



Metro Media

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

President's Message

During a recent Metro District UWF Mission Board meeting, I told the group that all United Women in Faith should have an elevator speech ready for when they encounter a woman who is curious about what we do. As we work to grow membership in UWF, sharing our experience and insights help others discover why we are passionate about our organization, fellowship, and mission work.

So, what exactly is an elevator speech? It's usually a short (30-60 seconds), memorable, and persuasive summary of an idea. Each of you is encouraged to create your own speech. Your message should include the following words: faith, action, sisterhood and provide examples of UWF mission projects for women, children, and youth in your community, our conferences, or around the world. Financial contributions are not required to be a member of UWF. Gifts of time, talent, and energy are always appreciated. In short, we're an organized, caring group of women acting in faith who take on the hard work of making the world a better place-- without hesitation. End your elevator speech with a call to action, by extending an invitation to attend an UWF meeting, a mission activity or to provide additional information.

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The next time, someone asks you about United Women in Faith, you'll be ready with a great response and maybe recruit a new member!

Diann

Diann P. Back
Metro District President
dback@carolina.rr.com
704-846-8875



United
Women
in Faith



response Podcast

Tune in to audio versions of some of the top articles from each issue of **response** magazine, the award-winning official magazine of United Women in Faith. Topics cover everything from spiritual growth and living our faith to reports on local, national and international work. <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts>

Vice President

Welcome 2024! I hope you had a joyous holiday season. I am Earonita Strong, your new Metro District Vice President and I am looking forward to working with you in my new role. With God's help I will do my best to represent you well and carry out the duties of this office.

Plans are underway for our District Prayer Breakfast, scheduled for April 27th at North Davidson UMC, 1025 E. 36th Street-Charlotte, NC 28205. Dr. Eboni Bell will be our speaker. Dr. Eboni is a member of St. Mark's UMC and the Founder of the How She Does It Global Network, Dream Girl Subscription Box, the I Dream in Color Art Brand, and All Things Woman Talk Show. For more information about Dr. Bell, visit her website. <https://dreamnationdolls.com/pages/about-us>



Dr. Eboni Bell

Hands-on project for the event will be diapers, and wipes for the Alliance Center for Education, if you'd like to begin collecting these items now.

I encourage you to hold this date on your calendars for the Prayer Breakfast. Additional details will be in the Q2 Metro Newsletter.

Blessings,
Earonita F. Strong
Metro District Vice President
stronge@carolina.rr.com
704-534-4387

Treasurer

Happy New Year to all! I look forward to working with you as your district treasurer in

2024 to benefit the thousands of children, youth and women who depend on us! Please remember them as you spiritually give to United Women in Faith.

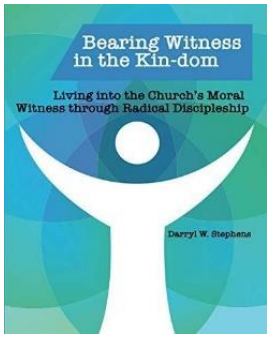
| We have submitted the following amounts for Metro District giving in 2023: | |
|--|--------------------|
| Pledge to Mission | \$39,227.50 |
| Special Mission Recognition | 1,710.00 |
| Gift to Mission | 3,799.35 |
| Gift in Memory | 2,580.00 |
| World Thank Offering | 5,838.73 |
| Walk for Mission | 1,333.97 |
| The Legacy Fund | 3,972.63 |
| Call to Prayer and Self-Denial | 3,218.30 |
| Designated Giving | 760.00 |
| TOTAL | \$62,440.48 |

The WNCC UWF financial goal for 2024 is: **Each unit will increase Mission Giving to the 2019 level.** Since 2020, there has been a decline in giving for a variety of reasons. This put our conference at a deficit in meeting our mission goals. I ask that you prayerfully consider helping the conference to return to 2019 levels by increasing your support of our UWF missions, locally, nationally, and globally.

The new Special Mission Recognition (SMR) pins are now available for you to order. The updated pins depict our new UWF logo and have the same stone options as the cross pins. Be sure to let your unit treasurer know which pin option you would like to order to recognize the outstanding mission ladies in your units.



Sylvia Casey,
Metro District Treasurer
sil1casey@gmail.com
704-596-3578



Metro District Mission Study 2024
March 2, Pineville UMC, 110 S Polk St, Pineville, NC 28134
Reverend Amy Coles, Assistant of the Bishop, WNCC

Join the Metro District on March 2, for our annual Mission Study featuring Rev. Amy Coles, Assistant to the Bishop for the Western North Carolina Conference. As the study facilitator, Amy will be using the book: **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living**



into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship, by Darryl W. Stephens, a United Methodist Deacon. The book is available for purchase from bookstores and Amazon or borrow from your local library. You don't want to miss Amy's insights and message on Discipleship.

Metro District Mission Study Registration for Saturday, March 2, 2024, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Check-in begins at 8:30 am; the program starts at 9:00 am with lunch at 11:30.

Bring your own lunch. Coffee, iced tea, water, snacks, and cookies will be provided.

A Love Offering for Mission Giving will be collected.

Name of Church _____ City _____

Please print the attendee's names:

Number of persons _____ X \$ 4.50 = \$ _____

Registration should be postmarked by February 16, 2024. Please send one check per unit/church. Make checks payable to "Metro District UWF" and mail to Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Pl., Charlotte, NC 28213

Hands-on-Mission Project: Hygiene Kit. Kit items with assembly instructions can be found at [UMCOR Hygiene Kit - Global Ministries \(umcmmission.org\)](http://umcmmission.org), or on the following page

2024 Hands-on-Mission Projects

Mission Study – March 2, 2024: Hygiene Kits.

Hygiene Kit Materials

- One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches) o No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One washcloth o No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels
- One comb o Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth o No pocket combs or picks o Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth
- One toenail or fingernail clipper o No emery boards or metal nail files
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) No Ivory or Jergen’s soap o Do not remove from packaging
- One adult toothbrush o Do not remove from packaging o Personal advertising not acceptable
- 10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches) o Common household bandages acceptable
- One one-gallon size re-sealable bag

*Do not add toothpaste when assembling kits

Assembly Instructions

- Lay hand towel flat on a table.
- Lay the washcloth in the center of the hand towel.
- Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth (except the plastic bag).
- Fold the sides of the hand towel to cover the items.
- Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of the towel.
- Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag, remove air, and seal.

Important Notes

- All items must be new.
- Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.
- Do not include any personal notes, money or additional materials in the kits.
- Contents of kits or the containers of kits should **not** be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military or camouflage symbols

Packing Instructions

- Complete two packing lists, one for the box and one for your records.
- Place the shipping label/packing list on the outside of the box.
- Please send a check to Sager Brown for the total amount of hygiene kits times \$2 per kit for the cost of toothpaste and shipping. One check may be written for all of the kits.

Prayer Breakfast – April 27, 2024: Diapers and Wipes for AC4Ed

Sizes: 1 – 5; 2T – 3T Boys; 2T – 3T Girls; 4T – 5T Boys; 4T – 5T Girls; Baby Wipes

Annual Celebration – August 24, 2024: School Supplies for AC4Ed

Gorilla Tape – Double sided

Glue Dots – 300 Pk

Beginners Pencils – 12/Bx

Sidewalk Chalk – 20 Ct

Primary pencils – 12/Bx

Colored Pencils – 12/Bx

Washable Markers – 8/Pk

Jumbo Crayons – 8/Pk

Large – Multicultural Crayons – 8 Pk

Chalk – White 12/Bx

Jumbo Craft Sticks – 500/Bx

Craft Sticks – 1000/Bx

Felt sheets – 12 Pk

22 X 28 Poster Board/Asstd Primary

Colors 5 Pk

Tissue paper – Asstd 50/Pk

Cotton Balls

Pom Poms – Asstd

Feathers – Asstd

Jumbo Pipe Cleaners – Asstd 100/Pk

Wiggly Eyes – 100/Pk

Yarn

Bubbles – 3Pk 4oz Bottles

Glue bottle – 4 oz

Glue Stick

Wood Glue – 4 oz

Sentence Strips – 100/Pk

5 X 8 Index Cards – Unruled 100/Pk

Social Action

Once again, I will be serving as your Social Action Officer. It gives me great pleasure to share the priorities for 2021-2024:

Advocacy—Every four years we identify a specific focus for our advocacy in addition to our ongoing work for gender and racial justice and for oppressed and dispossessed communities, with special attention to the needs of women, children, and youth.

Our current justice campaigns are **Just Energy 4 All** and **Ending Mass Incarceration** (Criminalization of Communities of Color).

To learn more about how you can serve, advocate, and make a difference, review the below website, and join the mailing list to receive resources on our priorities.

[Serve & Advocate | United Women in Faith \(uwfaith.org\)](http://uwfaith.org)

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

Mission Education and Interpretation

“Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. Romans 12:10-12.

Look to the new year of opportunities to express Christian love through creative mission projects. Pages 9 – 29 of the January/February 2024 *response* addresses the need for UWF sisters to spread love and hope during this time of distress within the world. The section includes several examples of programs implemented by units across the country and

across the internet to tackle the needs of women, children, and youth.

Reminder: Check the Metro District Mission Study information and details on page 3 of this newsletter. Register early and invite a friend to hear Reverend Cole lead us on what it means to be radical disciples. The Mission Study will be held at the Pineville UMC, 110 S Polk St, Pineville, NC 28134

Blessings,
Sylvia Sekle-Dueh, Deaconess,
Metro District Mission
Education and Interpretation Coordinator
dueh1409@gmail.com; 704-606-5557

WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship Program

The United Women in Faith Western NC Conference Scholarship Program offers qualifying students financial support to attend one of the Conference’s institutions of higher learning: **Bennett College, Brevard College, Greensboro College, Highpoint University or Pfeiffer University.**

Applicants must be a member of a WNCC United Methodist Church and reside within the bounds of the Western NC Conference. For the 2024 program, request an application by contacting Jatana Royster at 704-451-3816, jatanaroyster@gmail.com

Applications are due by March 1, 2024, with interviews held on Saturday March 16. Support this program by referring students, praying for the students and conference institutions, and contributing to the general scholarship fund as districts, units, circles, and individuals.

Please contact me if you need additional information.

Blessings,
Jatana Royster
WNCC United Women in Faith Scholarship
Committee Chairperson

Historian

Once again , I will be serving as your historian for 2024. I would like to share some history with you. February is black history month. “Too often, the accomplishments of African Americans have not received adequate notice in U.S. history books and classrooms. That is why historian Carter Woodson first proposed a weeklong focus on black history in 1926. The first U.S. celebration of Black History Month happened decades later.”



Do you know the African American history in the U.S and the United Methodist Church? United Methodist website has a short quiz that you can share with your church, family, and friends. You can take it online or download and print copies.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-black-history-quiz>

March is Women’s History Month. How much do you know about the female pioneers in the United States and The United Methodist Church? Below is a short quiz to test your knowledge. Please click on the below link and share with your church, family and friends. You can also complete online or download and share.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/united-methodist-womens-quiz>

If you would like to share your history of your UWF unit. When did your unit begin? What

mission projects do you support? How did you get started? What is your Unit’s story? Please contact me via phone or email. I would love to share your history with our district.

Loretta Wilson-
Metro District Historian
rettaorwilson@yahoo.com
704-906-8252

Membership Nurture and Outreach

As United Women In Faith members we have been given another chance to change the world by putting love in action. I hope you are finding new ways every day to do this. I am sure your unit has many great programs and projects planned for the year. Please remember to invite your Nurturing partner to these. You will find the list of partners in this newsletter. We love to share in your activities.

The District will have our Walk For Missions in the Spring. We are planning for it right now. Our second newsletter will contain all of the details. Start practicing! Spring will be here before we know it.

As we go into this year, we need to remember our friends whose churches have disaffiliated from the United Methodist Church. Please remind them that they can still be a part of the UWF. Individuals may join as an At-Large member. All they need to do is to send their information to me, Martha Hyler and I’ll assure they are registered. Anyone and everyone can be a member of our group.

Martha Hyler
Metro District Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
mkhyler@gmail.com
704-490-5837

2024 Metro District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

March 2

Metro District Mission Study
Pineville UMC
110 S. Polk Street
Pineville, NC 28134
Hands on Project: Hygiene Kits

April 23 – May 3

UMC General Conference
Charlotte Convention Center
501 S. College Street
Charlotte, NC 28202

April 27

Metro District Prayer Breakfast
North Davidson UMC
1025 E 36th Street
Charlotte, NC 28205
*Hands on Project: Diapers & Wipes
for AC4Ed*

Springtime

Walk for Mission: Single Units or
Groups
Various Locations Across the District

June 13- 15

WNCC UWF Spiritual Growth
Retreat
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

June 20 – 23

Annual Conference
91 North Lakeshore Dr.
Lake Junaluska, NC 28745

Aug 2 - 3

WNCC UWF Mission u
Catholic Conference Center
1551 Trinity Lane
Hickory, NC 28602

August 24

Metro District Annual Celebration
Davidson UMC
233 S Main Street
Davidson, NC 28036
*Hands on Project: School Supplies for
AC4Ed*

September 6-8

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

October 5, 19, or 26

UBUNTU Days of Service
Various Locations TBD

October 19

Leadership Development Day
LDD All District Officers (Virtual)

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH METRO DISTRICT 2024 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

| Office | Name | Address | Phone No. | E-mail Address |
|--------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Diann P. Back (St. Stephen) | 9301 Whitethorn Dr. Charlotte, NC 28277 | 704-846-8875 h 704-517-5436 c | dback@carolina.rr.com |
| Vice President | Earonita Strong (Simpson-Gillespie) | 1929 Crestdale Dr. Charlotte, NC 28216 | 704-534-4387 | stronge@carolina.rr.com |
| Secretary | Debbie Eudy (Memorial/Charlotte) | 806 Eaglewood Ave. Charlotte, NC 28212 | 704-563-7195 h 704-759-4477 c | snakcak3655@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Sylvia Casey (Simpson-Gillespie) | 700 Summer Pl. Charlotte, NC 28213 | 704-596-3578 | sil1casey@gmail.com |
| ME&I | Sylvia Sekle-Dueh (Hickory Grove) | 212 Hunslet Circle Charlotte, NC 28206 | 704-606-5557 | dueh1409@gmail.com |
| Spiritual Growth | OPEN | | | |
| Social Action | Loretta Wilson (Hickory Grove) | 4221 Chatterleigh Dr. Monroe, NC 28110 | 704-906-8252 | rettaorwilson2yahoo.com |
| MN&O | Martha Hyler (Harrisburg) | 910 Lamar Rd. Concord, NC 28025 | 704-781-5505 | mkhyler@gmail.com |
| Program Resources | Donna Varner (St. Stephen) | 1708 Nantuckett Ln. Apt. 105 Charlotte, NC 28270 | 704-779-9798 | donnak1130@yahoo.com |
| Communications | Delta Sonderman (Providence) | 4308 Emory Ln. Charlotte, NC 28211 | 704-302-3600 | deltasson@gmail.com |
| Parliamentarian | Lynda Morris (St. Stephen) | 737 Pavilion View Dr. Apt. F305 Matthews, NC 28105 | 704-847-2521 h 704-619-2013 c | lfmorrisap@aol.com |
| Historian | Clifflena Tiah (North Davidson) | 6725 Ridge Lane Road Charlotte, NC 28262 | 704-608-3564 | clifflenatiah@gmail.com |
| Nominations | Linda Davidson, Ch. (Simpson-Gillespie) | 6201 Spring Garden Ln. Charlotte, NC 28213 | 704-281-9565 | lad6201@gmail.com |
| Member-at-Large | Sybil Long (Central/Charlotte) | 8238 Terra Linda Ln. Charlotte, NC 28215 | 704-773-8678 | sibyl.long@gmail.com |
| Member-at-Large | Louise Woods (Central/Charlotte) | 1327 Cedarwood Ln. Charlotte, NC 28212 | 704-536-0335 | lwoods@BellSouth.net |
| Member-at-Large | Judy Cline (Royal Oaks) | 5215 Club View Dr. Concord, NC 28025 | 704-785-8027 | jblacline@gmail.com |
| Member-at-Large | OPEN | | | |
| Conference Advisor | TBA | | | |

There are unfilled positions on the 2024 Metro District Mission Council which the Nominations committee is seeking to fill. The first is Spiritual Growth Coordinator. This role provides spiritual inspiration to the district, coordinates with the Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator and is responsible for planning the annual Metro District Praise, Worship and Memorial service. There are also openings on the Nominating Committee. If you are interested or know someone who would be a good fit for either of these positions, contact Linda Davidson at lad6201@gmail.com for additional information and a full position description.

2024 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 |
| Center | Martha Hyler | Myers Park | Loretta Wilson |
| Central (Charlotte) | Linda Davidson | North Davidson | Loretta Wilson |
| Central (Concord) | Judy Cline | North Kannapolis | Lynda Morris |
| Central (Mooresville) | Louise Woods | Oak Grove (Char) | Loretta Wilson |
| Christ | Sylvia Sekle-Dueh | Oak Grove (CG) | Delta Sonderman |
| Cokesbury | Diann Back | Pineville | Diann Back |
| Commonwealth | Earonita Strong | Pleasant Grove | Linda Davidson |
| Covenant | Delta Sonderman | Providence | Debbie Eudy |
| Davidson | Judy Cline | Roberta | Earonita Strong |
| Dilworth | Diann Back | Rock Grove | Sybil Long |
| Epworth | Martha Hyler | Rocky Ridge | TBD |
| Faith (Mooresville) | Louise Woods | Royal Oaks | Martha Hyler |
| First (China Grove) | TBD | Simpson-Gillespie | Loretta Wilson |
| First Hmong | Nancy Ward | South Tryon | Sylvia Casey |
| Forest Hill | Linda Davidson | SouthPark | Donna Varner |
| Friendship | Lynda Morris | St Andrews | Donna Varner |
| Harrisburg | Diann Back | St Francis | Nancy Ward |
| Hickory Grove | Debbie Eudy | St Marks | Sylvia Casey |
| Hunters Chapel | Earonita Strong | St Stephen | Debbie Eudy |
| Huntersville | TBD | Thrift | Sylvia Sekle-Dueh |
| Matthews | Debbie Eudy | Trinity (Charlotte) | Sylvia Casey |
| Memorial (Charlotte) | Linda Davidson | Trinity (Kannapolis) | TBD |
| Midway | Sybil Long | Williamsons Chapel | Louise Woods |
| Mill Grove | Nancy Ward | Woodlawn Community | Earonita Strong |

Your Metro Nurturing Partner is the first point of contact and liaison with our local churches. Please welcome them when they call or visit. While each unit has a designated Nurture Partner, we are all here to support you. Contact your Partner or any Metro Mission Team Officer with your questions, ideas, or concerns.