



THE MESSENGER

News from the Mid-Michigan District
United Women In Faith

Volume 6, Issue 3

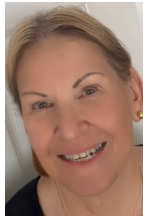
July, 2023



United
Women
in Faith

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Sharon Smith



NEW EVERY MORNING was the theme of the 2023 Annual Conference of the Michigan United Methodist Church. That theme was based on Lamentations 3:22-23. *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

While the conference delegates approved the disaffiliation of 60 Michigan UMC churches and nine Michigan churches that closed since the last annual conference, we also celebrated new elders, bid farewell to some long-serving conference staff who are getting the retirement they so richly deserve, and were privileged to hear Bishop Bard address the assembly (Bishop Bard will speak to the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith at Holt UMC on October 28). We were entertained by wonderful musicians; taught and inspired by amazing speakers, and blessed to renew and make new friends throughout the three days. If you have never experienced an annual conference, consider volunteering at your church to be a delegate or let your (new) District Superintendent know that you would like to be an equalization laity delegate. You will come away feeling a renewal of faith and filled with hope for the future of our denomination.

Just as the Michigan UMC Conference encouraged churches to get caught up on their Ministry Shares during its annual meeting, we in the Mid-Michigan District encourage each of our units to stay current with your pledges and consider being even more generous, if that is possible. While you may think it's not necessary because we are losing our district, the Michigan Conference UWFaith must still maintain its obligations to the national organization, and that comes from the districts. Please remember that in accordance with the 2021-24 Finance Policies and Directions of the United Methodist Women handbook Emptying the Treasury at the End of the Year."

"The monies given for United Methodist Women, dba United Women in Faith, are given for mission. However, a local group may discover, toward the end of a given year, that it has more money than it needs to carry it into the first few months of the new year. This may have happened because:

- *The budgeted amount for the Pledge to Mission was too low.*
- *Sources of income were underestimated.*
- *Income from a fundraising event may not have been budgeted.*

"A local group should keep in its treasury only the minimum amount necessary to carry it into the first few months of the next year, until members' Mission Giving pledges and gifts begin coming in.

(continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER (cont)

The committee on finance recommends how to use these extra funds. The committee could choose one of the following options:

1. *Send the extra funds as additional mission funds (added to your Pledge to Mission).*
2. *Present one or more Special Mission Recognitions or Gifts to Mission to members or friends of the unit.*
3. *Make a supplementary gift to "A Brighter Future for Children and Youth," a mission program that receives United Methodist Women National Office funding.*

"Funds given in these ways to 'empty the treasury' should be sent to the district treasurer (Judy Christie). The act of emptying the treasury is important because the funds were given to be used for mission, not to build up a bank account for the unit. Saving for a rainy day is not good stewardship since today is a rainy day for thousands of women, children and youth for whom our mission money offers hope."

As Conference President Julia Paradine-Rice shared during Mission U, the definition of pledge is a solemn, serious, sincere promise. We as United Women in Faith make that solemn promise to support mission. We make that promise as individuals, as units, as districts and as a conference. The pledge to mission monies support programs in the United States and throughout the world that improve the lives of women, children and youth and their communities. There are nearly 90 National Mission Institutions (one in our state located in Grand Rapids, United Methodist Community House), international missions in more than 50 countries like women chicken farmers in Zimbabwe and interest free micro business loans in Sierra Leone to women selling palm oil, nuts and vegetables, etc. UWFaith supports, through our pledges to mission, eight regional missionaries around the world. How can we not try to do even more to support these and other global programs for the sake of women, children and youth.

I hope that you have taken an opportunity or by necessity visited the UWFaith website. The site is filled with information that will help you in your recruitment of new members. It has many, many program ideas to replace those old programs that you may have been doing over and over. Have you joined Mighty Networks? Have you looked at the wonderful books in the Reading Program for 2023 and before that are still eligible for the current Reading Program certificates?

PLEASE COMPLETE THE MEMBER ONLINE SURVEY BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST!

As I write this message, I have just returned from three days in Mt. Pleasant attending Mission u. To say the program was outstanding is an understatement. The study was "Living in the Kingdom, Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation." I can't begin to express how interesting, informative and meaningful the sessions were. Nearly 100 women and children were in attendance. The facilitator, Audra Stone, is the pastor of the CMU Wesley Foundation. She was SO good. It's not easy to facilitate EIGHT sessions in three days, but Audra surpassed all expectations! Next year's theme will be the Resurrection. Watch your 2024 UWFaith newsletters for dates. The location was perfect inasmuch as Mt. Pleasant was centrally located for our Michigan women and children.

Please, please, please mark your calendars to attend the final, last, farewell Annual Celebration of the Mid-Michigan District UWFaith on Wednesday, September 20. We hope to acknowledge and honor those who have served the district in the past, we will still acknowledge the accomplishments of our district units' activities and we will, of course, offer leadership tips for all unit officers and general members. We do hope you will join us. The registration form can be found in this issue of The Messenger.

(continued page 3)

PRESIDENT’S LETTER (cont)

And while you are marking your calendar, please, please, please add the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women dba United Women in Faith Annual Celebration on October 27-28 at the Holt United Methodist Church in Holt. This event promises to be one to remember as ALL DISTRICT officers will be installed by Bishop Bard! There will be lots of other exciting and interesting opportunities including leadership training as well as meeting and mingling with other women.

We have begun to wind down the business and activities of the Mid-Michigan District since on January 1, 2024, we will all be members of another district. Many of us to HERITAGE, some to CENTRAL BAY and some to EAST WINDS. Inasmuch as the Michigan Conference UMC has reduced its number of districts from nine to seven, so shall the Michigan Conference UWFaith. However, we will stick with our calendar year and serve through 2023.

This will be the final Messenger from the Mid-Michigan district. On behalf of the entire Leadership Team, we thank you for your support and confidence. It has been a privilege serving as your president for the past two years. I look forward to serving UWFaith in the future in a new district.

Blessings!

NEW UWFaith CEO

Sally Vonner

General Secretary/CEO



Sally Vonner oversees the development and supports the implementation of United Women in Faith’s strategic plan to positively impact the lives of women, children and youth. She supervises United Women in Faith executives for Membership Engagement, Membership Mobilization, and Public Relations and Marketing.

Prior to this role, Vonner has served in many areas of The United Methodist Church—leading women’s retreats, as a jurisdictional conference delegate or alternate for three quadrennia and in immigration assistance and reform, community development and dismantling racism initiatives at jurisdiction and conference levels.

Vonner is a graduate of Perkins School of Theology with an M.Div. and Women’s Studies certification. She graduated from East Texas State University with a B.S. degree in Biology. She currently serves on the boards of The Wesley Campus Ministry at Texas A&M University—Commerce and New York Justice for Our Neighbors.

svonner@uwfaith.org

	<p>United Women in Faith</p>	<p>PURPOSE OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH</p>	<p>We are 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.</p>
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PRESS RELEASE from United Women in Faith**June 29, 2023****For Immediate Release**

NEW YORK, NY—United Women in Faith, the largest denominational organization for women, today issued a statement regarding the Supreme Court decision in *Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard*, and *Students for Fair Admission v. University of North Carolina*. The statement can be attributed to Sally Vonner, general secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith and Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, director of mobilization and advocacy for United Women in Faith:

“We are greatly disappointed in this decision, which represents a massive step backwards for racial equality. We are concerned about the immense harm this decision will have on students as well as the long-term precedent of eroding affirmative action. United Women in Faith also joins the United Methodist Church, which **previously issued a resolution on affirmative action**, and reiterates our support for affirmative action as an important tool in efforts to achieve equity. The resolution states:

“The implementation of affirmative action has resulted in concrete gains for people of color and women in higher education and the corporate world. However persuasive [the alleged grounds of opposition to affirmative action] seem on the surface, they tend to slough off or to ignore the persistence of significant and widespread inequalities of opportunity affecting women, ethnic and racial persons, and persons with disabilities throughout our social system.

From the perspective represented by the United Methodist Church, the most fundamental premise underlying the concept of affirmative action is both moral and spiritual. Concern for the disadvantaged and the oppressed is a major feature of the Hebraic prophets and of Jesus. According to biblical teaching, we are mandated, in the face of inhumane discrimination — whether that discrimination is intended or unintended — to do what we can to redress legitimate grievances and to create a society in which the lives of each and all will flourish. For this fundamental reason, we reconfirm our commitment to the concept of affirmative action.”

“We are disappointed in the decision but not surprising (sic); there has been a long-lasting campaign against affirmative action, which exists as part of a broader current backlash to historic and present-day racial and gender justice movements. In alignment with the collective body of the United Methodist Church, United Women in Faith remains committed to the principles of affirmative action as a vital tool in advancing the civil and human rights of women, people of color, and people with disabilities, while simultaneously strengthening the fabric of our whole society and enriching the lives of all persons. We have a moral interest and a practical interest in this issue. Of the National Mission Institutions we support, five our HBCUs (historically Black colleges and universities).”

“While we are mourning today’s decision, we are not defeated by it,” said Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, Director of Mobilization and Advocacy for United Women in Faith. “We recognize that the Supreme Court has brought both high’s and low’s for the broader movements for racial justice and gender justice. Today’s low will not be our resting place. As women of faith, we will continue to work in support of affirmative action in the church and in the world.”

JOIN US to CELEBRATE YOU

and the Mid-Michigan District United Women in Faith - one last time

When:

Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023
Registration: 10:00 am
Begin Promptly at 10:45 am
Cost: \$12.00

Where:

Lansing Mt.Hope UMC
501 E. Mt. Hope Ave
Lansing, Michigan

Donation: United Methodist Community House

Mission Focus/In Gathering: Household Items: Blankets (all bed sizes), silverware, sheets, pillow cases (all bed sizes) utensils (plastic preferred, spatulas, spoons), measuring cups and spoons, pillows (NEW only) knives (paring, slicing, butcher) cutting boards, towels, wash cloths (bath and hand towels), salt and pepper shakers, shower curtains and rings, can openers, window curtains (no valances), cookware (saucepans 2, 3 qt or larger) skillets.



Rev. Carolin Spragg, ordained in the United Methodist Church in West Michigan in 1994, retired in 2013 after 21 years of pastoral ministry. Coming from a background of agri-business consulting, finance, and farming, Carolin responded to a call to ministry and received her MDIV from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in 1992 embarking on this ministry adventure as a mid-life change. She served in three appointments including two small and two mid to larger sized congregations. Carolin now enjoys living on the family farm where for the first couple of years of retirement she cared for her aging parents until their passing in 2015. During retirement she has enjoyed providing Pastoral Care at the Holt United Methodist where she continues to be involved in visitation and in choir. Throughout her ministry Carolin has enjoyed bringing to life the stories of women in scripture. When we step into their story, we experience Jesus demonstrating what it looks like to live in the "Kin-dom" in this world as God intended. Journeying with these women, we discover these

are stories in which we can find ourselves. In times of change a woman's experience at the well may reveal a new calling for us in our season of change. As Carolin joins us, she comes "accompanied" by a woman whose life was transformed by Jesus, a woman who accepted the call she sensed that Jesus had placed upon her life.

Registration Information

Name _____ Church/Unit _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Current or Past Unit/District office or Mission Coordinator position: _____

Check payable to Mid-Michigan District UMW or UWF \$ _____

Special Needs/Diet: Please Specify _____

Send registration to: **Audrey Putman, 1931 Loraine Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910, by September 13th.**

E: putman_family@yahoo.com P: 517-482-2023

INTENTIONALLY BLANK



United
Women
in Faith

Michigan UWF Conference 5th Annual Celebration October 28, 2023

"Turn On - Tune In"

Holt UMC
2321 N Aurelius Road, Holt, MI

Registration opens @ 8:30 am

Keynote speaker: Bishop Bard



Local Mission Guest – House of Promise

Engaged in community outreach and engagement to help survivors of human sex trafficking

Hotel rooms are available at: Causeway Bay, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911

Phone: 517-694-8123 Use Code: UWF-27

Ingathering to benefit House of Promise: Gift Cards from Walmart, Meijer, fast food restaurants, Amazon, gas stations.

Register online by October 21st at:

<https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



Conference Annual Registration Form
Registration Deadline is October 21, 2023

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please Check one: Local Officer District Officer Conference Officer

District _____ Office held _____

Home Church and City _____

Please check events attending:

\$7.00 - Friday Officer Training/Leadership Development

\$18.00 - Saturday Celebration

_____ TOTAL DUE (Make checks payable to: Michigan Conference UWF)

Dietary Restrictions: _____

Child care needed? Yes No

Names and ages of children: _____

Lodging is on your own. Hotel rooms are available at:
Causeway Bay, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911
(517) 694-8123 Use Code: UWF-27

Mail by October 21st with check payable to: Michigan Conference UWF to:
Audrey Putman, 1931 Loraine Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910
putman_family@yahoo.com (517)-482-2023

Get Together!

It's time to get excited for our United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event 2024!

We will gather at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, 31 West Ohio Street, in Indianapolis, May 31st - June 2nd, beginning at 8:30 am on **Friday** and ending at approximately noon on **Sunday**. There will be an optional, pre-event Soul Care Retreat on Thursday, May 30th from noon until 9:00 pm.

GET TOGETHER!

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another"? (John 13:34) Come GET TOGETHER! to

FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite
DEEPEN our relationship with God

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood
EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more.
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.

SCRIPTURE: The following scripture will provide the biblical foundation for our journey together: *John 13:34 (NRSV)*
I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.



Keynote Speaker
Deaconess
Garlinda Burton

WHAT'S HAPPENING at GET TOGETHER! 2024?

Pray: Community Gatherings, Worship
Listen: Discussion Groups, Multi-Media Presentations
Learn: Workshops, Conference Displays
Engage: Breakouts, Action Opportunities
Celebrate!: Saturday Night Fun Night!

Optional Soul Care Retreat: Focus on nurturing your mind, body and spirit while deepening your faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood (includes box dinner)



Music Director
Amanda Powell

SPREAD THE WORD! Please go to the United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event website, <https://www.uwncj.org/> for programming updates and the latest information.

Special guest, Grace Musaka, Regional Missionary, will share a global perspective. One example of a workshop will feature Shannon Priddy and Dawn Armstrong who will challenge us in "Let's Talk Legacy". Breakouts will offer opportunities for activities with your sisters, connecting with friends - old and new. We will be electing Directors and Alternates for the National Board of United Women in Faith as well as the 2024-2028 NCJ Leadership Team.

How can we embrace and include everyone in a divided world? How can we confront injustice? How can we grow within ourselves and our faith? The answer is always the same. We can do it TOGETHER.

Come nurture your spirit TOGETHER Come join in worship TOGETHER Come make a difference TOGETHER

REGISTRATION will open Sept. 1, 2023

Early Online Registration closes	November 30, 2023 (Midnight EST)	\$225.00
Online Registration closes	April 30, 2024 (Midnight EDT)	\$265.00
Soul Care Retreat (optional)	Filled until capacity	\$75.00



GREEN TEAM

Elaine Ferris, Green Team Chairperson

Paying it Forward: Some More Great Resources on Stewardship and Living Green.

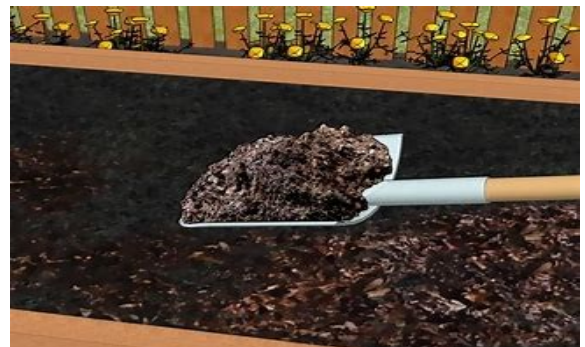
I wrote about Lauren Singer, whose trash for two (now four!) years filled one 16 oz mason jar. She's teaching others to work towards a goal of reducing waste = the average American produces 4.3 pounds of waste a day or over ¾ TON of trash a year. You can hear a lot more on her blog "Package Free": how to make your own toothpaste, how to work toward helping sustain the environment by making grocery selection and how to swap out disposable items for other items that are not trashed after one use (think plastic water bottles). But even here, Lauren recommends doing things one at a time. Trying to do it all is not the object, just to keep on trying to reduce waste. If you are not online, I recommend your local library – many magazines are available online at the library or through interlibrary loan. Or your local doctor's office! See the 100th Anniversary edition of Better Homes and Gardens for more ideas.

Guppy or Guppyfriend bags - <https://imperfectidealist.com/guppyfriend-bag-review/> are a newer idea – they are for washing clothing – particularly synthetic material. The idea is that they filter out the microplastic bits from your laundry. Incidentally, they also help keep fibers from breaking down according to tests. They must be used at cool temperature wash, but most synthetics recommend that. They are to keep microplastics from going into the ground-water, which happens every time you wash. An early review, but she promises updates. Around \$35. Unfortunately there is no good way to dispose of the fibers other than trash currently. She recommends enclosing them so they are not blown away. Useful? Thinking about this one.

Saving Seeds: Cultural diversity. In the last century we have lost over 75% of our crop diversity. There are a number of seed saving groups, but again, many tend to focus on "normal" varieties – tomato, cucumber, beans, watermelon etc. <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2017-08-04/twenty-seed-saving-initiatives-preserving-biodiversity-around-the-world/> is a site with twenty different organizations around the world working to encourage biodiversity. I had never heard of Tatsoi but it is a green used in Asiatic cooking. Seed savers is only one of many! Check online for how to save your vegetable and flower seeds. <https://folklife.si.edu/magazine/seed-saving-cultural-biodiversity> is a site that talks about native American seeds and customs that are used in planting and caring for them. There is also a Ted Talk from 2013 link included.

Did you know you can get a composter that sits on your kitchen counter and produces compost from scraps – no backyard needed? It only costs \$499. <https://www.bobvila.com/articles/lomi-countertop-review/> Bob Vila reviewed this – his conclusion – if you have a yard or room for a compost bin, that's probably most efficient. The composter uses electricity, is about as noisy as a breadmaker, daily use gives you about 2 cupfuls. For apartment living, it may be a better bet. On the plus side, it doesn't smell, works as advertised, and your lawn can absorb pretty much all you can create! Good for houseplants too.

I have to admit, I feel less guilt over waste when I can put something into the compost bin instead of the trash. You can never have enough compost!



EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Karol Fry, Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation and Program Resources

“There is no other women’s organization with the strength and connection that we have. That is our strength and we need to grow the mission, advocacy, spiritual and education work we do.” UWFaith.org/resources/podcasts

READING PROGRAM

Karol Fry, Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation and Program Resources

The Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books. There is something for everyone — the Reading Program is available for:

- ◇ Adults
- ◇ Youth, and
- ◇ Children

Enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including:

- ◇ Education for Mission
- ◇ Leadership Development
- ◇ Nurturing for Community
- ◇ Social Action
- ◇ Spiritual Growth

Regular reading of the Response Magazine is required and the Faith Talks Podcasts are part of the Reading Program. Reading is rewarding.

As you read, you can track your progress using our easy-to-use Report Form. When you submit the Report of Completion Requirements, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition at the next District Celebration on September 20, 2023 at Mt. Hope United Methodist Church. Find your flyer/registration form in this letter and send it in today.

COUSINS: CONNECTED THROUGH SLAVERY, A BLACK WOMAN AND A WHITE WOMAN DISCOVER THEIR PAST—AND EACH OTHER

Betty Kilby Baldwin and Phoebe Kilby

What happens when a white woman, Phoebe, contacts a black woman, Betty, saying she suspects they are connected through slavery? First surprise? Betty responds, “Hello, Cousin.” Betty had fought for an education and won. She broke through the concrete ceiling in the workplace and succeeded. A documentary of her life was about to debut. Without thinking, she invites Phoebe to a family dinner and the premiere of the documentary. Second surprise? She forgot to tell her family who was coming to dinner. Betty finds an activist partner in Phoebe. Cousins indeed, they commit to a path of reconciliation. In alternating chapters, each tells her dramatic story — from Betty’s experience as one of the first black children to attend her desegregated school, to Phoebe’s eventual question to Betty: “How do I begin to repair the harms?” Piercingly honest. Includes a working reparations project which the two women conceived together. Betty and Phoebe have been interviewed on the BBC and were recently featured in a special on Netflix.

READING PROGRAM

Reporting Form

Formulario de Información del Programa de Lectura

독서 프로그램독서 프로그램



PLAN I

- 5 books each year.
- 1 book from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN III

- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

Books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice or borrowed from your local public library.

For books on previous reading lists, go to:
uwfaith.org/read

REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

(Send completed form to your secretary of program resources or equivalent according to your conference's schedules.)

NAME:

PLAN CHOSEN:

I

II

III

IV

CURRENT YEAR:

MISSION EMPHASES

Education for Mission

Leadership Development

Nurturing for Community

Social Action

Spiritual Growth

I have completed the required reading for PLAN I . The books I have read are listed on this form.

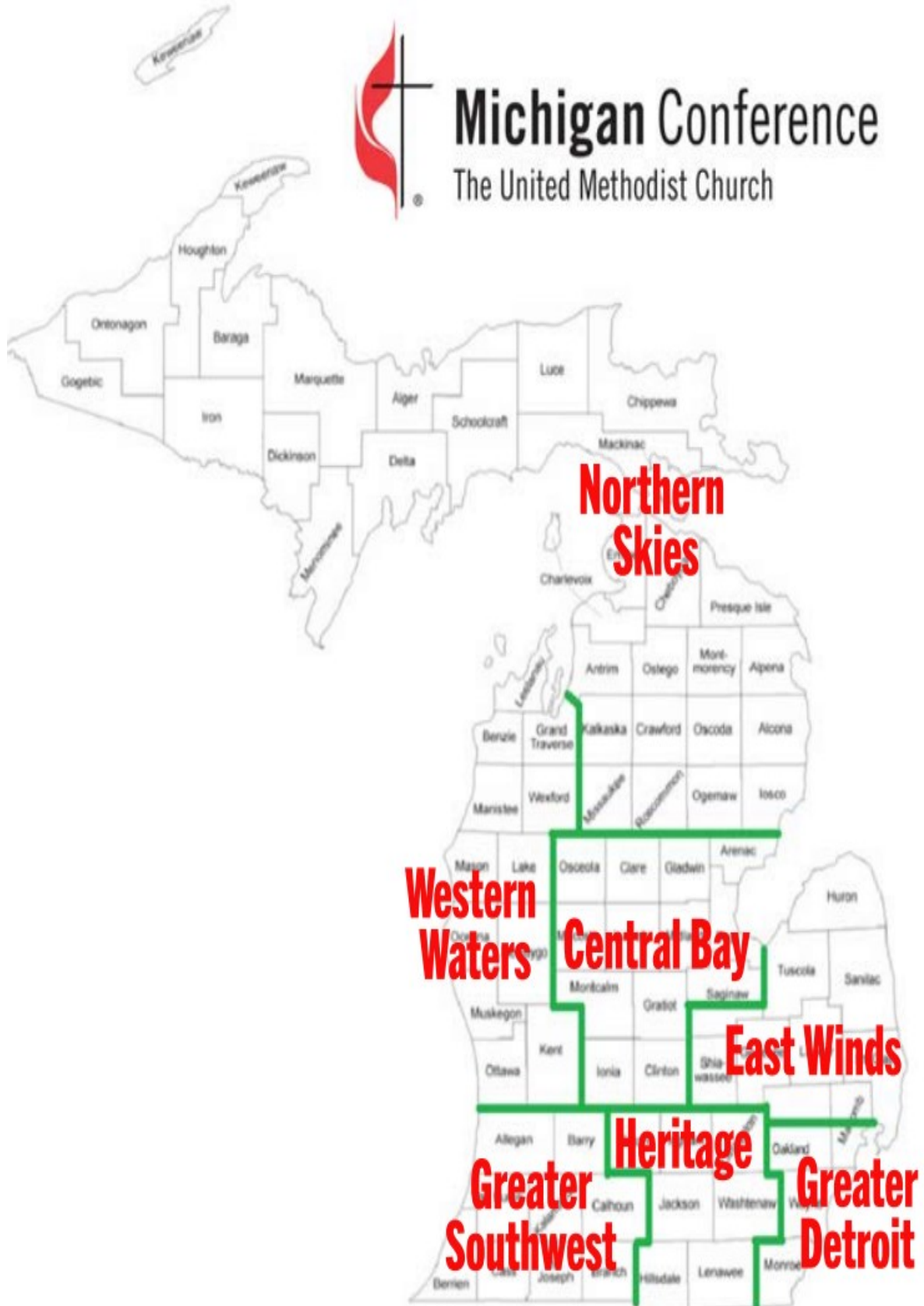
<input type="text"/>
LOCAL UNIT
<input type="text"/>
DISTRICT
<input type="text"/>
CONFERENCE
<input type="text"/>
PRINT NAME
<input type="text"/>
ADDRESS
<input type="text"/>
CITY, STATE, ZIP



I have also read **response** regularly.

response	<i>Check off the issues you have read!</i>				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NEW MICHIGAN UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH DISTRICTS
(EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2024)



MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UMC IS NOW SEVEN DISTRICTS

You may be aware that the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church reduced the number of Districts within the Conference as of July 1, 2023.

For purposes of the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith, however, we will continue to recognize the former NINE districts until the end of 2023. As of January 1, 2024, all local units currently in the Mid-Michigan District, UWFaith, will be in new districts. If you wish to see the entire list of all seven districts and realignments, please go to the UMC Conference website at michiganumc.org. The Mid-Michigan District will no longer exist. The following are lists of units going to different districts from the Mid-Michigan District. (Please note that there is always a possibility the list may be inaccurate due to any changes since the first list was issued.)

CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT

Alma
Ashley
 Bannister
 Pompeii
Breckenridge
 St. Louis First
Ithaca
Riverdale: Lincoln Road
Portland
Bath
 Gunnisonville
DeWitt: Redeemer
 (2 campuses: DeWitt and St. Johns)
Elsie
Maple River Parish
 Maple Rapids
Ovid: United Church
Wacousta: Community
Shepardsville

EAST WINDS DISTRICT

Juddville
Lennon
New Lothrop
 First Corunna: First
Owosso
 First Owosso Trinity
Corunna: Northwest Venice
 Vernon
Henderson
 Chapin
Carland
Laingsburg

Middlebury
Shaftsburg: Faith
Chesaning

HERITAGE DISTRICT

Charlotte: Lawrence Avenue
Delta Mills
Eaton Rapids
Grand Ledge: First
Gresham
 Sunfield
Kalamo
Robbins
 Brookfield Eaton
East Lansing: Peoples
East Lansing: University
Holt
Lansing
 Central
 Grace
 Mt. Hope
Mason: First
Millville
 Leslie
 Felt Plains
Munith
 Stockbridge
Okemos Community
Sycamore Creek: (Campuses: South Lansing,
 Potterville, Eastwood)
Webberville
 Williamston: Crossroads
Williamston

HERITAGE DISTRICT (CONT)

Brighton: First
 Whitmore Lake
Milford
 Oak Grove
Fowlerville: First
Hardy
Hartland
Highland: Thrive
Howell: First
Livingston Circuit
 Plainfield
 Trinity
Pinckney: Arise
South Lyon: First
Grass Lake
Jackson Parish
Jackson: Brookside
Jackson: Trinity
Jackson Calvary
Jackson: First
Napoleon
 Pope
Salem Grove
 Waterloo Village
Chelsea: First
Ann Arbor: First
Ann Arbor: Korean
Ann Arbor: West Side
Dexter
Dixboro
Manchester: First
Manchester Sharon
North Lake
Saline: First
Stony Creek
 Macon
Ypsilanti: First
Ypsilanti: Lincoln Community
 Willow
Ypsilanti: St. Matthews
 Canton: Cherry Hill
Plymouth: First

Allen
 Jerome
 Homer (Calhoun County)
Camden
 Montgomery
 Stokes Chapel
Frontier
 Reading
Hillsdale: First
Jonesville
Hillside
 Somerset Center
Adrian: First
Blissfield: First
Blissfield: Emmanuel
Briton: Grace
Clayton
 Rollin Center
Hudson: First
Morenci
Weston
Springville
 Wellsville
Tecumseh
Deerfield
Dundee
 Azalia
 London
Ida
Milan: Marble Memorial



Receive The Messenger By Email

Cynthia Grostick, Newsletter Editor

As this is the last issue of The Messenger, I want to take this opportunity to thank you to allow me the privilege of serving as editor for the past few years. I will miss working with everyone, but it is time to move on.

If you wish to receive the newsletter for group you will be joining, you will need to contact the group directly. Unfortunately, for the majority of the people on our mailing list, I have no idea the church in which you are affiliated, so I am not able to pass on your information.

Please note that the Heritage District does not send their newsletters out by regular mail. It is email only. For those in the Heritage District, it is up to the individual churches to provide members with printed copies for their members that need them.

Below is a list of the groups with their contact information:

Central Bay District	Caroline Diaz	diazc5282@gmail.com
East Winds District	Kay Fuller	fullerk04@sbcglobal.net
Heritage District	Wendy Everett	umwheritagedistrict@gmail.com

GREETINGS FROM THE HERITAGE DISTRICT

Hello United Women in Faith Ladies!

Heritage District is ready to welcome those of you joining us in 2024. After the redistricting plan that, for us, takes place officially on January 1, 2024. We are excited to be with new friends. We may already be acquainted due to Conference activities in the past like Mission U, and we look forward to working together as God's hands and feet.

To this end, we would like to welcome you to our Annual Celebration of 2023 taking place in Milan, MI at the Milan Marble Memorial UMC on Saturday, September 30. Registration will begin soon, but I wanted to let you know the date and location to plan ahead. We will be honoring our past teams and members and welcoming our new friends. Our communications chair is Wendy Everett @ umwheritagedistrict@gmail.com. Contact her if you would like to be on the email list for our next newsletter coming out in August. We also have a Facebook page that has much of our District information. You can also find Heritage District information on the Michigan Conference UWFaith website.

Can't wait to meet all of you! God's blessing to you all.

Joy Coyle, President
Heritage District United Women in Faith
E: brcoyle@aol.com

TREASURER'S LETTER

Judy Christie, Mid-Michigan District Treasurer

Greetings Mid-Michigan District United Women of Faith local treasurers. As we start to enter the end of the district year 2023, I want to give you some important dates to remember what needs to be completed prior to some of the units going into their respective new Districts. What we do will help the new District Treasurer who will be taking over the local units. ***Please be assured that all local units are doing an excellent job and I feel confident there will be only slight changes, if any to the new district. I thank you all.***

I need to receive all Pledge to Mission and 5-channels, unit or individual, prior to Friday, **November 17, 2023**. This is enough time for me to complete all transactions at the district level and send forward to Michigan Conference for their completing paperwork for the 2023. if there are concerns or questions, please call me.

Submitting Gift in Memory or Gift to Mission, please include name if unit is honoring an individual/s. If none is noted, please put NONE. Special Mission Recognition (SMR) needs at least 1 month for the pin and certificate to be processed. This time includes mailing from unit to district to national. National will send pin and district will mail the award certificate to person requesting SMR.

Included with this letter are two sheets of paperwork that needs to be submitted to your local unit bank. These two papers shows that United Methodist Women and United Women in Faith are doing business with each other. If a person writes a check made out to UMW or UWF it should be accepted. Some banks require both treasurer and president to go into the bank, some just take the paperwork and puts it in the file. There are exceptions with a few banks. If there are any questions, please contact me. These forms have gone through the appropriate Michigan state channels. They are coming from Michigan Conference, gone to District and now to the local units. Please have this done no later than the **end of November 2023**.

Legacy Fund donations do not need to go through the district, but can instead be sent directly to the National Office at:

**United Methodist of Faith National Office
ATTN: Legacy Fund
475 Riverside Dr., 15th Floor
New York, NY 10115**

If you need any supplies or forms, please contact me at 517-294-3321 or by email at jchristie664@aol.com. I will have treasurer packets and greeting cards at MMD Celebration on **September 20, 2023** at Mt Hope UMC in Lansing. If you do email me, which is fine, please put in subject line – **DISTR TRES UWF**.

Please make checks payable to Mid-Michigan UMW or UWF and mail to:

Judy Christie
2667 E Holt Road
Williamston, MI 48895



PO Box 340029
Nashville, TN 37203-0029

July 7, 2022

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN D/B/A MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED
WOMEN IN FAITH
35686 Mill Lade Road
Gobles, MI 49055-9668

Re: Certification of Inclusion in The United Methodist Church Group Tax Exemption Ruling
Affiliated Organization: Michigan Conference United Methodist Women d/b/a Michigan
Conference United Women in Faith
Affiliated Organization's Employer Identification Number (EIN): 30-1129117

This letter will certify that the affiliated organization named above is included in The United Methodist Church Group Tax Exemption Ruling ("UMC Group Ruling"). In particular, as stated in the group ruling determination letter issued to The United Methodist Church by the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS"), this affiliated organization is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

This certification letter is issued by the General Council on Finance and Administration of The United Methodist Church ("GCFA"), who is the central organization for the UMC Group Ruling. As the central organization, GCFA has been granted the authority by the IRS to determine which organizations are included in the UMC Group Ruling. (The IRS Group Exemption Number ("GEN") for the UMC Group Ruling is 2573.) Thus, this certification letter, together with the enclosed copy of the IRS group ruling determination letter, serves to verify the tax-exempt status of this affiliated organization.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact the GCFA Legal Department at (866) 367-4232 or legal@gcfa.org.

Sincerely,

GENERAL COUNCIL ON FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Leticia Mayberry Wright
Deputy General Counsel

Enclosures

03

CS/CLCD-541 (Rev. 06/21)

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS CORPORATIONS, SECURITIES & COMMERCIAL LICENSING BUREAU	
Date Received	(FOR BUREAU USE ONLY) AC1 ADJUSTED TO AGREE WITH BUREAU RECORDS
AUG 18 2022	This document is effective on the date filed, unless a subsequent effective date within 90 days after received date is stated in the document.
Name Cheryl Rumery	TransInfo: 1 25147983-1 08/15/22 Chrs: 2507 Fmts: \$10.00 ID: UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Address 35686 Mill Lake Road	EXPIRATION DATE: DECEMBER 31, 2027
City: Gobles State: MI ZIP Code: 49055	

FILED

AUG 22 2022

ADMINISTRATOR
CORPORATIONS DIVISION

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME

For use by Corporations, Limited Partnerships and Limited Liability Companies
(Please read information and instructions on the last page)

Pursuant to the provisions of Act 264, Public Acts of 1972 (profit corporations), or Act 162, Public Acts of 1982 (nonprofit corporations), Act 213, Public Acts of 1982 (limited partnerships), or Act 23, Public Acts of 1993 (limited liability companies), the undersigned execute the following Certificate:

- The name of the corporation, limited partnership, or limited liability company is:
Michigan Conference United Methodist Women
- The identification number assigned by the Bureau is: 802246290
- The assumed name under which business is to be transacted is:
Michigan Conference United Women in Faith
- This document is hereby signed as required by the Act.

COMPLETE ITEM 5 ON PAGE 3 IF THIS NAME IS ASSUMED BY MORE THAN ONE ENTITY.

Signed this 12th day of August 2022

By Cheryl Rumery
Cheryl Rumery MI Conference Treasurer
 (Type or Print Name) (Type or Print Title or Capacity)

(Limited Partnerships Only - Indicate Name of General Partner, if the General Partner is a corporation or other entity)



**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH IS TOO
“OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE”
As Jesus is to the Samaritans/Women**

**By Jean Petersen, Social Action
Northern Waters District Michigan
Reprinted with Permission**

At the District Officers meeting in Mancelona on June 10th we commented on how few people attend the Day of Bold social action events and how hard it is to convince some units to include mission giving on the district, conference and worldwide level as opposed to “I prefer to keep our giving local.”

Staying where we are “comfortable” is nothing new or endemic to the times in which we now live. We avoid the UWF reading program because they choose books that present us with hard truths with which we don’t want to wrestle. We stop listening to a broad range of news sources because we don’t agree with what some of them tell us and don’t like feeling angry. We refuse responsibility for things that happened “before our time” thereby denying they still happen. We deny we have any effect on climate, or we complain about words and phrases we have used all our lives being called racist, and sneer at “politically correct speech.”

Did Jesus present such hard truths to his disciples and the crowds that listened to him? Were they shocked to hear his “jaw dropping” declaration that the Good Samaritan was their neighbor whom they should love? (Politically correct speech: Neighbor, rather than Samaritan?). We know the disciples’ reaction when they return to the well to find Jesus having a theological discussion with a “gasp” Samaritan woman! And Jesus commends Mary for listening to him rather than being in her place “in the kitchen.” (A hard truth: women are equal to men?)

It is precisely by stretching our comfort zones; wrestling with hard truths, having difficult, grace-filled discussions with those with whom we really disagree, considering why our words might be received harshly by someone different from us, that we grow spiritually beginning to gain new insights into Jesus’ teaching and the way he showed us to live.

Let us take up the hard work Jesus asks us to do by feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, listening to our friends AND opponents, opening our hearts to uncomfortable information, loving all our neighbors, welcoming the stranger, pursuing justice, and gathering together to learn, stretch, accept, and grow.

.....Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven Amen

UPCOMING DISTRICTS MEETING DATES

CENTRAL BAY

Saturday, September 9, 2023	Leadership Team	Bay City Grace West
Saturday, October 7, 2023	Annual	Mt. Pleasant First
Saturday, November 4, 2023	Leadership Team	Bay City Grace West
Saturday, January 6, 2024	Leadership Team Meeting	Zoom
Saturday, February 10, 2024	Spiritual Enrichment Brunch	Essexville St. Luke's UMC

EAST WINDS

Saturday, October 12, 2023	East Winds District Meeting	TBD
Saturday, October 14, 2023	Annual	Port Huron First
Saturday, April 27, 2024	Prayer & Spiritual Growth	TBD

GREATER DETROIT

Saturday, October 14, 2023	Annual	Ferndale First
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GREATER SOUTHWEST

Saturday, September 30, 2023	Annual	South Haven First UMC
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MIDWEST

Wednesday, September 16, 2023	Annual	Hart UMC
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NORTHERN WATERS

Saturday, October 7, 2023	Annual	Mancelona
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**MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
2023 LEADERSHIP TEAM**

President

Sharon Smith 2022 (Holt UMC)
460 S Edgar Rd
Mason, MI 48854
517-648-1333
sharonanddicksmit@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation and Program Resources

Karol Fry 2020/2017 (Holt UMC)
601 E Randolph St
Mason, MI 48854
517-525-6561
fry@msu.edu

Vice President

Mary Ann Elzerman 2022(Webberville UMC)
3786 E Grand River
Williamston, MI 48895
517-712-0269
maelzerm@wowway.com

Committee on Nominations

Donna Kleiver, Chair 2022 (Lansing Grace UMC)
8905 Petrieville Hwy
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
517-633-4193
dmkleiver2016@gmail.com

Secretary

Linda Huyck 2022 (Pompeii UMC)
2614 Ranger Road
Perrinton, MI 48871
989-330-9706
huyck@msu.edu

Beverly Saunders 2020 (see Spiritual Growth)

Mary Ann Elzerman 2023 (see Vice President)

Open Slot: _____

Open Slot: _____

Treasurer

Judy Christie 2022 (Webberville UMC)
2667 E Holt Rd
Williamston, MI 48895
517-294-3321
jchristie664@aol.com

Green Team

Elaine Ferris 2017 (Mason First UMC)
417 W Sycamore St
Mason, MI 48854-1535
517-303-8397 or 517-676-4175
ejferris@toast.net

Spiritual Growth

Beverly Saunders 2021 (Holt UMC)
2232 Pollard Rd
Lansing, MI 48911
517-887-7512
stiffler1959@gmail.com

Registrar

Audrey Putman 2022 (Lansing Mt Hope UMC)
1931 Loraine Ave
Lansing, MI 48910
517-281-9006
putman_family@yahoo.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Patty Puckett 2020 (University UMC)
1868 Burrwood Circle
East Lansing, MI 48823
517-351-3151
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The Messenger Editor

Cindy Grostick 2022 (Holt UMC)
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grostick3@gmail.com

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Lynda Crandall 2021(Mason First UMC)
6350 W Columbia Rd
Mason, MI 48854
517-663-9114
lcran2126@gmail.com

MSU Wesley Fdn Rep:

Open Slot: _____



The Messenger
Mid-Michigan District
United Methodist Women

Holt UMC
PO Box 168
Holt MI 48842

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Return Service Requested

SAVE THE DATES—2023

September 20 — District Annual Celebration
at Lansing Mt. Hope UMC

October 27 –28 — Conference Annual Celebration
at Holt UMC