



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

Conference Gram

September 2022

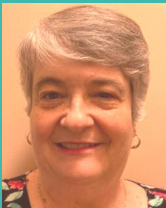
Volume 71, Issue 4



WNCC United Women in Faith Annual Celebration
September 9–11, 2022
Lake Junaluska



Tamara



Tracey

Keynote Speaker: Tamara Clark, Treasurer and CFO of United Women in Faith.

Mission Speaker: Tracey Stout Owens, Deaconess and Director of Activities at Brooks-Howell Home in Asheville.

Musicians: Amy Johnson & Donna Cooke



Amy



Donna

We need you to help us “Turn It Up!”

Keynote speaker Tamara Clark will share thoughts on “Rest for My Soul” and “Faith and Deeds.”

Mission speaker Tracey Owens will speak on “Mission Legacies.” Missionaries and Tracey’s fellow Deaconesses will be honored at the Saturday morning session.

Whether it’s New Wineskins or Jazzercising 4 Jesus, there’s a workshop for you.

Come help us “Turn it Up!” at Lake Junaluska as we celebrate 153 years in mission!

Lynda Morris, Conference Vice President

lfmorrisap@aol.com / 704-847-2521 (h) / 704-619-2013 (c)

Additional details may be found on pages 2, 3, and 5 and online at
wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2022/

Annual Celebration Logistics

Register online at wnccumw.org/events/annual-celebration-2022/

Now through August 15: Early registration of \$25.00.

August 16 through September 7: Registration increases to \$40.00.

There will be no onsite registration. All attendees must agree to follow [COVID-19 safety measures](#) and must be fully vaccinated and up-to-date on COVID boosters per [CDC guidelines](#).

Housing Reservations: Call the Lake Junaluska reservations department at 1-800-222-4930 and use the group code 86319. Rates and other information may be found on our Conference website (wnccumw.org).

Hotel check-in begins at 4:00 pm Friday. Hotel check-out is at 11:00 am Sunday.

Hands-on Missions: Gift to Mission Cards, Gift in Memory Cards, UMCOR [“Period Packs”](#) (new kit, details on page 3) and UMCOR [Hygiene Kits](#).

Workshop Opportunities:

- ♦ **Amy Johnson:** United Women in Faith Choir. The choir will participate in Sunday morning’s session.
- ♦ **Molly Welch** will facilitate an encore session of New Wineskins touching on how our organization is changing and how we are reaching out to membership.
- ♦ **LaDonna Butts** will lead a session of Jazzercizing 4 Jesus.
- ♦ **Tamara Clark** will host a session on “Flexibility in the Midst of Change”

Other Highlights:

- ♦ Hosting Missionaries for Lunch
- ♦ The Celebration Continues...Saturday Night Entertainment
- The Susanna Wesley Garden, International Prayer Room and Junaluska Cross
- ♦ Walking by the lake and enjoying the roses.

Event locations: Most activities will take place in Harrell Center. The Memorial Chapel will be open for prayer and meditation throughout the weekend.



Are You a Voting Delegate for Conference Annual Celebration?

When you register online, 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 or district officers.

Local unit members: The president of the local unit is usually the voting delegate if she attends. The president may designate one or more delegates, depending on unit membership (just make sure they register as delegates). Every unit with 50 members or fewer has one delegate. 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.)

District officers: Members of the executive committee (including chairpersons of district committees) are voting delegates. Members of district committees (nominations, finance, etc.) are not voting delegates unless they are the chairperson of the committee or are representing their local unit.

Complete information about the voting membership may be found on page 25 of our [Conference Standing Rules](#) – September 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact me.
Martha W. Phillips, Conference Parliamentarian
mcwphillips@gmail.com / 828-467-3167



UMCOR Introduces “Period Packs”

Are tampons the first thing you would grab if you had minutes to flee your home? Probably not! People displaced by fire, flood, and other natural disasters often have only minutes to grab some belongings. We can provide health and dignity products to temporarily displaced people by assembling menstrual hygiene kits.

UMCOR [Menstrual Hygiene Kit](#) items (kit value \$14, \$2 per kit shipping)

- One one-gallon size resealable bag
- Two 2-oz. bottles of hand sanitizer
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- One travel pack of hand wipes such as “Wet Ones.”
- 10 Tampons (5 regular and 5 super absorbency), unscented
- 10 Sanitary Napkins (long super ultra-thin), unscented
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) No Ivory or Jergens soap.
Do not remove soap from packaging.
- One 42-count pack of flushable wipes, unscented
- One “travel sink” laundry detergent packet (.25-.45 oz.)

To assemble: Place one pack of the flushable wipes and wet wipes in the one-gallon resealable bag. Place four bathroom trash bags and 10 sanitary napkins in the bag. Add smaller items in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

(A donation of \$2 per kit for shipping is suggested. **Please do not put check inside kit.**)

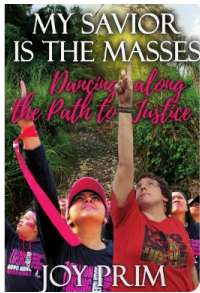
Our Sister Phoebe, First Deaconess

"Phoebe was the first Deaconess mentioned in the Bible." This was one of the notes I had written

when Deaconess Tracey Owens addressed our Metro District Prayer Breakfast in 2015. Paul's accolade demonstrated the high esteem he placed upon Phoebe's position. Paul described Phoebe's status (sister), her position (servant), her service record (great help), and the importance of her work. Although they were not identified as Deaconesses, consider the women mentioned in Luke 8:2-3. There were many women who served the needs of Christ and his people.

16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cen'chrē-ae, ² that you may receive her in the Lord as befits the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a helper of many and of myself as well.

Romans 16:1-2 (RSV)



Our United Women in Faith Deaconesses are one of our best-kept secrets. They don't stand out; they blend in with the masses. Joy Prim, a newly consecrated Deaconess, titled her book, [MY SAVIOR IS THE MASSES](#). One line from the book stood out to me: "Sometimes it is just the actually being present that can go a long way." Joy is a former member of our Conference. She is stationed in Hong Kong and serves Filipino migrants. Joy's book is on our [Reading Program](#) list.

[Deaconesses and Home Missioners](#) are laypeople called by God into a lifelong relationship with The United Methodist Church. They serve in full-time ministries of love, justice, and service. Candidates complete a course of study to ensure a biblical, sociological, and theological grounding in their ministries. Deaconesses and Home Missioners form a covenant community in service as a lay order.



Deaconess Megan Hale, Executive for Candidacy Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner, said it best, "Deaconesses and home missionaries today, as throughout their history, serve in a wide array of areas. They go to places where the church has not been, was not aware it should be, or was afraid or unwilling to be. Wherever they serve and regardless of the task, deaconesses and home missionaries find and represent the presence of God in the midst of those with whom they serve."

Western North Carolina Conference United Women in Faith are blessed to have many Deaconesses and Home Missioners in our midst. At Assembly 2022, we added to the number. We thank Renee Hayes, Eloise Moore, and Nancy Litton for answering God's call to serve!

LaDonna Butts, Conference Historian

ladonna.butts@windstream.net / 704-652-1994



Eloise, Renee, and Nancy

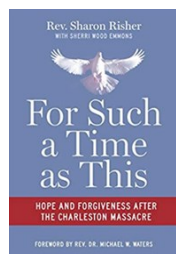
Dearest Sisters in Faith,

This year has been better to us. We were able to go to our beloved “Lake Home” this year for our Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska. I could feel God's presence there with us.

There is an article on page 12 of the July/August 2022 **response** magazine about the Reading Program book club hosted by the Lincolnton UWF unit. The “Fifth Wednesday Readers” book club members display books at their church and post their reading progress on a bulletin board.



(July/Aug 2022 response)



I have been reading "[For Such A Time As This: Hope and Forgiveness after the Charleston Massacre.](#)" by Rev. Sharon Risher. With all of the shootings and killings occurring everywhere in the United States and foreign countries, there is so much hatred and unforgiveness. It is hard to lose loved ones and be understanding, let alone to be forgiving. Only with God's help is this possible.

Our [Reading Program catalog](#) says, “Plunged into the depths of mourning, anger and shock, the Reverend Sharon Risher could have wallowed in the pain of losing her mother and two cousins at the hands of a white supremacist during the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church massacre. Instead, she chose the path of forgiveness and hope—eventually forgiving the convicted killer for his crime.”

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

2023 Slate of Officers

The Conference Committee on Nominations is pleased to announce the following nominees to be presented for election during the Business Session on September 10 at our Conference Annual Celebration .

Nominees for a two-year term (2023-24):

- ♦ Secretary: Albertina McGirt NP
- ♦ Communications Coordinator: Amy McCraw BR

Nominees for Committee on Nominations (Class of 2026):

- ♦ Donna Ireland YV
- ♦ Deborah Ray SM

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

Ann Aldridge, Conference Committee on Nominations Chairperson
ahaldridge1@gmail.com / 828-433-0988



Reflect—Assess—Center on Our Mission and Vision: Stride Forward

We have marked the completion of the first half of 2022 and are well into the second half. Many of us will gather at Lake Junaluska in September for our Conference Annual Celebration. We will celebrate our 2021 accomplishments and reaffirm our commitments for 2022.



What should we celebrate about 2021? First, we should celebrate (with great gusto): **we met our 2021 Conference Pledge to Mission of \$500,000!** Our conference also led the nation in Mission Giving.

We celebrate these accomplishments. We also bow our heads in thanks for the circumstances that allowed us to do that. While we suffered setbacks from floods and the pandemic, things could have been worse.

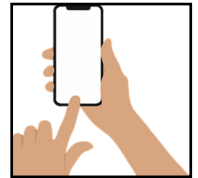
How are we doing thus far in 2022? Our **Mission Giving from local units seems to have rebounded** from its sharp drop in the past couple of years. We celebrate the robust donations made to our Spiritual Growth Retreat Love Offering. Many online gifts supplemented the in-person donations made at the retreat.

We celebrate how we have diversified the ways in which our members can give. Many of you have taken advantage of our **online giving portal** at

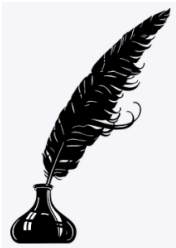
wnccumw.org/online-mission-giving

Love Offering donations (Spiritual Growth, Mission u, and Annual Celebration) may be made through mid-December at:

wnccumw.org/conference-love-offering-2022/



So, how are we doing? Comparing past and current giving is nonproductive and diverts attention from the essentials. We need to look at **who we are and where**



we are going—together. That is what those torchbearers 153 years ago did: they had a vision focused on the needs of women in India. **They shared their compelling story without phones or the internet!** By doing so, they raised the money to put faith into action. When we have a compelling vision and credibility with donors, the funds will follow...with joy.

With that in mind, our 2022 Annual Celebration Love Offering Theme has been: “A Gift to Mission in recognition of United Women in Faith’s Advocacy for Justice and Reconciliation for Women, Children, and Youth.” We are rallying others in support of our vision. **A key measure is how effectively we tell our story of the mission of United Women in Faith.** This Love Offering is an opportunity for us all to advance our vision—**not looking back but pushing (even sailing) forward.**

I hope to see you all at Lake Junaluska in September.

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer

nancy@reigelridge.com / 828-268-0637



...and to expand concepts of mission through participation...

WNCC UWF Scholarship Recipients

Four students from our conference will receive scholarships for the 2022-23 academic year. The funds come from various scholarships, including our General Scholarship fund, which is supported by donations from individual members and units. Each issue of the 2021 Conference Gram highlighted a scholarship in our [scholarship program](#). You can find those issues on our conference website ([wnccumw.org](#)). Descriptions of the scholarships are also listed on page 8 of our conference [Standing Rules](#).

Please contact me if you know a student who will be attending one of the five United Methodist-supported colleges or universities in our conference (Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, High Point University, and Pfeiffer University). All applicants must be members of The United Methodist Church and reside within the bounds of the Western North Carolina Conference.

2022-2023 Scholarship Recipients

Karen Nicole Bates, High Point University: a senior Strategic Communications major with a minor in Social Media Marketing. She is a member of Mount Tabor UMC in Salisbury (Uwharrie District).



Elizabeth Stribling, Pfeiffer University: a senior History major with a minor in Criminal Justice. She is a member of Hickory Grove UMC in Charlotte (Metro District).



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



Joseph Smith, Pfeiffer University: a freshman History major. He attends Central UMC in Denton (Uwharrie District).



Jatana Royster, Conference Scholarship Chairperson
jatanaroyster@gmail.com / 704-451-3816

Mary McLeod Bethune statue placed in National Statuary Hall



United Women in Faith celebrates the honoring of one of our great foremothers **Mary McLeod Bethune** with a newly unveiled statue in the Capitol, the first African American in the National Statuary Hall collection. A lifelong member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service [one of our predecessor organizations], Bethune was an educator, civil rights activist, advisor to the U.S president, and founder of what is now Bethune-Cookman University, a United Methodist-related institution of higher education in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Learn more about Bethune and the statue at [aoc.gov](#)

(News release posted July 17, 2022 at [uwfaith.org](#))

**Western North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women /
United Women in Faith**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

150 Legacy Builder

With the Legacy Builder, you can help move our mission steadily forward by making a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more.

Why \$18.69? To honor our foremothers who, in 1869, first put out the call to action to raise money to improve the lives of women and children.



What could \$18.69 impact? By endowing core expenses, we are equipped to make a difference in areas such as:

- Providing healthy snacks to an afterschool program for children living in poverty in rural Kentucky.
- Supplying books for an international scholarship recipient in the Philippines.
- Purchasing baby chicks to create entrepreneurship opportunities for women and youth in Mozambique.

Ways to give:

- Through your local unit treasurer
- Online at uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am–6 pm EST, M–F)
- Text Legacy150 to 41444.

(Information from uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/)



UNITED WOMEN In FAITH

Western North Carolina Conference

Annual Celebration Registration:

(Begins June 21, 2022)

- All registration is online. There will be no on-site registration.
- All attendees must be fully vaccinated and up to date on COVID boosters. Go to www.wnccumw.org for more details
- Get a DISCOUNT! Register early! Online registration, June 21 through August 15 is only \$25.00 per person! August 16 through September 7, registration is \$40 per person. Use the online registration link on our website at www.wnccumw.org.
- Registration fees are non-fundable and, because of our COVID 19 safety measures, registration fees are also non-transferable
- Register yourself AND others! Our online registration is for one person at a time, but one person can do multiple individual registrations using the same email address. Thanks for helping other members of your local unit to register online — especially those who may not use a computer!
- Contact us if you have a question about registration.

What: 49th Annual Celebration

Celebrating 153 Years in Mission

When: September 9-11, 2022

Registration begins 2pm; Program 6:45pm

Where: Lake Junaluska, Harrell Center

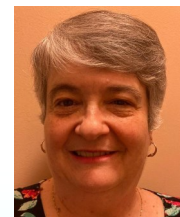
Keynote Weekend Speaker:

Tamara Clark, Treasurer and CFO, United Women in Faith



Mission Speaker: Tracey

Owens Deaconess serving at Brooks-Howell



Musicians: Amy Johnson and Donna Cooke

Hands-On Mission: Gift in Memory/Gift to Mission Cards and UMCOR Hygiene Kits

Turn It Up! Saturday Afternoon :

UW Faith Choir led by Richard Ramsey

New Wineskins led by Molly Welch
Jazzercizing 4 Jesus led by LaDonna Butts

Turn It Up! Highlights:

- Hosting Missionaries for Lunch
- The Celebration Continues...- Saturday Night Entertainment
- UWF Choir on Sunday
- Inspiration Point, Rose Walk, Susanna Wesley Garden, Biblical Garden, Corneille Bryan Native Garden, 2.3-mile Lakeside Walking Trail

Hostess District: Blue Ridge

Complete information about Annual Celebration is available on our website:

www.wnccumw.org

Mark your calendar!

Contact Persons:

Annual Celebration Program

Lynda Morris, Vice President
lfmorrisap@aol.com
704-619-2013

Questions about Online Payments

Nancy Reigel, Conference Treasurer
nancy@reigelridge.com
828-268-0637

Questions & Assistance Online Registration

Lynne Gilbert, Webmaster
lgilbert.umw@gmail.com
336-207-3479



Lake Junaluska
Conference & Retreat
Center, P. O. Box 67
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

Reservations Phone #:

1-800-222-4930 (Toll Free)

Lake Junaluska Reservations:

**Housing Reservations
Open June 21, 2022**

To book Lake Junaluska
lodging for
Annual Celebration

Group Code : 86319

- **Call the Lake Junaluska reservations department at 1-800-222-4930.**
- Then select 1 for the Reservations Department, and the next available agent will be glad to assist you. The Lake Junaluska reservations team is on duty from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH - HOPE - LOVE IN ACTION



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith
Western North Carolina Conference

Visit our Website:
www.wnccumw.org

Visit us on

facebook

www.facebook.com/wnccumw

2022 Annual Celebration

September 9-11, 2022 - Lake Junaluska, North Carolina

Lake Junaluska Accommodations & Rates

The Terrace or Lambuth Inn*

(Private baths, heat, air conditioning, TV, phone, mini fridge, coffee maker, elevator, free WI-FI) Room tax is 11%

Rates are per room, per day, room & meals, before applicable taxes

	The Terrace Room per night	Lambuth Inn Room per night	Weekend 5-Meal Package*
Single	\$125.00	\$120.00	+\$75.00
Double	\$125.00	\$120.00	+\$75.00
Triple	\$145.00	\$135.00	+\$75.00
Quad	\$165.00	\$150.00	+\$75.00

*Lake Junaluska operates The Terrace and Lambuth Inn on an American Plan, and meals are required with the room.

NOTE: NO SUNDAY Lunch will be provided in this package!

Apartments (meals optional)

(Private baths, heat, air conditioning, TV, phone, free WI-FI, Plus 1 roll-away bed)

Rates are per room, per day, no meals, before 11% applicable taxes.

Single	\$95.00
Double	\$95.00
Triple	\$105.00
Quad	\$115.00

**NOTE: PHOTO ID and CREDIT CARD required for EACH PERSON at Check-In
Payment by Credit Card or Cash....NO CHECKS!**

Lake Junaluska Lodging Information:

Event lodging reservation deposit is equal to the first night's lodging and is due at the time of reservation. Any rooms not reserved with a Lodging Reservations Deposit will be released into general availability 30 days prior to an event. Individual lodging reservations deposit refund policy: 15 days or more before an event receive a full refund minus \$15 processing fee; 14 days or less before an event will not receive a refund.

EXPRESS CHECK-IN: To expedite check-in time, pay room in full at time of reservation or when contacted via email in advance of meeting and make any roommate changes.

CHECK IN TIME for all facilities is 4:00pm; check out is 11:00am.
Photo ID and CREDIT CARD for each person for incidentals required at Check-In. For those who do not have a credit card, the Lake suggests purchasing prepaid credit card prior to arrival.

Meal Information:

NOTE: NO Sunday Lunch in this package!

The room rate that shows on your confirmation letter is the room rate only, meals are an additional cost. Meals are optional for Apartments. Guests staying in Apartments may purchase package at \$75.00 per person for 5 consecutive meals. Children 4 through 11 years of age receive meals at half price, 3 years of age and under eat free. **A 5-meal package of \$75.00 per person will automatically be added for each person staying in The Terrace or Lambuth Inn (dinner on Friday, breakfast, lunch & dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday).**

(7% NC tax and 8% gratuity will be added to all meal charges)