

Calendar of Events

2026

August 21 - 22

Mission u

Catholic Conference Center

Hickory, NC

September 12

Conference Annual Celebration

St. Luke's, UMC

Hickory, NC

October 17

Leadership Development Day

Location: Virtual

Ubuntu Days of Service

May be held anytime during the year at the discretion of each district.

For detail of our conference events, go online at

www.wnccumw.org



United
Women
in Faith

Western North Carolina

Conference Gram

United Women in Faith, Western North Carolina



Mission u 2026

Passionate about mission?
Love to learn?
Want to engage with others
who are?
**Then Mission u is right for
you!**

Join us August 21-22, 2026



2026 UWF Conference Annual Celebration:

September 12, 2026

10:00am to 5:00pm

St. Luke's UMC, Hickory, NC



Western North Carolina Conference

United Women in Faith

53rd Annual Celebration

Celebrating 157 Years in Mission

Saturday, September 12, 2026

St. Luke's UMC, Hickory, NC

52 16th Ave NW, Hickory, NC 28601

Check-in 9:00-9:45 a.m.; Gathering Music 9:45-10:00 a.m.

Program Sessions begin at 10:00 a.m. & end at 4:30-ish p.m.



GUEST SPEAKER

Emily Jones

**National UWFaith
Executive for Racial Justice**

SS



- Worship and praise God through beautiful music led by Hunter Jamison and Makayla Aсталos.
- Engage in inspiring Social Action Workshops.
- Celebrate our Districts' 2025 Accomplishments.
- Elect our 2027 Officers.
- Honor the recipient of our 2026 Program Book—announced at the event.
- Enjoy rich fellowship with your UWFaith Sisters—reconnect with long-lasting friends and meet new ones.

Hands-on Missions for this event: MENSTRUAL HYGIENE KITS for UMCOR
See List of Items for Kits at Link Below and don't forget to include \$2 per kit for shipping!
<https://umcmmission.org/resources/umcor-menstrual-hygiene-kit-instructions>

Register on-line at <https://wnccumw.org>

Cost is \$25 including a sandwich lunch; \$15 if you prefer to bring your own lunch.

Registration is open through August 28.

A message from our President.....

Greetings my Sisters,

We have had an awesome start to our year with our Spiritual Growth Retreat. What a special time when we can gather at the lake and feed our spirits. I hope that you are making plans to attend Mission u and registration has opened for our Annual Celebration. Mission u will be a great time of digging into scripture and at Annual Celebration Emily Jones will be with us from our National office and I am excited to hear what she will bring. As a reminder the 2nd Monday of each month we are having a Town Hall ZOOM call so please call in to get answers to questions and to share the great things going on in your Unit. Thank you for all you do for God's children.

Love and grace,

Lynn Alexander, Conference President

TOGETHER, WE ARE
UNSTOPPABLE

A message from our Vice President....

Greetings, my dear UWFaith Sisters!

Included in the Conference Gram is the flyer for Annual Celebration 2026. Please send it to your Communications Coordinators and put it in any newsletters that will come out prior to August 28, cut-off date for pre-registration. Also, please promote this Annual Celebration at any upcoming District Events.

Thank you to each and every one of you for all you do to promote the work and mission of United Women in Faith! May your day be as beautiful as a rainbow and filled with God's blessings that are more precious than gold.

Love,

LindaLu Conference Vice President

Civil Legal Aid Organizations and IOLTA

The new North Carolina State Budget includes a provision that will effectively remove a critical funding source IOLTA (Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts)- that has provided grants to legal aid nonprofits. A lawyer's trust account is a bank account used to hold client funds safely. The interest from these accounts has been used to help legal aid organizations at no taxpayer expense.

Civil Legal Aid organizations across North Carolina serve low-income individuals and families. They have provided help to domestic violence victims, in landlord-tenant disputes and childcare cases, with immigrants needing help with visas and green cards, and with FEMA applications after Hurricane Helene.

Please contact your state legislators and ask them to reinstate that portion of the state budget that aids civil legal aid organizations that:

- **Assist immigrants under federal immigration law.**
- **Legally assist transgender people in seeking access to healthcare.**
- **Advocate for public policies that protect the rights of the poor and vulnerable.**

We believe in Justice for All!

Bess Redmond, Conference treasurer



I also have great news to share for the Engaging Ministry Partners event. This will be a great workshop to get excitement in Ministry for the Youth. Registration ends August 10th. Location is at The Pit in Mooresville NC with lunch provided.

Vickie Brown,

Conference Mission, Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Our Mission Focus continues to be...

"Feminine Hygiene Kits"

Note: We do except loose Hygiene items to assemble in kits as needed.

ENGAGING MINISTRY PARTNERS

A workshop focused on equipping and recruiting volunteers

**AUGUST 13TH, 2026
CENTRAL MOORESVILLE UMC
10 AM TIL 1:30PM**

LUNCH PROVIDED

REGISTER BY



**MEETUP
KICKOFF PARTY**
FOLLOWING THE WORKSHOP
**@ THE PIT
MOORESVILLE**

It's been an unusually hot and dry summer. All from lack of rain and insufferable heat. It's a stark reminder that our souls can become desolate as well when extreme conditions engulf us. I find myself in this dry and thirsty land on occasion. Dazed, discouraged, sluggish.... oh, what to do?!

*"The Spirit of Lord comes to me in this desert of weariness and whispers to me....
I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places- firm muscles,
strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use
the old rubble of past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be
known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again".*

Isiah 58:11 MSG

Take courage and heart, my beloved bodacious sisters, the restorative rains and cooler temperatures are among us. Together as we claim His promises, we nurture each other so all will be a beautiful well-watered garden. Looking forward to gathering at Mission u and our Annual Celebration with you lovely ladies. And I hope you'll feel refreshed from the gurgling spring.

Bubbling over,

Kim Eller (Mission, Membership, Nurture and Outreach)



Let us remember Civil Rights advocate and Deaconess, Clara Ester. We mourn her passing July 9, 2026 at age 77 while also celebrating a life faithfully lived...

*United Women in Faith's Unstoppable campaign is a bold, four-year journey from 2025-2029 with our message of Real Faith, Real Women, Real Community. From August 2026 through July 2027, the Unstoppable campaign will focus on the Influence Pathway through UWF's social justice priorities: **"Climate Justice" and "End Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color"**.*

You may contact me to assist for Social Action workshops you are planning as well as for materials.

Laquetta Barbee, Conference Social Action Coordinator

From Conference Committee on Nominations:

In this newsletter you will find the slate of officers nominated for positions on the conference team in 2027. They will be voted on at Annual Celebration on September 12th during the business section. Sometimes despite our best intentions we are unable to fill all positions. We know that we each have different passions and skills. Isn't it good that God can use all of us to do his work? You are encouraged to look at the offices and decide how you can help. If you feel God nudging you to participate beyond the local unit, let someone on the district or conference teams know that you are ready to serve. We will have many vacant offices in 2028. Nominations can also be made from the floor. Remember ladies you are not on your own we will always help you to be the best that you can be.

Debbie Ray, Chair Committee on Nominations

Are You a Voting Delegate for Conference Annual Celebration?

Elections are an important part of our brief business meeting. This year is no different. We will be electing officers for 2026 and other business of the Conference United Women in Faith. It can be a little confusing knowing who is a voting delegate to the Annual Celebration:

- ◆ **Unit Officers**—The president of the local unit is the voting delegate. The president may designate one or more delegates, depending on unit membership if she is not attending. 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.
- ◆ **District Officers**—Members of the district executive committee, including chairpersons, are voting delegates. Members of district committees are **not** voting delegates unless they are the chairperson of the committee or are representing their local unit.

Additional voting members include:

- ◆ Past presidents of the Western North Carolina Conference United Women in Faith and conference past presidents of the United Women in Faith now living within the bounds of the Western North Carolina Conference
- ◆ Conference officers and chairpersons of committees
- ◆ All elected members-at-large

Complete information about voting membership may be found on page 25 of our Conference Standing Rules, Article X, Section 1.E – September 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Martha Phillips, Conference Parliamentarian

FULL HOUSE for Experiencing Emmanuel Mission u 2026 August 21-22, 2026 Catholic Conference Center, Hickory NC

The great news for this year's Mission u is **we are at capacity** for the Catholic Conference Center!! Every bed is taken; every seat is claimed! Registration is closed and we are now focused on bring you the BEST Mission u ever. Study leaders Sandra, Tracey and Joy are ready to welcome a full house to *Experiencing Emmanuel*, Friday and Saturday, August 21-22.

If you ordered a book through registration, your book will be waiting for you at the Catholic Conference Center. If you did not order a book, there is still time. Rev. Linda Furtado's book, *'A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives'* is an exceptional text to guide our transformative learning experience. [Order it from Amazon](#) before Mission u. Our Hands on Mission project is Menstrual Hygiene kits, Vickie Brown will collect them at Mission u. Sec. of Program Resources, Cathy McCauley, will be holding the wonderful [Bring a Book, Take a Book](#) project again this year. Bring your reading program books to share AND take home something new home! I have three reading program books I plan to bring.

Watch your email for updates/resources to be shared in the *Mission u Welcome letter*. And remember we are celebrating the 125th anniversary of the FIRST mission study this year –so come prepared to learn new ideas, build friendships, bring scripture into context, and connect spiritually with your UWFaith sisters (and eat cake!). See you in August, Nancy, Rhita and LaDonna! Questions? ms.nancy.litton@gmail.com

2027 Slate of WNCC UWF Officers

The following are nominees to be voted on at the 2026 Conference Annual Celebration:

SECRETARY: Lynda F. Morris, 1st year 2nd term

TREASURER: Bess Redmond, 1st year 3rd term

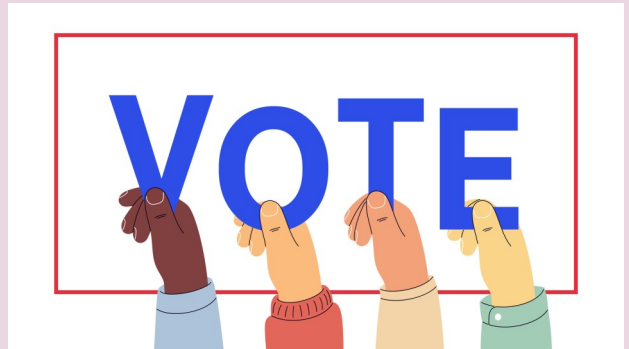
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR: Gabrielle Alexander, 2nd year 1st term

Committee on Nominations:

- ♦ Class of 2030—Montessa Thomas
- ♦ Class of 2030—Carol Harper

Open positions:

- ♦ Mission Coordinator Education and Interpretation
- ♦ Committee on Nominations



U•B•U•N•T•U

"I am human because you are human"

UBUNTU DAY at Bethlehem Child Care Center

**October 15, 9:00 AM @ 520 N Cleveland Ave
Winston Salem, NC 27101**

Ubuntu — "I am because we are." Join us for a morning of community, connection, and support for the children and families of Bethlehem Child Care Center. If you wish to bring donations, please bring items for the day care and school supplies. Please register via: Mission, Annual Celebration or contact

Vickie Brown at vickiebrown961@gmail.com

A colorful poster for "The Wonder Summit: REIMAGINING CONGREGATIONAL WORSHIP & PRAYER WITH CHILDREN". The event is scheduled for November 4-6th, 2026, at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina. Early bird registration is \$155. The poster features stylized pinwheels in blue, yellow, and orange. Logos for Lake Junaluska, Cultivate, and the Western North Carolina Conference are at the bottom. The text "HOSTED BY" is placed between the Lake Junaluska and Cultivate logos. The Western North Carolina Conference logo includes the text "The United Methodist Church".



Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign Team:

We continue to promote the Legacy Fund across our conference...

- ⇒ We received a giving report through June 30, 2026 on our conference's giving to the Legacy Fund; which is **\$590,701.12**. Making us third in the nation! Our Legacy giving for the year 2026 so far is **\$15,805.76**. The cumulative amount now in the Legacy Fund is **\$57,020,632.06**, or 95.03% of our \$60 million national goal. So we are now within \$2,979,367 of our goal! That sounds amazing when you think about our beginning with a goal of \$60 million. Thank you for your continuing support of the Legacy Fund!
- ⇒ Western North Carolina was honored at the Legacy Banquet at Assembly for leadership in new members of the 1869 Society, which is persons who have indicated they have established a planned future gift to the Legacy Fund. I will bring the crystal vase trophy to Annual Celebration for folks to see it.
- ⇒ Just a reminder, our \$590k cumulative giving does not include planned gifts that will happen in the future. We do have members who have established planned gifts of all sizes...even significant ones, through their will or other planned giving methods, and we are grateful for those commitments. We encourage you and all members of United Methodist Women to continue to support the Legacy Fund, and to consider making planned future gifts. We are glad to be helpful to anyone wanting more information about how to do that.
- ⇒ We would still like to host a Planned Giving workshop this year. Christi Campos has designed something new called: *The Power of Women Philanthropists: An Interactive Estate Planning Workshop*. District Presidents, if that interests you as something to host for your district let me know. This could be Zoom or in person. I may go ahead and work on a date with Christi Campos and offer it conference wide by Zoom.

Thank you for continuing to include a Legacy moment each time we gather. We need to continue to keep the Legacy Fund in front of everyone as we work toward our \$60 Million national goal!

Learn more on our website at <https://wnccumw.org/legacyfund/>

Lynne Gilbert,
WNCC Legacy Liaison





Western North Carolina Conference

United Women in Faith

Gabrielle Alexander

15—A Yester Oaks Circle

Greensboro, NC 27455

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

UWFaith Town Hall

ZOOM Calls

2nd Monday of each month

@ 7pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85209872137?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85209872137?pwd=AXoqsaVJ0xgFo18LBxIjIjFY7x4hHS.1)

[pwd=AXoqsaVJ0xgFo18LBxIjIjFY7x4hHS.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85209872137?pwd=AXoqsaVJ0xgFo18LBxIjIjFY7x4hHS.1)

Got questions?

Want to hear about upcoming events?

Want to share what is going on in your Unit?

Please join us!



United
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