



THE PHOENIX

GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER



Morning Prayer

May today there be peace within.

May you trust God that you are exactly where you are meant to be.

May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith.

May you use those gifts that you have received, and pass on the love that has been given to you.

May you be confident knowing you are a child of God.

Let this presence settle into your bones, and allow your soul the freedom to sing, dance,
praise and love.

It is there for each and every one of us.

St. Therèse of Lisieux and St. Theresa of Avila

President



Happy New Year!!!

Thank you for your faithfulness. We are weary of pandemic restrictions, culture wars and the onslaught of so many changes. Many of our sisters are saying they do not want to stay connected with the United Methodist Women - but not you!!! You have resisted the voices that say, "I'm too busy", "I'm too old", "I am too tired", "I have served long enough". But, if you are reading this you have resisted these negative messages and remain faithful.

Thank you for agreeing to stay connected with this community of women. In the next few months, we are bringing you a Prayer Gathering with a dynamic speaker from Battle Creek, Laura Witkowski. She is the Associate Director for Lay Leader Development in the Michigan Conference. Look forward to a respite at the Lake Huron Retreat Center led by our own Rev. Dr. Bernadine Daniels. She is active nationally and internationally in Bible-based ministries. We have some hands-on service projects being planned which will offer opportunities to work together.

Hang on. Please do not grow weary of Zoom meetings. Stay engaged with the United Methodist Women and get a sister engaged too.

Stay positive! Find your joy! Stay engaged in the mission field! The world needs YOU.

Jeanette Harris

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248.752.7147

Treasurer

Through the grace of our Almighty God, we are all blessed to see 2022. I want to thank the faithful United Methodist Women units for all their continued hard work and Mission Giving. Due to the fact COVID-19 remains with us, it has greatly affected the financial status of our donations. We have had a steady decline of Mission Giving for our district. In 2019 our district donated \$74,917 for Mission Giving. In 2020 our Mission Giving dropped to \$66,989. Unfortunately, for the year 2021 our Mission Giving dropped to \$28,092 – the lowest in our history as a district. This is a difference of a little over \$38,000. Many churches raise Mission Giving funds by having fund-raising activities. Due to COVID-19, many fund-raising activities were cancelled. Other reasons for the low donations are some churches have closed, and many either have no United Methodist Women unit or have a declining United Methodist Women membership.

Most of us want to return to normal, or things prior to March 2020. We may never get back to what we call normal. There may be a new normal in our future. We may need to learn to live with COVID. What is next? Is it possible large gatherings and fund-raisers are now in the past? We may need to embrace change. We may need to give change a big hug. We may be uncertain and fearful about the future. But as Christians, we should be confident in knowing God is still sitting on His throne and God is still in control. We might not know the future, but God knows. As servants, we must continue to be faithful.

In one of our United Methodist hymnal's communion services are these words of prayer of Confession and Pardon: "...we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy." Our purpose as United Methodist Women remains the same. Therefore, we must continue to maintain our purpose. We must continue to remain faithful in our Mission Giving. The **response** magazine details in many articles how our gifts are so beneficial to other women and children. Instead of relying on a fund-raiser, maybe each woman in your UMW unit can be a Five-Star Woman. Invite other women in your church to be a Five-Star Woman. Five-Star donations are due by September 15, 2022, but you can give any time prior to that date. Five-Star donations are a minimum of \$60 but some women may not be able to donate \$60. Other gifts are in small increments of \$5. For example, some may want to give a Gift in Memory for a deceased friend or family or church member, in the minimum amount of \$5. You may want to give a Gift in Mission, which entitles you to a card to send to someone special. Before you spend \$5 on a Starbucks coffee, consider donating that money to UMW for a month. Another method of giving is by making United Methodist Women your charitable organization on Amazon Smile. You can also put all your coins in a jar and then in 6 months, donate the total amount to UMW. In 2022, let us make personal sacrifices toward Mission Giving. Let us keep our United Methodist Women vows to hear the cries of the needy.

Make all checks payable to **Greater Detroit District UMW**

Viola Jones

3975 Cornerstone Drive
Canton, Michigan 48188
734.221.5478
jonesaja342@yahoo.com

Secretary of Program Resources

Hello to all! Welcome to the 2021–2022 United Methodist Women Reading Program. New books have been added to the 2021-2022 catalog. Also, books you read from the 2015 through 2022 lists can be included in your Reading Report. Go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram for these lists. The books are divided into five categories: Education for Mission; Leadership Development; Nurturing for Community; Social Action; and Spiritual Growth. For those of you who are not familiar with the Reading Program, you must read one book in each category and the **response** magazine for the first level. There are three other levels in the Reading Program. All that and much more information can be found on the website noted above along with the many titles, for people of all ages and reading levels. There is a Reporting Form to track your progress.

There are also some books that are listed as Bonus Books and they count for two books. Some of these are Mission u books. Two of the books that I will be reading from this list are: “Becoming” by Michelle Obama; “One Dress. One Year. One Girl’s Stand Against Human Trafficking” by Bethany Winz and Susana Foth Aughtman; “Small Great Things” by Jodi Picoult. “My Little Golden Book About Ruth Bader Ginsburg” by Shana Corey would be good for children. Look for the line “Suitable for children” or “Suitable for youth” for other books.

This year the offering of sampler publications is on hold. Note that what used to be called the “Prayer Calendar” is now called “The Daily Prayer Guide 2022. Experiencing God—Finding Joy”. You will find it very useful. It has to be ordered through the website, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org, or directly from Customer Service at cs@umwmissionresources.org.

A way to use the Reading Program is to have a reading group where you read the book and discuss it. You can meet virtually. Or one person can read and share a review of a book.

As has been true in the last two years, you can get your books one of three ways. (1) the public library; (2) any bookstore; (3) Amazon, where if you go to their Smile program (smile.amazon.com) you can set it up for United Methodist Women to get a portion of the sales. Also, books can be downloaded onto an e-reader to pass around and share (Kindle, tablet, or other devices).

Andris Salter, Operations Manager, United Methodist Women, reports, “The purpose of the Reading Program is to better understand and participate in God’s mission today, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues, and enhance and act on self-knowledge.”

I look forward to serving you this year as your District Program Resources person. Should you need to reach me you can email me, text me, or call me.

Mary Hutzel Beltzman

maryhutzelbeltzman@gmail.com
734.502.8487

Book Review

The United Methodist Women Reading Program list for 2022 is chock-full of wonderful titles within several categories as stated in Mary Beltzman's report noted above. Over the years, I have read many of the books on the Reading Program lists but one that continues to be a favorite, although a book that has many difficult questions, is "Small Great Things" by Jodi Picoult. Here is a review:

"Ruth Jefferson is a labor and delivery nurse at a Connecticut hospital with more than twenty years' experience. During her shift, Ruth begins a routine checkup on a newborn, only to be told a few minutes later that she's been reassigned to another patient. The parents are white supremacists and don't want Ruth, who is African American, to touch their child. The hospital complies with their request, but the next day, the baby goes into cardiac distress while Ruth is alone in the nursery. Does she obey orders or does she intervene?"

Ruth hesitates before performing CPR and, as a result, is charged with a serious crime. Kennedy McQuarrie, a white public defender, takes her case but gives unexpected advice: Kennedy insists that mentioning race in the courtroom is not a winning strategy. Conflicted by Kennedy's counsel, Ruth tries to keep life as normal as possible for her family—especially her teenage son—as the case becomes a media sensation. As the trial moves forward, Ruth and Kennedy must gain each other's trust, and come to see that what they've been taught their whole lives about others—and themselves—might be wrong.

With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, Jodi Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion—and doesn't offer easy answers. "

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/41021501-small-great-things>

Pick up this book or one of the other great suggestions from the reading list. Then keep track of what you read using the reading form you can find on the reading resource website:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>. Perhaps you can start a friendly reading competition in your unit?

Kris Miranne

Co-Communications Coordinators

We are looking for contributions for *The Phoenix*. Is there a favorite Prayer, Verse, Poem, Comment, etc., you can share? Is there a book you read to tell us about? Send it to our Co-Communications Coordinators for inclusion in "Miscellany", a new part of *The Phoenix*.

Miscellany

How can I serve?

Commentary on Deuteronomy 33, Moses Blesses the Tribes

Note the difference in blessings God gave each tribe. To one he gave the best land, to another strength, to another safety. Too often we see someone with a particular blessing and think that God must love that person more than others. Think rather that God draws out our unique talents. All these

gifts are needed to complete his plan. Don't be envious of the gifts others have. Instead look for the gifts God has given you, and resolve to do the tasks he has uniquely qualified you to do.

Keeping up with COVID and Technology

Before COVID – there was a lot of technology to get used to and learn how to use.

During COVID – so much more is out there and necessary to incorporate into our lives.

After COVID – worth thinking about is what will remain as the “new normal” for our church Worship services, meetings, classes, and communications. Once in-person is allowed, will we opt to also be online?

Stay aware. Be ready to accept and to learn something new.

Websites Every United Methodist Women Member Should Know

We include these websites in each issue of *The Phoenix* because we think they are valuable resources. These are websites you should bookmark in your “favorites” list. Be sure to visit them on a regular basis so you can keep up with the great work of United Methodist Women!

National

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

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/readingprogram>

MIConnect

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

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News from United Methodist Women Units

Detroit Metropolitan United Methodist Women

Like many, our unit has not been able to meet in person although we have done so through online platforms. Our Rice Allen Fund has supported several community programs this year and here are some we recently funded and want to share. As with many of you, we want to see our faith in action!



Recently, the Metropolitan United Methodist Women provided socks and underwear to be given to homeless Detroit Public School students. The program is headed by Lt. Lance at the Cameron Street Police Station which is in Metropolitan's neighborhood. Rev. Taek Kim came to meet the folks in this part of the neighborhood. He is pictured with Mary Floyd, our unit President, Lt. Lance, and Jeanette Harris.

Over the past months, our Rice Allen Fund supported metropolitan Detroit social service organizations serving children, women and families. These included Alternatives for Girls, Global Detroit, Mercy Education Project, and Women, Children & Families United. We also continued to support our own church's programs including the Great Start program that delivers Christmas boxes to pre-school children.

Mary Floyd, Jeanette Harris, Lt. Lance and Rev. Taek

We would love to highlight the great work other United Methodist Women units are doing – not only service projects but events, even if it is just getting together and sharing each other's company. Send what you are doing to Anne Cramton at annecramton34@gmail.com and we'll feature you in the next *Phoenix*. Photos are certainly welcome!

The Future of United Methodist Women

Big changes are on the horizon for United Methodist Women in 2022. These will include:

- A new way to share our mission story
- An easier way to navigate the national website
- A special portal on the new homepage where members can log in to access resources designed specifically for them
- Soul Care Retreats designed to nurture our bodies, minds and souls
- Mission u innovations – three new curricula will be introduced each year, one for children, one for youth and one for adults, all on a shared biblical theme
- A new national membership that will allow women to join our sisterhood via the new website
- More targeted giving options

New Wineskins. New Wineskins refers to Jesus' metaphor in Mark 2:21-22 where he prepares people for big changes that are coming by explaining that new times require ways of doing things. No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.

United Methodist Women is again saying "yes" to being part of what God is doing in the 21st century by creating new and improved ways for women today to gather for faith, sisterhood and action to improve life for women, children and youth. New Wineskins refers to:

- The exciting changes on the horizon for United Methodist Women
- Sharing this great news with members.
- Preparing members for these changes and launch of this rebranding of our organization

Click on this video link for more information of these changes:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uklY8sFS_40

UMC Bishops Call for Equal Voting Rights

See below a letter from Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey, President, Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church arguing for equal voting rights:

"The United States Senate recently rejected legislation which would counter actions taken by several states legislatures that will make voting more difficult, particularly in minority communities.

In the Fall of 2020, the United Methodist Bishops of the United States took a strong and bold stand against voter suppression standing firm on the voting rights of all persons. Today, we the bishops of the United Methodist Church reaffirm that stance believing that the right of every citizen to vote in the United States is under attack, and with it, the foundation of American democracy and the sacred worth of all persons.

The right to vote is rooted in a commitment to the value of all persons, created in the image of God as individuals of sacred worth. This belief in the sacredness of humanity is a foundational principle of many religious traditions present in the American body politic.

The legacy of injustice told in civil rights museums across our country is one of suppression of the vote. And the legacy of white supremacy and privilege continues. At times this suppression has been overt, as when one was required to own property or be a white male to vote. At other times it is more nuanced, as in moving or eliminating polling places, or in sowing confusion over early voting or voting by mail. Such actions undermine the people's confidence that voting matters. And in some instances, where the people have affirmed the right to vote for convicted felons who have served their sentences, state legislatures and governors' offices have sought to overturn the will of the people in order to suppress the vote.

Efforts by our government or elected officials to suppress the freedom to cast ballots violate the high principles upon which our nation was founded. By contrast, these high principles are affirmed and

realized when elected officials and government entities promote, defend, and guarantee the unfettered right of all citizens to choose our leaders in free and fair elections.

We are in a moment of national crisis as we navigate two viruses, COVID and Racism, and suffer the economic consequences of both. In these crises we are reminded that our religious faith and our nation's principles support elections that faithfully reflect the will of the American people. Our faith in God who created all people in the divine image, and our hope that our nation can live into the aspirations of our founding ideals, lead us to pledge ourselves to the fullest expansion of this right to vote.

To that end we call upon the people of the United Methodist Church to use their influence in their states, legislative districts, and local precincts to enable voter registration and to encourage elected officials to provide the resources necessary to support the fullest participation in elections.

In Christ's name,

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey / President – Council of Bishops / The United Methodist Church

Dated 1/21/2022 <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/bishops-call-for-equal-voting-rights-15859445>

Where Do We Go From Here? Remembering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



On April 4, 1968, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. Fifty years later, in a world still ravaged by racism, United Methodist Women are asking, again: ***“Where do we go from here”?***

King is a widely remembered, beloved leader, but many of us still have more to learn about his faith, work, and yet-unrealized dream. The UMW national office has put together a rich list of resources to help us dive deeper, asking: Who inspired Dr. King's theology? How did he live out a call to life-giving interruption? What does his example of deep discipleship mean for United Methodist Women, then and now?

The curated special content includes written resources and videos meant to engage and share as we work to answer these questions and begin a deeper conversation about King's work and our call toward justice. Click on this link to take you to those resources: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/king>

God without Borders

God without borders,
help us to take a step closer to our sisters and brothers.
Wherever they originally are from,
we are all headed towards You,

help us to travel this one road together.
Give us the ability to welcome and to serve as you would today,
even if our steps are local
let our hearts be filled with a love of the global.
Today we choose you, we choose justice,
we choose to be with others and to be with others,
thanking you for the chance to serve.

All-loving God,
awaken in us the patience to be incomplete,
to be in the process of becoming closer to you and to your people.
Help us to know that slow is real,
that gradual is divine and keep gently asking for our participation in the work of mission.
Give us ways to respond;
give us the energy to be actively engaged in the lives around us
and the world you have given us.

With Jesus, we pray,
Amen

Adapted from Xavier University/Author unknown

Legacy Stories



Fanny Crosby, who lost her sight six weeks after her birth in 1820, composed over 8,500 poems, many of which became hymns. Two of Crosby's most famous hymns, "To God Be the Glory" and "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine", cross many denominations including Methodism.

From the age of 15, Crosby attended the New York Institute for the Blind. Her skills as a musician were well noted and they showed that she had incredible memory and intelligence. Later, Crosby joined the faculty at the school and married Alexander van Alstyne, who was also blind and a teacher at the school. He often transcribed his wife's poems since Crosby could not write and composed the lyrics entirely in her mind.

Crosby's writings never brought her wealth. She was often paid just a dollar or two per poem with the rights to the songs being retained by the composer or music publishers. At one point, the songstress was destitute, but she said that the songs were God's work and not for profit.

Any royalties she received were often donated toward the mission work she championed with immigrants and the poor. "Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior" was penned while Crosby was working in prison ministry.

During the 1840s, Crosby did not identify with any denomination. In 1850, the poetess experienced a conversion at Chelsea Methodist Episcopal Church in New York. Crosby was drawn to the denomination's work with the marginalized. "Rescue the Perishing" was written one night after Crosby

prayed with men at a city homeless shelter. Crosby's songs spoke to social issues of the day including the temperance movement and the campaign against child labor.

In the mid-1860s, the composer and publisher, William B. Bradbury, encouraged Fanny Crosby to begin writing sacred, instead of secular, texts. Her writing process

ess always started with a prayer, and she sometimes composed six or seven poems a day. Her hymns were sung at many evangelistic services in the U.S. and Great Britain. Setting a personal goal of winning a million people to Christ through her hymns, Crosby said many times, "Don't waste sympathy on me, I'm the happiest person alive." She passed away in 1915 at the age of 94.

In 1975, Fanny Crosby was posthumously inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame.

Charter for Racial Justice Project Grants

The Michigan Conference UMW Charter for Racial Justice Committee is offering grants in amounts of up to \$300 to local units. The intent is for local UMW units to engage in projects to expand understanding of racial issues. Some ideas to consider:

- Racial book study
- Guest speaker
- Travel to a museum or other site of racial justice significance

Applications are encouraged by April 1, 2022 – but will be accepted until all available funds have been granted.

Your submitted application letter should include the following information:

- Name of Unit
- Contact person name/address/e-mail/phone number
- Grant amount you are requesting
- Detailed use of funds
- Goals you hope to achieve
- Estimated # of people participating
- Beginning and ending date of project
- Any additional information to help understand your plans.

If your grant is accepted, your unit will be asked to send a short report to the Charter for Racial Justice Committee once you have completed your project/program.

Please send your application letter to jparadinerice@gmail.com or via snail mail to:
Julia Paradine-Rice, 11942 Prairie Edge Street, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

UMW Supports the Ending PUSHOUT Act

Across the country, the education of Black and brown students is often disrupted due to discriminatory and punitive discipline policies that criminalize and push them out of school. Black girls are suspended, expelled, referred to law enforcement and arrested on school campuses

at disproportionately higher rates than white girls due to unfair dress code and hair policies and a lack of understanding of the historical, social and economic inequities such as poverty, trauma, hunger, and violence that often impact student behavior. As a result, Black girls, girls of color, and students with disabilities are disproportionately subjected to exclusionary school discipline policies such as suspension and expulsion, which can have long-term effects on the safety, wellbeing, and academic success of all students.

The Ending PUSHOUT Act, originally introduced in 2019 and reintroduced in March 2021, will work to disrupt the school-to-confinement pipeline by investing in safe and nurturing school environments for all students, especially girls of color. The bill would:

- Establish \$2.5 billion in new federal grants to support states and schools that commit to ban unfair and discriminatory school discipline practices and improve school climates.
- Protect the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) and strengthening the Department of Education's (ED) Office of Civil Rights (OCR).
- Establish a Federal Interagency Taskforce to End School Pushout and examine its disproportionate impact on girls of color.

As United Methodist Women members and friends, we are called to do all we can to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

Participating states and schools would be supported to invest in restorative practices, trauma-informed care, counselors, social workers and mental health professionals. Funds could not be used for police in schools. While this bill is not a one-and-done fix, it would be a substantial step forward in the ongoing work of interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and ending school pushout. United Methodist Women supported an earlier version of this bill (Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2019), which unfortunately did not move forward. The bill has been reintroduced for 2021-2022.

Send an email today to encourage your federal representative to sign on as a co-sponsor of the Ending PUSHOUT Act! [Click here to take action today.](#)

UMW Climate Justice Legislative Day Training



Join the UMW Monthly Just Energy for All Strategy and Capacity Building Session March 17

Whether you've been taken to meetings with your representatives since you were in diapers, are a veteran advocate or interested but are unsure of what it all means, all are welcome to this session to get equipped.

This session will include:

- A challenge from United Methodist Women CEO Harriett Olson on the urgency of climate legislative advocacy for UMW
- An overview of UMW climate justice talking points and asks
- Nuts and bolts of a legislative meeting

- Instructions for how to set up a meeting with your representatives
- Breakout sessions to connect with other UMW members and friends

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYtcuutpzljGtIsZee-DLtfPHwBwD1d0OS5>

Upcoming Events



Mission Workshop

Saturday, March 12, 2022

9:30 a.m. *



Ms. Laura Witkowski

Associate Director for Lay Leadership Development
Michigan Conference
The United Methodist Church

“Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts To Lead”

*We are to starting a little earlier. This will be an interactive session so be prepared to break out into small groups and have a notebook handy!

This gathering will be online. Once registered, you will receive a Zoom link to participate. **ONLY THOSE REGISTERED WILL RECEIVE THE LINK.** The program will be sent with the link.

To register, send the following information to Kristine Miranne: kristine.miranne1921@gmail.com by March 9, 2022:

- Name
- Church affiliation if any
- Email address

Please note, there is **NO** charge for this event, but a \$15.00 donation is requested. Funds will be used to support the Greater Detroit District mission pledge. Remittances by check can be made to:

Greater Detroit District United Methodist Women
c/o Mrs. Viola Jones, Treasurer
3975 Cornerstone Dr.
Canton, MI 48188

We also accept:

-

The Cash app – this is it - \$umwgdd

and Square



Any questions? Contact Jeanette Harris at jharris48@yahoo.com

(Continued)



United Methodist Women Greater Detroit District Spiritual Life Retreat



Rev. Dr. Bernadine Wormley Daniels
Facilitator

Lake Huron Retreat Center

8794 Lakeshore Drive, Ft. Gratiot Twp., MI 48059
810-327-6272 www.lakehuronretreat.org

Arrival time: Friday, April 1, 2022, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Departure: Saturday, April 2, 2022, 2:00 p.m.

Prices include room, 3 meals, snacks, and materials

2 per Room	\$121.00 per person	Single Room	\$145.00 per person
3 per Room	\$110.00		

REGISTRATION to be POSTMARKED by March 28th, 2022 (late fee \$10.00 after that date)

Checks made payable to **Greater Detroit District UMW**

Send to:
Jeanette Harris, 25535 Continental St., Southfield, MI 48075. Email: jharris48@yahoo.com

ATTENDEES

Name of UMW Unit (City first) _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____

Email or Mailing Address _____ Total enclosed \$ _____

Number in the room = Names written under each room

Room A (3 individuals)

	Name	Special Needs*	Email Address	Phone Number
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____

Room B (2 individuals)

	Name	Special Needs	Email Address	Phone Number
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____

Room C (1 individual)

	Name	Special Needs	Email Address	Phone Number
1	_____	_____	_____	_____

*Note special physical/dietary needs for attendees by name



Turn It Up

May 20-22, 2022

Orlando Convention Center

Registration is open until April 11, 2022

Cost: The registration fee for in-person is \$365.00; virtual is \$235.00.

More information: www.assembly2022.org