



The Metro Messenger

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

President's Message

Dear United Women in Faith Sisters,

We've officially crossed the line into fall, and it's time to look back over the summer's activities and to enjoy the memories. The highlight of the summer for the Metro District was hosting the three large UWF events in the Western North Carolina Conference. First, we hosted the Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lake Junaluska in mid-June. That was followed by Mission u at the Catholic Retreat Center in Hickory in mid-July, and our duties wrapped up with the Annual Celebration at Williamson's Chapel in Mooresville on September 6.

On behalf of the Metro District Executive Board, I want to say a big "thank you" to those units that donated money, food, time, and talent to these events. There were some tired hostesses after the events, but overall, things went off "without a hitch" as we say in the South. The Metro District provided welcome bags at the Spiritual Growth Retreat and at Mission u. Of course, each bag contained a good helping of chocolate candy! At the Annual Celebration, we provided bowls of snacks, including more chocolate candy!

Again, thank you to all the Metro District units and individuals who helped make the summer conference UWF events ones to remember!

Blessings,

Diann

Diann P. Back
President, Metro District UWF
Email: diann.back@carolina.rr.com



United
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in Faith

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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>

Treasurer

It was beautiful to see so many of you at the District Annual Celebration on August 23rd and the WNCC Annual Celebration on September 6th . Both meetings were great and the fellowship was wonderful! Thank you for your 3rd quarter remittance giving. WOW, can you believe this year is almost over and we are into the 4th quarter? As we approach the end of this year, please remember to make your Pledge to Missions and Legacy Gifts to your unit Treasurers by the end of November. Giving to the Conference Love Offering can be sent directly to the conference treasurer: Bess Redmond, 19 Wright's Cove Trail, Fairview, NC 28730. Total unit giving for 2025 will be provided to unit treasurers in January.

Here's a breakdown of what we reported to the conference for the third quarter:

Pledge to Mission	\$ 5,285.50
Special Mission Recognition	\$ 120.00
Gift to Mission	\$ 1,023.85
Gift in Memory	\$ 305.00
World Thank Offering	\$ 50.00
The Legacy Fund	\$ 206.75
Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	\$ 630.00

Thank you for all you do to help United Women in Faith support women, children and youth that need help! FAITH-HOPE-LOVE in ACTION!! We can Make It Happen!

Sylvia Casey, District Treasurer

sil1casey@gmail.com



Membership Nurture and Outreach

Join us for UBUNTU Day!

October 4 | 9:00 am | AC4Ed - 700 Parkwood Ave, Charlotte.

We will be cutting out stars for giving trees. Each star represents a child served by AC4ED. All children will receive gifts in December.

Bring scissors and a hole punch if you have them.



Walk for Missions



This year, the women of the United Women in Faith Metro District will come together at the Walk for Missions on **October 11**. Join us at one of our sites to visit with friends, walk, and raise money for missions. Our sites are located at

- Forest Hill UMC, 265 North Union Street, Concord;
- Aldersgate Senior Living, 3800 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte; and
- Matthews Glen Retirement Community, 733 Pavilion View Drive, Matthews
- Or you may walk at a place of your choosing

You may walk anytime from 9:30 to 11:00. Each of these sites is a beautiful and safe place to walk. Please invite everyone you know to join in this walk. Ladies, men, and children are all welcome.

Use the sponsor form included in this newsletter (or create our own) to solicit and collect funds from your friends, family, and neighbors. Send your collected funds (preferably one check per unit) to our District Treasurer, Sylvia Casey, 7009 Summer Place, Charlotte, NC 28213. Make checks payable to Metro District UWF.

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



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Social Action

Unit presidents in the Metro District received information on the Resolves sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the opportunity to add their signature. Please promote this within your unit and contact me if you did not receive the information.

A recent "Faith Talks" episode, titled "Love-Action-Advocating: Back to School," featuring Vickie Feaster Fornville, who resides in Chapel Hill, NC, can be found on the United Women in Faith website. You can also sign up to have Faith Talks delivered to your personal email. Vickie shares to get involved at both the local school level and the district level. Get to know your Board of Education, attend meetings, and be aware of policies on family engagement, conduct, and curriculum! Make phone calls and follow them up with an email. Vickie says, "School pushout is a long-time systemic problem, and it will continue to flourish if we don't pull harder than the systems that are doing the pushing." Find the way you want to use your voice and your skills and...Show Up! Show Up! Show Up!

Be sure to share the response article entitled "Learning to Pack More than Pencils" by Kim Rice Smith in the September/October issue. She writes, "This year, more than ever, we need to work within our women's groups and congregation to pack some advocacy in those much-needed book bags. Recently, I heard someone describe Jesus as 'the original social activist,' and it solidified what I have always believed: speaking up for the marginalized is our duty as Christian people."

If your unit hasn't had a climate or racial justice event, please consider doing so! I'm happy to help!

Lisa Delano (Davidson UMC)
Metro District Social Action Chair
mybrowneyedgirls@msn.com



Program Resources

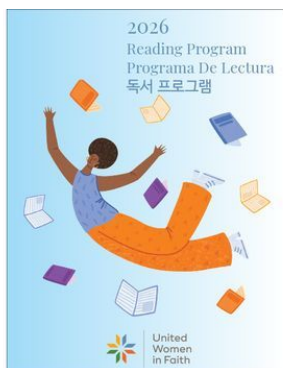
Hooray! The UWF 2026 Reading Program has been released, and I'm getting excited about a new reading plan. Before retiring from teaching, the autumn, the start of a new school year, new classes, and even new school supplies always excited me. New beginnings are always different and exciting, and UWF gets to start a new reading journey! I hope that your 2025 journey continues to be insightful and brings you to a new understanding of yourself, people around us, and the world. And I pray that you find new and interesting books in 2026 to continue your journey!

Remember that we will have the Bring One/Take One table at district events again next year. Instead of purchasing new books or borrowing them from the library, sort through and recycle your books and share with other UWF members. There are many excellent books that touch and teach us in many ways.

[2026 Reading Program Catalog](#)

Sharon Lasher

Program Resources



Officer Updates

Local Officer Training for 2025

The annual Local Officer Training for new and returning unit officers will take place on Sunday, November 2, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. All unit officers are encouraged to make plans to attend. Watch for additional information about the training, as well as the Zoom link, which will be sent to unit presidents for distribution to the local officers and mission coordinators. The training helps assure that Metro District local officers have the tools and information to be successful in their roles, as well as providing an opportunity for officers to meet others who have the same role at our sister churches.

End of Year Reports Due by December 15

End-of-year reports account for each unit's annual activities for that year. We use these reports to recognize your unit's accomplishments and track membership.

All reports, except the Local Hands-on Mission Report are to be returned to Diann Back, dback@carolina.rr.com, or 9301 Whitethorn Drive, Charlotte, NC 28277. The Local Hands-on Mission Report goes to Sylvia Sekle-Dueh, dueh1409@gmail.com or 212 Hunslet Circle, Charlotte, NC 28206. Please return by December 15, 2025.

If you have questions about any of the Reports, contact Diann Back.



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Around the District

Epworth UWFaith of Concord, NC recently held a White Elephant Auction Fundraiser. After a great potluck supper, they auctioned off 53 wrapped gifts with multiple 'bidding wars' by the 15 attendees, which raised over \$563 for UWF missions that support women and children. Thanks again to all for the fun time and wonderful gifts!



At Memorial Charlotte's last unit meeting, they invited the congregation to hear speaker, MaShonna Hughes, Director of Project Outpour. This organization provides showers and hygiene items to our unhoused neighbors.



Metro District Shining Bright at Mission u

Most First Timers



Most Registrations

Dean and
Asst. Dean
from Metro



Alliance Center
for Education

You're Invited!

*We hope you will join us at our first ever Family Reunion to
celebrate our 85th Anniversary and the legacy of
Bethlehem Center of Charlotte.*

*Saturday, October 11, 2025
Camp Greene Park
1221 Alleghany St., Charlotte
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.*



*Scan to RSVP by
October 3, 2025*

With questions, please contact Rhiannon@ac4ed.org or 704.618.8726.



Attention all Bethlehem Center and Alliance Center for Education past participants, partners, and staff!

We invite you to celebrate our 85th anniversary and reconnect with us for this milestone. Use the links below to let us know how to get in touch with you, follow us on social media, and share your Bethlehem Center/AC4Ed story!

**Get our
newsletter!**



**Follow our
social media!**



**Share your
story!**



**Make a
Gift!**



Bethlehem Center
OF CHARLOTTE



**Alliance
Center for
Education**



District and WNCC UWF Events Calendar

October 4

UBUNTU

Alliance Center 4 Education
700 Parkwood Ave, Charlotte

October 18

Leadership Development Day
~ LDD All **District Officers**

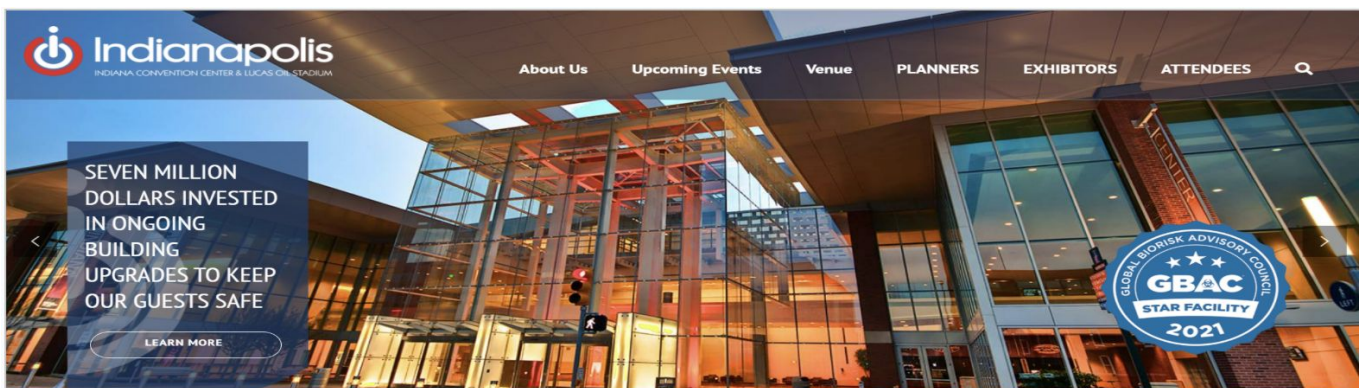
October 11

Mission Walks

- ~ Aldersgate, Charlotte
- ~ Forest Hill UMC, Concord
- ~ Matthews Glen, Matthews

November 2

Metro District Leadership
Development Day
~ All **Local Unit Officers** (Virtual)



Assembly 2026
Indianapolis, IN
May 15 – 17th

First break-even Assembly – pays for itself at no cost to
National Office.





UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH METRO DISTRICT 2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

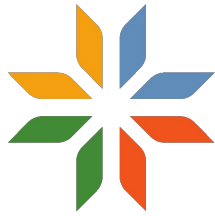
Office	Name	Address	Phone	Email
President	Diann P. Back (St. Stephen)	9301 Whitethorn Dr. Charlotte, NC 28277	704-846-8875 h 704-517-5436 c	dback@carolina.rr.com
Vice President	Earonita Strong (Simpson-Gillespie)	1929 Crestdale Dr. Charlotte, NC 28216	704-534-4387	stronge@carolina.rr.com
Secretary	Debbie Eudy (Memorial/Charlotte)	806 Eaglewood Ave. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-759-4477	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	Marilyn Morris (North Davidson)	3400 Winterfield Pl. Charlotte, NC 28205	(704) 807-5551	1circleofgrace@gmail.com
Social Action	Lisa Delano (Davidson UMC)	116 Webbed Foot Rd Mooresville NC 28117	704-957-8035	mybrowneyedgirls@msn.com
MN&O	Shauna Stroud (St. Mark's)	7711 Park Vista Circle Charlotte NC 28226	954-329-5121	shauna.stroud@gmail.com
Program Resources	Sharon Lasher (Memorial, Charlotte)	1836 Graybark Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205	704-661-5268	sharonllasher@gmail.com
Communications	Amanda Dyer (Forest Hill)	701 Wingard Rd. Concord, NC 28023	704-201-8672	adyer0813@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	Nancy Ward	4003 Colton Ridge Drive Indian Trail, NC 28079	704-681-4779	Nward001@carolina.rr.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	Nancy Ward (Matthews)	4003 Colton Ridge Dr. Indian Trail, NC 28212	704-681-4779	nward1001@bellsouth.net
Member-at-Large	Tonja Schult (St. Marks)	134 Oasis Dr. Mooresville, NC 28117	404-290-2690	tonjaschult50@gmail.com
Conference Advisor	Cathy McCauley (St. Stephen)	6835-A Farmington Dr. Charlotte, NC 28212	704-965-6566	cathymc855@yahoo.com

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 Team Officer with your questions, ideas, or concerns

2025 Metro District Nurturing Partner List

CHURCH	PARTNER	CHURCH	PARTNER
Aldersgate	Sylvia Casey	Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson
Bethpage	Lynda Morris	Midway	Sybil Long
Center (Concord)	Louise Woods	Mount Olivet	Sybil Long
Central (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson	Myers Park	Nancy Ward
Central (Concord)	Amanda Dyer	North Davidson	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Christ	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh	Pineville	Diann Back
Cokesbury	Diann Back	Pleasant Grove	Linda Davidson
Commonwealth	Earonita Strong	Providence	Debbie Eudy
Davidson	Lynda Morris	Rocky Ridge	Sharon Lasher
Dilworth	Diann Back	Simpson-Gillespie	Sharon Lasher
Epworth	Amanda Dyer	South Tryon	Sylvia Casey
First (Charlotte)	Shauna Stroud	SouthPark	Shauna Stroud
Forest Hill	Linda Davidson	St. Francis	Nancy Ward
Harrisburg	Diann Back	St. Marks	Sylvia Casey
Hickory Grove	Debbie Eudy	St. Stephen	Debbie Eudy
Hunters Chapel	Earonita Strong	Thrift	Sylvia Sekle-Dueh
Huntersville	Earonita Strong	Trinity (Charlotte)	Sylvia Casey
Indian Trail	Nancy Ward	Trinity (Kannapolis)	Amanda Dyer
Matthews	Louise Woods	Woodlawn Community	Earonita Strong
Memorial (Charlotte)	Linda Davidson		

United Women in Faith
Metro District of the WNCC UMW
701 Wingard Rd.
Concord, NC 28025



United
Women
in Faith



United Women in Faith

Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Mission

United Women in Faith seeks 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.

Purpose

To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.