



# Conference Gram

September 2021

Volume 70, Issue 4

## Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women

[Virtual Annual Celebration](#) (Zoom)

2:00 PM, September 11 & 12, 2021

### *Light Up Our Spirits*

*with Faith & Hope so Love IS Action*

Our theme reminds us of how our spirits may get bogged down with negativity and hopelessness when we don't look to God to transform the bad into good. We respond to His light when we do not lose faith and hope but seek to love with action, not just words. "We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention

you in our prayers, **constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.**" 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 brings us the assurance that God will always be there to Light Up Our Spirits. We are at our best when we respond by serving others with love.

Our speaker will be Deaconess Cindy Johnson, who lives in Brownsville, Texas, and does amazing work with immigrants seeking justice across the Mexican border. Cindy will share stories through the people for whom she advocates. You can read about Cindy in the Mission u Spiritual Growth study book, "[Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship](#)" (pages 42-45).



We will conduct the business of Annual Celebration by voting on the Administrative and Membership Development Budget, Pledge to Mission, and the slate of officers during the September 11 session. Other highlights of the weekend include an address from our Conference President Julia Willis and a Memorial Service to honor our members who went to their heavenly home in 2020, led by Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator Darlene Gardner.

You will be able to download the Annual Celebration Program Book to follow the program, read the reports from our various coordinators, see the list of nominees, and find other important information. There is also information about voting and making nominations from the floor at our Conference website (logistics information is on page 2).

**Registration opens online on August 10, 2021.** There is no fee for registration, but you will have an opportunity to give to our Conference Love Offering. Watch for the WNCC United Methodist Women E-News to guide you through registration.

Whether we meet in person or virtually, members of United Methodist Women find a way to communicate and carry out our PURPOSE to make a difference for women, children, and youth all around the world. Invite all your unit to join you in "attending" our Annual Celebration!

Joanie Strohm, WNCC UMW Vice President

[ssjsmars@charter.net](mailto:ssjsmars@charter.net) / 828-649-1156

## Annual Celebration Logistics

Additional information is available at [wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2021/](http://wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2021/)

1. Register online to attend. Registration is **free but required** and opens August 10.
2. The nominations report, proposed budget and Pledge to Mission, and other information may be read and/or downloaded from the link given above.
3. Approval of the budget and Pledge to Mission and the election of officers will take place during the Business Session beginning at 2 PM, September 11. To see if you are a voting delegate, please refer to the guidelines on p. 5.
4. You may make a gift to the Love Offering online or by mail.

For online gifts: <https://wnc-reg.brapp.com/LoveOfferingUMW>

For mailed gifts: Nancy Reigel, 375 Troy Norris Rd, Boone, NC 28607-9013  
(Please make checks payable to: Treasurer, WNCC UMW)



## Virtual Annual Celebration Hands-On Project

Even though we are not meeting in person, I encourage you to participate in our hands-on projects. For Conference Annual Celebration, we are asking for three items for [Project AGAPE](#):

**New** blankets – any size

**New** children's winter clothing - sizes 2-14, especially boys' clothing

**New** children's shoes – all sizes: Toddler 3-10; Little Kids 10.5-13.5 & 1-3; Big Kids 3.5-7



Donors are asked to pack blankets and clothing in separate corrugated boxes and label the boxes on the outside. Shoes can be left in their original box if available; if not, pack new shoes in corrugated boxes. If you have several shoe boxes, put them together in a large, corrugated box.

Units are to report to your District Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator (ME&I) the estimated value (rounded to nearest dollar) of items sent. All checks for Project AGAPE should be made to UMW with "Project AGAPE" on the memo line and sent to your District Treasurer.

A list of drop-off locations may be found at this link:

[www.wnccumc.org/project-agape](http://www.wnccumc.org/project-agape)

Please contact me if you have questions.

Love, peace, and joy,

LindaLu Greer, WNCC UMW Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation

[jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net](mailto:jacklindagreer@bellsouth.net) / 828-244-2251 (call or text)



## Mid-Year Check-in...How Are We Doing?

Let's take stock of our current financial support of our United Methodist Women Missions. We will focus on Undesignated Mission Giving, since this is the giving that most directly impacts those projects selected for funding by our member-populated [Board of Directors and Program Advisory Group](#) (including our Conference PAG member Sherry Sink).

What makes up Undesignated <a href="#">Mission Giving</a> ?		
• Pledge to Mission	• Gift in Memory	• Walks for Mission.
• Special Mission Recognition	• World Thank Offering	• District/Unit Love offerings
• Gifts to Mission		

What does Undesignated Mission Giving fund?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District and Conference Gatherings, such as the upcoming Annual Celebrations</li> <li>• District newsletters and the Conference Gram</li> <li>• All other member-nurturing activities and materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Conference Pledge made to our National Organization—the funds that fuel <a href="#">United Methodist Women missions</a> around the world.</li> </ul>

Put another way, here is our financial equation:

Undesignated Giving	—	A&MD Amount	=	Funds available for Mission
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Let's look at the two parts on the left side of our equation:

- The amount received in Undesignated Giving at the halfway point in 2021 is running 13% behind where we were this time last year in giving from the eight districts. Giving is also down in our love offerings.
- Administrative and Membership Development costs continue to run under budget, and your District and Conference teams are working hard to keep them low and still provide you with quality opportunities for "Growth and Development." Call it "Nurturing."

What does this mean? It means that we are still on a path of supporting Missions, but we have challenges as we work to maintain that support at our historical levels. Can it be done? Yes, of course. We just need to find new ways of telling compelling stories of Mission that inspire our current and potential members to be "in Mission" through Mission Giving. Think about it. This starts with you, me, us. Do you know the status of your own unit's giving? That is a good start.

### Now, on a personal note:

For the past six years, I have had the honor and privilege of being your Conference Treasurer. Over this time, many of you have included notes of support and encouragement with your checks. Each one has been deeply meaningful and much appreciated. You have indeed created a creative and supportive fellowship. Thank you all for that and this opportunity to serve.

Peace,  
Nancy Reigel, WNCC UMW Treasurer  
[nancy@reigelridge.com](mailto:nancy@reigelridge.com) / 828-268-0637



## From the Historian's Quill

The decision to feature the [WNCC UMW Scholarship Program](#) as a Conference Gram series was strictly personal. I realized that I didn't know anything about the scholarships given, and I questioned if I was the only one. I also found out that the scholarship recipients I interviewed for this series often did not know which scholarships they had received or about those who endowed these scholarships. In every case I was told how nice the scholarship committee was, how the interviews were different from any other interview they had for a scholarship, how much they appreciated the United Methodist Women and the difference they made in their life. They also told me how it changed their opinion of the UMW in their own church.

I grew up at Centenary UMC, Greensboro with the Herbins and Motleys, and even as a child, I knew they were special people. They were friends of my family, and Wilhelmina Herbin seemed to always have a big old smile on her face. I always admired the way she took care of her mother. I remember going to her house when I was young and how she fixed my dolls. I had planned to go into some type of church ministry after high school in 1969, and Wilhelmina tried to get me to go to Greensboro College. But now, because of the WNCC UMW Scholarship Program, I truly realize what special people the Herbins and Motleys were. They are just a few of the United Methodist Women (and men) out there making a difference in the life of women, children, and youth around the world.

The Herbin-Motley Scholarship Fund was first established in 1981 by Mrs. Wilhelmina M. Herbin and Mr. Richard W. Herbin as the Greensboro District UMW Motley Scholarship Fund in memory of Mrs. L.E. Motley, mother of Mrs. Herbin. The name of the fund was changed in 1984 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. This scholarship is for students planning to attend Greensboro College or Bennett College. To learn more about the life of Wilhelmina M. Herbin go to: [www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/charlotte/name/wilhelmina-herbin-obituary](http://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/charlotte/name/wilhelmina-herbin-obituary).

Here's the story of just one student who received the Herbin-Motley Scholarship.

Marcinia Johnson is a rising senior at Bennett College and a member of St. Mark's UMC in Charlotte. She was selected as a [2021 OZY Genius Award Winner](#) for her "Anti-gentrification low-income homes for seniors" initiative. This prestigious award is given to ten students each year and includes \$10,000 and a mentor to help bring their initiative to life. Previous award winners include National Youth Poet Laureate Amanda Gorman. Marcinia also serves as a [Lina H. McCord intern for the Black College Fund](#) and received the prestigious [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#).



In her award profile, Marcinia stated, "When I was a child, my family struggled to make ends meet. We moved from place to place and often made a home with welcoming strangers willing to take us in. The instability made navigating high school difficult. Ultimately, it was my church family who helped me through my situation. Through their involvement, I learned of Bennett College and was able to enroll there."

It has been my honor to serve you as the historian of WNCC UMW for the last four years.

Betty Durham, WNCC UMW Historian

[betty.durham50@yahoo.com](mailto:betty.durham50@yahoo.com) / 336-542-8077



## Give to Celebrate!



WNCC United Methodist Women will celebrate through our Virtual Annual Celebration held on September 11 & 12. What better way to celebrate the 2020 accomplishments of all districts and local units than to give to the [Legacy Fund](#)! All that we accomplish through mission should be celebrated—but more importantly, we must lay the groundwork for the future of mission through United Methodist Women.

Did you know that **our conference consistently gives more to the Legacy Fund than any other conference**? Now that is something to celebrate!

Do you give to the Legacy Fund? Are you a [Legacy Builder](#)? Have you made plans to [remember United Methodist Women in your will](#)? There are so many ways that you can be part of the legacy of United Methodist Women. Don't wait, give now and then Celebrate!

Lynda Morris, Metro District President and Legacy Builder

To give online: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/give](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/give)

To give by mail:

United Methodist Women National Office

475 Riverside Dr 15th Floor

Attn: LEGACY

New York, NY 10115

### Are YOU a Voting Delegate for Conference Annual Celebration?



When you register online to participate in the [2021 Virtual Annual Celebration](#), you will be asked if you are a voting delegate. We want all eligible delegates to answer yes! Most confusion about eligibility arises with local unit members and district officers. Check with your local unit to see who is attending the online business session and be sure that someone has registered as a voting delegate. (See information below regarding how many delegates a unit may have.) If you are the president of your local unit, you may designate who your voting delegate(s) will be (just make sure they register that way).

According to our conference standing rules (page 24), you are a voting delegate IF you are:

- representing your local unit which has a membership of 50 members or fewer. If your unit has more than 50 members, there is one additional voting delegate for each additional 50 members. (Example: a unit of 150 members would have three voting delegates.) Typically, the president of the local unit would be the voting delegate if she plans to attend.
- a district officer or a **chairperson** of a district committee. **Members** of the nominating committee (or other district committees) are not voting delegates **unless** they happen to be representing their local unit.)

Complete information about the voting membership may be found here:

[wnccumw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Rules-of-Order-Annual-Celebration.pdf](http://wnccumw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Rules-of-Order-Annual-Celebration.pdf)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Jatana Royster, WNCC UMW Parliamentarian

[jatanaroyster@gmail.com](mailto:jatanaroyster@gmail.com) / 704-451-3816

## And the Nominees are..

The Conference Committee on Nominations is pleased to announce the following nominees to be presented for election during the Business Session at the Conference Annual Celebration on Saturday, September 11, at 2:00 PM (via Zoom).



### Nominees for a two-year term (2022-23)

- ◇ President: Joanie Strohm BR
- ◇ Vice President: Lynda Morris ME
- ◇ Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Darlene Gardner YV (2nd term)
- ◇ Membership Education & Interpretation Coordinator: Carolyn Payne YV
- ◇ Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator: Molly Welch NP
- ◇ Social Action Coordinator: Joyce Irby YV
- ◇ Secretary of Program Resources: Kathy Chadwell YV (2nd term)
- ◇ Chair Committee on Nominations: Ann Aldridge CV

### Nominees for Committee on Nominations (Class of 2024):

- ◇ Lorraine Burns AP
- ◇ Brenda Steadman NP
- ◇ Pat Moore ME

### Justice Today Committee:

- ◇ Linda Greer AP
- ◇ Molly Welch NP
- ◇ Brenda Steadman NP
- ◇ Carolyn Payne YV



The Committee on Nominations thanks all of these women for saying yes.

Sandy Letchworth, WNCC UMW Committee on Nominations Chair

[sjetchworth@gmail.com](mailto:sjetchworth@gmail.com) / 336-813-1168

## Nominations from the Floor

The United Methodist Women's bylaws allow for nominations from the floor. If you wish to make a nomination from the floor, please use the [form for nominations from the floor](#) for this year's extraordinary virtual meeting and election. If you want to nominate for more than one office you must complete a form for each. The form may be found by clicking the link above or going to the Annual Celebration page at [wnccumw.org](http://wnccumw.org).

All nominations from the floor must be received by **Sandy Letchworth**, 721 Dobson Street, Kernersville, NC 27284 or e-mailed to [sjetchworth@gmail.com](mailto:sjetchworth@gmail.com) using this form **by 11:59pm on Wednesday, September 1, 2021**.

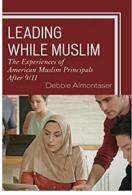
**If you have questions**, please contact Sandy Letchworth, Committee on Nominations chair, at 336-813-1168 or [sjetchworth@gmail.com](mailto:sjetchworth@gmail.com).

## On Kathy's Reading List...

Our [United Methodist Women Reading Program](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org) has added some new books for 2022. You can find the list at [unitedmethodistwomen.org](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org) (scroll to the Reading Program link). If you would like a copy of the list and don't have a computer, you can contact me at my address below. Here are some of them.

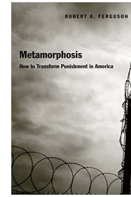
### Education for Mission

#### [Leading While Muslim](#)



This book examines the lived experiences of American Muslim principals who serve in public schools post-9/11.

#### [Metamorphosis](#)



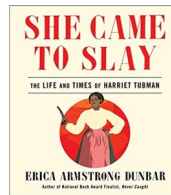
Bolstered by insights from hundreds of letters written by prisoners, Ferguson makes the case for an entirely new concept of prisons and their purpose.

### Nurturing for Community

#### [Before We Were Yours: A Novel](#)



Based on a real-life scandal in which Georgia Tann, director of an adoption agency, sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country.

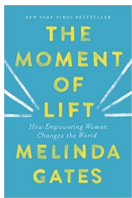


#### [She Came To Slay](#)

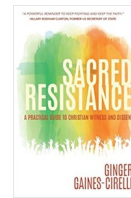
The author presents a fresh take on Harriet Tubman by blending biography, illustrations, photos, and engaging sidebars that illuminate the life of Tubman as never before.

### Leader Development

#### [The Moment of Lift](#)



Melinda Gates has been on a mission to find solutions for the most urgent needs. Her answer: If you want to lift a society up, you need to stop keeping women down.

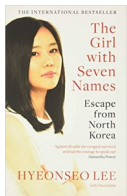


#### [Sacred Resistance](#)

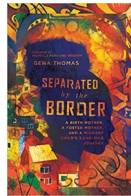
When Christians see that something is wrong in our nation or community, how and when should we respond?

### Social Action

#### [The Girl With Seven Names](#)



The story of one woman's struggle to escape from North Korea and guide her family to freedom.



#### [Separated By The Border](#)

The story of how five-year-old Julia came to the United States, what she experienced in the system, and what it took to reunite her with her family.

### Spiritual Growth

#### [Glimpses of Heaven](#)



Rivera shares devotions, prayers, and faith stories accompanied by her watercolors, which she miraculously created after she became legally blind.



#### [The Time Is Now](#)

A beloved nun and social activist offers a soul-stirring guide for all who feel disillusioned and dissatisfied with the power-hungry institutions and systems of this world.

There is a 2020 Reading Program book I have read recently called "[Raising World Changers in a Changing World](#)" by Kristen Welch. This book helps parents teach their children how to share time, talents, and money with those who have less. Her children share their perspectives as well.

Blessings,

Kathy Chadwell, WNCC UMW Secretary of Program Resources

[k.sc2008@hotmail.com](mailto:k.sc2008@hotmail.com) / 336-475-1261

**Western North Carolina Conference  
United Methodist Women**

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



United Methodist Women  
**Assembly 2022**  
May 20-22, 2022 ♦ Orlando, Florida

In 2022 we will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this we will TURN IT UP!

There will be at least two scholarship opportunities for Assembly 2022:

- The **Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women** will award three \$800 scholarships for Assembly 2022. Persons applying for scholarship assistance must be a member of a local or district unit of United Methodist Women within the Western North Carolina Conference, and must not have previously attended an Assembly. [Please download and complete this application form and provide all requested information](#), and send the completed form to: Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer, 375 Troy Norris Rd., Boone, NC 28607. **Scholarship applications must be received by October 1st in order to be considered.** Scholarship recipients will be notified in time to register at the early bird rate (by November 30th).
- The **Southeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women** will award one \$500 scholarship for Assembly 2022 to someone from our conference. The recipient of the SEJ scholarship will be chosen from among the persons submitting applications for our WNCC scholarships shown above.

The application form and other information may be found here:

<https://wnccumw.org/assembly2022/>