



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

# ALERT

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## 2021 Conference Officers

President	Debbie Bracewell
Vice President	Katy Wrona
Secretary	Debbie Bell
Treasurer	Jean Creswell
Communications	Open
Nominations	Peggy Cunningham, Chair

## Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth	Tutti Johnson
Social Action	Ora Gillespie
MN&O	Kristine Jones
Ed. & Interp.	Joyce Genz
Webmaster	Anne Capps
Parliamentarian	Joyce Genz
SEJ Chair of Nom.	Barbara Carroll
Nat. Board of Dir.	Betty Helms

## Peace and Service

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21*

This year has been one of change and new beginnings. We have seen the pandemic change our habits and our ways of doing things. Our United Methodist Women circles, units, and districts are changing. We have had to think of new ways to meet as groups and new ways to serve in mission. We are still in existence after 150 years because of our faith and dedication to serve women, children and youth. As Tara Barnes says in the latest *response*, "Faith has always been our foundation. Action has always been our call. Sisterhood has always been how we put our faith into action. And we have always changed as the world has changed."

In this edition of the Alert you will find the end of the year reports from our conference officers, coordinators, and district presidents.

Next year, 2022, we will be challenged to find new ways to fulfill our purpose. New types of membership in United Methodist Women will be available, new leadership will be found in the newly merged districts of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of United Methodist Women, and new programs and events await.

As the year ends, we will be saying farewell to Jean Creswell, Peggy Cunningham, and Tutti Johnson. All three have served this conference well and will be missed. New officers, Cynthia Brown, Zan Jones, Desiree Clarke, and Laurel Akin, will be serving for the 2022-2023 years. We welcome them and look forward to working Together in Service.

Are we up for the challenges ahead? Of course we are! Our theme scripture for next year—*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21*—guides us for 2022. We are sent "to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." As I wrote in the first *Alert* of this year, "Don't look back, we are not going that way!"

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



When we began this conference year, we were still in the depths of the pandemic, and face-to-face activities were greatly curtailed. Our first Executive Mission Team meeting was via Zoom. It was a great start for the year as we were able to plan activities for 2021 while seeing one another on our tablets, laptops and phones. We held our 48th Annual Day as a virtual event with keynote speaker, Celeste Eubanks. We had 116 in attendance with 18 first time attendees! Thanks to Katy Wrona and the Program Committee, the event ran smoothly with inspirational music and message.

In July we had an in-person Executive Team meeting that included discussions from the nominating committee, 2021 Mission u, and merging districts. Virtual Mission u was held July 22-24 with attendees choosing two classes from three offerings: *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*, and *Bearing Witness in the Kingdom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship*. Eight instructors taught the three classes with 62 attendees.

October was the month for the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Blue Lake Methodist Camp. This was an amazing in-person event with a variety of workshops dealing with soul care and an inspirational speaker, Reverend Jean Tippit. Elections for new officers and returning officers were held. New officers include Treasurer Cynthia Brown, Communications Coordinator Laurel Akin, Nominations Committee Class of 2025 Melda Deverell, Chair of Committee on Nominations Desiree Clarke, and Spiritual Growth Coordinator Zan Jones.

Throughout the year, I utilized Zoom to meet with district presidents and national United Methodist Women leadership. I served on the Alabama-West Florida Conference CORE Team, the Board of Laity, and two subcommittees of these boards. These opportunities have given me a greater insight into how our church conference works and why procedures are handled the way they are.

I thank our membership for their willingness to move forward, to accept changes, and to see beyond themselves. Your encouragement and continued attendance, virtual or live, keeps our Executive Team motivated and determined to fulfill our Purpose. I am also grateful for the hardworking members of the Conference Executive Team! Their support and willingness to walk in faith is a blessing to us all.

*Debbie G. Bracewell*

*President*

*Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women*

## Vice President End of Year Report December 2021



### 2021 End of Year Report

2021 has been an interesting year, to say the least! We started off stepping out of our comfort zone for a virtual Annual Day on Zoom. It was a great experience working with the executive team and the program committee to offer a virtual program. Celeste Eubanks did a great job, and we came together at a time we all needed to be in fellowship.

I enjoyed serving on the Mission u committee this year. Again we accepted the challenge to offer a virtual educational experience. I believe the team worked great together under Laurel Akin's leadership! It was a very enriching two days.

I was overjoyed that we were able to host SER in person at Blue Lake. Reverend Jean Tippit did an amazing job as our speaker. I was also blessed to have my mom attend and lead a workshop for us. I am grateful for the soul care focus groups and the fellowship with my UMW sisters.

I am excited to start my third year as the Vice President of our Executive Team. I have been working hard on our Annual Day planning. I am grateful for the program committee and their commitment to all my zoom meetings. Please see the Annual Day flyer with all the information. Can't wait to see you in Marianna!

Always,

Katy Wrona  
AWF-UMW Vice President

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

**AWF-UMW**  
*Annual Day*

February 19th 2021  
10 am

**Speaker:**  
Rev. Ashley Davis

**Theme:**  
Together In Service

REGISTRATION OPENS 9 AM

First UMC of Marianna  
2901 Caledonia St, Marianna, FL 32446

## From the AWF-UMW Conference Secretary



At this year-end I'll ask again, "So you want to be the Secretary?" Well, I'm glad!

I want to share a special thank you to each 2021 district Secretary as we connected with the quarterly updates through email, the training sessions (January and November), and the general connection with another UMW member. I want to extend a very special Welcome to the newly elected Secretaries that will assume office on January 1, 2022. I am most thankful to Susan Moberg, our National Secretary, who provided resources and training material for the responsibilities we each would have.

I have a "Pledge to Mission" card from about 10 years ago. I would complete that Pledge card, turn it over to the Circle treasurer and the Unit treasurer would move that funding into ministry of UMW. But that's not the important info on the card. At the very bottom on that card is this, ***"As a member of United Methodist Women, I celebrate and commit to supporting United Methodist Women's local, national, and global mission outreach."*** Right after that statement I sign my name for the coming year Pledge. I don't want to lose the vision of the worn path that other UMW leaders before me have forged for me to follow to be involved in Mission for others. My volunteer role as Secretary or any UMW officer is a great honor and opportunity to be in mission and outreach.

The challenges all this year and, most probably in the coming year, will be gathering again in-person with all UMW members. Let's be mindful of 2 Timothy 1:7 "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

THINK. Be inviting to one person to UMW event this coming year.  
Debbie Bell, AWF-UMW Secretary  
mawbel36575@yahoo.com

## Alabama West Florida United Methodist Women – Treasurer’s Report 11/27/21

We are near the end of 2021, especially as far as receiving donations from the local units to the districts and from the districts to the conference. The figures aren’t final, but we stand at 62.6% of reaching our pledge from the districts. Because we deduct some from the pledge monies that we send to National for our Administration and Membership Development funds, we are at 57.7% of our pledge to National.

The last two years have been tough with our local units not meeting in person. But we are thankful that we are starting to get back to normal. Hopefully 2022 will be a bright and momentous year of giving to our mission of helping women, children and youth.

The 2022 Pledge has been approved by the districts and the conference mission teams and will be presented at the 2022 Annual Day by our newly elected Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW treasurer, Cynthia Brown. This will be the last posting by me as the outgoing treasurer, and I can’t emphasize how much I have enjoyed working in this role. The individuals I have met and the officers that I have worked with have been a pleasure. I know that Cynthia, who is also taking my place as conference registrar, will do an excellent job.

The district treasurers have all been diligent in their roles and have been a joy to work with. In 2021 we had seven district treasurers as the two Montgomery districts shared one treasurer, Brenda Hargrave. Brenda and Dothan’s treasurer Carolyn McInnis are rotating off after serving six years. Anne Capps, Demopolis district treasurer served two years, but because of the merger of districts, will not serve in 2022. However, Sally Pehler will continue to serve Mobile and a portion of the merged Demopolis district (Clarke, Choctaw and Wilcox counties). A new district treasurer, Jill Farris, will serve the newly merged districts of all the former Montgomery-Prattville and Montgomery-Opelika districts along with the remainder of the Demopolis local units. Peggy Pelt will serve the combined districts of Marianna-Panama City and Dothan. Susan Morrison will continue to serve Baypines, and Margaret Larson will continue with Pensacola. In the merger, the districts combined their pledges and budgets for 2022.

11/27/21				
2021 Alabama-West Florida Conference - United Methodist Women Pledge to Mission				
Source	Pledge	Paid	Balance	% PD
Baypines	14,000	8,353	5,647	59.7%
Demopolis	14,000	8,610	5,390	61.5%
Dothan	12,000	8,884	3,116	74.0%
Marianna/PC	11,000	8,061	2,939	73.3%
Mobile	20,000	10,974	9,026	54.9%
Mtg/Oplk	6,750	4,739	2,011	70.2%
Mtg/Pratt	10,000	7,168	2,832	71.7%
Pensacola	20,000	11,483	8,517	57.4%
Events - Offering	2,700	879	1,821	32.6%
<b>PLEDGE TO MISSION</b>	<b>110,450</b>	<b>69,151</b>	<b>41,299</b>	<b>62.6%</b>
<b>Sent to National</b>	<b>93,883</b>	<b>54,125</b>	<b>39,757</b>	<b>57.7%</b>

## TREASURER REPORT FOR SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT

ATTENDED	SER 2021 @ Blue Lake October 8-9, 2021				
DISTRICTS	General	Officer	Guest	Scholarship	Total
Baypines	1	5			6
Demopolis		2			2
Dothan		2			2
Marianna/PC		2			2
Mobile	2	7		1	10
Mtg/Op	1	1			2
Mtg/Pratt	1	4	1		6
None	2		1		3
Pensacola		6			6
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>

Total Collected	668.00	Reg Fee & Late Fee
Expenses paid out	<u>4,142.35</u>	Income from Room & Board deducted here
Profit/Loss	-3,474.35	Actual
Budgeted	<u>3,500.00</u>	Cost
Under/Over Budget	25.65	Under Budget

Offering - Pledge to Missions	
IN Person	\$ 434.20
Online	\$ 345.00
in lieu of Reimbursement	\$ 217.50
<b>Total Dep</b>	<b>\$ 996.70</b>

## COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT



In 2021 the Nomination Committee was able to fill all the seven officer vacancies as follows:

Vice President	Katy Wrona
Treasurer	Cynthia Brown
Communications	Laurel Akin
Membership Nurture & Outreach	Kristine Jones
Spiritual Growth	Zan Jones
Comm On Nominations Chair	Desiree Clarke
Comm On Nominations Class of 2022-2025	Melda Deverell

All copies of forms have been sent to Desiree Clarke which she will need for 2022. Our committee believe we have current and new officers who are dedicated to United Methodist Women and will be an asset for the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

### Be a Leader with United Methodist Women

As a member of United Methodist Women, you are invited to be involved in United Methodist Women leadership at the local, district, conference, jurisdiction or national level.

Accepting a leadership role requires a commitment of time, energy and effort. But in return, you will

- Develop a deeper understanding of mission

- Grow spiritually

- Make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth

United Methodist Women is a laywomen's organization and only laywomen may serve as elected leaders. Presidents at all levels of the organization must be members of The United Methodist Church.

Next year's officers to be elected in even years are President, Secretary, Social Action Mission Coordinator, Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator, Communications Coordinator. If Desiree Clark and the other members of the Committee on Nominations speak with you about serving on the Conference Executive Mission Team, please pray about this opportunity and consider the offer. We need your leadership to continue our mission of serving women, children, and youth.

## Education & Interpretation

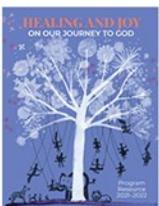
Encourage one another as long as it is “today.” (Hebrews 3:13)

It has been another year of challenges and changes. As Education and Interpretation coordinators, we need to continually educate others and interpret the many ways our pledges and gifts are being used around the world to minister to women, children, and youth. I would add that we need to be encouragers not discouragers. Our words have consequences. There are too many willing to share the bad news. Find someone to encourage with the Word of God and with good news about the mission of United Methodist Women.



United Methodist Women is refreshing its website, [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org), and increasing ways for women to build a vibrant community joined by a common purpose. If you haven't visited the website recently, please do. Look for the **Voices from the Field** logo at the bottom of the page to find more information and registration link for these educational programs which vividly illustrate our pledge dollars at work.

Another new initiative occurs the first Thursday of every month. The Resource Team at United Methodist Women hosts a Community Gathering on **Mighty Networks** with the **Rev. Hannah Kardon**, author of the 2021-2022 Program Resource: *Healing and Joy on Our Journey to God*. Participants will take time to center their spirits and go deeper into scripture for “embracing change and showing grace.” Information on **how to join** the Community Gatherings is available on the [Mighty Network platform](#). If you haven't done so, please explore the **digital** 2021-2022 Program Resource: *Healing and Joy on Our Journey to God* on Mighty Networks [here](#) and click “Access.” If you are already logged on to Mighty Networks, click on the “Resources” tab in the Menu to join the Program Resource. The purpose of this Community Gathering is to offer leaders of the Program Resources: support in leading the programs; spiritual growth/soul care; fellowship and community building



As I finished my Reading Program Report for 2021, I was reminded of how much the Reading Program impacts my spirituality and understanding of justice issues in the world. Even if you only read one book in a year, please turn in a reading report to get credit as a participant and to help your District win the trophy. The Reading Program now has podcasts and movies options. All of the Mission u texts count as bonus books so don't forget to add those to your

reading reports as 2 books each. I am available to assist any unit or member who wishes to learn more about transformational education opportunities and how to interpret the ways our mission giving supports the 90+ National Mission Institutions, 8 Regional Missionaries, and the multiple grants and scholarships awarded each year. You can read specific details about mission giving in the new interactive 2020 Annual Report available at [UMW Annual report 2020 \(adobe.com\)](http://UMW_Annual_report_2020(adobe.com)) Let's continue to encourage each other as God gives us the gift of “today” every day.

Joyce Genz

## AWFC UMW E & I Responsibility Activity Report: November 2021

In writing this report, I have been reminded of just how much we have accomplished as a dedicated team despite all the continuing challenges of this year. I have combined my 2021 activities related the Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women under general categories that reflect my various responsibilities.

### Education and Interpretation & Program Resources:

- **Personal leadership development:** In January, I attended the Leadership Development general sessions and E&I training with National United Methodist Women staff on Zoom on January 28-30. Earlier, I completed assigned virtual Bridge courses to prepare for LDD and to understand E&I duties. In addition, I participated in Zoom sessions with the E&I National Staff representative, Jessica Tulloch, in January, May, and November.

**Peer training:** I communicated with District E&I Mission Coordinators throughout the year with new information and updates on the Reading Program, Voices of the Field and other resources for transformational learning. I assisted with the training for Mobile District unit E&I coordinators. I have read the district E&I articles as posted on awf-umw.org.

- **Program Resources:** In June, I participated in reviewing the new digital Program book on Mighty Networks platform and have participated in the Monthly Community Gathering beginning in August to preview each monthly program in the new digital format. I have shared information with district coordinators about the opportunity to join Mighty Networks.

**Appointments & Committee Assignments:** I served on the following assigned Conference Committees: Finance, Membership Nurture & Outreach, Program Planning, Standing Rules & Policies and the external committee of Mission u and the Board of Global Ministries for the Alabama-West Florida Conference. I have provided more detail of the committee I chaired and the 2 external committees on which I served.

**Parliamentarian & Chair of Standing Rules & Policies:** I served as the AWF-UMW Conference Parliamentarian for the Executive Mission Team meetings and business sessions. As chair of Standing Rules & Policies, I called meetings as needed through the year. The committee presented recommended revisions to the standing policies at the January Executive Mission Team meeting. The approved version was posted at awf-umw.org. Beginning in June, the committee reviewed the Standing Rules, resulting in a number of minor changes and recommended 10 revisions which were approved with some suggested changes at the July Executive Mission Team meeting. In September, one additional recommendation was added to the Standing Rules and several were approved and added to the Policies to address the coming merger of districts. The final Standing Rules were approved by the voting members during the business session of the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. The final versions have been posted on www. awf-umw.org. The official documents have also been added to the Conference Dropbox folder.

**Mission u Program Planning:** I served on this committee to plan, execute and evaluate the 2021 Mission u

**Conference Board of Global Ministries:** As an Ex-Officio member of this committee, I evaluated the Renfroe Grant in August and attended the newly established quarterly meeting in November via Zoom.

**Study Leader Mission u – Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom:** I was invited to be a study leader in the AWF-UMW Conference 2021 Mission u. I participated in Leader Training on Zoom in May and co-led two 6-hour sessions with Judith Pierre-Okerson in July and one course for the Western Pennsylvania Conference presently weekly in October over Zoom.

I am grateful for the opportunity to promote the mission of United Methodist Women at all levels of our organization with a dedicated sisterhood who serve women, children and youth around the world with love and grace.

Respectfully submitted,      Joyce Genz      November 20, 2021

## Spiritual Growth

### SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT FOR SOUL CARE

OUR FIRST LIVE, ON-SITE GATHERING October 8-9 at Blue Lake Assembly was quite a success! Reverend Jean Tippit, District Superintendent of the Pensacola District and the Marianna-Panama City District, spoke to us about the power of prayer.

Our breakout sessions were well attended with UMW members soaking up Praying with Color (leader Katy Wrona), painting Kindness Rocks with sayings and brilliant colors (leader Sharon Hogan), Essential Oils of the Bible to smell and learn about their ancient uses (leader Debbie Bracewell), Powered by Prayer (leader Sarah Wrona), Prayer through Motion (leader Michelle Hamff), Armchair Yoga (leader Susan Hill), and Contemplative Prayer (leader Reverend Jean Tippit).

New conference officers were installed by Cathy Givan, and we ended the event with Communion given by Reverend Tippit. To say "a good time was had by all" barely touches the joy experienced as we learned together, prayed together, and relaxed together.

### Why United Methodist Women Members Engage in Social Action

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy:

***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."***

United Methodist Women members engage in social action drawing from our Biblical and theological Christian tradition and our Wesleyan Heritage. We look to the Bible and to United Methodist Church social policy and prioritize the needs of women, youth and children as we set priorities for social action. We also draw on our rich 150-year heritage of engagement in mission as advocates for justice. At [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) you will find resources to assist as you plan programs with members to explore what grounds us and motivates our collective action.

Social  
Action

# If you missed SER, YOU MISSED THIS . . .



## 2021 Baypines District

Baypines was rather inactive until the fall of this year. We scheduled two Mission u days, but one was cancelled by the minister of the church where we planned the activity and the other by lack of attendance. A Virtual Annual Day was done in March by Board members and a local member who lived near Foley.

In March, we had a District Board Meeting in Andalusia to share ideas with one another of how to bring the UMW units back together.

In July a committee planned a "Gathering Party" pack to celebrate the first time a unit would have a meeting. We named it a M & M (Mission and Me) Party. The committee planned the agenda, provided a Prayer Calendar, a devotion, a colorful poster and invitations to be mailed or emailed to unit members and at least 12 friends. We included numerous suggestions for the party fun time. The Board supplied small packs of M & Ms for the number of members the Unit President had reported, colorful napkins, plates and table coverings, all of which were mailed or hand delivered to the churches. Several units responded that they had used the party pack and had a good time.

In October Foley invited all local Units to attend their Purse Party. This was a fun event and a fund raiser for missions. UMW members from 4 units attended. Attendees were invited to put a lightly used or new purse in a bag (gift, brown bag or any bag except plastic or clear) and securely close the bag. When the bags arrived, they were given a number and a bid sheet and were paced in a line on tables. Tickets cost \$5.00, and that was your first bid for the auction. No one except the person who brought the bag knew what it contained. Entertainment was music by choir members and, carefully thinking about COVID, deserts in plastic containers or cupcake papers were served. Mission donations was slightly totaled over \$1600.00, and everyone who wanted one, went home with a new purse.

Here's hoping we can do more in 2022!

## 2021 Dothan District United Methodist Women President's Report

The Dothan District United Methodist Women had three district meetings in 2021. We began 2021 with a Local Officer Training meeting over Zoom on January 23 with seven officers attending. We then held our District Annual Day and Remembrance meeting over Zoom on February 20 with fourteen members attending. At this meeting, members and units received recognition for participating in the Reading Program, Mission Today units, Charter for Racial Justice units, Attendance Awards, and Five-Star units. Deceased members were remembered.

Although we were unable to hold any district mission studies this year, several district members attended virtual Mission u on July 22-24. On August 14, we held our district Spiritual Day meeting over Zoom with Ashley Adams from the Equal Justice Initiative organization in Montgomery, Alabama as our speaker. We had nineteen members and guests to attend.

Two Gift in Memory cards were sent on behalf of the district. The district lost one unit this year (Newton UMC) and now has eight units. The Dothan District will merge with the Marianna/Panama City district beginning January 1, 2022.



### Assembly 2022 Soul Care Workshops (a sampling below)

Fierce Women, Fiercer Relationships  
 My Word, My World: A Reflective Writing Workshop  
 Aligning the Body, Mind and Spirit for Soul Purposes  
 Bread of Life: Nourishment for the Journey  
 Administration for Mission: Framed by the Lord's Prayer  
 Encountering God Through Artistic Expression  
 Knitted in Faith: Discipleship of Women Yesterday and Today  
 Learning to Breathe: Understanding the Power of Our Emotions  
 Listening with your Whole Self: Breath, Body and Spirit

## Marianna/Panama City District Summary 2021

Challenges from the pandemic continued longer than we ever thought possible, but we managed to meet at least 85% of our pledge for 2021. We planned our Annual Day, but we had to cancel because of severe weather. Covid concerns sidelined our plans for a beautiful memorial service at our annual Moss Hill Day Apart in Vernon. Thanks to Zoom technology, a few in our district were able to participate in Mission u studies in July, and we gladly served in leadership roles (Elizabeth Bell as song leader and Deanie DeFelix as devotional leader prior to Friday evening gathering) at the Blue Lake Spiritual Enrichment Retreat in October. We are currently working with the Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW Executive Team to host 2022's Annual Day at Marianna First United Methodist Church. With many concerned about staying healthy, most units concentrated on serving their local area needs during 2021, but we are anxious to enjoy in-person meetings again. Finally, we anticipate enlarging our circle of district friends as we welcome our Dothan District members into our fold. The new year offers many exciting possibilities and opportunities to serve our Heavenly Fatherly!

Deanie DeFelix  
President,  
Marianna-Panama City District

## The Mobile District 2021

We started the year with 16 local United Methodist Women units, several new members to the district mission team, several new local United Methodist Women presidents, and the hope for more in person gatherings. We had a full calendar of events planned, but COVID-19 kept us concerned. The Mobile District hosted a mission study presented by Debbie Bracewell, *150 Years in Mission*. We had 25 ladies in attendance, and everyone left with new appreciation for our founding mothers. Mobile District women offered various meeting opportunities from in-person to zoom. We provided funds for UMCOR supplies, Dumas Wesley toy store, Dumas Wesley Camp scholarships, as well as special offerings for our local mission. The Mobile District learned after Annual Conference we had new churches added to our roster. Beginning 2022 the Mobile District will be South West District as the new churches added are in Choctaw, Clarke, and Wilcox counties.

The Mobile District had great attendance at virtual annual day and at in person Spiritual Enrichment Day at Blue Lake. While a virtual meeting was great, nothing was better than in-person fellowship at Blue Lake. The South West District is looking forward to 2022 as we are hoping to join in-person events with our sisters in Bay Pines and having our new units host events in their churches. I am so thankful for the dedicated women in this district. Thanks for allowing me to keep us together and looking forward to all the events in 2022

Michele Smith  
2021-2022  
District President

## MONTGOMERY-OPELIKA DISTRICT REPORT 2021

Love, hope, faith and power in action was the theme for United Methodist Women in 2021. At Annual Day, members of the Montgomery-Opelika District enthusiastically responded to a motivational talk by their Conference UMW President, Debbie Bracewell, urging members to be actively involved in their organization and to step up to responsibilities and leadership roles.

Being change-makers is in the DNA of UMW. Women from across the district attended a mission study at Auburn UMC: "Women United for Change: 150 years in mission," advocating on behalf of women and children in particular. Our members also attended a virtual Spiritual Enrichment Retreat by invitation from the Montgomery-Prattville District, some of whose members also attended our mission study. Reverend Meghan Kelley, co-pastor of Clanton First UMC, spoke on how the Holy Spirit can breathe life into weary spirits, transforming them to be vessels of God's power, love, and justice.

One way district women took action was through fundraisers such as Christmas Markets and bake sales. Aldersgate UMC, Opelika First UMC, and Auburn UMC were among units holding such events this year. Auburn UMW was able to donate \$500 each this year to a homeless shelter for working women (One Voice Shelter Coalition), Wesley Foundation Missions, SIFAT, and the Domestic Violence Intervention Center from funds remaining from a pre-Covid Christmas Market.

When Crawford UMW learned that Dr. Elizabeth Quansah, Director of Outreach Global at Auburn University, and nursing students accompanying her on a trip to Ghana were taking stuffed animals to the children they saw at a clinic and hospital in Ghana, the Crawford women adopted this effort for their Christmas project also. The teddy bears are the first such toy for many of the children.

Montgomery-Opelika UMW members find ways to serve individually also, be it helping an immigrant set up an apartment, getting to doctors' appointments, singing in the choir, or volunteering at a respite care program.

Montgomery-Opelika District women were saddened by the death this year of one of their most beloved and dedicated leaders, Edna Williams, unit president of the UMW at Bowen UMC. "Edna Williams was a living encyclopedia of UMW history and the United Methodist Church," one UMW sister said.

## Virtual Workshops at Assembly 2022

Workshops under this track will be available for our virtual attendees.

New Wineskins—The New Brand and How to Share It

Restoring Just Relationships: The Critical Role of Just Transition Toward Climate Justice, Just Energy for All

Soul Care Retreats: How to Enjoy or Design Your Own

Putting the FUN in Fundraising and How to Leave a Legacy

### **PENSACOLA DISTRICT REPORT 2021**

As year 2021 began Pensacola District was finally emerging from the COVID cocoon. We were not able to hold our officers' training early in February but sent each president a package with the Work Book, Standing Rules, and forms with instructions on how to train. Each member of our team was ready to help as needed.

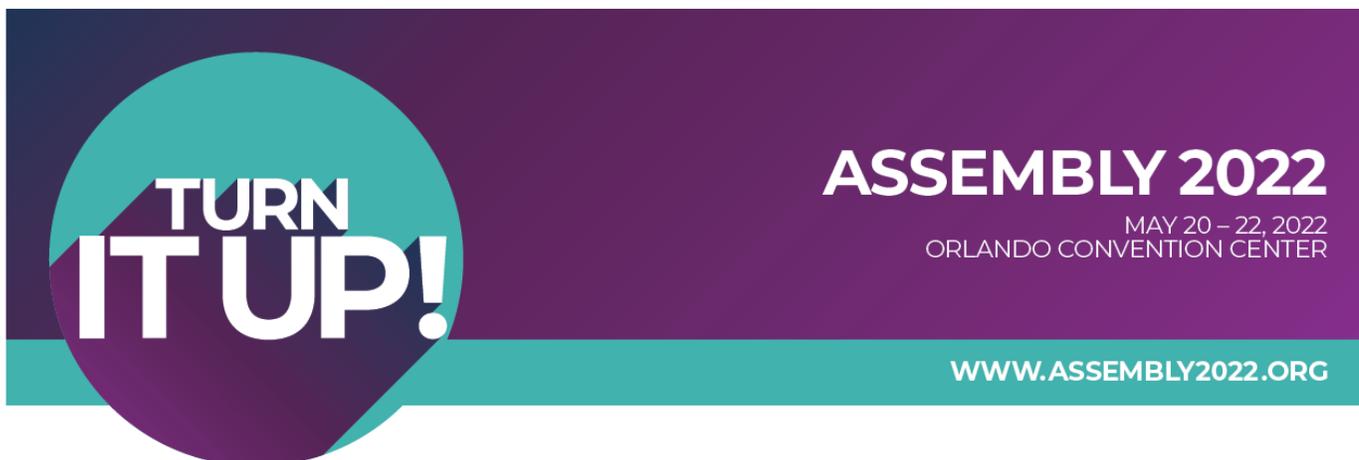
Myrtle Grove UMW hosted us in March for Annual Day live and on Zoom. We had 37 in attendance, 27 live and 10 on Zoom. Debbie Bell was our guest speaker and gave us an uplifting and joyful message. She also installed our 2021 officers. Peggy Patrick offered red birds to each UMW unit in remembrance of those who left us.

Due to the Pensacola bridge being damaged from Hurricane Sandy and the gas shortage, we cancelled our scheduled May Mission Study.

In September Community Life opened their doors for our Fall Festival. We had 43 attending. Reverend Pam Avery gave a humorous and insightful message on how to live in a COVID world. The district felt as if our ladies needed some "fun" time, so after the break each lady was given a wooden pumpkin to paint and adorn with ribbons, flowers, and bows. Our president, Sharon Hogan, cut out 40 pumpkins and supplied the necessary paint, brushes and decorations.

In October Gulf Breeze hosted our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat with Reverend Jean Tippit as our guest speaker. We had 35 attending. Reverend Tippit's message was an inspiration to all of us, and we left feeling enlightened. Gulf Breeze ladies were kind enough to open their gift shop and book store for us to browse and purchase.

2021 was a good but challenging year. Our new officers for 2022 are already at work preparing for the new year.



Come to Orlando to care for your spirit, worship with your sisters and celebrate the positive impact women create in the world.



## Turn It Up!

At Assembly 2022 we will TURN IT UP for spiritual healing and renewal. We will TURN IT UP for rebirth in a new time. We will TURN IT UP for women leaders. We will TURN IT UP for justice for women, children and youth.

Can't join us in Orlando? **Then join us from your living room! Assembly 2022 has both in-person and online experiences allowing even more women to participate and Turn it Up! Virtual attendees get access to all five Community Gatherings, one workshop on Friday and Saturday, exclusive behind-the-scenes speaker interviews, sisterhood networking, and more.** Knowing you no longer pay for travel, hotel, and meals - this is a great bargain for the **low early registration price of \$199.**

Please know that your link for the virtual option can only be used with one device and cannot be shared. We hope you will use this link for one person only, in good faith, knowing that your fee offsets expenses to run the virtual option which are costly.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_ Retired \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYMENT POSITION \_\_\_\_\_

**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 \_\_\_\_\_