

The Informer



United Women in Faith

South West District United Women in Faith

Summer 2022

President's Ponderings



Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ!

This long hot summer has been a busy season for United Women in Faith. After working together to create over 550 Hygiene Kits for UMCOR, we *Turned it Up!* at Assembly 2022 in Orlando!! We welcomed 60 new missionaries and deaconesses and learned how our Purpose is supported by our new mission statement: *United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.*

As United Women in Faith we to offer a welcoming space for all women regardless of church affiliation. So, take this time to welcome Christian women, make a connection, build trust, and start a conversation. The national office has come up with creative ways for us to do this. Please consider visiting the website uwfaith.org for new ideas for gatherings and ways we can reach the ladies not interested in a traditional meeting.

The South West District has several upcoming events. Please review the calendar and invite someone to attend an event. We also have several positions coming open for 2023-2023. Let us all consider and suggest ladies to fill the needed positions to a member of the nominating committee.

Michele Smith

President, 2021-22

South West District United Women in Faith

South West District Mission Team

President
Michele Smith

Vice President

Secretary
Marcie McNeal

Treasurer
Sally Pehler

Communications
Susan McRae

Mission Coordinators

Education and Interpretation

Membership Nurture & Outreach
Stephanie Bromley

Social Action
Ginger Sorenson

Spiritual Growth
Anne Capps

Registrar
Mary Presley

Historian
Shirley Bryan

Parliamentarian
Debbie Bell

Committee on Nominations
Carolyn Brown

Sallie Brown

Judy Burnham

Mary Gipson

Geneva Hogan

Esme Quijada

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Secretary's Scribbles

Making a Motion

As a basic element in Robert's Rules of Order and used by most organizations, a Motion is a formal signal to introduce a new piece of business or to propose a decision or action, during a meeting.

A motion must be made by a group member - "I move that . . ."

A second to that motion must then be made by a different person by saying, "I second that motion".

After limited discussion the group then votes on the motion. A majority vote is required for the motion to pass.



Here are some tips when Motions are needed:

- A motion form can be utilized to submit written motions in advance or at a meeting.
- Motions are needed for the budget, slates of officers, expending funds not in the approved budget.
- Committees can make recommendations, which do not need to be seconded. Recommendations are voted upon to adopt.
- The Main Motion should be made after the speaker is

recognized.

- The motion needs to be seconded before it can be discussed.
- During discussion, a motion can be amended.
- Amending a motion - any changes to the main motion.
- The amendment must be voted on before the main motion is voted on.
- The Secretary is responsible for recording the motion, the name of the person who made the motion, the name of the person who seconded the motion and the outcome of the vote on the motion in the minutes of the meeting.

Ref. UMW District Secretaries Training

Marcie McNeal

Secretary, 2021-22

South West District United Women in Faith

mcnealms@gmail.com

251-509-6062

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT

Alabama-West Florida

Conference

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Units and Presidents

Christ UWF

Debbie Bell

Dauphin Way UWF

Jamie Blake

Grand Bay UWF

Elsie Patrick

Grove Hill UWF

Mary English

Kingswood UWF

Suzanne Meadows

New Hope UWF

Karen Arnold

Pine Hill UWF

Tutti Johnson

South Brookley UWF

Spring Hill UWF

Janice Small

St. John UWF

Katy Wrona

St Mark UWF

Jeanette Skinner

St. Mary UWF

Suzette Williams

Theodore UMC

Ginger Sorenson

Theodore First UWF

Evelyn Stallworth

Thomasville UWF

Shirley Hodges

Toulminville-Warren Street UWF

Geneva Hogan

Wesley Chapel UWF

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Treasurer's Tidbits

I hope this finds you all happy and healthy and staying COOL! The extra dry and hot beginning of summer has turned super soggy and humid!

As of July 10th, we only have \$8,258 of our \$24,000+ total pledge that has been fulfilled. We have just five months to complete our district pledge.

Please discuss with your unit their plans for reaching the goal of becoming a 5-Star Unit by contributing in each of The Five Channels of Mission Giving. The Five Channels of Mission Giving are as follows:

- **Pledge to Mission** - Funds pledged by individual members toward the annual budget of the unit.
- **Special Recognition** - Award a Special Mission Recognition pin to a member or a non-member who has offered faith, hope and love to women, children or youth. Purchase price of the pin is used solely for mission.
- **Gift to Mission** - Mark special days with a card for Baby, Birthday, Christmas, Congratulations, In Service of Christ, On Your Special Day, Thank You and Thinking of You. The \$5 purchase price goes directly to Mission.
- **Gift in Memory** - This card is sent at the passing of a loved one and notes that a donation to mission has been made in memory of the deceased.
- **World Thank Offering** - This annual offering is a response to the blessings of God's abundance and grace, frequently collected at UWFaith Sunday in November.



Of the 17 units in the South West District United Women in Faith, 11 units have *not* contributed toward their pledge. Thanks to Christ UWF, Grand Bay UWF, Pine Hill UWF, Theodore UWF, Thomasville UWF, and Toulminville-Warren Street UWF which have given toward the 2022 pledge. All units are urged to meet their pledge responsibilities as soon as possible but no later than October 31st.

Please remember that I have a new address: PO Box 1435
Point Clear, AL 36564

Sally Pehler

Treasurer, 2022-23

South West District United Women in Faith

251-490-4717

s.pehler@comcast.net

The Five Channels of Mission Giving

-1-

Pledge to Mission

-2-

Special Mission Recognition

-3-

Gift to Mission

-4-

Gift in Memory

-5-

World Thank Offering

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Nominations

The Committee on Nominations is charged with identifying nominees for officers in the South West District United Women in Faith. In even years the following positions are to be filled:

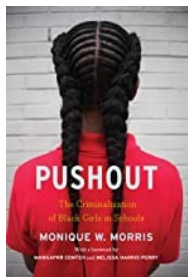
- President
- Secretary
- Mission Coordinator for Social Action
- Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
- Communications Coordinator

Currently in our district we also have openings for **Vice President** as well as **Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation**. A Talent Bank form is available at the end of this Informer or at <https://www.awf-umw.org/forms>

Committee on Nominations members are *Carolyn Brown (250-367-6276)*, *Sallie Brown (251-246-3590)*, *Judy Burnham (251-473-6565)*, *Mary Gipson (251-458-4069)*, *Geneva Hogan (251-30-9513)*, and *Esme Quijada (251-287-4012)*.

Please reach out to your members to help fill these much-needed leadership roles. Election and Installation of officers is set for October 15th at Spiritual Enrichment Day.

District Mission Study



Masterful presenters Clara Ester and Zan Jones are set to bring us the powerful Mission Study - *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* on August 27th at Theodore United Methodist Church from 10 AM-2 PM.

This is a most informative study and will be eye-opening for participants. Please make this study a priority!

Spiritual Enrichment Day

Join with your UWFaith friends for the **South West District Spiritual Enrichment Day** on Saturday, **October 29th** from 10am to Noon. This year's event will be held at **Pine Hill United Methodist Church**. See you soon!

Southwest District Spiritual Enrichment Day 2022
Pine Hill United Methodist Church
223 Church Street
Pine Hill, Alabama 36769

Our Purpose

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 the
concepts of
mission
through
participation in
the global
ministries of
the church.

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Education and Interpretation

In the July/August 2022 *response* magazine, Ainise 'Isama'u, the national president of United Women in Faith, states, "Working with the local unit is the key to this organization's success. If none of the information ever gets to the local unit, then what's the purpose of the national organization?" I say the same is true for the conference and district levels. As officers and coordinators, we must support our local units and make sure they get all the necessary communications and access to resource materials.

Individual members are important but the strength of the local unit is its sisterhood supporting each other and working together to reach women, children and youth around the world. The local unit is the origin of our mission dollars and our giving is the lifeblood to keep nearly 100 national institutions and projects open and serving communities in the United States. Our UWFaith mission is expanded by the numerous grants awarded each year to agencies that support our Social Action campaigns. In May, United Women in Faith announced at Assembly the awarding of a \$250,000 grant to strengthen the relationship of young girls and incarcerated mothers. The organization, Girls Embracing Mothers' (GEM), goal is to break the cycle of incarceration and support girls and women in their efforts to lead healthy, healed and whole lives.



Tamara Clark, our national treasurer, in her 2021 financial report defines where our dollars go. Total conference giving of \$8.7 million was supplemented by interest, rental and other sources for a total income of \$22.45 million with expenditures of \$27.54 million. Sale of property and the endowment more than covered the \$5.09 million deficit. The national organization continues to be excellent stewards of our monetary gifts and accomplished more with less during the pandemic.

We are challenged to increase our membership in order to support our pledges to mission for 2022. Telling stories is key to painting a whole picture of United Women in Faith's purpose. That knowledge impacts mission giving, recruitment of new members, involvement in mission efforts and strengthening spiritual growth.

The **Reading Program** and other transformative educational opportunities are key components in challenging our worldview and sparking deep discussions. Recently, my local unit book club read *Falling Boldly: How Falling Down in Ministry Can Be the Start of Rising Up* by Christian Coon. This Leadership Development book from the 2021-2022 Reading Program list is highly recommended. We discovered that it applies to failures in any life situation so don't let the title dissuade you. The publisher's summary states, "Few people would consider failures to be a gift from God. Personal stories of missteps and mistakes of those working to grow ministries show how failure is a springboard to new experiences and, hopefully, a deeper connection to God."

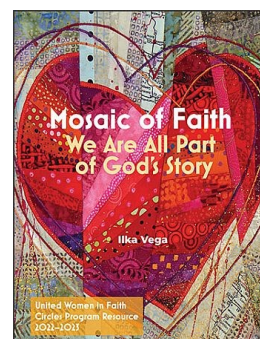
Let us continue to tell the stories that educate and motivate us to greater service because we believe that love in action can change the world.

Joyce Genz
Education and Interpretation
AWF-UMW Conference

Get the 2022-23 Program Resource

at

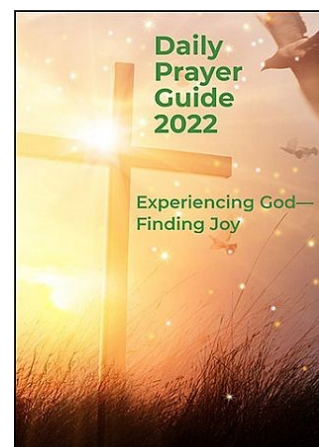
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Get the 2022 Prayer Guide

at

[https://
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pid=53512](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53512)



Social Action

A little history lesson on Racial Justice from women of the United Methodist tradition:

1857 – 1939 The United States ends slavery but it also moves to entrench racism and white privilege through wars, economic expansion and immigration.

- ♦ *Women of the United Methodist tradition reach out across the United States.*

-In 1939, the Methodist Church's Woman's Society of Christian Service, Wesleyan Service Guild and the Woman's Division of Christian Service are formed. The merger of three Methodist denominations creates a segregated jurisdiction—the Central Jurisdiction—for African Americans.



1940 – 1962 The Cold War and decolonization changed ideas and realities in the United States

- ♦ *Women of the United Methodist tradition expand study and advocacy for racial justice.*

-In 1951, African American Pauli Murray's book, State's Laws on Race and Color, commissioned by the Woman's Division, is published. The book becomes a key source for the U.S. Supreme Court in its deliberations on Brown v. Board of Education.

-In 1962: A new Charter for Racial Policies is adopted by the Woman's Division. This is later adopted by the General Conference upon the Woman's Division petition.

1963 – 1975 Civil rights, the antiwar movement the War on Poverty and expanding immigration changed the face of the United States.

- ♦ *The new organization of United Methodist Women (1972) seeks to increase diversity of membership, leadership and participation.*

In 1968, General Conference brings together the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, creating The United Methodist Church.

In 1972, the women's organizations in The United Methodist Church combine to form one inclusive organization with the name United Methodist Women, which is administered by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries (formerly Woman's Division of the Board of Missions). This new organization is increasing diversity of membership, leadership and vision.

1975–1999 Racial and ethnic economic inequalities grow, fueled by globalizations free market strategies.

- ♦ *Charter for Racial Justice policies continue and strengthens racial justice witness of United Methodist Women.*

In 1978, the third Charter for Racial Justice is adopted. Mai Gray, the first African American woman elected president of the Women's Division, introduces the charter at the United Methodist Women Assembly in Louisville, Ky.

In 1982, the Women's Division recommitted to eliminating institutional racism throughout the "total ministry of the Women's Division"; throughout the decade United Methodist Women holds a series of ethnic consultations with black, Latina, Native American and Asian women to address language needs, and to help the organization move toward becoming a multicultural organization.

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To download information about the Reading Program use

[https://](https://www.umwmissionresources.org/downloads/ReadingProgramCatalog2021.pdf)

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Social Action – *continued*

2000 – Present The 9/11 attacks and world events alter the racial dynamics of the United States.

2013–2016: United Methodist Women becomes an independent organization within The United Methodist Church, reduces its board size, and adds a representative program advisory group. New board officers reflect the ever-growing geographical, language and ethnic/cultural diversity of the organization.

So Peter opened his mouth and said: “Truly I understand that God shows no partiality.”
Acts 10:34

You will be blessed to open the link <https://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/our-history/> and select Racial Justice Timeline for much more information.

Ginger Sorenson

Social Action

South West District United Women of Faith

Spiritual Enrichment

I am currently in a unique season in life. I have two young children and a husband who is always willing to take on the role as Ring Master to our little circus. Along with the two dogs and cat, most of our days are spent in a constant loop. Rinse and repeat. I have been told by many women recently that “these times are precious,” Well of course they are, but I still find myself planning and dreaming my children’s futures out. As if it is my own? As they get older, they want to be more and more independent, and I must learn to let go . . . and let God.

He gave us these precious beings, hoping we will teach them how to grow, learn, succeed, fail, fight for their own voice, love, and be loved. But the most important is to teach them about His own son, Jesus. If we teach our children the way Jesus loved, we can never fail. If we show compassion and love for our neighbors, our children will do the same. If we bring our daughters and granddaughters to our local unit meetings of United Women in Faith, they will learn how to make a difference. A difference in someone else’s life, and in turn it will change their own.

Knowing that I all I must do is be an example to them is even more terrifying. I fall short every single day, and my children see it all. The good and the bad. In tough situations I must remind them daily that sometimes things just happen. Things we have no control of, and we must live with the result. The old saying, “practice what you preach,” is what my mind says back. The question that is constantly in my head is this: “*Why do I feel I must control everything and all the time?*”

I encourage all of you to reflect and meditate over this question if you too struggle with letting go. Take it to the Lord and He will show you the answers. This will enrich your spiritual journey with Christ.

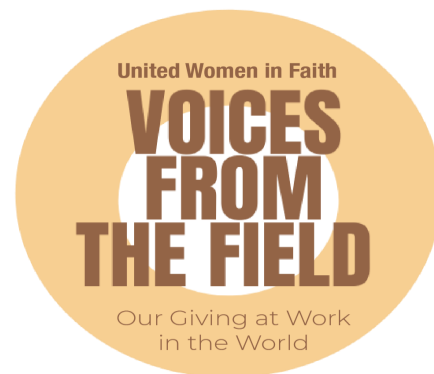


Podcasts are an excellent source of informative, thoughtful interactions that are easy listening and have added benefits. Get podcasts at –

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>



Hear some of *response* Magazine’s best stories at *Responsively Yours*



Where do our mission dollars go? Find out at *Voices from the Field*.

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Charter for Racial Justice

United Women in Faith first adopted the “Charter of Racial Policies” in 1952. We worked on ratification at multiple levels of the organization and readopted an updated version in 1962. Throughout the years, we lobbied The United Methodist Church to officially adopt the Charter, seeking to bring its commitments to the full body of the church. The Charter was first received by the General Conference in 1964 and first included in The Book of Resolutions in 1980. Since then, it has been updated and readopted regularly by delegates to General Conference. From the 1950s to the present, the Charter has been a core part of our identity.

Because we believe:

1. That God is the Creator of all people and all are God’s children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental, and political exploitation;
5. That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers of other races in thought, in word, and in deed;
6. That in our common humanity in creation all women and men are made in God’s image and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;
7. That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person’s value is respected and nurtured;
8. That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings, and new relationships and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures, and practices of both church and state.

We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.

Therefore, as United Methodists in every place across the land, we will unite our efforts within the church to take the following actions:

1. Eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the total ministry of the church, giving special attention to those institutions that we support, beginning with their employment policies, purchasing practices, environmental policies, and availability of services and facilities;
2. Create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with the existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together;
3. Increase efforts to recruit people of all races into the membership of The United Methodist Church and provide leadership-development opportunities without discrimination;
4. Establish workshops and seminars in local churches to study, understand, and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community;
5. Raise local churches’ awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment, medical care, and environmental justice for all members of the community and to create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines;
6. Work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of all people such as through support for the ratification of United Nations covenants on human rights;
7. Support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community;
8. Facilitate nomination and election processes that include all racial groups by employing a system that prioritizes leadership opportunities of people from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing legacy of racial injustice. Use measures to align our vision for racial justice with actions that accelerate racial equity.

**TALENT BANK INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

(Please type or print)

Date _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____

TELEPHONE: Home _____

Cell _____

LOCAL CHURCH _____

AGE _____

RACIAL/ETHNIC
GROUP _____

EMPLOYED

Full time _____

Part time _____

EXPERIENCE IN UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Local _____

District _____

Conference _____

Other _____

SPECIAL TALENTS AND SKILLS

Should have Computer skills and be able to use Excel (Treasurer) or Word (Secretary)

ABILITY TO BE AWAY FROM HOME OR EMPLOYMENT FOR:

Full Day _____

Weekend _____

Extended Period of Time _____

OTHER SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION

If person filling out form is same as the person named, complete the following:

You may consider my name for:

any position at the Conference level

any position on the District level

any specific positions(list)

Name of Person Submitting Information _____

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SOUTH WEST DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE 2022 DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JAN 15		AWF-UW Faith Conference Executive Mission Team Meeting XTeam Officers & District Presidents	Virtual
JAN 29	10 AM	Mobile District Mission Team Meeting	Citronelle UMC
FEB 19	10 AM - 3:30 PM	AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day	Marianna First UMC
MARCH 19	10 AM	District Annual Day	Grove Hill UMC
MAY 20-22		ASSEMBLY 2022 Turn it UP!	Orlando Convention Center
JUNE 11	10 AM	District Mission Team Meeting (2022 Budget Meeting)	St. John UMC
JULY 16		AWF-UMW Conference Executive Mission Team Meeting	Enterprise FUMC
JULY 23-24		Cooperative Mission u	Aldersgate UMC
AUG 27	10 AM - 2 PM	District Mission Study	Theodore UMC
OCT 7-8	3 PM Check-in	AWF-UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	Blue Lake Assembly Grounds
OCT 15	10 AM - 2 PM	District Spiritual Enrichment Day	Pine Hill UMC
NOV 5	8:30 AM-3:30 PM	Conference Training for District Presidents and Treasurers	via ZOOM
NOV 12	10 AM	District Mission Team Meeting	St. John UMC

June 11-14

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Church Annual Conference

Dunn Oliver Acadome Alabama State University Campus

Attendees: AWF-UMW President and District Presidents as Voting Delegates