



THE PHOENIX

GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT

Winter 2020 NEWSLETTER

President

Our annual meeting was Saturday, October 19, at Detroit Central UMC. Guest Speaker Ellen Harbin's message was inspiring and evaluations indicated how much it was appreciated by those in attendance. The business meeting went well and we were grateful for the hospitality, continental breakfast and lunch provided by the Central United Methodist Women members.

We were alerted in October that the United Methodist Women national staff were seeking districts to host a pilot workshop about racial justice. An application was sent for our district to be considered for the date of November 9. We were honored to be approved. I am so very thankful for the planning and effort put forth by our district officers to start our previously scheduled Leadership Training early and to provide training for our local officers in less time.

The presenters for the Equity Workshop were National Staff members Sally Varner, Transformation Officer for National, and Emily Jones, Racial Justice Chair in charge of the School-to-Prison Pipeline campaign. Ms. Varner read John 8:31-33 and led us in prayer. She said "We need to understand racism to be a sin." According to Ms. Varner, dismantling the sin of racism is not an easy task. Her suggestion: *discover and embrace truth and really love each other.*

It was pointed out that United Methodist Women has a history of racial causes but there is more work to be done. Ms. Jones shared the purpose for United Methodist Women of "more work" and additional Equity Workshops: *to have more diversity and inclusion. "Diverse" can be based on factors other than race, such as culture, nationality, age, size, etc.*

Ms. Jones spoke of "Brave Space", engaging one another in conversation, and offered ground rules for planned group discussions. Some of the points made after the discussion group sessions included:

- In districts with a vast majority of white members, the leaders almost never consider getting a person of color to be a speaker or presenter.
- It is important to attend events and be a leader regardless of the race of the speaker or the leaders.
- In a diverse district with many women of color as leaders, it seems harder to get white women to run for office.
- Suburban units with mostly white members are less likely to attend events held at a church in the inner city. This was apparent for our Annual Meeting held at Detroit Central in October 2019.

Leaders in our district were pleased that six Michigan Conference districts were

represented at the workshop by 76 members. We are very grateful and appreciative to the Ferndale United Methodist Women members who provided a soup lunch after the Equity Workshop in addition to the continental breakfast items after Leadership Training for attendees of both workshops.

Since the workshop, I've discovered a reality that I consider to be a problem: suburban white women are not drawn to a program on racial justice. The next action steps mentioned at the workshop include: *share our story, show up and do internal auditing*. Resources were handed out to attendees and some received the book *So You Want to Talk About Race* which is on the 2020 United Methodist Women Reading Program list.

In conclusion, I hope that members of my color and race read this article through and will have found ideas from our Equity Workshop which will motivate them to have a desire to attend future events on equity or racial justice. A most important point that was made:

Discrimination/Racism is a Sin! Also of importance, Discover and embrace truth and really love each other.

Kay Korns

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734.671.0005, 734.775.2385 (cell)

Vice-President

As I take a moment to reflect on the many positive undertakings our organization has accomplished, it reminds me of great women like yourselves who champion the cause of justice.

We had an exciting social justice workshop "School-to-Prison Pipeline" March 9 at Beverly Hills U.M. Church. Led by Sharon Appling, experts presented a wealth of information on many facets of the problem. It was well attended and enthusiastically received. Our Annual Meeting October 19 was held in beautiful Detroit Central U.M. Church, where the great Martin Luther King, Jr., once preached. Speaker Ellen Harbin's message was inspirational and helped us "connect the dots" between ourselves and what we can do. Participation in the Ingathering Project from many of our district churches was very generous and much appreciated.

Some great things are coming! Our **Annual Prayer Breakfast** February 8 (which may have passed before you read this) will have Deaconess Amanda Mountain, Director of Motown Mission, as speaker. Redford Aldersgate U.M. Church is the venue. We heartily thank the United Methodist Women members for hosting this event for the second year in a row. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Wyandotte First U.M. Church March 14 for our **Mission Workshop on climate change issues**. The facilitator, Robert Prud'homme, Director of Substantial Initiatives from Royal Oak First U.M. Church, is sure to present much information we are not aware of. Last but not least, our **Spiritual Life Retreat** will be held April 24-25 at Lake Huron Retreat Center with Nichea Ver Veer Guy as facilitator. She is the Chair of Program for the Michigan Conference and is an exemplary leader.

Thank you for a great 2019. I am looking forward to your continued participation in 2020. We are faced with many challenges within our church today but with God's help we will

survive to continue our mission. I am looking forward to great fellowship in 2020!

God bless you all.

Tina (Ernestine) Campbell
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Secretary

Take the Torch and Run with It

I attended the Leadership Team meeting on November 9, 2019, and I was prepared to train someone for secretary. No one showed up for the training I would have provided. It reminded me of when I first became interested in becoming a part of United Methodist Women, and I attended a training at Scott Memorial United Methodist Church. At that time, I was interested in training for secretary; however, no one showed up to train, so I instead attended Ethel Gill's training for Education and Interpretation, which was wonderful. This time around, I attended Susan Howze's Membership Nurture and Outreach training, which was excellent. Susan's station was right across from where mine was, which was good, because I, being hopeful, could still see if anyone would come looking for me.

It takes a lot of time and effort to prepare to train someone, and it takes a lot of courage to present it. The good thing about these trainings is that we do not mind sharing what we know, or passing along the tools, skills and knowledge we have gained to keep things running smoothly, for the work of the kingdom of God. There is no risk. We want someone to know what we know. We are willing to pass the

torch of knowledge on to others, so that the invaluable work of United Methodist Women can always continue effectively and competently, and with little, if any, disruption.

I am going to share, through a little synopsis, what I would have included in my training.

- Being secretary is not easy, and it is a powerful position to hold. The secretary listens, writes and takes the notes that will be generated into minutes, which can be presented to a body that has the authority to accept, approve, or disapprove them. They may also offer corrections to the minutes. The body have the duty to make sure that the record as presented is true and correct, and they have a right to learn that they can trust you with recording their words and actions for the record. Some of the corrections that are offered are intelligently based, and some, though seemingly trivial, may be necessary for the future integrity of the record. In either case, the secretary's approach to the minutes and his/her response to correction or comments is crucial.
- It takes time and care to prepare minutes that everyone can understand, support and accept. Preparing minutes with this in mind prevents problems. The goal is to be accurate about what is presented to the body, however humanly you may err. Accuracy in recording is key. The secretary must develop a thick skin to deal with her own feelings about "her" minutes that come under scrutiny every time there is a meeting.

- She must also have a warm heart that embraces and respects the diverse personalities, diverse ways of communicating, and the expanse of knowledge that surrounds her, realizing that different people know many things; some being astute with words, some versed in grammar, and some particularly meticulous with punctuation. While the secretary may know a lot about all of those things, no one knows everything. It is up to the secretary to understand all of these things, and to get an understanding.

Speaking for myself as secretary, there has not been a moment that my interactions and relationships with the Greater Detroit District Executive Committee has caused me to turn away from my desire to fill this position, which stemmed from my attendance at an annual meeting, at which it was noted there was a vacancy for secretary. No one volunteered or was nominated from the floor. After some time, I checked with Kay Kornis to see if anyone had stepped to the position. When no one had, I decided to go for it.

Every month I strive to do a good job as secretary, and I have found that my work is respected, and I am surrounded by love, support, and acceptance. I have further found that every one of the women on our district's executive committee take their responsibilities as seriously as I take mine. I have immense admiration and respect for each of them.

We want to pass the torches of knowledge along to other committed women of God. We need for you to take the torches and run to the freedom of becoming whole persons, who are

free to bring about change in the world. Be free to take the torches and keep running, and keep passing them along.

Cynthia Lynette Bradford
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 313.204.8368

Treasurer

Happy New Year to everyone! I cannot believe we are in the year 2020. As a new year approaches, it is a reminder of how swift the passage of time is and how quickly our lives go flashing past us. And if you are reading this newsletter, we give praises to our Heavenly Father who has blessed us with another opportunity, hopefully to get it right.

The Greater Detroit District ended 2019 with an offering of \$75,067. This includes some Legacy Fund offerings. The Legacy Fund donations should be sent directly to: Office of Treasurer, United Methodist Women National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, 15th floor, New York, NY 10115. The check should be made out to "United Methodist Women" with "Legacy Fund" on the memo line.

A friendly reminder that the District closes our books on November 30th of each year to send all monies to the Michigan Conference UMW. The Conference Treasurer closes their books around December 10th, in order to send all monies to New York. This is a reminder because in 2019 I received numerous checks after the cut-off date and I had to hold the checks until 2020. I notified each Unit that their offering will be credited for 2020 and not 2019. Lastly, it is not too early to start sending in your 5-Star Women offerings. Remember the time

does fly. The District continues to thank you for all your financial support. We are making a difference around the world, to those less fortunate than us.

Mail all checks to my address:

3975 Cornerstone Drive, Canton, MI 48188

(for safety reasons, do not include "District Treasurer" after my name.

Viola Jones

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734.221.5478 (home)

Spiritual Growth

Love on Valentine's Day - by Mary Lou Carney

Sometimes we grown-ups make love way more complicated than it needs to be.

Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

Last night I helped my grandsons get valentines ready for their preschool party. The cards, which featured a variety of bright characters, had to be pulled apart at perforated seams. Small heart stickers were included to hold the folded cards together.

We were pushing the bedtime limit, sitting at the kitchen table in a circle of overhead light. Drake, five, laboriously printed his name over and over. His brother, three, attached heart stickers, while his daddy wrote BROCK on all of his cards. My job was licking all 68 envelopes.

Brock finished his stack first, and as he was leaving to go up to bed, he came over to Drake

and stuck a red heart sticker on his brother's shirt. Drake stopped his printing and looked at the small bright spot of color on his sleeve. "Look, Nina," he said, "Brock gave me this. He must love me."

Sometimes we grown-ups make love way more complicated than it needs to be. A simple gesture, a kind touch, an unexpected card can all say, "I care about you." And, of course, so can a bright red heart sticker.

Father, thank You for loving me unconditionally. Help me pass that love along today to someone who needs it.

As you read this devotion, remember how important LOVE is, and don't forget to say I LOVE YOU often.

Lorraine Murdoch

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Education and Interpretation

Happy New Year everyone! I pray that 2020 will be your best year yet! It is an opportunity to push forward with the great work of the United Methodist Women. It is a great time to continue our mission work with new initiatives, ideas and partnerships across the great state of Michigan.

It is not too soon to start working on your 2020 Mission Today Unit Objectives of the United Methodist Women for the Michigan Conference. This document serves as a road map for the local unit; it lists the goals and objectives of the United Methodist Women. Completing the objectives creates growth

opportunities for the members in the area of mission education, spiritual growth, Mission Giving, leadership skills and social action. It is useful to discuss the objectives on a regular basis at the unit meetings to engage the members in accomplishing as many of the objectives as possible. You can find the form online:

<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am available to attend your unit meetings and install your unit officers. Also, please send me information about successful fundraisers. I would like to share the information with other units.

To God be the glory!

Ethel M. Gill

butterfly1425@yahoo.com

313.530.5393

Social Action

Happy New Year! This is a new year for missions. It was a pleasure seeing all of you at the Greater Detroit District Annual Meeting at Central United Methodist Church in Detroit. That day we collected numerous items for the Methodist Children's Home, including:

- Clothing: socks, underwear, shirts
- A variety of toiletry items
- Canned goods
- Towels, wash clothes, rugs
- Dishes and other household goods
- Microwave ovens

This event was very successful in helping male teens at the age of 18 transition out of foster care and begin living on their own.

This year, National Office's social action goals that we should focus on are:

- Climate Justice
- Maternal and Child Health
- Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration (the School- to- Prison Pipeline)
- Economic Inequality

See "Why United Methodist Women Engage in Social Action" further down in this issue of *The Phoenix*. Importantly, there are suggestions for how your unit can become engaged in social action at the local level.

Are you familiar with the Prayer Calendar? The Prayer Calendar includes weekly submissions of a "Mission Witness" by one of our mission workers from around the world, and a "Mission Focus" for each day of that week.

In Michigan we have four missionaries. They are Randy Hildebrant in Paradise; Anne Hillman in Grand Rapids; Sonya Luna in Ypsilanti; and Hannah Schnaidt in Novi. You may have heard Randy Hildebrant and Sonya Luna speak at one of our events. Your unit may want to get familiar with the missions they are serving. Think about sending them a thank-you note or a birthday card. Their information and information on missionaries around the world are located in the Prayer Calendar.

I'm looking for ideas for our District Ingathering this year. Please email me if you have any suggestions. This is my last year as your Social Action Coordinator. This is a very

important role. Consider joining the District Team. We need your help.

God bless you.

Jocelyn Davis
missydavis32@gmail.com
248.722.8638

Membership Nurture and Outreach

God is Good all the time, and All the time God is Good. I hope that your 2020 is off to a good start. I pray you are making progress on whatever goals you set for yourself in this new decade. I would encourage you to reflect on all that God has done for you in the previous decade and remember that the same God who kept you then will keep you in this new decade. Always remember to count your blessings.

It's that time again! Time for the 2019 United Methodist Women Census! Submission deadline is **Monday, March 30, 2020**. It can be found on our website at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/> Click on the **green box** that is labeled 2019 Census, fill in your local unit's information and hit Submit at the end.

Remember that the individual registration, found on "myUMW", is for new members only. "myUMW" is the **blue box** on our website. Once new members complete the registration process, they can print their membership card.

Let us continue to pray for one another and let the light of Jesus Christ shine through us. May God continue to move in and through each of you as you stay on the path for Mission. I am

looking forward to seeing you at the Prayer Breakfast.

Yours in Service for Christ,

Susan Howze
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313.608.4571

Secretary of Program Resources

Welcome, all, to the 2020 United Methodist Women Reading Program. I remind you that you must get your books on your own from book stores, Amazon, your library, and any place you know to get books. To make this easy for you, look up the website for United Methodist Women:
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/2020readingprogram.

This will give you all the information you need, including a complete list of the 2020 Reading Program books and lists of books from other years that count for reading this year. It will also give you a complete list of the 2020 Reading Program books with a short synopsis of each. There is further information that should answer any questions you might have of the program. Included is a copy of the report form to fill out with your readings. That can be done online if you so desire.

Do not forget that you must read a minimum of one book in each of the five categories and the six copies of the **response** magazine. It is also of note that the Mission u books are eligible for the Reading Program and the online information tells you about them.

Should you not be a computer person, perhaps your church office or someone who is computer-literate might assist you. If that does not work for you, contact me at the information given below and I will assist you, or see me at the book table at all United Methodist Women events.

Ladies, let's read like we never read before and grow in knowledge on many subjects that are new to us. And let us get books for the youth and children of our churches and encourage them to read, or read to them on many topics.

In Christ,

Mary Beltzman
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734.502.8487

Co-Communications Coordinators

As communication coordinators, we are responsible for sending out the two issues of *The Phoenix* each year along with other notices. We are more than happy to help send out information from your individual UMW units, social action notices and other information of interest to the Methodist community. Just send your information to Kris Miranne (kristine.miranne@att.net) and she will forward it to the individuals on our various listservs. If you know someone who would like to receive our emails, be sure to have them send Kris their contact information and they will be added.

Although we try to keep you informed as information comes along, there are several

other websites you should check regularly. These include:

National

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

Take some time to peruse this website – it is chock-full of information. In particular, look under the “news” tab to see current topics and how our national UMW is responding. There is also an interesting section on the page that focuses on leadership development of young girls and women:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/equip-leaders>

Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

www.umwmichiganconference.org

Once you open the page, you can scroll down to the Greater Detroit District.

Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MichiganUMW/groups/>

Reading Program

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program>

MIConnect

<http://news.michiganumc.org/>

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kristine.miranne@att.net
313.303.9536

News from UMW Units

We welcome any news from local units – please feel free to share your activities – photos are certainly welcome too!

Southfield Hope United Methodist Women

Hosting Tony Crosby (Housing Homeless Program)

In September, Southfield Hope United Methodist Church has participated in this event sponsored by Oakland County for over 30 years. The event allows for the homeless to reside in the church as a temporary home for one week. On “United Methodist Women night”, our unit served a full-course dinner to more than 60 guests and volunteers. The gathering mirrored a family reunion. With the participation and support of Hope UMC, other churches, and the community, we were able to extend grace, comfort and relaxation to the families.

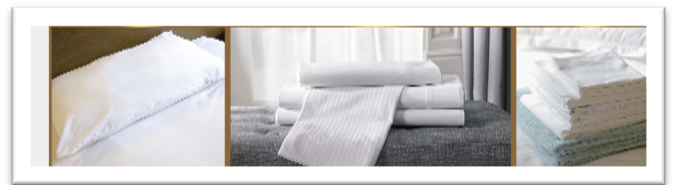
Hosting Mission u of the South



It was a pleasure for our church to host the Conference’s Mission u of the South for the second year.

The planning and preparations to meet the needs of our guests provided much joy to be of service. A special thanks goes to Dianne Cross (our past president) who took the lead to ensure the event’s success.

Supporting Covenant House Michigan as the 2019 Ingathering Project



Our unit provided all items on Covenant House Michigan’s Wish List. The list included 24 queen-size pillows, men's underwear, Vaseline lotion, and mouthwash. Additionally, we provided a 30-gallon bag of travel kits. The kits included toothbrushes, toothpaste, face masks, socks, Kleenex and a pen. The estimated value of our donations exceeded \$400.

Our Ingathering co-chairs, Roberta Saunders and Carol Cartwright, delivered the items to Covenant House Michigan, 2959 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Detroit, Michigan 48208. Delivery was received with heartfelt appreciation followed by a thank-you card.

United Methodist Women Day Celebration

Members of Southfield Hope United Methodist Women shared their 2019 Ingathering accomplishments with the congregation during services on United Methodist Women

Recognition Day. President Rosemary Williams presented the church with a \$1,000 Love Offering.



Pastor B. Kevin Smalls reminded the congregation that as pastor he is a proud member of Hope United Methodist Women. The congregation gave a standing ovation as he spoke of Hope unit's ministry and his appreciation for the many works they perform for our church annually.

Pastor Smalls noted that Hope members also have leadership positions at the district and conference levels of United Methodist Women.

Saving Kids of Incarcerated Parents ("SKIP")

Hope United Methodist Women members again hosted the annual Christmas party for SKIP which was held this year at Redeemer United Methodist Church in Harper Woods on December 21, 2019, where the Rev. Marshall Murphy, Jr., is pastor. We entertained and served more than 50 children.

The event began with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. To the delight of the children and adults, entertainment included a local dance

troupe of young people performing spirited tap dances. Holiday music was continuous while the children created Christmas tree decorations and decorated holiday cookies. The decorated bells, stars, trees and gingerbread created by their imaginations were outstanding.

We served a traditional holiday meal which included turkey, stuffing, ham, mac and cheese, green beans, salad, punch, cake and favorite desserts. A motivational speaker ended the program with an uplifting message.

Our unit praises God for this opportunity to serve and fulfill the United Methodist Women Purpose.

Emmie J. Hawkins
Communications Director
Southfield Hope United Methodist Women

Detroit Metropolitan United Methodist Women

The Detroit Metropolitan UMW unit oversees the Rice Allen Fund, an endowment established in the 1940s. These funds allow our unit to fund proposals that support Christian education and programs that serve women, children, youth and families. Our most recently funded projects included:

- Detroit Hives: a project that targets communities of color, offering free tours to children, youth and families educating them about natural environments and the positive and negative impacts in which our ways impact the balance of nature.

- Free Little Library for Michigan Children's Home Society to be installed in front of their soon-to-be completed school.
- Great Start Christmas Boxes (sweaters, clothing, toys and books for Detroit Head Start-age children).
- Metropolitan Christian Education materials for children, youth and disabled adults.

SAVE THE DATE
Metropolitan United
Methodist Women

**"Igniting Hearts,
 Changing Lives"**

**Racial Justice: Screening of the
 film "American Son"**

Discussion to Follow

Sunday, March 8, 2020
 12:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Metropolitan UMC
 8000 Woodward Ave.
 Detroit MI, 48202

Light lunch will be served

This event is free but please RSVP
 to Kris Miranne: 313.303.9536 or
kristine.miranne@att.net by March 4,
 2020.

Kristine Miranne, Secretary/Treasurer
Metropolitan United Methodist Women

This Time of Change

Dear UMW members and friends,

You have likely read recent media reports pointing to a split in the United Methodist Church. Many outlets grossly overstated what has happened, and I am writing to clarify.

Over the past several months, persons who have various leadership roles in our denomination and in some of the groups that have prepared their own separate plans for how the denomination should proceed in 2020 met with a mediator to see if it was possible to come together around a single plan. On Friday, Jan. 3, they announced that they had reached an agreement to move ahead through separation. Their proposal would allow traditionalist United Methodists to form a new Methodist/Wesleyan body. The protocol has provisions dealing with properties, pensions and sketches out some of the timing and process that would be required. I encourage you to read the [United Methodist News Service article about it](#). At this stage, this agreement is a proposal. Actual legislation for the General Conference to consider will need to be drafted. It is a recommendation that has yet to be voted on or approved.

The current outline does not address United Methodist Women or the agencies of the church very much, except to say that, if the proposal is adopted, they and we would remain part of the UMC rather than the traditionalist denomination that could be formed if this approach is adopted by the General Conference. As you may know, United

Methodist Women has been following the development of all the plans and at times providing input or response. Along with you, we know that there is urgent work for United Methodist Women to take on—supporting women, children and youth and marginalized persons and advocating for policies that are more just. Our commitment is to be a place where all the women who affirm the Purpose and want to work together in mission can belong. With this in view, the United Methodist Women Board of Directors has already made changes to our bylaws to ensure that women committed to this mission could continue to belong, regardless of whether they or their church or their Conference separates from the UMC.

As United Methodist Church examines next steps, United Methodist Women will continue to be a place where the needs of women and children are front and center. As we do, we encourage each of you to be informed of what is being considered and to offer leadership in your congregation and in the District and Conference. Times of dramatic change can bring new possibilities. They are also times to remain vigilant about our core commitments and our identity, both as a denomination and as an organization.

In this time of change, we encourage members to remain connected to each other, remain centered on the work we are called to do in the world and to remain watchful of information on next steps, confident that God is at work.

In Love,

Harriett Jane Olson
General Secretary and CEO

United Methodist Women

Legacy Stories

Lula Jane Locklear Smith: Advocating for Women and Native Americans



Lula Jane Locklear Smith

Lula Jane Locklear Smith was a teacher, a writer and an activist fighting for justice and compassion, especially for women and Indigenous Peoples. A member of the Lumbee Tribe, Smith was born in 1921 in North Carolina, where she received her B.A. at the University of North Carolina and her Master's Degree in Education at Chapel Hill.

Smith was a passionate educator. For 28 years she worked as a high school English and Spanish teacher, and for 10 years was a supervisor of foreign language and bilingual education in North Carolina schools. In 1964 she was elected president of Wake County North Carolina Association of Educators.

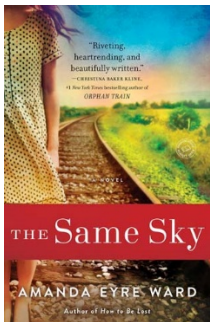
Smith and her husband were both deeply engaged in The Methodist Church. From 1948-1952 Smith was president of the Pembroke Women's Society of Christian Service, the precursor of United Methodist Women, and in 1962 she was elected president of the Wesleyan Service Guild.

All her life, Smith advocated for justice for women and Native Americans. She was on the board of The Women's Center of Raleigh, and in 1986 she chaired the North Carolina Committee for the Year of the Native American. Smith took a close look at her Native heritage and her Methodist faith in the book she wrote, *The Lumbee Methodists, Getting to Know Them: A Folk History*. The book is a comprehensive history of the relationship between the Lumbee Tribe and Methodism in North Carolina, and was published in 1990.

Lula Jane Locklear Smith died on April 30, 2015, in Cary, North Carolina.

Book Review

Here is a brief review of one of the books on the UMW Reading Program list:



The Same Sky: A Novel

Written by Amanda Eyre Ward.
Published in 2015 by Penguin Random House

Alice owns a barbecue restaurant with her husband, Jake, in Austin, Texas. They have a loving marriage and thriving business, but Alice still feels that something is missing. Carla is a strong-willed young girl who's had to grow up fast, acting as caretaker to her six-year-old brother, Junior, in Honduras. When their grandmother dies and violence in the city escalates, Carla takes fate into her hands and she and Junior join the thousands of children making the perilous trek across Mexico to America.

In this elegant and touching novel, the lives of Alice and Carla intersect in a profound and surprising way as they each search for a place to belong (from the description on the Reading Program website).

Here are but a few comments from readers of the book:

- *The Same Sky* puts a human face on the recent stories of children crossing the border illegally – the desperation and brutality they experience. It reminds us that they are children who need our compassion and understanding.
- This book helped me understand how very treacherous it is, and how very hard life must be, that people will risk the dangers to get through the border to a new and, hopefully, better life.
- This was a well-written and believable narrative that evoked both sympathy and anger over some of the issues we are faced with today. The easy flowing story highlighted the dichotomy between protection of our borders and protecting the lives of the endangered. The writer exemplified the difficult balance that lies between protection for current laws on the one hand, and protecting those who would break them on the other.

https://www.bookbrowse.com/reviews/index.cfm/book_number/3168/the-same-sky

History of Voting Rights and the United Methodist Church AND Women

John Wesley was a fan of voting!

According to a 1774 journal entry, he urged Methodist Society members: “(1) To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy, (2) To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and (3) To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.” Of course, in his time, only white males could vote.

Fortunately, many faithful members of Wesley’s movement, especially women, joined the struggle to expand the right to vote. In fact, the famed Woman’s Rights Convention at Seneca Falls, New York, found a welcoming host in Wesleyan Chapel, part of the Wesleyan Methodist denomination.

“I continue to live in awe of the courage and dedication of the women throughout Methodist history who gave their all for the rights that we take for granted, especially the precious right to vote,” said Dawn Wiggins Hare, the top executive of the United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women. “How can we ever find ourselves too busy, too jaded, too uninterested to miss an opportunity to vote when those before us were beaten in the street for protesting?”

Making a More Perfect Union

1850: Last local property ownership and tax requirements eliminated, guaranteeing almost all adult white males the right to vote.

1870: 15th Amendment ratified, granting the right to vote regardless “of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” Women are not included, and Jim Crow restrictions soon eat away at black men’s rights.

1913: 17th Amendment ratified, allowing voters, rather than state legislatures, to directly elect U.S. senators. Again, women are not included.

1920: 19th Amendment ratified, guaranteeing women the right to vote.

1964: 24th Amendment ratified, eliminating poll taxes that kept African-Americans from voting in much of the South.

1965: Voting Rights Act passed, outlawing literacy tests and other barriers to voting.

1971: 26th Amendment ratified, guaranteeing the right to vote to adult citizens 18 years of age or older.

Here are six Wesleyan women who helped form a more perfect union:



Sojourner Truth (1797-1883)

Born into slavery, she escaped in 1827 after having endured five owners, several beatings and separation from her children. As a free woman, she successfully sued for the return of her son

who had been sold illegally across state lines. She also joined the Methodist Church. When she became an itinerant Methodist preacher, she preached for Jesus and the disempowered, advocating freedom for the slave, fairness for the poor and the franchise for women.

Truth was “a woman with a powerful passion for equality,” said Rev. Alfred T. Day III, the top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Archives and History. “She was part of the conscience of the Second Great Awakening in the 19th century in that Methodist spirit and paradigm inexorably linking evangelical piety and social holiness.”

Frances Willard (1839-1898)



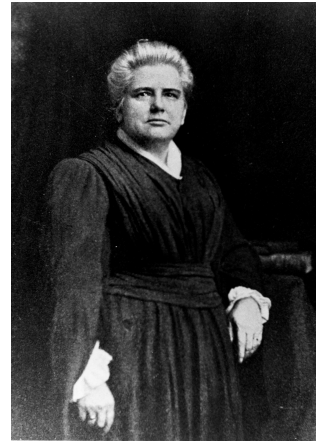
The famed temperance leader today is often associated with the slogan “Lips that touch liquor shall never touch mine.” However, she can also be associated with the rallying cry “Votes for Women.”

The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union in the United States, which she led for the last 19 years of her life, was more than a scourge of saloons. During Willard’s presidency, the group sought to improve working conditions in factories, institute an eight-hour workday, raise the age of consent for girls and secure for women the right to vote. Willard also pushed for votes in her own Methodist Episcopal Church. She and five other women were elected to serve as delegates to the 1888 General Conference in New York. Because of an ailing mother, Willard ultimately did not attend, and General Conference refused to seat the other delegates.

Harriett Jane Olson, the chief executive officer of United Methodist Women, said Willard’s efforts all went back to the same goal of

improving the lives of the marginalized, especially women and girls. “She was doing what we (in the UMW) try to do, which is to respond to the needs of the world and the call of God. That’s what she devoted her life to,” Olson said.

The Rev. Anna Howard Shaw (1847-1919)



Anna Howard Shaw was one of the first women granted a license to preach by the Methodist Episcopal Church. She later became the second woman to graduate from Boston University School of Theology. However, the New England

Conference refused to ordain her but the Methodist Protestant Church did!

While a pastor in Massachusetts, her sense of calling broadened, and she earned a medical degree from Boston University. She was president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association for 11 years, serving as a bridge between the Seneca Falls generation and younger suffragists who would go on to advocate for equal rights in all aspects of American life.

Shaw died in 1919, one year before the ratification of the 19th Amendment that ensures women access to the ballot box. Today, her namesake center at her United Methodist alma mater works to promote women’s empowerment.

“Anna Howard Shaw realized that her call was beyond the local church,” said Margaret

Wiborg, the first full-time director of the Anna Howard Shaw Center. “In her autobiography, ‘The Story of a Pioneer,’ she says that after seven years of ministry on Cape Cod her soul ‘sent forth a sudden call to arms ... I could find but one solution for women — the removal of disfranchisement.’”



Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955)

Mary McLeod Bethune is perhaps best known as a champion of African-American education. As a young child, she taught her siblings and former-slave parents how to read. Today, the school she founded, Bethune-Cookman University in

Daytona Beach, Florida, receives support from The United Methodist Church’s Black College Fund.

But she also championed the rights of African-American voters. When women won the right to vote in 1920, she organized African American men and women in Florida to go to the polls. She raised money to pay poll taxes and offered special classes for the literacy tests, mandated by Jim Crow laws that tried to silence black voices.

Bethune’s own voice was definitely heard. She faced down the Ku Klux Klan. She led the way in desegregating the American Red Cross and Women’s Army Auxiliary Corps. She was a bipartisan adviser to U.S. presidents, serving

the Coolidge, Hoover and Roosevelt administrations.

Trudie Kibbe Reed, the first woman president of Bethune-Cookman since Bethune herself, said the university’s namesake continues to inspire. Reed, who retired in 2012, made it a priority to get her students to the polls to vote.

“She had a vision of giving education and empowerment to any of God’s people who needed help,” Kibbe Reed said. “She encouraged civic engagement, and that included voting.”

Jessie Daniel Ames (1883 – 1972)

To get Congress to pass the 19th Amendment, suffragists endured beating, imprisonment and the torture of forced feedings. Still, that was just the first step.



Getting states to ratify the measure seemed just as daunting a task. That was especially true in the old Confederacy where the amendment faced its strongest opposition.

Jessie Daniel Ames, a graduate of what is today United Methodist-related Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, was among the fearless suffragists on the case.

The lifelong Methodist played a key role in getting Texas to become the first state in the South (and the 9th overall) to ratify the women’s vote. A few months later, she became the founder and first president of the state

League of Women Voters. Ames, a widow, did all this while helping her mother run the telephone company in Georgetown, Texas.

Her activism did not stop there. She worked to end lynching, the most pressing terrorist threat of her day. As founder of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching, she recruited white Southern women to persuade law enforcement to pledge to protect African Americans from lynching. "She was a torchbearer for women who would later hold executive offices in the state," said Jason Dean, director of special collections and archives at Southwestern University.



Dorothy Height (1912-2010)

When the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his historic "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963, Dorothy Height was the only woman, besides Coretta Scott King, on the platform. When Barack Obama was sworn in as the nation's first African-

American president more than 45 years later, she was on the platform again.

Height, who considered Mary McLeod Bethune a mentor, helped finish the work earlier voting-rights activists had begun. As president of the National Council of Negro Women, Height helped organize voter registration in the South, voter education in the North and scholarship programs for student civil rights workers.

The "Godmother of the Civil Rights Movement" contributed to the 1964 ratification of the 24th Amendment, which outlawed poll taxes in state and federal elections. Her hard work also helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

"Dr. Height was the embodiment of leadership in the Wesleyan Way," said Erin Hawkins, the top executive of the United Methodist Commission on Religion and Race. "She understood that love of God could not be separated from love of neighbor and that love of neighbor was not simply a feeling but an action." <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/6-methodist-women-who-fought-for-the-vote>

Why United Methodist Women Engage in Social Action

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-39)

"For more than 150 years, Methodist women organized for mission have worked in the name of Jesus to take positions on social justice issues and change legislation, systems, structures and practices considered unjust and oppressive. These bold foremothers advocated to end lynching, improve women's health, raise women's status in society, organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families and adopt the Charter for Racial Justice.

"Today, we continue to build on this foundation as we work to end maternal mortality, attain a living wage for all, interrupt

the school-to-prison pipeline and ensure energy that is just for all. As United Methodist Women of the 21st century, we are called to be bold in our witness, working to dismantle systems of oppression and build, together, a better world.

“Our Methodist heritage reflects a history of commitment to vital discipleship and social action. John Wesley strongly emphasized the Christian life as a combination of faith and love put into practice.

“The United Methodist Church affirms these same beliefs today:

By joining heart and hand, we assert that personal religion, evangelical witness, and Christian social action are reciprocal and mutually reinforcing. Scriptural holiness entails more than personal piety; love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal in the life of the world (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016).

“United Methodist Women’s national campaigns are a way for us to work together on shared goals across lines of difference and geographic distance. When we come together and lift our voices to address a specific shared concern, we are far more likely to win measurable change for our communities. Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to join one of United Methodist Women’s campaigns.”

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/whyunitedmethodistwomenengageinsocialaction.pdf>



Take Action on United Methodist Women’s Four Social Action Campaigns!

Steps you can do today and in your units!

Just Energy for All (Climate Justice):

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>

Join our third letter writing campaign to urge



Chevron to join other oil and gas companies in reducing their methane emissions and supporting sound regulations.

Did You Know? If just 10% of United Methodist Women members (80,000 women) used a reusable water bottle for 365 days rather than buying water in a bottle, we would save at least enough energy to power an average household for 552 years!

For further information on climate justice, contact: Elizabeth Lee, Campaign Manager, elee@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice>

Do a deep dive into scripture and the school-to-prison pipeline using the Bible study found here:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/sc>

[hool-to-prison-pipeline-bible-study](#)

For further information on racial justice, contact: Emily Jones, Executive Director for Racial Justice

ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org **Living Wage for All: Economic Inequality**
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/economic-inequality>

What happens if you or a loved one falls ill and you get no pay when you're out of work? You get zero wages, may deplete savings and incur debt and could lose your job. Join our campaign to urge members of Congress to support the bipartisan FAMILY Act guaranteeing paid family and medical leave for all! Go to

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave> to send an online letter right now!

For further information on economic justice, contact: Carol Barton, Executive for Community Action

cbarton@unitedmethodistwomen.org

End Maternal Mortality: Maternal and Child Health

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mchealth>

Find a local maternal and child health advocacy group in your community or state. Explore ways to establish and support maternal mortality review



committees in the state. For further information on maternal health, contact:

Katie Pryor,
kpryor@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Save the Dates!

Mission Workshop

March 14, 2020
Wyandotte First UMC

“Caring for Creation in an Era of Climate Change”

Robert Prud’homme, Speaker

Spiritual Life Retreat

April 24 – 25, 2020
Lake Huron Retreat Center

“Threads of Hope”

Nichea VerVeer Guy
Facilitator

UMW Greater Detroit District Upcoming Events

Month/Date	Event	Location
February 8	Prayer Breakfast	Redford Aldersgate
March 9	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
March 14	Mission Workshop	Wyandotte UMC
April 4	Keep Making Peace	Lansing
April 13	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
April 24 - 25	Spiritual Life Retreat	Lake Huron Retreat Center
May 11	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
May 28 – 31	Michigan Annual Conference	Traverse City
June 8	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
July 8- 11	mission u	Albion College
July 25	MC One Day mission u	Big Beaver, Troy UMC
August 10	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
August 13 - 15	mission u of the East	Lake Huron Retreat Center
September 14	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
October 12	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
October 17	GDD Annual Meeting	TBA
October 19 – 20	mission u of the North	Gaylord UMC
October 23	Conference Leadership Training	Kalamazoo First UMC

October 24	Michigan Conference Annual Celebration	Kalamazoo First UMC
November 7	District Leadership Training	TBA
November 9	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
December 14	GDD Executive Board Meeting and Christmas Party	Beverly Hills UMC