



United
Women
in Faith

Conference Gram

April 2022
Volume 71, Issue 2

Western North Carolina Conf

United Methodist Women/
United Women in Faith

Spiritual Growth Retreat

June 9 - 11, 2022

Lake Junaluska



*"Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money
and without cost."
Isaiah 55:1 (NIV)*

How are you? **No, really, how are you?** It has been a long three years. 2019 was the last time we gathered at Lake Junaluska as United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith). Since then we have gone through so very much – a pandemic that has seen friends and family members lost to Covid-19, a nation so divided over an election we are still feeling the aftershocks 18 months later, and now war in Ukraine where innocent civilians, including children, are dying daily.

Are you thirsty? Do you need to quench that thirst with other believers in prayer and praise on the mountaintop? The invitation Isaiah gives to us in Chapter 55:1 calls us to come, come to the waters. So on June 9, 2022 we will come to the Lake for renewal, refreshment, and re-emergence from our long separation as sisters in Christ.



Rev. Tammy Ingram

We will be blessed to receive the messages God directs our way from retreat leader Reverend Tammy Ingram of the Northern Piedmont District. She is a servant of the Lord and she is dedicated to representing Jesus Christ to the fullest, all day, and every day – readily serving God and the people of God.

Our music will be led by Amy Johnson and Donna Cooke of the Yadkin Valley District.



Amy Johnson



Donna Cooke

We realize that gas prices are on the rise, so carpooling would be a wonderful way to travel to the Lake and begin that long-sought communion with our sisters we have all been missing.

For everyone's safety, **we will follow CDC protocols**, including masking and social distancing. Please encourage others, both fellow unit members and friends, to join us as we **Come to the Water** to relieve all our thirsts. (Retreat details are on p. 2.)

Darlene Gardner, Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator
gardnerdarlenel@gmail.com / 336-766-1552

Spiritual Growth Retreat Logistics

Online Registration:

Now through May 9: **Early Bird registration of \$25.00.**

May 10 through June 7: Registration rises to \$40.00.

There will be no onsite registration.

Housing Reservations: Call the Lake Junaluska reservations department at 1-800-222-4930 and use group code **85759**.

Rates will increase after May 9, so make your reservation early and save! Rates are listed in the February 2022 Conference Gram and on our Conference website (wnccumw.org).

Childcare: Request in advance as part of the registration process. Childcare will follow all CDC guidelines and Safe Sanctuary practices.

Hands-on Mission: UMCOR Hygiene Kits. Details on p. 4.

Retreat Schedule:

- **Thursday, June 9**
 - 2:00pm – Retreat check-in opens, Harrell Center
 - 7:00 – 8:15pm – Opening session, Stuart Auditorium
- **Friday, June 10**
 - Breakout options – 9:00 to 10:15am, and 10:30 to 11:45am
 - 2:00 – 3:15pm – Second session, Stuart Auditorium
 - 7:00 – 8:15pm – Third session, Stuart Auditorium
 - Following session three, Movie Night, Stuart Auditorium
- **Saturday, June 11**
 - 10:00 – 11:30am – Closing worship, with Holy Communion, Stuart Auditorium



We need your input: Dedication of Annual Report Book



Each year, the Western North Carolina Conference United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith Annual Report Book is dedicated to a special woman who has served on the local, district, and conference levels of United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith. The honoree will have demonstrated leadership abilities and the ability to work well with her peers. She will be honored at our Conference Annual Celebration in September at Lake Junaluska.

Nomination forms must be completed and returned by June 1, 2022.

Request form by contacting Carolyn Payne at carolynp8g@yahoo.com or 336-766-5568.

United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith

On March 3, 2022 United Methodist Women had a new name - United Women in Faith. After five years of research, prayerful discernment, and hard work, the National staff and elected leaders made this change. **United Women in Faith addresses the different needs and life stages of women who have not been previously drawn to the membership of United Methodist Women.**

The new name is inclusive to current members whose local churches may choose to disaffiliate with the United Methodist Church, as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join because they are drawn to the mission of the organization. **We are inviting women to connect in new ways (and using new tools) to affirm the centrality of faith, action, and sisterhood.**

The [March / April edition](#) of [response](#) magazine has several articles to clarify how and why we became United Women in Faith. The article on pages 32-34 by Yvette Moore, director of public relations and marketing for United Women in Faith, explains not only the new name but also the new logo. Check it out!

United Women of Faith: What will not change

- ◆ We are the only official women's organization of The United Methodist Church.
- ◆ Our legal name remains United Methodist Women.
- ◆ Our vision remains "Turning faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth around the world."
- ◆ Our PURPOSE
- ◆ The core of who we are remains the same: We believe love in action can change the world.
- ◆ There will be no age group left out.
- ◆ We will gather for Christian fellowship, prayer, support, and study.
- ◆ We remain committed to training women for leadership, growing spiritually, transforming through education, and providing opportunities for service and advocacy.
- ◆ We will continue to live out our faith in lives of action for justice.

Joanie Strohm, Conference President
ssjsmars@charter.net / 828-649-1156

Greetings United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith,

I am your new Conference Parliamentarian. You can find our [Conference Standing Rules](#) on our website, available for download. Please be sure you use only this most current copy of the Standing Rules, dated September 11, 2021.

Each year we review the Standing Rules of two Districts. This year I will be reviewing the Blue Ridge and Catawba Valley Districts. We will be working together on these updates.

Blessings, your sister in faith,

Martha Phillips, Conference Parliamentarian
mcwphillips@gmail.com / 828-765-7009



Love in Action: Hands-on Mission

Our 2022 Hands-on Mission Project will be **UMCOR Hygiene Kits**. These kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to flee their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Each kit is valued at \$12.00; guidelines for making, assembling and packaging may be found at on the Spiritual Growth Retreat section of our Conference website:

wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2022/

There had been some question about the availability of the Mission Response Center's truck at Conference events to accept and transport items to the MRC. After speaking with Brian Mateer, UMCOR's Associate Director of Missional Engagement, I was assured measures would be taken to ensure **donations will be picked up at our Spiritual Growth Retreat and Annual Celebration as always**. Donations can also be dropped off by appointment throughout the year at the **Mission Response Center**, 8973 Greenwood Rd, Terrell, NC.

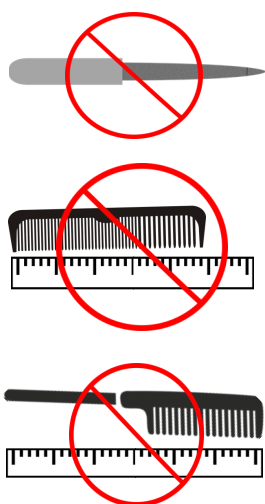
With the current heartbreaking events happening in our world, it is evident the need for our prayers and commitment is urgent. Please support this effort in an amplified way.

Carolyn Payne, Conference Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator

carolynp8g@yahoo.com / 336-766-5568

UMCOR Hygiene Kits 101: Get those much - needed kits into hands faster!

- Use a current list! Some items have changed. Please - no emery boards or nail files!
- Remove packaging on combs and nail clippers.
- Do not remove packaging on soap and toothbrushes.
- Buy sturdy combs with at least 6" of "teeth" - measure to be sure. It really matters!
- Read the fiber content tag on washcloths and hand towels - do not buy microfiber items.
- Pay attention to soap brand - no Ivory or Jergen's - they ruin the whole kit due to moisture.
- Make a donation to cover shipping costs (\$2 per kit; please do not put inside kit).



6 inches of "teeth"



6 inches of "teeth"



Welcoming the New, Keeping the Best of the Old



On March 3, 2022 we members of United Methodist Women found ourselves in some new wrappings. We were introduced to a new name—United Women in Faith—as well as a new logo.

Does that mean we are no longer affiliated with The United Methodist Church? Absolutely not! In fact, our **official** name continues to be United Methodist Women. The explanation is “United Methodist Women is now *doing business as* United Women in Faith.” Our name has not legally changed. We continue to hold our bank accounts under the name United Methodist Women, and we continue to write and accept checks payable to United Methodist Women.

Per the National Treasurer: “Checks to Local, District, and Conference Treasurers should continue to be payable to United Methodist Women so that your checks can be deposited at your banking institutions.”

We also read there are “new ways for giving, new giving options.” What does that mean in regards to our Mission Giving? Our traditional Five Channels? Be assured, your traditional ways of giving remain absolutely the same and continue to be vital and critical channels of support for our Missions. **Our options for giving have expanded**, not reduced or closed. Put another way, the new and the old will go forward hand in hand, supporting Mission as we have done all along. We are keeping what is good and adding more.

For Local, District, and Conference Treasurers, that means we continue to follow the quarterly Remittance process with no changes required. The current forms and giving options continue to function. We continue to urge members and units to give to all five channels of Undesignated giving. We continue to urge our members and units to support our National Mission Institutions and International mission projects as Designated Mission Giving through quarterly remittances.

For those who chose to give through the new National Office giving portals, those gifts will be used as you direct based on the options selected. As of right now, just what programs or projects each option supports has not been communicated but certainly the name gives some indication of intent.

Most importantly, our (United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith) heart for Mission has not changed. We continue to “put Faith, Hope and Love into action for Women, Children and Youth around the world”.

Certainly, this is only the beginning of our journey into exploring what this means to us personally, as local members, districts and conferences. Let’s venture forward with Faith, Hope and Love as our true North Star.

I end with a quote I have turned to frequently over the years: “The sun never sets on United Methodist Women’s giving. The sun is always shining on some place where we give dollars.”

Yep, under any name, **that** is who we are.

Peace,

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer

nancy@reigelridge.com / 828-268-0637



Together, we are building our legacy.

Thank you, Western North Carolina, for your strong support of **The Legacy Endowment Fund!** YOU gave **\$66,529.96** in 2021, and through December 31, 2021, YOU have given a total of **\$428,978.05** since the fund began! Thank you, **YOU are building our Legacy!**

As a permanently invested endowment, the **Legacy Fund** will be an ongoing source of income, providing the assurance that our important work can always continue. Giving to the Legacy Fund will support **United Methodist Women / United Women in Faith** in perpetuity. That's why gifts to the endowment fund are such a vital way to sustain and grow our capacity to serve and advocate. **Every single gift to The Legacy Endowment Fund, of any size, will make a difference!**



Ways to Give to the Legacy Fund:

- Make a gift to the Legacy Fund **through your local unit United Methodist Women treasurer.**
- **Online** on the national office website at www.uwfaith/give/legacy-fund/
- **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm 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
- **Be a Legacy Builder** by making a gift of at least \$18.69 per month
- **Other methods** include gifts of stock, life insurance, bequests, and other forms of planned giving. If you are interested in making such a gift, contact the national office at 800-278-7771.

Learn more on our website at www.wnccumw.org/legacyfund/

From Sarai to Sarah: what's in a name change?

Sarai became Sarah. Jacob became Israel. Hadassah became Esther. Saul became Paul. In each of these instances, **someone received a new name to better reflect who they were** or what they were about. We, too, are living our way into a new name—from United Methodist Women to United Women in Faith.

Women who belong to United Methodist congregations aren't the only women who want to be love in action for women, children, and youth. **Our new name reflects the inclusiveness we've always had.** As our new National website (uwfaith.org) says, "We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities."



**United
Women
in Faith**

Blessings to my United Women in Faith/United Methodist Women sisters!

This year has started off like a whirlwind to me. We not only have a new name but also a new format for our former Prayer Calendar, now called [Daily Prayer Guide](#). I especially like the added scripture for each day of the week. I use these in my group Bible study each week. Along with this we now have the new Program Resource book. This book has different ways you can use to it to present your programs. A new National website (uwfaith.org) is also under construction, so check it often to see what's new.

The [March / April issue](#) of [response](#) magazine (pages 16-31) shows us where our mission money goes. This is one of our most important actions that we United Women in Faith can take—putting our love in action by supporting mission.



I recently ordered the book "My Savior Is The Masses" by Joy Prim, one of our very own WNCC Deaconesses. The book is a collection of Joy's blogs written while she served in Hong Kong working with migrant domestic helpers and in Long Beach, California serving in a similar placement.

You may order a copy of Joy's book by searching for the title at www.lulu.com (or by clicking [here](#)). Please allow two weeks to receive your copy.

Kathy Chadwell, Conference Secretary of Program Resources
k.sc2008@hotmail.com / 336-475-1261

Spring—a great time for transformation!

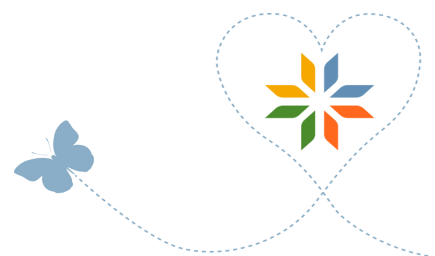
What began with eight women in 1869 as the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society grew to over 800,000 members. During that time of growth we also grew up; we changed, matured, and evolved to where we are today – United Women in Faith.

Twenty-five name changes, continuous program updates, new technology, and innovative mission opportunities—we have met every challenge head-on. When I first saw the new logo, I immediately thought of a colorful butterfly. If you think of us as the emerging butterfly, we are simply going through metamorphosis—we are transforming. As we emerge from our cocoons of the past, we spread our vibrant new wings and take flight over fresh and expanded territory—we seek the fresh young growth of the promise of tomorrow. And just as with the Monarch butterfly, our mission often involves migrating many miles to reach and offer hope to the women, children, and youth of the world.

So, as we spread our rich multihued wings to soar into the next millennium, we will stay the course, seek the promise, and live the faith, to offer hope and put our love into action!

Flutter on, my sisters!

LaDonna Butts, Conference Historian
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**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women /
United Women in Faith**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



In 2018, we invited Mission u participants to share their personal Mission u stories. Patricia Shoffner shared her story in the April 2019 issue of the Conference Gram, and we heard from Kelli Smith in the April

2020 issue. To celebrate our return to an in-person Mission u, we're sharing Karlah Burton's story. Karlah was one of the adventurous adult participants in the youth program in 2018 when we had only one (chronological) youth able to attend.

"We had such a fun time dining, touring the Levine Museum of the South in Charlotte, Urban Ministry, helping pack backpacks for a Feeding Ministry, visiting the farmers market, working in the garden at Pfeiffer College, and finally as volunteer servers for communion on Sunday!

I always tell this story, but my first experience(s) at Mission u were as a teenager tagging along with my mother (Margaret Burton) way back in the dark ages when there wasn't a formal Youth Mission u. The ice cream machine was a big hit back then, as well as exploring campus while Mom attended class.

Probably most of all the thought of being able to attend 'Morning Praise' will keep me looking forward to next year and the next year and the next year...I absolutely love it!

Anyway...Wishing you Love ('92) and Peace in Jesus' Name!"

Karlah Y. Burton

Remember to order your Mission u study book ahead of time. Save on shipping costs by ordering your book when you register for Spiritual Growth Retreat. Then pick up your book at retreat check-in and be ready to learn **Who We Can Be Together!**

Mission u 2022 is **July 14-16** at Pfeiffer University.

