



Metro Media

The voice for the United Women in Faith of the Metro District,
Western North Carolina Conference

President's Message

Dear UWF Sisters,

The months of April, May, and June were a bit challenging for the Back household. First, the computer my husband and I use had to be replaced. Next, the TV died. We promptly bought a new one, and it quit working. It wasn't long after the second replacement was installed that the dryer went out signaling another trip to the appliance store. Only a few days later, the microwave quit working. Once a new microwave had been purchased and installed, we thought we were "home safe." We were wrong! In just a short time, the garage door opener decided to quit working. Several of our conversations lately have centered on the question of which appliance is going to go out next?

I'm telling you about our appliance woes to remind you that there are far more serious things in the world in which to invest our mental and physical energy. My family was only inconvenienced briefly by the loss of an appliance or two. If we think about the floods, tornadoes, and wildfires that threaten the very existence of families and their homes, we realize how fortunate we are, and living without a TV or microwave for a few days is really nothing in comparison to what some people live through almost on a daily basis.

My UWF unit at St. Stephen UMW is collecting UMCOR hygiene kits for disaster relief. When a person has lost everything, just the feel of a clean washcloth on the face can be a calming influence. Being able to brush one's teeth with a new toothbrush is a welcome experience.

I continue to be impressed by the United Women in Faith and their readiness to respond to the needs of others. I shouldn't be surprised because that what United Women in Faith do—love others and care for them.

Diann

Diann P. Back
Metro District President
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704-846-8875

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United
Women
in Faith

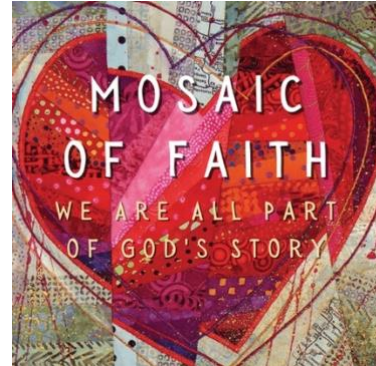
Metro District 2023 Annual Celebration

Saturday, August 26, 8:30 – 11:30 am

Matthews United Methodist Church

801 S Trade St, Matthews, NC 28105

Featured Speaker: Reverend Corey Milliet, Director of Age-Level Ministries, Matthews United Methodist Church



Participate in-person and online, with full breakfast optional

As we continue to explore our identity as children of God and as Women in Faith, you are invited to attend the Metro District 2023 Annual Celebration on August 26 at the Matthews United Methodist Church. Join us for a morning of fellowship, collective worship, inspirational music, and an uplifting message. The Annual Celebration is offering in-person or virtual participation. This year, breakfast is optional for in-person attendees. With this in mind, attendees may select in-person, in-person with breakfast or virtual. Breakfast will be prepared and served buffet style by the MUMC United Methodist Men – a treat for sure!!

Registration Fees:

\$4.50 – In person with no breakfast

\$8.50 – In person with breakfast

No charge for virtual

All aspects of the event will be in the Commons/Gym Area. Masks are optional, and social distancing provisions will be available.

Hands on Project

We are collecting these school supplies for the Alliance Center for Education (AC4Ed).

SIDEWALK CHALK - 20 CT	GLUE DOTS – 300/PK	GLUE BOTTLE - 4oz
PRIMARY PENCILS - 12/BX	CHALK – WHITE 12/BX	GLUE STICK - EA
COLORED PENCILS - 12/PK	JUMBO CRAFT STICKS – 500/BX	WOOD GLUE - 4OZ
WASHABLE MARKERS - 8/PK	DRY ERASE MARKERS – 6/BX	BEGINNERS PENCILS – 12/BX
JUMBO CRAYONS - 8 PK	MODELING CLAY - 2.5 LB TUB	5X8 INDEX CARDS - UNRULED - 100/PK
LARGE - MULTICULTURAL CRAYONS - 8/PK	PRIMARY PLAY DOUGH – 1 LB TUB	WATERCOLOR PAINT TRAY W/ BRUSH - EA
SENTENCE STRIPS - ASSTD 100/PK	5X8 INDEX CARDS - UNRULED - 100/PK	GORILLA TAPE - DOUBLE SIDED

Please make note of the number and value of items donated from the Hands-On Project to add to your Unit's project expenditures for end-of-year mission dollar reporting.

Treasurer

The second quarter giving for the Metro District was very generous!!! **GREAT JOB METRO!!! THANK-YOU!!!** I look forward to seeing this level of giving continue throughout 2023. Here's a breakdown of what we reported to the conference for the second quarter:

Designated & Undesignated Mission Giving	\$12,353.9
Special Mission Recognition	480.0
Legacy Fund	654.7
TOTAL	\$13,488.6

Our 2023 conference goal is a 10% increase in Mission Giving through World Thank Offerings from each unit and we encourage each unit to prayerfully consider doing your part to achieve this goal.

Several units have held their Walks for Missions and I thank you for doing this. If you have not held yours yet, there is still time to schedule yours this year. The walks can be on any date, at any location, and at any time. Additional information on the Walk for Missions can be found in the second quarter Metro Newsletter. Or you can reach out to Martha Hyler, Metro District MN&O Coordinator.

In this environment where some churches are considering disaffiliation, I encourage you to remain a part of United Women in Faith. Even if your church may be disaffiliating, you can still have a United Women in Faith unit. Our purpose has not changed. While we may disagree on certain issues, we can still work together in achieving our common goals of serving women, children, and youth.

I look forward to seeing you at the Metro Annual Celebration in August. May God continue to bless us because **we believe that love in action can change the world.**

Sylvia Casey
Metro District Treasurer
silcasey@gmail.com

Social Action

Human trafficking is real, and it is in our communities. The pain, trauma and horror of being a victim can be deep and lasting. According to the U.S. Department of State, there are over 27 million victims of this heinous crime worldwide at any given time. We can make a difference for those impacted in our area by supporting Dahlia Grove, a nonprofit social enterprise whose goal is to eradicate human trafficking and provide support and healing to those involved. Through a restorative approach they deliver healing and recovery to women survivors of human trafficking, domestic violence, and sexual exploitation. In addition to employment, they offer the following for the women:

- Two years rent-free housing
- Client centered care
- Community of love, safety and support
- Training and employment

There are many ways to help including monetary donations, help by purchasing supplies, use their catering services or shop at their online store.


To learn more and to put your faith into action and help stomp out Human Trafficking, click here: <https://www.dahliagroves.org/>

Blessings,
Loretta Wilson
Metro District Social Action Officer
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com
704-906-8252

LOOK FOR THE PROGRAM RESOURCE TABLE
at each Metro District Event

GIVE
A
BOOK

TAKE
A
BOOK



Metro District Spotlight: Williamson's Chapel Women

Hope Circle – Building Hope at Hoptown

As a work of missions, the Hope Circle of Williamson's Chapel UMC hosted a fundraiser for the Mooresville Christian Mission at Hoptown Brewing on March 27. The Christian Mission has outgrown its Broad St facility and is building a new facility at 953 N Main St. in Mooresville. The new location promises to enhance and augment their existing programs. The new two-story building will house workforce development, the food pantry, the thrift store, and an area for the volunteers as well as space for case management, classrooms, tutoring and mentoring, a computer lab, private offices, a community room, and a chapel.

The Hope Circle has pledged over \$300,000 to the Christian Mission toward building the chapel for the new facility. It will be called HOPE CHAPEL and will be open to everyone in our community and all faiths.

The Christian Mission's motto is "Offering Hope -- Empowering People -- Fighting Poverty by breaking the cycle of poverty through crisis assistance, case management and educational programming."

During the fundraiser, Executive Director Amy LaCount and Development Director Susan Wolff made poignant and inspiring presentations. Hope Circle member Leslie Wilson said, "With the generosity of our neighbors, friends and the people of Mooresville, we will help the mission in raising the funds to meet the needs of our community."

Learn more about The Christian Mission, click this link [The Christian Mission](#)

Click this link if you'd like to contribute to the Hope Circle's Mission <https://ourchristianmission.org/bloomerang/>

"No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burdens of another" – Author Unknown

Tesa Jones provided the article and photos for this story.



Grace Circle – Mission Focused, Foreign and Local

Grace Circle at Williamson’s Chapel UMW supports children and families both around the world, and here in our own community. Each year the circle sponsors a child at Acres of Hope in Uganda along with many other groups and individuals at Williamson’s Chapel UMC. In addition, each Easter and on Mother’s Day members create baskets of goodies to take to Hope of Mooresville’s family shelter. Each child receives a basket of candy and toys for Easter and then on Mother’s Day each lady at the house receives a basket of special gifts to help her feel remembered and celebrated. Grace Circle member Stephanie Richart serves on the board of directors of Hope of Mooresville which supplies temporary, supportive housing for Mooresville’s homeless women and children.



Linda Morris with Boone Michael

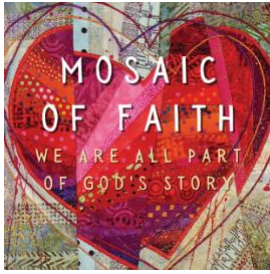
Four years ago, Grace Circle helped launch a mission that this year became Bridge of Hearts. Grace Circle stepped up with both monetary donations and items to be used for birthday celebrations including toys, books, and gift cards. Each year the ladies have continued to support the organization by volunteering to create birthday bags, hygiene kits, and bags of healthy snacks. They have also served as leaders of the volunteer sessions, acted as volunteer drivers taking birthday bags and hygiene and snacks to school counselors throughout Iredell County and northern Mecklenburg.

Bridge of Hearts’ goal is to celebrate, care for, and love the youngest and most vulnerable citizens in the community. Last year they helped 621 children celebrate their special day and sent thousands of hygiene and snack items to school counselors in over 50 schools. Grace Circle member Linda Morris is a founding member and now Executive Director of Bridge of Hearts and WCUMC Rev. Wesley Smith is serving on the board of directors. UMF members from both Davidson and Huntersville UMC also regularly volunteer at Bridge of Hearts which is housed at Broad Street Methodist Church where the church has provided space at no charge to the organization.

Grace Circle Members



Easter Baskets made by the Grace Circle



UNITED WOMEN In FAITH Western North Carolina Conference

What:	50th Annual Celebration <i>Celebrating 154 Years in Mission</i>
When:	September 8-10, 2023 Event Check-in begins 2:00 p.m. Program 6:45 p.m.
Where:	Lake Junaluska, Terrace Auditorium

Annual Celebration

UWF Registration:
Begins June 20, 2023

- All registration is online. There will be no on-site registration.
- Get a UWF DISCOUNT! Register early and ONLINE!** Online advance registration, Dates: June 20-August 14 **\$25.00 per person!** Full registration is **\$40 per person.** Dates: August 15-Sept 5
The online registration link on our website at www.wnccumw.org. will open June 20
- Registration fees are non-fundable**
- 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.
- Wearing masks indoors will be by personal choice

THE EVENT REGISTRATION IS SEPARATE FROM RESERVING LODGING. CALL LAKE JUNALUSKA FOR LODGING.

Keynote Weekend Speaker:

Rev. Holly Cobb McKim,
Minister, Hudson UMC



Mission Speaker: Julie

Marie Wilson Missionary,
Open Arms Community Center, Winston-Salem



Music Leaders Dr. Craig Estep & Catherine Ritch

Hands-On Mission: UMCOR
Period Packs and Christmas Shoeboxes for Armenia

Mosaic! Saturday Afternoon :
UWF Choir led by Craig Estep
Where Our Money Goes led by Linda Greer
Jazzercizing 4 Jesus led by LaDonna Butts

Mosaic! 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: Yadkin Valley

Complete information about Annual Celebration will soon be available on our website:

www.wnccumw.org

**Mark your calendar!
Register ONLINE!**

Contact Persons:

Annual Celebration Program

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

Questions & Assistance

Online Registration

Lynne Gilbert, Webmaster
lgilbert@wnccumc.org
336-207-3479

Local Women's
conference featuring
Metro UMC leadership



Empower Women's Conference

September 16, 2023

9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Providence United Methodist Church

2810 Providence Rd, Charlotte, NC 28211

The 2023 Empower Women's Conference is focused on empowering women in all aspects of life to live fully into their destiny. The intersection of faith, doubt, fear and hope. How do we live fully into our God-sized destiny?

Have you experienced moments where you simply didn't believe you had what it takes to take that big step, next step? Maybe you've felt like you're not good enough or that there's so much more you have to offer. Just know you are not alone.

Now is the time to put an end to those doubts and fears that have been holding you back. Now is the time to live fully into who God created you to be. It's time to believe in yourself. And guess what? You won't have to do it alone.

On September 16, 2023, The Empower Women's Conference will be held at Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte. We're inviting hundreds of women from all walks of life to come together for a day of worship, equipping, empowerment, sisterhood, and let's not forget, fun!

The organizers have gathered an incredible lineup of speakers who will unpack the powerful intersection of faith, doubt, fear, and hope. This is your time to be empowered.

Stephanie Hand – Vitality Leader, Western NC UMC

Molly Grantham – Journalist, WBTV

Jacinda Jacobs – Journalist, Author

Vi Lyles -Charlotte Mayor

Don't forget to extend an invitation to your friends, sisters, family and coworkers. We're filling up fast, so make sure to REGISTER TODAY.

Join us at Empower Women Conference, and let's begin this life-changing journey together.

REGISTER TODAY. Click the REGISTRATION. www.empowerwc.com

2023 Metro District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

August 26

Metro District Annual Celebration
Matthews United Methodist Church
801 S. Trade St.
Matthews, NC 28105
Hands on Project: School Supplies for AC4Ed

September 8-10

WNCC UWF Annual Celebration
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

October 1, 8, or 15

UBUNTU Days of Service
Various Locations TBD

Walk for Missions Reminder



This photo by Unknow Author is licensed under CCBY-ND

If you have not scheduled your 2023 Walk for Missions, there is still time. This year units have the flexibility to set the date, time, and location of their walks to match your schedule. The sponsor form is available in last quarter's Metro Newsletter, or by contacting Mary Hyler, mkhyler@gmail.com or 704-781-5505. She can also answer your Walk for Mission questions.

Send your collected funds to District Treasurer, **Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Pl., Charlotte, NC 28213**. Make check payable to **Metro District UWF**.

Every dollar raised in the Walk for Mission is used to support the mission and ministries of The United Women in Faith of the Metro District.

Communications

Facebook, Pinterest, YouTube, TikTok are where many of us go to see what's happening in the world. We gravitate to these sites for the latest from influencers, celebrities and exceptionally talented everyday people. They provide entertainment, information, motivation, and challenges. These sites create communities of shared knowledge and inspiration. We may see a recipe, a book, a dance step, or a vacation spot we want to try.

The Metro District has our own set of talented, influencers who motivate and encourage us, our UWF sisters. Beginning with this issue, we'll spotlight these women and their experiences. This quarter it is Williamson's Chapel UWF. Their work in mission, both in their community

and beyond is a true reflection of our United Women in Faith mission. It is very exciting to hear about their work, and we want to hear from your church as well. Each of you has a story of faith, of service, of mission that the members of the Metro District are eager to hear. Your stories serve as both inspiration and motivation to others as we strive to serve women, children, and teens.

Contact your Nurturing Partner or me to share with us your stories, and photos. We can't wait to hear from you!

Delta Sonderman,
Metro District Communications
deltasson@gmail.com

Nominations

The slate of 2024 Metro District Executive Committee Officers will be voted on during our Annual Celebration on August 26. All nominees have agreed to further the goals of the United Women in Faith. In addition to these names, the Nominations Committee is accepting nominations from the floor. If you would like to recommend another person or yourself for a position on the Executive Committee, please use the form on the next page.

2024 Proposed Slate of Metro District Officers

In accordance with the Standing Rules and Constitution of the United Women in Faith, the Committee on Nominations submits the nominees below for office on the Metro District Executive Committee for 2024.

PRESIDENT (2023-2024) – Diann Back, St. Stephen

VICE PRESIDENT (2024 – 2025) – Earonita Strong, Simpson-Gillespie

SECRETARY (2023 - 2024) – Debbie Eudy, Memorial Charlotte

TREASURER (2023 – 2024) – Sylvia Casey, Simpson-Gillespie

MISSION, EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION (2024-2025) Sylvia Sekle-Dueh,
Hickory Grove

SPIRITUAL GROWTH (2024 – 2025) Jo Boyd, Simpson-Gillespie

SOCIAL ACTION (2024 - 2025) Loretta Wilson, Hickory Grove

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE OUTREACH (2023 - 2024) – Martha Hyler, Harrisburg

PROGRAM RESOURCES (2023 - 2024) – Donna Varner, St. Stephen

COMMUNICATIONS (2023 - 2024) – Delta Sonderman, Providence

NOMINATIONS – 4-year terms or less if filling in a Class/4 or Classes/5 – 11 members needed.

Class 2024
Judy Cline

Class 2025
TBD

Class 2026
TBD

Class 2027
TBD

United Women in Faith Mission Statement

United Women in Faith 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.

Metro District United Women in Faith
Nominations from the Floor Form
2023 Annual Meeting

Submission Deadline: August 19, 2023

The United Methodist Women's bylaws allow for nominations from the floor. Please use this form for nominations from the floor for this year's Annual Celebration and Election on August 26, 2023. If you plan to make a nomination for more than one office, you must complete a form for each person. All nominations from the floor must be received by Linda Davidson, Metro District Nominations Chair at lad6201@gmail.com, using this form by 11:59 pm on Friday, August 19, 2023. If you have any questions regarding the nominations process, contact Linda Davidson.

1. For which office is your nomination? _____

2. Nominee's Contact Information Name:

Home Church: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

3. Nominator Contact Information Name: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

2023 Metro District Officers

President (2022-23)

Diann Back
9301 Whitethorn Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28277
(St. Stephen)
704-846-8875
dback@carolina.rr.com

Vice President (2023)

Nancy Ward
4003 Colton Ridge Dr.
Indian Trail, NC 28079
(Matthews)
704-681-4779
nward001@carolina.rr.com

Secretary (2023-24)

Debbie Eudy
806 Eaglewood Ave.
Charlotte, NC 28212
(Memorial-Charlotte)
704-563-7195/704-759-4477
snakcak3655@gmail.com

Treasurer (2023-24)

Sylvia Casey
7009 Summer Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28213
(Simpson-Gillespie)
704-596-3578
sil1casey@gmail.com

ME&I (2022-23)

Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
212 Hunslet Circle
Charlotte, NC 28206
(Hickory Grove)
704-606-5557
dueh1409@gmail.com

Spiritual Growth (2022-23)

Jo Boyd
4132 Dunwoody Dr.
Charlotte, NC
(Simpson-Gillespie)
704-877-8914
number3grammy@yahoo.com

Social Action (2022-23)

Loretta Wilson
4221 Chatterleigh Dr.
Monroe, NC 28110
(Hickory Gove)
704-906-8252
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com

MN&O (2023-24)

Martha Hyler
910 Lamar Rd.
Concord, NC 28025
(Harrisburg)
704-781-5505
mkhyler@gmail.com

Program Resources (2023-24)

Donna Varner
4105-B Bannockburn Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28211
(St. Stephen)
704-779-9798
donnak1130@yahoo.com

Communications (2023-24)

Delta Sonderman
4308 Emory Ln.
Charlotte, NC 28211
(Providence)
704-302-3600
deltasson@gmail.com

Parliamentarian

Donna Varner
4105-B Bannockburn Pl.
Charlotte, NC 28211
(St. Stephen)
704-779-9798
donnak1130@yahoo.com

Historian

Loretta Wilson
4221 Chatterleigh Dr.
Monroe, NC 28110
(Hickory Gove)
704-906-8252
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com

Nominations

Linda Davidson, Chair (2024)
6201 Spring Garden Ln.
Charlotte, NC 28213
(Simpson-Gillespie)
704- 281-9565
lad6201@gmail.com

Sybil Long (2023)
8238 Terra Linda Lane
Charlotte, NC 28215
(Central, Charlotte)
704-773-8678
sibyl.long@gmail.com

Louise Woods (2024)
1327 Cedarwood Lane
Charlotte, NC 28212
(Central, Charlotte)
704-536-0335
lwoods@BellSouth.net

Judy Cline (2024)
5215 Club View Dr.
Concord, NC 28025
(Royal Oaks)
704-785-8027
jblacline@gmail.com

Earonita Strong (2026)
1929 Crestdale Dr.
Charlotte, NC 28216
704-534-4387
(Simpson-Gillespie)
stronge@carolina.rr.com

Conference Advisor

Lynda Morris
737 Pavilion View Dr.,
Apt F305
Matthews, NC 28105
(St Stephen)
704-847-2521/704-619-2013
lfmorrisap@aol.com

2023 Metro District Nurturing Partner List

CHURCH	PARTNER	CHURCH	PARTNER
Aldersgate	Donna Varner	Morrows Chapel	Judy Cline
Assurance	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh	Mount Mitchell	Sybil Long
Bethpage	Lynda Morris	Mount Olivet	Sybil Long
Broad Street	Delta Sonderman	Mount Pleasant	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Calvary	Donna Varner	Myers Park	Loretta Wilson
Centenary	Nancy Ward	North Davidson	Loretta Wilson
Center	Martha Hyler	North Kannapolis	Lynda Morris
Central (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Oak Grove (Char)	Loretta Wilson
Central (Concord)	Judy Cline	Oak Grove (CG)	Delta Sonderman
Central (Mooresville)	Louise Woods	Pineville	Diann Back
Christ	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh	Pleasant Grove	Linda Davidson
Cokesbury	Diann Back	Providence	Debbie Eudy
Commonwealth	Earonita Strong	Roberta	Earonita Strong
Covenant	Delta Sonderman	Rock Grove	Sybil Long
Davidson	Judy Cline	Rocky Mount	Delta Sonderman
Dilworth	Diann Back	Rocky Ridge	Jo Boyd
Epworth	Martha Hyler	Royal Oaks	Martha Hyler
Faith (Mooresville)	Louise Woods	Simpson-Gillespie	Loretta Wilson
First (China Grove)	Jo Boyd	South Tryon	Sylvia Casey
First Hmong	Nancy Ward	SouthPark	Donna Varner
Forest Hill	Linda Davidson	St Andrews	Donna Varner
Friendship	Lynda Morris	St Francis	Nancy Ward
Harrisburg	Diann Back	St Marks	Sylvia Casey
Hickory Grove	Debbie Eudy	St. Paul (Mooresville)	Louise Woods
Hunters Chapel	Earonita Strong	St Stephen	Debbie Eudy
Huntersville	Jo Boyd	Thrift	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Indian Trail	Nancy Ward	Trinity (Charlotte)	Sylvia Casey
Jackson Park	Lynda Morris	Trinity (Kannapolis)	Jo Boyd
Matthews	Debbie Eudy	Westford	Martha Hyler
Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Williamsons Chapel	Louise Woods
Memorial (Kannapolis)	Judy Cline	Woodlawn Community	Earonita Strong
Midway	Sybil Long	Zion	Nancy Ward
Mill Grove	Nancy Ward		

Your Metro Nurturing Partner is the point of contact and liaison with our local churches. Please welcome them when they contact you. Even with a designated Nurture Partner, the entire team is here to support you. Contact your Partner or any Metro Mission Team Officer with your questions, ideas, or concerns.