United Women in Faith

Western North Carolina Conference

Glossary of United Women in Faith Terms

So, that's what it means....

- **Action Alerts –** Notices that keep interested individuals informed about important legislation and policies regarding issues of particular concern for United Women in Faith. Sign up to receive Action Alerts at **https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice/#sign-up-form**.
- **A Call to Prayer and Self Denial –** Annual observance which gives local units a chance to study and reflect on a particular theme each year and designate funds for ministries related to that theme.
- **Assembly –** a once-every-four-years gathering of women committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. It's a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood.
- **Charge or Cluster Group –** A United Women in Faith group formed by women from more than one church when the number of women from a single church is too small to organize with a basic structure.
- **Charter for Racial Justice –** Based on our belief that all people are created by God and are part of God's family and that each person's value deserves respect and nurture, United Women in Faith members are committed to the elimination of institutional racism of all kinds and supports and participates in the worldwide struggle for liberation of all individuals in our churches and communities. This is a global United Women in Faith initiative.
- **Conference –** The organization of United Women in Faith within the bounds of an annual conference of the United Methodist Church. We are part of the Western North Carolina Conference.
- **Deaconess and Home Missioner –** Lay people who have responded to the call of God in their lives and have been commissioned by The United Methodist Church in a lifetime relationship to full-time ministries of love, justice, and service.
- **District Unit –** A group formed by women from different churches who choose to meet in locations other than a local church, such as a college or university campus, in a retirement community or local business area.
- **District Member –** A woman who does not have a local or district organization to which she can belong. Upon approval by the district executive committee, she becomes a district member. Through the district, she learns about the events and resources of United Women in Faith and makes her Pledge to Mission.
- **Executive Committee –** The executive committee works as a mission team and is the administrative body of United Women in Faith at local, district, and conference levels. It facilitates program planning, financial functions, and membership development.

Glossary of United Women in Faith Terms Continued

- **Five Channels of Giving –** There are five main ways to financially support the work of United Women in Faith. (Give a minimum of $5 in each of these channels and your unit will have given in all Five Channels of Giving. Individuals may also give in all five channels.)
    1. **Pledge to Mission:** What we feel led to give from our hearts to make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth each year. This is not considered "dues." There is no set amount and it is hoped that each year our members will be able to increase their pledge to mission. All of our dollars add up to make mission possible!
    2. **World Thank Offering:** This offering is an opportunity for us to respond to God's abundance and grace with spontaneous gifts of gratitude. These offerings are usually collected during a special service or program.
    3. **Special Mission Recognition:** By giving to this channel, a local unit or an individual is able to honor someone. The gift amounts for pins range from $40 to $2,000. However, if a unit does not have $40 in its budget, it may donate $5 to this channel and it will have given in this channel of mission giving. (There will not be a pin, but the money will go to mission.) Anyone can be recognized in this way: woman, man, member, non-member, United Methodist or other denomination.
    4. **Gift to Mission:** Make a gift of $5 or more in honor of a member, friend, family member or anyone. The following cards are available to send to the person you are honoring: Thank-You, A New Baby, In the Service of Christ, A Special Day, Thinking of You, Peace, Happy Birthday, Congratulations, and assortment of Christmas cards. These cards can be purchased from local treasurers or at district and conference events.
    5. **Gift in Memory:** Give a gift in memory of a member, friend, family member or anyone. You may get these cards from local treasurers and at district and conference events for free. Then turn in a minimum gift of $5 for each card when you send one to the family of the deceased. You can use these not only when someone dies, but to remember someone on Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.
- **International Ministries –** Mission Giving funds support ministries in 38 countries.
- **Justice Today –** Our conference initiative to promote study and implementation of the Charter for Racial Justice. A list of criteria is posted on the conference website wnccumw.org.
- **Justice Today unit –** a unit that has met a certain number of the Justice Today criteria during the year.
- **Leadership Development –** Elected officers of local units, districts and conferences of United Women in Faith are expected to participate each year in continuing training for their particular responsibilities. These events are sponsored by the districts and conferences.
- **LUV/NP Visit –** LUV stands for Local Unit Visitation. Some districts call these Nurturing Partner Visits. This is an opportunity for district and conference officers to come to local units and share information and hear from the local units. No unit is too small for a visit! Officers welcome the chance to do a program or just enjoy fellowship.
- **Mission Giving –** Pledges are given by members to support the mission program of United Women in Faith. With "no strings attached," these funds are available for use in any part of the mission program of United Women in Faith. (See Five Channels of Giving)
- **Mission Studies –** United Women in Faith equips members for reflection and informed action through educational opportunities and resources. Each year, United Women in Faith members prepare through mission studies on topical and spiritual topics. These are offered on a district level as well as in local units.

Glossary of United Women in Faith Terms Continued

- **Mission Today –** The purpose of Mission Today is to energize United Women in Faith members to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. It also seeks to increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so the United Women in Faith members understand where their money goes. It encourages the use of mission resources through United Women in Faith and expands concepts of mission, including social justice as mission. There is a list of criteria that units can complete to become a Mission Today unit. This list is posted on the wnccumw.org website.
- **Mission Today unit –** a unit that has completed a certain number of Mission Today criteria in a year.
- **Mission u –** A mission education initiative held annually using the mission studies produced by the United Women in Faith National Office.
- **MEI –** Mission Education & Interpretation. Usually refers to the mission coordinator for this area.
- **MNO –** Membership Nurture & Outreach. Usually refers to the mission coordinator for this area.
- **National Mission Institutions –** These institutions provide much needed services to their communities, and many have historical relationships with United Women in Faith. Over 80 institutions are located across the United States, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. They are community centers, schools, colleges, health care facilities, and women's residents offering a variety of services. United Women in Faith locally and through their gifts to mission support National Mission Institutions.
- **Nurturing Partner –** A district officer who is teamed up with a local unit with the intention of forming a relationship. This partnership allows for flow of information to and from the local unit.
- **Daily Prayer Guide –** The Daily Prayer Guide features illustrations created by children who are served by projects are supported by Mission Giving. It also includes personal reflections from missionaries, deaconesses and home missioners, and other mission personnel. Missionaries, deaconesses and home missioners, other mission personnel, and staff members are listed on their birthdays so they may be lifted in prayer. Also included daily are names of International and National Mission Institutions.
- **Program Resource –** This features a collection of programs for use in local units and circles that inspire peace, encourage us to care for the environment, teach about reconciliation, restorative justice, current events etc. Included is the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program and Pledge Service.
- **Reading Program –** A program of the United Women in Faith that encourages members to expand their understanding of and participation in God's mission through the reading and/or study of books that are selected each year. There are five categories of books. More information is available from your Secretary of Program Resources on a local, district, or conference level.
- **response Magazine –** The official magazine of United Women in Faith produced six times a year. It is the voice of women in mission and is intended for every member of the organization. See the conference website for subscription information (www.wnccumw.org).
- **Scholarships –** The Scholarship Program is funded by the General Scholarship Fund and seven endowed scholarships. Scholarships assist members of The United Methodist Church who live in the bounds of the Western North Carolina Conference obtaining an undergraduate degree. Most scholarships require that the recipient pursue an academic course leading to a church-related vocation such as Christian Educator. Recipients must attend one of the five United Methodist-related colleges or universities located in the Western North Carolina Conference.
- **SEJ –** Southeastern Jurisdiction; composed of these conferences: Alabama-West Florida, Central Appalachian Missionary, Florida, Georgia, Holston, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee-Western Kentucky, Virginia, and Western North Carolina.

➢ **Ubuntu Days of Service –** Ubuntu is an African word and proverb meaning, "I am human because you are human." Members serve at the five National Mission Institutions located in our conference: Bennett College, Alliance Center for Education, Bethlehem Community Center, Brooks-Howell Home, and Pfeiffer University. Other Ubuntu Days of Service may occur at other gatherings such as Assembly.

➢ **United Women in Faith National Office –** The National Office provides support and structure for the mission of United Women in Faith at all levels of the organization.

Many questions can be answered on our website, wnccumw.org or the national website, www.uwfaith.org or by contacting a district or conference officer. See your district and conference newsletters for a complete list of officers.

Local Unit → District → Conference → National Office

8 Western North Carolina Conference Districts:

Appalachian
Blue Ridge
Catawba Valley
Metro
Northern Piedmont
Smoky Mountain
Uwharrie
Yadkin Valley

Adapted from *United Women in Faith Handbook 2025 - 2028*