

THE VOICE

Valuable Organizational Information Connecting Everyone

JANUARY 2020



VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

YOU ALL LOOK ALIKE!

What a whirlwind fall it was!!! What a blessing it has been. I feel so blessed and honored to be the first President for United Methodist Women of the Michigan Conference. But with such honor, I have also felt major responsibility!

I felt very compelled to attend as many of the new District Annual Celebrations as I could this past fall. I felt compelled to represent our new conference all across our new conference. It worked out for me to attend 8 of the 9 events. Unfortunately, two of them were on the same date and there was no way I could get to both. (Heritage knows how badly I have felt about missing that one!). What fun it was to experience the many similarities and many differences. How generous EVERYONE was with their ingatherings. How beautiful to hear singing from everyone in the sanctuaries. How inspirational each key note speaker was.

Travel time to each one was less than 3 hours. Except for Northern Skies, that is! But, that trip was especially fun because Simmie Proctor, Mission u Dean, from South Haven, and Diana Spitnale Miller, our website guru, from Gladwin, traveled with me. The weather was perfect, the colors were spectacular and conversation was non-stop!

And, do you know what I saw at each one of the District gatherings? It didn't matter if I was in Gwinn (N. Skies) or in Vicksburg (G. Southwest) or downtown Detroit or in Saginaw (Central Bay) or anywhere in between, I saw beautiful faces and smiles. I saw lovely Christian sisters of all sizes and shapes, of all ages, with all colors of hair, who were greeting each other and hugging and enjoying the displays, the book room, the refreshments, the music, the special speakers and *each other*. We ALL look alike!

Congratulations and THANK YOU to everyone who helped in any way in becoming ONE conference this past year and helping to get the new districts up and running. My mantra last year was, "it will all be okay." And, for the most part, it has "all been okay." It required much patience and perseverance. It required some change for some and a LOT of change for

others. Thank you for the hard work and the diligence in getting our work done. There are still some areas to clarify and questions to answer and evaluations to make. Know that you have a conscientious and responsible Conference Leadership Team for 2020 and we will keep plugging away where there is work still to be done.

The Social Issue Initiative being highlighted in 2020 is Mass Incarceration. The focus is on school to prison pipeline (referred as S2PP). And, it is one of the new studies for Mission u. There are major resources available across the media. This issue is much broader than what even United Methodist Women are doing. Plan NOW to attend a Mission u event - in July, August, or October. Choices are a blessing!

calling u is the theme of the North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting, June 26-28, 2020, in Sioux Falls, SD. For information/registration: go to www.umwncj.org. This is where and when we elect the Directors of our national organization. It will be an educational and inspirational weekend. Plan to attend.

I encourage you all to follow the conference website: www.umwmichiganconference.org for news and information about your OWN district, but also for what is happening in your neighboring districts. Do NOT worry about district lines. Go where you can, when you can, to what is of interest to you, or where a speaker is of interest, or the topic is of interest. ie. Spiritual Growth Retreats. There are so many wonderful opportunities across our conference. Choices are a blessing!



I hold you all close to my heart,

**Linda Darrow, President
Michigan Conference, United Methodist Women**

989-763-8750

darrowlinda@gmail.com

**Leaders do not need answers.
Leaders must have the right questions.**



FROM OUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

I am excited and nervous to start in my new position. Pat left big shoes to fill. The more that I see what UMW is all about, the more I want to be involved. In 2004 at a Spiritual Growth retreat, I was asked to be secretary of the then Heartland District. After 4 years, I moved into the Spiritual Growth position which I loved. Then I took the President's position until the districts were realigned. That was a sad and hard adventure. I love to read, sew, play piano and garden. I love to laugh, sing, worship and fellowship. I still have a Mother living in Upstate NY (alone) and a younger sister living in Rocky Hill, CT.

Waltha Gaye Leavitt
989-640-0238
Wally@cmsinter.net



Beth Mitchell, Wally Leavitt, and Linda Schramm relax before Conference Annual Celebration in Howell!

A WORD FROM THE OUTGOING TREASURER

The last year has been both challenging and exciting, as we conducted our first year as the Michigan Conference UMW! Here is 2019 by the numbers:

	2019 Budget	2019 Actual
A&MD Expenses	\$161,100.00	\$127,930.29
Mission Giving	\$289,300.00	\$297,701.94
Legacy Fund Giving		9,322.19
Supplemental Giving		39,220.61
Total Remitted to UMW		\$346,244.74

As 2019 comes to a close, I also say goodbye as your Conference Treasurer. It has been a blessing to serve in this role, as West Michigan Conference Treasurer for 5 years and as Michigan Conference Treasurer for one year. Thank you for your prayers and support. I enjoyed working with the Conference Leadership Team, all of the District Treasurers and all of you who called or e-mailed me with questions. We tracked down a few unusual missing SMR's together! One of my favorite verses, Colossians 3:17 says "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." It is to Him I give thanks for this opportunity, and future opportunities I have to serve Him through United Methodist Women!

Blessings,
Julia Paradine-Rice
989-576-0675





INTRODUCING OUR NEW TREASURER

I am honored to be the new Michigan Conference UMW Treasurer and am so grateful to have the support and expertise of 2 previous conference treasurers - Julia Paradine-Rice and Janet Muntz!

I grew up in the First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor (since I was 3 years old). I have been a member of United Methodist Women since I was recruited to attend the School of Christian Mission (now Mission u) by a member of our church when I was an adult in my 40's. I became a much more active member when I was nominated to serve on our local UMW mission team as the Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation. About 7 years ago, I joined the Ann Arbor District UMW mission team on the Nominations Committee. For the past 5 years I have been a District Treasurer as we merged districts (from Ann Arbor to Heritage).

For some of you this may sound boring to spend so much time as a Treasurer, but I have learned so much about United Methodist Women and where the money goes and all the good it does. I have been inspired by visiting various missions supported by United Methodist Women, including one in Hong Kong. I learn so much at Mission u every year. I have attended 4 UMW Assemblies and wish I had started going sooner. And I am motivated, along with other women in our church, to follow up on the UMW social action focus areas in our church and in our community. Four women from our church attended a Racial Justice training session in Detroit put on by National UMW just last month. We are determined to share what we learned with our church and community and to move forward with actions on this topic. United Methodist Women has inspired me to put my Faith, Hope and Love into Action.

I have also been blessed to get to know women (many of them treasurers) from various UMW groups around the Heritage District. I am looking forward to connecting with even more active United Methodist Women.

I spent my entire work life working in some way with computers (from automating the first post office in the United States to working on testing of medical equipment). I have 6 children (gave birth to only 2), 13 grandchildren and 1 great-grandchild (7 weeks old). Now that I am "retired", I volunteer about 30 hours a week at a non-profit that gives out free clothing and small household items to those in need. I have traveled to many parts of the world on various mission trips, birding trips, and educational trips. In my tiny spare time at home, my current hobby is cross-stitching.



Mary Danforth
(734) 649-4849
m19danforth44@gmail.com

MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

RUTH JONES

A couple of "children's" books that I recommend highly for devotions for a meeting are "Who Is My Neighbor?" by Amy-Jill Levine and "Old Turtle" by Douglas Wood. They needn't be read in total, verbatim. Do you have your new Prayer Calendar and Program Book? Our United Methodist Hymnal has a list of references to Bible passages so you can coordinate music to your theme for devotions, and the internet has a wealth of information as well. Can I be of help? Contact me anytime.



Ruth Jones
231-645-1761
tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com

MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SOCIAL ACTION**“The Fight for Injustice Continues”**

Fall is gone, and winter is on its way. The trees are no longer bursting with the colors and flavors of our summer flowers, but the fight to combat injustice continues.

On November 4, 2019 Donald Trump (President) notified the United Nation's Secretary General that the United States was withdrawing from the Paris Agreement. The President believes all the chatter about Climate Justice hurts our economics among other things. If he is still President on November 4, 2020, the withdrawal will be official. There is a one year waiting period to withdraw.

The United Methodist Women are aware of the climate changes that are affecting our world. We, as United Methodist Women, being the largest denominational faith-based organization, are begging the President and other leaders to reverse course and act to address climate change.

Of course, there are other things that are happening that are also important. Mass Incarceration and School to Prison Pipeline is another front burner. Students are often pushed out of the classrooms for punishment and end up in the Criminal Justice System. There have been several workshops on this subject and more are coming. If you have not been a part of or witnessed one of these programs, contact me and I will put you in contact with the persons whom can provide you more information.

Space does not allow for all the things I wish to highlight but I must mention the Racial Justice Workshop that happened in November led by our leaders from New York. It was well attended, and the presentation was very enlightening. As a member of the Racial Justice Committee, I found it to be a spiritual and great educational gathering and hopefully people were able to take information back to their units

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH

As your coordinator for 2020, I hope to bring a new direction to the title of Membership Nurture, & Outreach. The yearly UMW census is now an online task. So, I am looking at ways to increase membership and encourage the talents and opportunities for women in the local Units.



I've been the local Unit president 10 plus years here in Allegan. I joined the Kalamazoo District board in 2006 as Education & Interpretation coordinator, then held other positions on the board with my last years (2014-2018) as the District president. I'm a retired teacher, volunteer, and book reader. I would be happy to come and talk with your group.

Cindy Thiele
269-673-4514
cindahthiele@gmail.com



Ruby Anderson, Taylorie Bailey & Suzanne Hewitt at Conference Annual



Alice Tucker 248-357-5816
c313-618-3173
fayerich@comcast.net



MISSION COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Happy New Year Dear Friends. As we begin this new year and yes, our next decade, may you enjoy even more of God's love, joy and blessings. Now we have some more work to do to get this new year off to a good start.

The new 2020 Mission Today Objectives form is included with this Newsletter. All of you, not just your local E&I Chair or the President, need to read this form to come up with some new ideas on how some of these Objectives can be worked into your local unit meetings and projects. Start reading and making plans NOW, not waiting until it's time to turn the form in after the year ends. If there's something that appeals to you that you feel you or your unit could possibly step up and make happen, mention it at a meeting and you're off and running.

Of course you'll probably get assigned to chair the project, but you'll have lots of help and will undoubtedly grow in bringing this project to your unit. (Don't forget to check off the Objectives form that you completed it!)

I look forward to hearing from all the District E&I Coordinators at our Annual Celebration in the Fall, that their Units have increased in their Objectives. Again, education and learning is God's plan for us to continue to grow in our walk with Him. Have a Wonderful 2020!!



Michele Weston
(810) 694-6266
mweston38@att.net

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

"What's New"?

The year is almost over and we made it with the changes in the Reading Program. At the Conference Annual Meeting we became creative and had Districts sell their books from their Annual Meeting. This was very successful and we worked as a team. We also had available a list of books that can be found in libraries.

The United Methodist Women website has the 2020 Catalogue and Reading List. They can be downloaded or viewed online. Remember, the Mission u books are part of the Reading Program and some are counted as Bonus Books. As you visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/Reading Program, take note of the many suggestions for obtaining books and promoting the Reading Program.

Even though the Mission Resource Center (umwmissionresources.org) will not be sending books on consignment or providing the Reading Program Books, you can still place orders. Resource Materials includes: 2020-2021 Annual Sampler; Prayer Calendar, Response Magazine, and Free Material.

One of the concerns at the Annual Meeting Training was making the Recognition more meaningful at the unit level. Since the Certificates are online, the units may want to present their certificates earlier during the year at their local event. For example: the 2019 Reading Program Recognition can be presented at their 2020 UMW Sunday. The names can still be sent to the District Secretary of Program Resources, so they can be listed in the 2020 District's Annual Meeting Program.

If you have any questions or recommendations for book titles, please contact the Reading Program Specialist, Andris Salter, phone: 212-870-3733, or email: asalter@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Brenda Lee Street
(248) 568-0419
bstreet992157@gmail.com





NEWS FROM DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT

The First Annual Central Bay District Annual Celebration and Leadership Training are history. The speaker was Deborah Moore, a midwife who has done mission work in Liberia and Kenya. Approximately 120 people attended the event held at Ames UMC. The officers for next year were inducted by Linda Darrow, Conference President. The slate of officers is complete, except for nominations. Next year the district will have a major turnover in officers. The President, Vice President and Secretary all finish their terms of office. This will be a real challenge to fill these positions.

The next district event will be the Spiritual Brunch to be held at Clare United Methodist Church on February 8 with Ellen Harbin as the speaker.

The Leadership team continues to work to

form relationships with the local units in the Central Bay District. The goal is to increase the attendance at district events and offer scholarships to younger women who would like to attend.

The plans for the Spiritual Retreat at The Springs in Gladwin are coming together. The retreat leader will be Debbie Line-Yencer and the theme is "Tapestry of Life." And we are beyond excited to have Linda Darrow as the speaker for our annual meeting at Midland First UMC in October 2020.

Ruth Sutton
Phone: 989-708-9968
suttonr1@charter.net

EAST WINDS DISTRICT

Our January 11 leadership meeting was a Zoom meeting. March 27 and 28 are the dates for our Spiritual Growth Retreat at Lions Bear Lake Camp. Dr. Rev. Tara Sutton will provide leadership. Our EWD Prayer Breakfast will be April 25 at Lake Orion UMC. Micki Phelps and Sharon Appling will be helping us to learn more about interrupting the school to prison pipeline. Plans are being made for our EWD Annual Meeting October 10 at Flint Beth-el. The EWD nominating committee is updating our officer tenure eligibility dates.

Lynn Geer
(248)-425-7602
lynng eer@aol.com



GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT

Greater Detroit District United Methodist Women applied for and is pleased and honored to have been selected by unitedmethodistwomen.org as one of two districts in the country to host a trial workshop on Racial Justice. The Diversity/Equity/Inclusion Workshop was held at Ferndale First United Methodist Church Saturday, November 9, 2019.

That same day Greater Detroit District Leadership Team did Local Leader Training from 8:45 to 10:00 A.M. The 10:15 start time for the workshop gave travel time to those who came longer distances. Six districts of The Michigan Conference were represented by 76 women and one man at this three-hour workshop.

Presenters from the National Staff Leadership Team were Sally Vonner, president of the Leadership Team and Emily Jones, Executive for Racial Justice. Sally and Emily provided an overview of The Charter for Racial Justice and The Racial Justice Time Line, important moments of Racial Justice History in the United States and United Methodist Women.

Those in attendance were divided into two groups by age and each group answered and discussed a few questions regarding discrimination by age. After reports back there was discussion about hearing and trying younger women's ideas and how to get and keep younger women involved and active.

In the second caucus session the groups were divided by color. After a report back from each group, there was discussion. It was mentioned that members seldom consider getting a person of color as speaker or presenter in districts of nearly all white members. In a district of people of color and those who are white it seems harder to get white people to run for leadership positions. When a program or event is held at a church in a city, members from predominantly white suburbs are less likely to attend. It was also discussed that this workshop should be presented in every district and if possible in every United Methodist Church. The most important point made: **Discrimination is a sin!**

Every person in attendance received a copy of the Charter for Racial Justice, The Racial Justice Timeline and an abridged Resource List. One copy of the book, So You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo was given to each local unit represented and to most districts represented. The day ended with a soup and salad lunch prepared and served by Ferndale First United Methodist Church.

Kay Korn
734-671-0005
k.korns@gmail.com



GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

2019 found us starting a new district and thus a new district United Methodist Women's leadership team. This wasn't new just because of new leadership but because we were now much larger in size encompassing all of the former Kalamazoo District, about half of the former Albion District, and adding a few units that were previously part of the Grand Rapids District. A special thanks goes out to Cindy Thiele and Cheryl Proctor for making this transition easier, as they were the 2018 district presidents for Kalamazoo and Albion Districts.

We have just completed our first year as the Greater Southwest District and we are trying to be BOLD and ENGAGING as we go into 2020. We have exciting things planned; a Spring Fling on March 21st to usher in the season of rebirth, a Spiritual Growth Event on April 25th, a Mission Evening on June 11th, and our 2nd District Annual meeting on Sept. 19th. Take a step of faith and join your district team for our exciting events this year!

I am excited to say that all but one of our leadership team was able make it to Mission u this past summer (she couldn't go because of health issues and moving). My prayer is that 2020 will find us all attending one of the Mission u opportunities on the conference. Please think about sending someone from your unit also, to experience a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as a whole person through Jesus Christ. Come and be part of a creative supportive fellowship and expand your concepts of mission. Bring a friend and join us in 2020.

Linda Burton-Collier
269-793-7340
lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com

Beth Mitchell leading the "choir" at Mission u!





HERITAGE DISTRICT

During the making of the animated Christmas classic, **A Charlie Brown Christmas**, we hear Linus sharing scripture from **Luke 2: 8 – 14** (King James Version): "And there were in the same country "... and the story goes on. The producer and lead animator did not want the scripture reading in the show, but Charles Schultz convinced him and it first aired in 1965 with this passage included. Schultz, after being told it could be very dangerous to start talking religion, said, **"Bill, if we don't, who will"**. In the end as we know they kept the scripture and millions of people continue to watch this every year. What bravery to step out like that, bravo, Charles Schultz and thank you. So many of our United Methodist Women have stepped out and continue to step out every day in faith. Sisters if we don't, who will!

As the Heritage District starts the New Year, we are preparing for our **UMW Prayer Brunch Saturday, March 28, 9:00 – Noon, Dixboro UMC, 5221 Church Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

Jeanette Harris, an energetic sexagenarian from Metropolitan United Methodist Church, will be our speaker. She stepped out in faith and served as a mission volunteer in Costa Rica. She will come and share her story about the experience of living and working in another culture. It was great to be in Costa Rica not as a tourist, but grocery shopping, managing laundry and doing other day-to-day things. Join us to hear more. The flyer will be posted on the MCUMW webpage in January.

We have also started planning the **Heritage District Annual Celebration & Meeting, Saturday, September 26 –9:00 - 3:30** to be held at Saline UMC 1200 N Ann Arbor St, Saline, MI 48176. So, add this date to your calendar and stay tuned.



God's Blessing to all of you!
Sherry Wagenknecht
734-347-5868
wagen88@hotmail.com

MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Here we are at the end of another year and into the winter season. Where did the time fly? In 2019, the Mid-Michigan District held our Epiphany Celebration, Spring Renewal Retreat with Midwest District, completed our new Standing Rules, held our first District Annual as Mid-Michigan District UMW, and attended the first Michigan Conference UMW Annual Celebration. In addition, many of us have attended programs or have been asked to be a guest speaker at various units, and attended other District Annuals. National provided an excellent Racial Justice training in the Detroit area and the webinars offered online information through National on many topics.

Now as we enter 2020 we have added Patty Puckett and Beverly Saunders to our team and we say goodbye to Patricia Snyder, Patricia Metzger and Julia Paradine-Rice. Thank you to all of you.

I just completed the 2019 Reading Program book *Eleanor A Spiritual Biography* by Harold Ivan Smith and enjoyed learning how she was a mover and a shaker for justice in our nation and the world. What she stood for is the same as the goals of United Methodist Women, of the past and present, regarding the social issues for women, children and youth that we face today. Eleanor fought hard for the disadvantaged due to her strong understanding of the Bible and faith to follow Jesus.

I look forward to 2020 as we continue to provide excellent programs for the women of the Mid-Michigan District and to share our faith and care for others while being strong women for justice.

May each of you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Blessings to You,
Donna Kleiver
517-663-4193
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com



**NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT**

Pastor Vicky Prewitt spoke at the Annual Celebration of the Northern Skies District UMW in Gwinn. She recounted the courage of our founding foremothers as they tackled issues affecting women and children. She reminded us there is much to do that still requires our courage. An offering of \$900 was collected for the Legacy Fund.

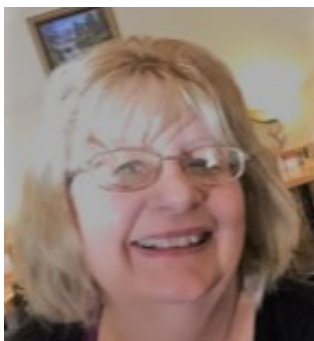
94 people attended the Celebration. We were blessed to be represented on the Conference level by President Linda Darrow, Diana Miller from Communications and Simmie Proctor from Mission u.

Our new level of communicating with every church in our District, Borealis Buddies, was introduced to those present. (The presentation was also made at the District Church meeting in Marquette, where most pastors were in attendance.)

Our new banner was presented at the Celebration. Sharon Rice of Marquette made the beautiful piece of artwork and we're thankful for her.

Our team has every position filled and we are ready to do Mission Work in 2020 for Women, Children and Youth in the name of Jesus Christ.

Patti Steinberg, President
142 Indian Lake Drive
Crystal Falls, MI 49920
(906) 367-2128
pattisteinberg@gmail.com

**NORTHERN WATERS DISTRICT**

Our spiritual growth spring retreat is in April at Lake Louise Camp in Boyne Falls MI (mid district east to west and a little north of center north and south). This is one of our UM camps and we are delighted to be able to support them by having our retreat there. We will have Power of Bold Day May 9, 2019 at Empire UMC, near the west coast! Topics will be Before, During and After Incarceration and Native American issues. Our annual celebration will be September 26 at Michelson Memorial UMC in Grayling (mid district east to west and a little south of center north and south). We invite you to come and be a part of any or all of these events. You'll be glad you did! And we will be also.

Susan Wirgau
(231)-838-5986
onthebay@chartermi.net

Linda Darrow, Rev. Jill Zundel, and Pat Bostic
at Howell UMC



Five Star Person – 2020
Michigan Conference United Methodist Women
[The 5 Channels of Giving are represented by the 5 points of the “5-Star” Pin.]

Give this form and your donations to your UNIT TREASURER by November 15, 2020. She will send it to the District Treasurer. You will receive a “5 Star” pin, which will be presented to you at your District Annual Meeting in 2021” (usually September or October).

Your Name: _____ Phone: _____

Your Address: _____

Your Unit: _____

Pledge to Mission - An individual member’s pledge to mission is the amount she/he decides is her/his share of the local unit’s budget. (A unit Pledge to Mission is the portion of its budget which is set as a goal to send through district and conference treasurers to the National United Methodist Women for support of mission programs beyond its community. The decision about the amount to be pledged is the responsibility of the unit. The remainder of the unit’s funds are used for administration and membership development expenses, and for local missions supported by the unit.)

Your Pledge amount _____ (_____ enclosed _____ already given to unit)

Special Mission Recognition (“SMR” - minimum \$40) - A gift to mission in honor of any person in amounts of \$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1000, and \$2000. For each gift an oval gold pin with a cross and a certificate with the name of the honoree and the giver are provided by the National UMW Mission Resource through the District Treasurer. Your local treasurer will fill out a Special Mission Recognition Form with the following information:

Amount of Gift _____ (**\$40 minimum**)

Name of Honoree: _____

Send pin to: _____

*(Gifts may also be
made in honor of a
group or without an
honoree’s name.)*

Gift to Mission (minimum \$5) - A gift of \$5 or more for mission may be made in honor of any individual, and a card will be provided for you to send to the honoree. Cards available are: *Baby, Special Day, Thank You, Thinking of You, Happy Birthday, Christmas, Congratulations, In the Service of Christ, and Peace.* You need not provide the name of the individual honored.

Amount of Gift _____ **Type of Card Requested** _____

Gift in Memory (minimum \$5) - Gifts may be made in memory of any individual, in the amount of \$5 or more. Gift in Memory cards, available free, will be provided to send to the family of the deceased. You need not provide the name of the individual or the family.

Amount of Gift _____

World Thank Offering - Spontaneous additional gifts can be given in gratitude for God’s abundance and in celebration of the joys of life. This is an opportunity to respond to God’s grace one time or collect coins throughout the year.

Amount of Gift _____ (_____ enclosed _____ already given to unit)

YOU ARE A FIVE STAR PERSON!

****Please give your completed form and donations to your UNIT TREASURER.**

This is an example of the pins you can receive for becoming a 5-Star Person. Shown are the regular pin, the 5-year pin, and the 10-year pin.



2020 Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Methodist Women - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____		District _____	
()			
Name _____		Telephone _____	
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Email _____			

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31, to be presented at their Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.

- Units completing any **8** or more objectives will be a "FAITH" unit.
- Units completing **9** or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" unit.
- Units completing **17** or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" "JOY" unit.
- Units completing **25** or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" "JOY" "LOVE" unit.

Mission Giving

- ____ *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- ____ *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- ____ Donated to local women's shelter or children's/youth program.
- ____ Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Methodist Women activities.

Spiritual Growth

- ____ Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- ____ Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- ____ Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

Membership

- ____ *Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- ____ *Added one new member not included in above.

Attendance

- ____ Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- ____ Had a combined meeting with another United Methodist Women's unit.
- ____ Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
- ____ *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
- ____ *At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- ____ *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the *District Elected Leadership Training*.

Mission Education



- ___ *Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission Study*.
- ___ *Two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- ___ Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- ___ *Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- ___ *Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
- ___ Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
- ___ *Unit had two members reading response each month.
- ___ *Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- ___ Unit had one *Social Action* program.

Mission Action

- ___ *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- ___ Had a member of United Methodist Women present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- ___ Had at least one member visit a United Methodist Mission Project and report to the unit.
- ___ *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Methodist Women's Action Network.
- ___ Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
- ___ *Unit participated in the *Campaign for Children* in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
- ◇ Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 - ◇ Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 - ◇ Communicated with representatives advocating for children issues.
 - ◇ Attended a school board meeting.
- ___ Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Methodist Unit.
- ___ *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.
- Possibilities include:
- ◇ Read books and articles about another race or culture.
 - ◇ Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
 - ◇ Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 - ◇ Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.

___ 33. Sent this completed form to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation by **deadline date:** February 1, 2021.

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit. (Circle all that apply)

Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation:

United Methodist Community House 2019 Successes

The United Methodist Community House has had a wonderful year in 2019. Our team has worked hard to provide quality services to children, youth and seniors in our communities. Here are some of the successes we are celebrating...

Eliminated a major deficit and ended the year with a balanced budget through improved efficiencies.

Added 40 infant and toddler seats in our center including new classrooms funded.

Purchased property for the expansion of our future work.

Supported staff with professional development opportunities including CDA certifications.

Improved security with new doors and an electronic entry system to better protect our children and seniors.

Recruited new board members in preparation for implementing our vision and completed a board-driven strategic plan for the next two years.

Our goals for 2020 are thoughtful and aggressive. Some of our expectations are:

To finalize plans for expanding our campus with the new senior activity center, senior housing complex, and child development center with a goal to break ground next fall.

To implement our capital campaign for our vision project in early spring 2020.

To increase individual donor giving by 20% and corporate sponsorships by 50%.

One of the biggest reasons that UMCH had such a banner year was because of the support that we received from UMW members across the state of Michigan. Both Carla Moore and Eric Williams have enjoyed visiting the regional meetings, Mission U, and the State Conference. We have made so many friends during our tours. We look forward to visiting individual UMC churches over the next year as well. Thank you for being a part of our success and we will keep you updated with our future plans.





CALLING ALL WOMEN TO THE 2020 CONFERENCE RACIAL JUSTICE PROJECT

Michigan Conference UMW, through the Charter for Racial Justice committee, will be starting a project focusing on the School to Prison Pipeline. The term school-to-prison pipeline refers to the troubling national trend where public school children are harshly penalized for minor infractions of school rules. Severe policies and practices such as zero tolerance, disciplinary alternative schools, police in schools, court involvement and juvenile detention employed by school districts and municipalities disproportionately penalizes disadvantaged youth, and black, Latino and special needs students.

For 2020 this topic will be the focus of many of the activities conducted by the Charter for Racial Justice Committee of Michigan UMW. We would start by conducting a Bible Study, put together by National UMW. This study could be done by several different methods:

A set of conference calls, which would take 3 sessions, or

A one-day retreat

This study would mark the beginning of our efforts to end the school-to-prison pipeline within the state of Michigan through our study, our hopes and our prayers for everyone involved.

We want to see if there is a commitment from the women from the conference to begin this project. If you are interested, please call or e-mail **Kathy Freeland at 989-843-5247 or ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net.**

If you don't want to call or e-mail, please fill out the following form and send it to: **Kathy Freeland, PO Box 195, Mayville, MI, 48744**

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE - Linda Darrow, chair,	Judy Chasney	Dorie Litchfield	Patti Steinberg
Kathy Freeland	Micki Phelps	Joyce Simons	Loretta Lee
Linda Schramm	Alice Tucker		

Deadline—February 15, 2020

____ I would be interested in participating in 3 conference calls concerning the School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study.

____ I would be interested in attending a one-day retreat concerning the School-to-Prison Pipeline Bible Study.

Name

Address, including local address, city, state, zip code

Phone number

E-mail



2020 Conference Team

PRESIDENT: Linda Darrow (2017) Central Bay
232 N. Cooley St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-763-8750, darrowlinda@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT: Waltha Gaye Leavitt (2020)
Mid-Michigan
8524 E. Colby Road, Crystal, MI 48818
989-640-0238, Wally@cmsinter.net

SECRETARY: Beth Mitchell (2017)
Greater Southwest
3813 Rockwood Dr. Kalamazoo, MI 49004
269-343-6806, bamitch55@gmail.com

TREASURER: Mary Danforth (2019) Heritage
4671 Midway Dr. , Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 649-4849, m19danforth44@gmail.com

SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES:
Brenda Street (2017) Greater Detroit
578 Michigan Ave., Pontiac, MI 48432
248-335-3603, bstreet99257@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATORS:
Kathy Freeland (2017) Central Bay
P.O. Box 195, Mayville, MI 48744
(989) 843-5247, ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net

Sally Messner (2019) Greater Southwest
224 Davis Street, Marcellus, MI 49067
(269) 646-7791, sallymessner@yahoo.com

MISSION COORDINATORS:
SOCIAL ACTION: Alice Tucker (2017)
Greater Detroit
22289 Woodhill, Southfield, MI 48075
248-357-5816, fayerich@comcast.net

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION:
Michele Weston (2019) East Winds
5158 Sandalwood Circle, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-694-6266, mweston38@att.net

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH:
Cindy Thiele (2020) Greater Southwest
319 River Street, Allegan, MI 49010
269-673-4514, cindahthiele@gmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:
Ruth Jones (2018) Northern Waters
540 Georgetown Dr. #36, Traverse City, MI 49684
231-645-1761, tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS:

CHAIRPERSON: Linda A. Schramm (2019) East Winds
244 South Elk St., Sandusky, MI 48471
(810) 404-4698, lars@greatlakes.net

Patti Steinberg (2018) Northern Skies
142 Indian Lake Dr., Crystal Falls, MI 49920
906-367-2128, pattisteinberg@gmail.com

Julia Deemer (2019) Northern Waters
16671 Fewins Rd., Interlochen, MI 49643
231-275-7954, jujadeemer@gmail.com

Evelyn Delaney (2019) Central Bay
1050 Grandjean Rd., Rose City, MI 48654
989-685-2591, no email

Shirley Chappell (2019) Midwest
719 S. Griffin, Grand Haven, MI 49417
616-846-4197, shirley2billchapel@att.net

Joyce Plumhoff (2020) Mid-Michigan
1858 W. Columbia Rd., Mason, MI 48854
517-676-2716, tplumhoff1858@gmail.com

Dorie Litchfield (2018) Greater Southwest
61470 CR 657, Lawton, MI 49065
269-580-3449, creator.dorie@gmail.com

Carol Gorham (2020) Heritage
13539 S. Rainbow Dr., Gregory, MI 48137
734-904-5312, carolgorham1492@gmail.com

Jimmie Jones (2020) Greater Detroit
570 Piper Ct., Detroit, MI 48215
313-331-5553, jimeli1231@yahoo.com

NOMINEES TO UNITED METHODIST WOMEN, INC.

Ruby Anderson (2017) Greater Detroit
25180 Thorndike, Southfield, MI 48033
586-940-0221, rbydandrs@aol.com

Judy Huynh (2020) Midwest
2101 Clarksville Road, Portland, MI 48987
561 269-838-1804, judyhuynh@gmail.com

Alternate: Marchelle (Micki) Phelps (2020) Greater Detroit
19622 Syracuse, Detroit, MI 48234
313-618-5361, marchellephelps@gmail.com

VOTING DELEGATES TO QUADRENNIAL MEETING

Mary Danforth – Alice Tucker – Michele Weston

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE - Linda Darrow, chair

Judy Chasney	Dorie Litchfield	Patti Steinberg
Kathy Freeland	Micki Phelps	Joyce Simons
Loretta Lee	Linda Schramm	Alice Tucker

Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

www.umwmichiganconference.org

United Methodist Women

PO Box 195, Mayville, MI 48744



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Submissions requested by the 10th of each previous month
to: Kathy Freeland, ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net

2020 Calendar of Events

January 25	Conference Team Meeting	Zoom
Feb. 6-8	Leadership Development Days	St. Louis, MO
Apr. 4	Keep Making Peace Day	University UMC, E. Lansing
Apr. 23-25	Church Women United MI Assembly	Comstock Inn, Owosso
May 17	Michigan Conference UMW Team Meeting	Carson City
May 27-31	Annual Michigan Conference	Grand Traverse Resort (UMW Luncheon on Friday, May 29)
July-Oct.	Mission u in a variety of locations	
Sept.-Oct.	District Annual Celebrations	
Oct. 23-24	Conference/District Officer Training & Michigan Conf. UMW Celebration	Kalamazoo 1st UMC