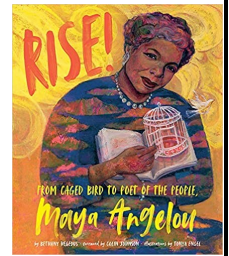
Now, we need to consider how to apply what we have learned. **Do we really need those District and Conference gatherings? The answer is a resounding YES!** “Taking a break” was necessary and will continue in 2021 as we slowly emerge from this pandemic. But now we must focus on our future as members of United Methodist Women. Our **Purpose** points the way with words like **community, creative supportive fellowship, expand through participation**. These are active growth words—words that are “hope and a future.” Let’s refocus on the actions that will make United Methodist Women thrive in the future.

Peace,
Nancy Reigel, WNCC UMW Treasurer
nancy@reigelridge.com/828-268-0637



On Kathy's Reading List...

We are into our 2021-2022 [United Methodist Women Reading Program](#). There are several youth and children's books, so we can enjoy more books with beautiful pictures. There are four plans in the Reading Program (5, 10, 15, or 20 books) and five categories (Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth). All plans include regular reading of **response** magazine. Books from 2017 through 2022 lists may be included in your 2021 count if they have not been counted before.



2021-2022 Bonus Books (**each book counts as two books** in the category indicated):

1. [Rise!: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou](#) by Bethany Hegedus (Leadership Development)
2. [Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools](#) by Monique W. Morris (Social Action)
3. [Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission](#) by Ellen Blue (Nurturing for Community)
4. [Finding Peace in an Anxious World](#) edited by Erin James-Brown (Spiritual Growth)

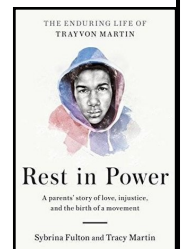
If you read these four books, they will count as eight books—you'll be on your way to completing Plan II.



New in 2021: You may listen to three [Faith Talks](#) podcasts and count the trio as two books in the Spiritual Growth category.

One book I have read and recommend is [Rest in Power: The Enduring Life of Trayvon Martin](#) by Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin. This has to do with racism, our perceptions of appearance, and actions we can take.

Blessings to everyone,
Kathy Chadwell, WNCC UMW Secretary of Program Resources
k.sc2008@hotmail.com/336-475-1261



Be Just, Be Green: [13 Steps to Sustainability](#)

At the 2014 Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, United Methodist Women launched an organized, step-by-step program designed to challenge each of us to **live wiser, seek social justice, and find joy in doing so**.



The **program** is called **13 Steps to Sustainability**. The **plan** is to change and influence infrastructures. The **hope** is to model Christian behavior as we thoughtfully select meeting places, being knowledgeable in our choice of vendors and cautious in the use of manufactured products, acutely aware of the resulting byproduct. And the **goal** is to engage as many women as possible to take up the mantle to share the challenge.

Visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability to find a wealth of information to share with your Local Unit, your District, or your Conference.

Here are some selected principles from the website we can all work on:

Principle 1: Accessibility: Choose a meeting location that complies with the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Principle 4: Healthy Food and Beverages: Serve fair trade coffee and tea.

Principle 7: Multigenerational Inclusion: Offer childcare to participants.

Principle 8: Paper Use: Ensure any printed items are double-sided and duplicated on paper made with post-consumer recycled content.

Principle 11: Waste Reduction: Choose a meeting location that provides recycling.

Principle 12: Water Use: Avoid or eliminate the use of individual bottled water. Encourage attendees to bring their own bottle for refilling and promote use of water fountains.

Carolyn Payne, WNCC UMW Mission Coordinator for Social Action
carolynp8g@yahoo.com/336-766-5568 h/336-972-5489 c

Mission Memo

Thank you so much for your Hands-on gifts of [UMCOR Hygiene Kits](#) and [School Kits](#), as well as children's clothing for [Project AGAPE](#), through your District collections in 2020! I will let you know the numbers in the next Conference Gram after District ME&I Coordinators have turned in their reports. You are truly putting Faith, Hope and Love into Action by continuing to make UMCOR Kits and collect items for Armenia as well as the projects you are supporting in your communities, even in these very difficult times!

Nara Melkonyan is the Director of Project AGAPE in Armenia. I would like to share some words from Nara received when I asked whether Project AGAPE needed Christmas Shoeboxes or something else this year.

"Perhaps you know about the recent tragic war against Armenia and Artsakh which took the lives of over 5,000 young people in 44 days and left more than 40,000 without shelter and basic first necessity items that people had been able to acquire in the last 26 years after the post-Soviet first war in Karabakh when they had lost everything they had.

So, please, know that these people whom Project AGAPE serves need blankets, bedding, all kinds of household and kitchen supplies, in other words - anything that your women think they would need if they were in the place of those displaced families suffered because of the war.

And, please accept our deepest gratitude for this big support to our people. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO and may God richly bless you, the WNCC UMW! Much love and blessings!"

Our Mission Response Center contacts are Brian Mateer, Associate Director of Missional Engagement (bmateer@wnccumc.org 704-714-2340), and Ben Rogers, Interim Disaster Response Coordinator (cor@wnccumc.net 910-366-7692). Please contact Ben or Brian if you need to bring donations. If you want to schedule a day of work for your church or group, they prefer that you sign up on the Conference website: www.wnccumc.org/mission-response-center. The MRC is open for work groups one Saturday and two Tuesdays of each month. Brian works mainly with the Project AGAPE shipments, and Ben is responsible for United Methodist Committee on Relief kits. **Cleaning buckets are not needed at this time.**

Our Hands-on gifts fulfill the part of our purpose that says: "and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." We also must strive to learn about and support our missions through our gifts of Pledges, Gifts to Mission, Gifts in Memory, Special Mission Recognition, and World Thank Offering. We can use **response** and our Prayer Calendars to learn about these missions. I challenge us all again in 2021 to envision sacrifice and commit to sacrifice something and live more simply.

Let's all Live Simply so that others can Simply Live!

Love, Peace and Joy,

LindaLu Greer, WNCC UMW Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation

jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net/704-585-6263

What's Your "Pick 3" Strategy?

No, I'm not talking about lottery tickets! Are you struggling to feel connected with fellow United Methodist Women members during the pandemic? Try this easy strategy called Pick 3 – choose 3 of your members to contact on a schedule that works for you (weekly, biweekly, monthly, quarterly) and rotate through your list. Be a good listener and encourage perseverance. As we have learned through this year, United Methodist Women members are capable of doing new things (Zoom) bravely and relying on former things (cards and phone calls) to live into our legacy.

Blessings for such a time as this,

Renee Hayes, WNCC UMW Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach

renee.hayes1956@gmail.com/336-707-2980



From the Historian's Quill

Even before we became United Methodist Women, our foremothers prioritized the education of women, children, and youth. Throughout our history there have been women and men who wanted to ensure a formal education could be obtained. Out of that love, caring, and concern came the [UMW Scholarship Fund](#). Below are the scholarships available.

FANNIE MIT CASE SCHOLARSHIP - established by Mrs. Fannie Mit Case of Murphy, NC, in 1962 for students preparing for service in an agency in which The United Methodist Church is involved.

CARRIE FORBIS FERGUSON SCHOLARSHIP – established in 1977-78 by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Ferguson of Randleman, NC, for students preparing for a church-related vocation.

RONDA ROBBINS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND - established in 1985 as a tribute to Ms. Ronda Robbins, president of WNCC United Methodist Women 1980-1984, for her many contributions to her church, community, and state, for students attending High Point University in preparation for full-time service in an agency in which The United Methodist Church is involved.

ETHELYNE SHELLEY SCHOLARSHIP - (formerly offered by the Wesleyan Service Guild) established in 1964 in honor of Mrs. Ethelyne Shelley of Greensboro, conference Guild secretary 1954-1958, for students attending Pfeiffer University in preparation for full-time service in The United Methodist Church.

WEAVER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - established in 1960 by Mrs. C. C. Weaver of Winston-Salem, NC, conference President of the W.S.C.S. 1940 to 1948, as a memorial to her husband. This is for students attending Pfeiffer University in preparation for full-time service in The United Methodist Church.

HERBIN-MOTLEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND - first established in 1981 by Mrs. Wilhelmina M. Herbin and Mr. Richard W. Herbin as the Greensboro District United Methodist Women Motley Scholarship Fund in memory of Mrs. L.E. Motley, mother of Mrs. Herbin. Name of the fund was changed in 1984 by action of the Greensboro District United Methodist Women executive committee to the Herbin-Motley Scholarship Fund to honor past Greensboro District president Mrs. Herbin and her husband. Preference is given to applicants studying business administration, education, music, social studies, etc.

ERNEST R. ELLIS AND LITHIE PHILLIPS ELLIS SCHOLARSHIP FUND - established in 2001 to honor the memory and the commitment to education of Ernest and Lithie Ellis.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND - established originally to assist women training as missionaries. Support comes from United Methodist Women through district treasurers as special gifts from local units and individual gifts as memorials or appreciation recognition.

In His Service,

Betty Durham, WNCC UMW Historian

betty.durham50@yahoo.com/336-542-8077

Meet our 2020/21 WNCC UMW Scholarship Recipients

Corrie Bruce, a senior English major at High Point University. She is a member of First UMC-Taylorsville (Appalachian District).

Rebecca Dyer, a senior Health and Exercise major at Pfeiffer University. She is a member of Forest Hill UMC in Concord (Metro District).

Marcinia Johnson, a junior Political Science major at Bennett College. She is a member of St Mark's UMC in Charlotte (Metro District).

Elizabeth Stribling, a sophomore History major at Pfeiffer University. She is a member of Hickory Grove UMC in Charlotte (Metro District).

Noah Hinton, a freshman Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education major at Brevard College. He is a member of Cullowhee UMC in Cullowhee (Smoky Mountain District).

Ethan Parker, a freshman Biology major at High Point University. He is a member of Bess Chapel UMC in Cherryville (Catawba Valley District).

Cathy McCauley, WNCC UMW Scholarship Committee Chair

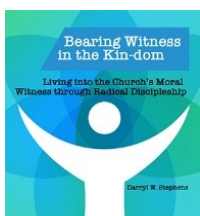
cathymc55@yahoo.com/704-965-6566

Western North Carolina United Methodist Women

2021 Conference Events



Spiritual Growth Retreat
“You Lift Me Up”
June 18 - 19
Virtual Event



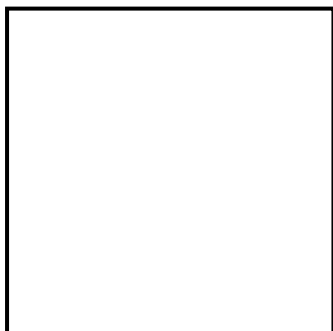
Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:
Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

Mission u
July 15 - 18
Virtual Event



Pushout:
The Criminalization of
Black Girls in School

Annual Celebration / September 11 - 12 / Virtual Event



Ubuntu Days of Service
“I am because you are”
Saturday, October 2 and 9
Across the Conference



**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Vice President Joanie Strohm	828-649-1156 ssismars@charter.net	Nominations (Chair) Sandy Letchworth	336-813-1168 sjletchworth@gmail.com
Secretary Dianne Beam	704-274-9183 diannebeam@roadrunner.com	Mission u (Dean) Lynn Alexander	336-456-6686 lynn.alexander@qorvo.com
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MC-Memb. Nur. & Out. Renee Hayes	336-707-2980 renee.hayes1956@gmail.com	Scholarship (Chair) Cathy McCauley	704-965-6566 cathymc855@yahoo.com
MC-Social Action Carolyn Payne	336-766-5568 carolynp8g@yahoo.com	Program Advisory Group Sherry Sink	336-880-2663 sherrysink@gmail.com
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