



# The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

**November 2024 Edition**

## ***A note from your President...***

Greetings, United Women in Faith. I would like to thank all of you for electing me as your District President. I appreciate your confidence in me to lead our District forward. Some of you may remember me as the (last) President of the Albion District several years ago. Since that time, my granddaughter, Ellie, is now 8 years old and attended her first Mission u with me this past summer and is looking forward to next summer's Mission u! I have been and continue to be a busy caretaker in the Granny Squad, the grandparents who support Ellie's parents with childcare year 'round. What a joy it is to spend time with her! I praise God for this gracious opportunity. From the contents of this newsletter, you can see your District Team has been busy preparing for 2025. Be sure and mark dates in your calendars for our upcoming events. I look forward to seeing you!

Cheryl Proctor, President  
Greater Southwest District United Women In Faith

## ***A note from your Outgoing President...***

At our District UWF planning meeting last week we were asked to share something we were thankful for. I shared that I am extremely thankful for my parents who are 89 years old and still living at home. My mom still makes dinner and supper every day for my dad and herself, something she has done for the 69 years that they have been married. My parents have been the biggest influence in my Christian life. I've attended the same church my entire life where they started taking me as a child. We currently have four generations sitting in the pews every Sunday. (Our son, daughter-in-law and their three children are a big influence on our church growth.) I've decided to honor my mother with a Mission Recognition Pin for her many years of being a UWF member and an integral part of many of our mission projects!

Unfortunately, I didn't get the chance to tell our planning team how eternally thankful I am for all of them. This group of ladies has led me forward on my path of being a loyal UWF member and they have become dear friends in the process. I realize just how fortunate I am to have these colleagues as a part of my Christian life!

I am turning over the presidential reins to Cheryl Proctor in 2025 but I will continue to be a part of the team as the Education and Interpretation Coordinator.

I pray that you have many amazing people in your life that you are thankful for, too.

God bless,

Laura Marlowe

### ***A note from the District Treasurer...***

It is hard to believe we are already in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of our fiscal year but in reality, District Celebration and Annual Conference are in the past and we are at the end of our fiscal year. The final quarter is always like a race for me, working to keep up to date with local units' remittances and close out the books for 2024.

As of the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, total remittances from local units are \$13,553.21. This is about average for this time of year, which is encouraging but our total pledge to mission is \$35,000 so we have a lot to make up in these final months. If your unit has not sent its annual remittance, please do so as soon as possible and if your unit is considering an increase, this is a good time to do it. My "drop dead" date for having remittances included in the 2024 overall budget is Monday **DECEMBER 9**. Remittances received after that date will be held over for the 2025 budget. Please make sure you have sent yours by that date **and well before if possible**.

Remittance should be sent to: Mary Howard, PO Box 114, Hopkins, MI 49328

If you need to contact me, I can be reached by email or phone at: maryhowa@att.net; 269-757-3011

### ***A note from the Communications Coordinator...***

A huge thank you to Mary Howard and Linda Burton Collier for stepping in and preparing the August newsletter in my absence. I would also like to thank everyone who has prayed for me and my husband during this difficult time in our lives. I am back home again after 12 weeks in the hospital. My husband is still hospitalized, but he is doing better every day. God is good ..... All the time!

Beth Mitchell



## **Virtual Mission u**

**Thursdays - January 9, 16, 23, 30, 2025**

**6:30—9:00 P.M.**

Couldn't attend the Mission u in July? Now is your chance to participate virtually on your own or gather a small group of people from your church as we discuss the 2024 theme of 'Welcome Home'. Together we will explore how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us while we discover what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us develop practices for healthier communities. This inspiring study will be led by Steve Taylor, an active Home Missioner from the North Carolina Conference. Enroll yourself or a small group of up to five people for **\$30.00** plus the cost of your book. Registration deadline is **JANUARY 3, 2025**. For more information or to register, visit <http://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or contact Mission u Registrar Sally Messner at [mimissionu@gmail.com](mailto:mimissionu@gmail.com).

# 2024 Mission Today Unit Objectives

## United Women in Faith - 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 District 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**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. \*Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \*Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Donated to local women’s shelter or children’s/youth program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Women in Faith activities.

### **Spiritual Growth**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

### **Membership**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \*Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \*Added one new member not included in above.

### **Attendance**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Had a combined meeting with another United Women in Faith unit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. \*At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. \*At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. \*At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the District Elected Leadership Training

## **Mission Education**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. \*Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission Study*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. \*Two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. \*Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. \*Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 21. Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 22. \*Unit had two members reading ***response*** each month.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 23. \*Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 24. Unit had one *Social Action* program.

## **Mission Action**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 25. \*Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 26. Had a member of United Women in Faith present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 27. Had at least one member visit a United Women in Faith Project and report to the unit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 28. \*Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Women in Faith's Action Network.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 29. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns that stimulated and enriched the total community.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 30. \*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's issues.
  - \* Attended a school board meeting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Women in Faith Unit.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 32. \*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, 2025.

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit.

(Circle all that apply)

**Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith  
Officers for 2025**

**OFFICERS**

**President**

Cheryl Proctor  
104 Tuttle Park Drive, Sherwood 49089  
(517) 741-3125  
seldominn@wowway.com

**Vice President**

Open

**Treasurer**

Mary Howard  
PO Box 114, 209 Grant St., Hopkins 49328  
(269) 757-3011  
maryhowa@att.net

**Secretary**

Linda Luce  
104 N. Fiske Rd., Coldwater 49036  
(517) 178-8443  
lindaluce@msn.com

**Communications Coordinator**

Beth Mitchell  
3813 Rockwood Dr., Kalamazoo 49004  
(269) 626-5241  
barmitch55@gmail.com

**MISSION COORDINATORS**

**Committee on Nominations Chair**

Linda Burton-Collier  
2574 127th Ave., Allegan 49010  
(269) 793-7340  
lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com

**Spiritual Growth Coordinator**

Simmie Proctor  
73486 8th Ave., South Haven 49090  
(269) 637-6053  
simmiepr@hotmail.com

**Education & Interpretation Coordinator**

Laura Marlowe  
2461 Hunters Pond, Kalamazoo 49048  
(269) 929-7393  
mmarlowe33@att.net

**Membership Nurture & Outreach  
Coordinator**

Cindy Thiele  
319 River St., Allegan 49010  
(269) 673-4514  
cindahthiele@gmail.com

**Social Action Coordinator**

Open

**Secretary of Program Resources**

Jan Hedgcock  
303 Calhoun St., Union City 49094  
(517) 741-3245  
hsspedteach@yahoo.com

# 2024 Local Membership Census Form

## Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

Local Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Information reported by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members as of January 1, 2024:	
Number of new members added in 2024:	
Number of members lost by death or other reasons:	
Total members as of December 31, 2024:	

**Unit type:** Please circle the type of unit you are: (circle one)

Local      Cluster/charge      District      Online

**Instructions:** Please fill in the membership numbers for your local unit in the chart above. Also circle the type of unit that best describes your gatherings.

When your form is complete, please send it to the address listed below by February 15, 2025.

**Please mail completed forms by February 15, 2025 to:**

Cindy Thiele  
 319 River Street  
 Allegan, Michigan 49010  
 (269) 673-4514

**Or e-mail: [cindahthiele@gmail.com](mailto:cindahthiele@gmail.com)**

**Thank you**

**2025 LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS IN GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

**Please complete & return by Feb. 28, 2025**

Unit (Church) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Held: Day \_\_\_\_\_ week of month \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE**

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>PHONE</b>	<b>E-MAIL</b>
<b>President</b>				
<b>Vice-President</b>				
<b>Secretary</b>				
<b>Treasurer</b>				
<b>Spiritual Growth</b>				
<b>Education &amp; Interpretation</b>				
<b>Social Action</b>				
<b>Membership, Nurture &amp; Outreach</b>				
<b>Program Resources</b>				
<b>Communications Coordinator</b>				
<b>Nominations Chair</b>				
<b>Other</b>				

We would like to learn more about hosting a District UWF event at our church  
 We would like to have a District representative visit our church to discuss UWF.  
 We would like to start a UWF unit. Please contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 We do not have a UWF unit at our church. Contact person & #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comments or suggestions for upcoming District events: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed form to Beth Mitchell, 3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004**

**Or e-mail barmitch55@gmail.com**

Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith  
3813 Rockwood Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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**The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith:**

United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

**IMPORTANT 2025 DATES**

- \* **Virtual Mission u, January 9, 16, 23 and 30—6:30-9:00 p.m.**
  - \* **Spiritual Growth Day, March 29 \* Location TBD**
  - \* **Mission Night, June 19 \* Location TBD**
  - \* **Mission u, July 17 — 19 \* Mt. Pleasant First UMC**
  - \* **Greater Southwest District UWF Annual Meeting  
September 27 \* Schoolcraft UMC**
  - \* **Conference Leadership Training for District Officers  
October 17 \* Clio Bethany UMC**
  - \* **Conference UWF Annual Celebration  
October 18 \* Clio Bethany UMC**