



ALERT

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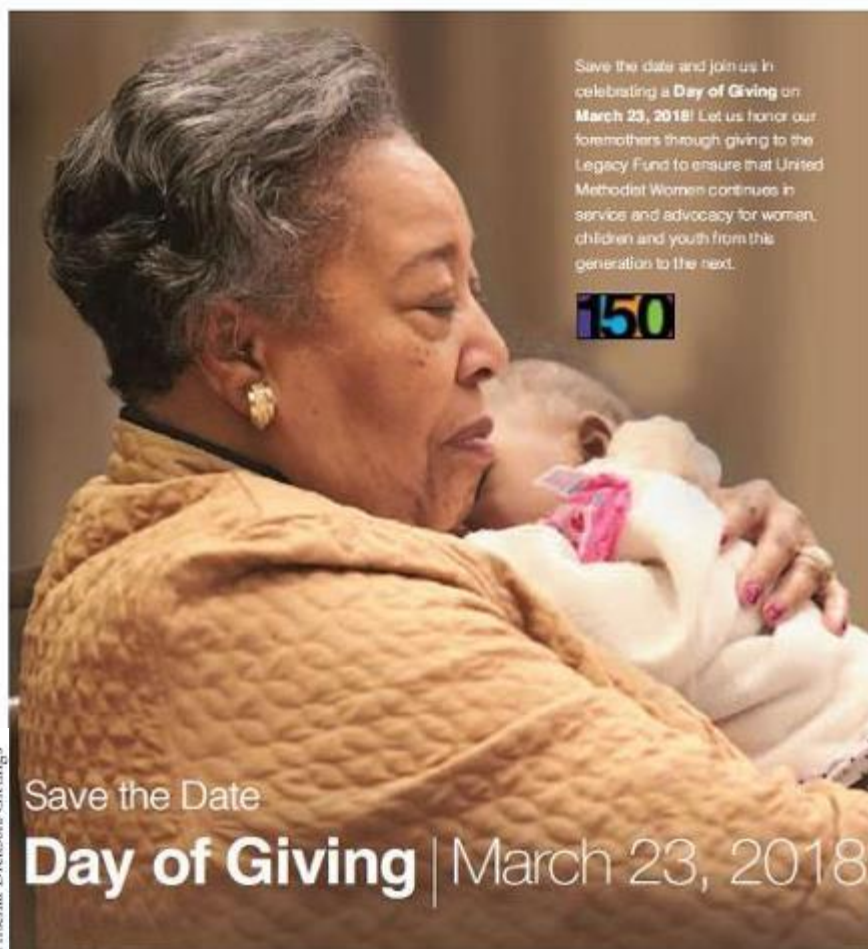
2018 Conference Officers

President	Debbie Bell
Vice President	Joan Simmons
Secretary	Cathy Givan
Treasurer	Jean Creswell
Communications	Debbie Bush
Program Resources	Sally Ozan
Nominations Chair	Zan Jones
Spiritual Growth	Tutti Johnson
Social Action	Laurel Akin
M.N.&O.	Carolyn Coker
Ed & Interpretation	Shirley Hodges

2018 Committee on Nominations

Reda Brooks	Zan Jones
Cheryl Mothershed	Nettie Lang

President SEJ UMW	Betty Helms
UMW National VP	Clara Ester
Web Manager	Vera Moore



United Methodist Women CENSUS

DEADLINE IS MARCH 30, 2018

[Complete the Census](#)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In this first quarter of the Alert my president's letter is going to be short and sweet.

Here's my priority list for the coming year:

1. Attend District meetings when possible;
2. Promote our upcoming big events and encourage members to participate, like Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, Mission u and/or Assembly 2018; 3. Recap for those that missed AWF-UMW Annual Day and thank these who made it a success - by name.

Joan Simmons, AWF-UMW Vice President and Program planning Chair; Jean Creswell, AWF-UMW Treasurer and Registrar; Gerry Stiffler, AWF-UMW Baypines District President and member of Foley UMC; the Baypines District UMW membership, providing goods and a Welcoming Spirit; the Foley UMC membership for hosting our official journey start for Annual Day into the Districts; Vera Moore, program book creator and ChristUMW member and Communications coordinator for the Mary and Martha Mail Circle; the AWF-UMW Executive Mission Team members: Cathy Givan, Carolyn Coker, Shirley Hodges, Tutti Johnson, Sally Ozan, Debbie Bush, Zan Jones; the AWF-UMW District Presidents and the members who could join us; Betty Helms and Clara Ester, our SEJ and National leaders in our conference; Bishop Graves and his Cabinet (our District Supers); and a special thankfulness for those ninety-two members that went to Glory in 2017 who left a Legacy of hope for us; ALL WHO CAME; ALL WHO SENT GREETINGS and ALL WHO PLANTED SEEDS OF HOPE.

Our Annual Day meeting was well attended in Foley, Bishop Graves addressed our members and Shannon Priddy, National United Methodist Women President gave us a Spirited jump-start for 2018. As we begin this journey into the Districts with Annual Day we hope to share the vision of United Methodist Women - provide an opportunity to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ, express our flexibility to witness and action and equip for personal change. [2017-2020 United Methodist Women Handbook, Living our Vision]

Remember Assembly 2018. We'll meet in Columbus, Ohio May 18-20, 2018. This is our pre-celebration of our organization's 150th anniversary and the return to the location of the first assembly in 1942. We do have a bus heading that way starting on May 17th in the early morning and ask for your Prayers for our travel mercies.

<https://www.umwassembly.org/>

To end, Thank you for your monetary Pledge to United Methodist Women in 2017 as we forwarded \$107,327 to the National table for help in awarding grants to the many agencies that provide programs for women, children and youth. We will need your help with our 2018 Pledge to Mission of \$121,450 - we will need each members' personal pledge to reach (and exceed) that goal.

Debbie Bell
Conference President



Shannon's trip to the Gulf beaches before Annual Day meeting start.

How are winners of the Annual Day Awards decided?

Answer:

Special Mission Recognition

award presented by the conference to the district is based on percentages of membership in attendance at the following events:

- District Spiritual Enrichment Day
- District Annual Day
- District Officer Training
- District Mission Studies

2017 Special Mission Recognition winner - Mobile with 290 points.

Many Colors, One Spirit

awarded by the conference to the district is based on percentage of attendance to the following:

- AWF UMW Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
- AWF UMW Conference Cooperative Mission u Event
- AWF UMW Conference Annual Day

The point scale is the same as Special Mission Recognition previously listed.

2017 Many Colors, One Spirit winner - Montgomery-Opelika with 220 points.

Reading Program

winner is based on the most readers in the district during the year.

2017 winner, Pensacola with 59 participants.

Nell Chance Award

Selected from letters of recommendations submitted by members

2017 Nell Chance Award winner - Lucia Pepper, Pensacola District.

Are percentages added or are the two membership totals added to reach percentage?

Answer:

Membership

is based on beginning and ending membership totals of the district **USING AN AVERAGE OF THE TWO**. Each event **ATTENDANCE is RANKED BY** points 10 through 80 - the one with the most points is winner. Percentages are not added - points are totaled.



Dear Conference **Presidents** and Membership Coordinators,

Yes, it is that time again. 2018 is upon us, and Census 2017 is here. First, I want to thank all of the Conference, District and local leaders who were diligent in completing or making sure the 2016 census was completed. We want to celebrate that we had 100 percent conference reporting! ***WHEN WOMEN AND YOUTH THRIVE, WE ALL THRIVE!***

CENSUS GOALS

Our goal for 2017 is to have 100 percent district reporting and all of our 27,000 local units represented in the census. We are asking for your commitment to make this happen. This will be a joint effort as the Office of Membership will be reaching out to all 27,000 local units by email and mailings to inform unit leaders about the importance of filling out the census and how it relates directly to United Methodist Women's efforts in fulfilling our core commitments: spiritual growth, leadership development, transformative education, service and advocacy and organizing for membership growth.

You will recognize some changes on the form. There are several new questions that are focused on strategies around increasing membership, our social justice priorities, and training needs. Our goal is to increase membership by 2 percent at the district level by 2020, so the feedback received through the census is critical in how we plan strategically to meet this goal.

We are determined to reach this goal. Let's be inspired to share our rich legacy of mission and all that United Methodist Women has to offer, so that we can celebrate another 150 years of turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world! ***WHEN WOMEN AND YOUTH THRIVE, WE ALL THRIVE!***

CENSUS LINK

The Census Link can be found on the United Methodist Women's website or you can forward the direct link: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2017. To assist local leaders with completing the census, we have included an instructional video and attached printable instructions on **ASSEMBLY**

We are excited about the anniversary celebrations planned for Assembly 2018, which is fast approaching. You will see on the census form that we are asking that every local unit commit to having at least one member attend this educational and inspirational event. We are also offering a youth track for young people ages 12-18 and would like to see a commitment to send youth and young adults at the Conference, District and local levels. ***WHEN WOMEN AND YOUTH THRIVE, WE ALL THRIVE!***

The process is as follows:

October 2017

Conference Membership Nurture and Outreach (MNO), Membership Coordinator, or President forwards the attached document with the instructional video and form link to the district Membership Nurture and Outreach (MNO) coordinator or president.

District MNO Membership Coordinator or president then sends it on to the local unit president.

The local unit uses the census link to enter the data, which will come directly to the national office.

Conference MNO and district MNO are charged with assisting the local units with sending out the census video and link along with scheduling 1-3 interactive sessions to assist unit leaders who are not comfortable with computers.

Census Form Link: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2017

Census Instructional Video Link: https://youtu.be/-D7_d5YGd98

The final deadline for reporting will be March 30, 2018.

What is "A Way Forward Conversation"

During Leadership Development Days (LDD) in November, three of our conference representatives (myself, Pat Dodge and Clara Ester) participated in training sessions to start a process of conversations about how the United Methodist Church might "be church" together across different views that might add to and enhance the work going on in other parts of the church.

Each of us were requested to share what we learned with others and develop a plan to host conversations in our conference and districts over the next 12-18 months. Our *goal* is that most United Methodist Women members *will be aware* of the issues facing the church and that at least 50% of members have participated in facilitated conversations before the Special Session of the General Conference in February, 2019.

Our objectives for these conversations is for United Methodist Women members to:

- 1) be informed of the matters that the Special Session of the General Conference in 2019 has been called to address;
- 2) be prompted to clarify their own thinking about what holds us together as a church and as United Methodist Women;
- 3) be confident in speaking to other church members about their views, including their General Conference delegates, pastors and annual conference leadership.

Upon our return we have provided facilitating materials and hosted a conference call with our Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women Executive mission team to begin our conference endeavor. Each of you are invited to consider, as these "conversations" begin, attending the "A Way Forward Conversation" that may be hosted within your District.

Thank you for your consideration as we begin to engage this "Hope" for the church.

Debbie Bell, President 2017-2018

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women



"The Power of Bold" will be the theme of the 19th quadrennial Assembly of United Methodist Women in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, 2018.

Learn more at

<https://umwassembly.org/news/>

TREASURER'S REPORT**Alabama West Florida Conference United Methodist Women****2017 Financial Statement**

<u>MISSION GIVING (PLEDGE) 2017</u>	<u>Pledge</u>	<u>Paid by Districts</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>% Paid</u>
Bay Pines	12,200	15,679	-3,479	129%
Demopolis	13,000	15,757	-2,757	121%
Dothan	18,500	15,771	2,729	85%
Marianna/Panama City	12,800	13,541	-741	106%
Mobile	20,000	22,625	-2,625	113%
Montgomery-Opelika	12,500	9,048	3,452	72%
Montgomery-Prattville	12,200	11,118	1,082	91%
Pensacola	25,000	25,766	-766	103%
Events - Offering		1,984	-1,984	
TOTALS FROM DISTRICTS	126,200	131,290	-5,090	104%
Paid to Date to National 107,327	107,327			
Total Conference Pledge Over/Under	18,873	23,963	Used on A&MD Funding	

BEGINNING BALANCE CHECKING 1/1/17**20,713****INCOME**

Pledge from District via Local Units	131,290
Restricted to National	13,800
Conference Specials	26,143
Events, A&MD CS, Sales	23,040
Non-Budgeted Items	9,435

TOTAL INCOME**203,708****EXPENSES:**

Conference Budget	43,731	
District Budget	10,656	54,387
Sent to Agencies		26,143
Sent to National		121,128
Not Budgeted		7,291

TOTAL EXPENSES**- 208,949****TRANSFER TO/FROM SAVINGS****- 3,582****ENDING CK BALANCE 12/31/17****11,890**

	Beginning	Interest	Transfers	Ending	Total
SAVINGS / CD (Restricted)	55,230	418	3,582	59,231	59,231
TOTAL Checking and Savings					71,121

Continued on next page

TREASURER'S REPORT CONTINUED

BUDGETED EXPENSES	2018
1. Dues & Membership	250
2. Meetings & Events	9,500
3. General Expenses	20,024
4. Program Committee Expenses	10,700
Total A&MD Budgeted	\$ 40,474
Just Conference	25,460
Just Districts	15,014
Baypines	12,200
Demopolis	12,000
Dothan	14,750
Marianna/Panama City	12,800
Mobile	20,000
Montgomery-Opelika	12,500
Montgomery-Prattville	12,200
Pensacola	25,000
TOTAL PLEDGE TO MISSION 2018	\$ 121,450

United Methodist Women

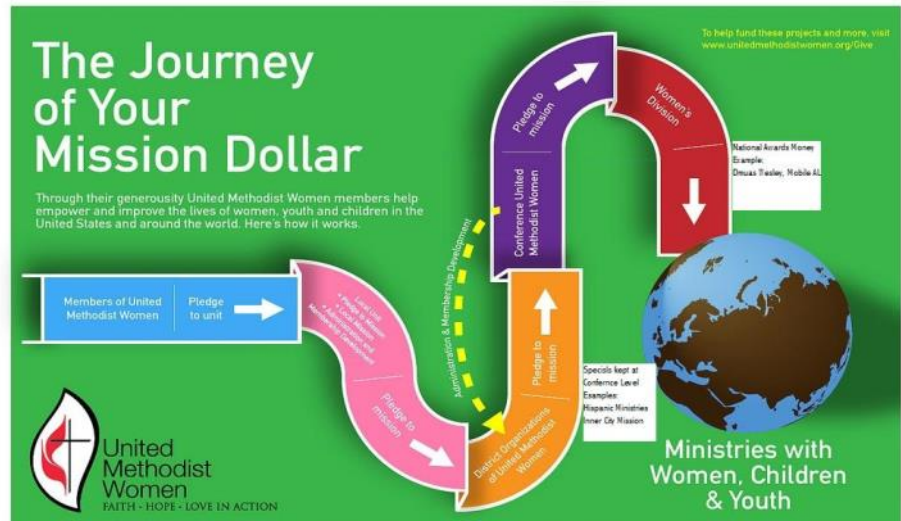
Turning Financial Gifts into Miracles for Women, Children and Youth

United Methodist Women is trusted with pledges and donations from individual members and local member organizations, as well as mission partners and anonymous donors who have a heart for mission.

We support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth - thereby impacting entire communities. As an agency of The United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women abides by the social principles and discipline as determined by General Conference, giving only to projects in accordance with those guidelines.



Jean Creswell
Conference Treasurer



Who may request the Directory from the website?

Answer: Anyone may request the Directory however we carefully monitor to whom the Directory is delivered.

The announcement on the website that the directory is available reads, "The Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women Directory 2018 is available to those persons **named in the directory**." This is followed by the option to "click here" to have the directory sent to you by e-mail. The same announcement is on the districts web pages as their directories are provided to us. Since access to this announcement is available to anyone in the www, we must carefully control who receives this document with our private contact information. The simplest way to guard this information is to provide the e-mailed version only to those whose names are in the publication. If your computer is not configured to react to the "click here" option, simply send an e-mail to awfumw@gmail.com requesting the Directory.

Keeper of the website, *Vera Moore*

February, 2018

ATTENTION: ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MEMBERS

This communication is to notify and clarify our decision to cease "specials" of the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women **conference** Treasury funds to these agencies, The United Methodist Inner City Mission, Mary Ellen's Hearth at Nellie Burge, Hispanic/Latino Ministries and Blue Lake Assembly Grounds. The history of the "specials" (or as sometimes referred to as "askings" or "dues") was never meant to last indefinitely. They were collected as an option from a member for the agency located in our Alabama-West Florida conference communities.

Annually, each agency that receives "specials" funds is required to complete an annual report describing how the funds they receive from our conference Treasurer is used in the programs for women, children and youth in their agency. The annual report is then reviewed by your Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women Executive Mission Team (Leadership) where the report details are discussed, discerned and voted for or against continued funding in the next year. The above mentioned agencies annual report did not provide a clear account of the funds they received from the conference Treasurer during the year. Of note, other agencies previously seen in this "specials" list have been eliminated for the same reason, insufficient information to review. We have contacted the Directors of the above mentioned agencies informing them that they were no longer being funded from the **conference** treasurer due to insufficient information available in their report.

Over the years many Local Units determined to ONLY forward these "specials" funds and not participate in Mission Giving funds. Our conference was the ONLY conference with this "specials" endeavor. Our first Mission Giving focus is and always has been to the five channels of giving that include Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering - per member/per Local Unit. We do support and encourage the Local Unit to continue to offer support to the above mentioned agencies, as well, any Local agencies that assist with programs for women, children and youth. However, our conference and district Treasurers will not collect for "specials."

Thank you for your understanding as we transition away from "specials" language in our Policies and move to be better stewards of the Mission Giving funds we receive and distribute from the Local Unit membership. Therefore, in 2018 in addition to our focus for Mission Giving through the five channels of giving we will encourage and include a Love Offering that will be assigned to Administration & Membership Development (A&MD), Jurisdiction / Assembly Offering, Mission u, Dumas Wesley Community Center (the remaining and only agency within our conference recognized by the National United Methodist Women.)

In His service and with respect,
Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women

Executive Mission Team (Leadership)
Debbie Bell, President 2017-2018



Mentoring for the Future of United Methodist Women

At the Annual Meeting 2018 Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women adopted a program to encourage every member to mentor at least one person. The plan is to be known as **Priddy Pals** in honor of Shannon Priddy, National President who visited during Annual Meeting 2018. Mentoring is frequently mentioned in Shannon's writing and speaking on behalf of United Methodist Women.

How it will be accomplished:

Beginning immediately every member of AWF-UMW is challenged to seek out a young woman and intentionally involve that person in some activity of United Methodist Women.

Involvement may include but not be limited to:

Giving technical help to UMW members - that is - help with smart phone and computers.
 Reading a book from the Reading Program together with a UMW member.
 Driving members to meetings - even if you don't need a driver.
 Proofreading newsletters and other documents prior to publication.
 And in many other ways as creative members seize the opportunity.

Recognition - beyond membership growth:

Awards will be presented at Annual Meeting to those two people who have become **Priddy Pals** based on short paragraphs provided by both the mentor and the mentee (disciple) telling the story of their friendship. These stories are to be sent to Membership Nurture and Outreach and must be received 30 days prior to Annual Meeting 2019. The Program will be evaluated annually.



Gifts to the Legacy Fund can be made in several ways:

•Online at unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund

•By phone:

800-278-7771 (8 am-6pm EST, M-F)

•Text Legacy150 to
41444

•By check: note "**Legacy Fund**"

in memo and mail to:

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
 TREASURER'S OFFICE
 15TH FLOOR
 475 RIVERSIDE DRIVE
 NEW YORK NY 10115



VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

2018 Annual Day. Amazing speakers, amazing women, (and a few men), amazing attendance, and amazing hospitality and meeting place. Over one hundred and eighty women gathered together to celebrate God, UMW and Hope in the coming years. How great it was to see old friends and meet new ones. A lot of laughter was heard and hugs given as we connected with friends from our conference.

Shannon Priddy, the National United Methodist Women's president challenged us to carry on our mission started 150 years ago. Her enthusiasm and energy inspired us to do just that. Friday night she spoke on Hope, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow and how to build our membership. Many women are in our sphere of friends and church members but just need to be asked and invited to join us. Take the step and ask! Let them know what United Methodist Women is all about. Tell them about our Purpose and the missions we embrace.

On Saturday Shannon talked about Eternal Hope. During her term in office UMW will celebrate its 150th year. She said our goal is to carry on another 150 years. "It's about teamwork, making connections and building our relationships with one another and Christ. No one works alone". As always we enjoyed Bishop Graves message and his love and admiration for United Methodist Women and the missions we support on each and every day.

What a blessing to have all our District Superintendents being a part of Annual Day. Many of us got time to spend time with them as they stayed after communion.

Our thanks to Foley UMC and the wonderful UMW ladies for opening their doors to us for our first Annual Day away from Blue Lake. Hospitality at its finest! Thank you too to Patti Cain and Sharon Hogan from the Pensacola District for the Prayer Room and their inspirational prayer stations.. It takes a lot of women in addition to your Conference Mission Team to plan and implement this meeting. Thanks to all of you.

We appreciate all of you who filled out evaluation forms. You noticed the change in questions as we want to make sure we are headed in the right direction as we move forward. In the next issue of ALERT I will have a summary of the responses we received.



Joan Simmons
Conference Vice President

AND NOW.....MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2019 Annual Day: February 15th – 16th in Demopolis. Theme is Love in Action.

CARES AND CONCERNS

Winn Marsh is appointed Personal Concerns Coordinator for Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women. You may contact her to request prayer for your personal concerns. Winn will share the information according to your wishes.

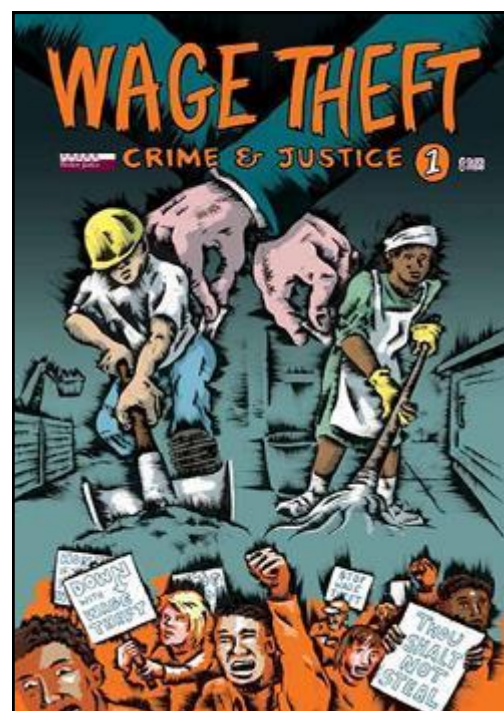
SOCIAL ACTION REPORT

Did you know the United Methodist Women Reading program includes a comic book? I didn't, until Ann Tison, a member of United Methodist Women in Port St. Joe and the Social Action Coordinator for the Marianna-Panama City District, sent me an email telling me about her unit's book club that started 2018 by reading and discussing **Wage Theft** from the 2017 Social Action category. I would love to hear about what your unit and district are doing to learn about social issues and put faith, hope, and love into action!

I would like to bring to your attention to an excellent, if heartbreaking, article by Emily Jones, executive for Racial Justice for United Methodist Women, titled "Education Not Incarceration: Rejecting the Criminalization of Communities of Color." Jones shares statistics and quotes from **Pushout** by Monique Morris, a book from the 2018 Reading Program, to illustrate how the school-to-prison pipeline affects African-American girls. You can find her article on the United Methodist Women's website here: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/rejecting-the-criminalization-of-communities-of-color>.

While you are on that page, look at the right-hand column to find "Suggested Pages" and "Learn More." Notice that Michelle Alexander, author of **The New Jim Crow**, will be at a Town Hall at UMW Assembly! There is also a link to the webinar "Mass Incarceration 101." Under "Take Action" you can find information to help you (or someone else) lead a small group in a study of **The New Jim Crow**.

Blessings,
Laurel Akin,
Conference Social Action Coordinator



THE "RED ZONE"

The Alabama-West Florida Conference Mission Team Members and the Christ Church UMW of the Mobile District in January 2018. We all wore red to come together against Human Trafficking!



Assembly 2018 speakers

Bold and courageous voices in leadership



Michelle Alexander is author of the critically acclaimed “The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness,” a stunning account of millions of African Americans imprisoned and then relegated to a permanent second-class citizenship and legally denied enfranchisements won in the Civil Rights Movement.



Leymah Gbowee received the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 2011 for her work in leading a women’s peace movement that brought an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003.



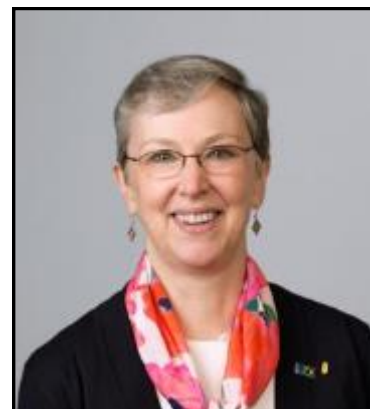
Named to *TIME* magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World list for 2014, **Katharine Hayhoe** is an atmospheric scientist who studies climate change, one of the most pressing issues facing humanity today.



Tamika D. Mallory, a 36 year old mother to her teenage son and nationally recognized activist, is a champion of the new civil rights movement.



Rev. **Hannah Adair Bonner** is the Director of the Wesley Foundation of Tucson, serving the University of Arizona. Previously, she served as the Founder and Curator of The Shout, a spoken-word poetry collective based in Houston, Texas.



Harriett Jane Olson has served as chief executive officer of the United Methodist Women’s national administrative and policymaking arm since 2007.



Linda Sarsour is an award winning racial justice and civil rights activist, community organizer, every Islamophobe’s worst nightmare and mother of three.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

For those who shop Amazon (don't we all at some time) a portion of anything you purchase on Amazon (including out of stock Reading Program titles) will come back to us.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as **Amazon.com**. The difference is that when you shop on **AmazonSmile**, the **AmazonSmile Foundation** will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice - UMW NYC, of course. This is a new link in our navigation. Where it used to say "store", it now says "shop". Clicking on SHOP takes you directly to the e-store/**UMWMissionResources**. When you hover over the link you see three choices:

1. E-store: umwmissionresources.org
2. AmazonSmile: Designate the UMW NYC option
3. Global Goods Partners: Use code "UMW"

If you click the Amazon link and chose us as your charity, then EVERY time you visit through smile.amazon.com, UMW will receive a donation.

So consider this option when you are unable to attend our Conference events where you can purchase books and other UMW products, i.e. Annual Day, Mission U and Spiritual Enrichment Retreat.

Hope you are all participating in the 2018 Reading Program and taking advantage of the great selection of interesting, educational and entertaining subjects.



Sally Ozan

Secretary of Program Resources



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

response:
the magazine of women in mission!



EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION REPORT

United Methodist Women's Mission Giving and special offerings make a difference in the lives of so many women, children and youth in this country and around the world every single day. If you have not read your February response magazine, take notice of the maps showing the mission institutions around the world and in this country. These maps are printed every two years. The article "Mission Giving Makes

Mission Happen" points out that \$10 million was allocated during this time period. If not for the local units of United Methodist Women, this could not happen.

Our focus for giving should be the five channels of un-designated , unrestricted annual Mission Giving. These are: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, A Gift to Mission, A Gift in Memory and the World Thank Offering. Giving to all these categories will give your unit the 5 Star recognition. It is also encouraged to give additionally to a Love Offering each year which will be assigned to Administration and Membership Development (A&MD), Jurisdiction/Assembly Offering, Mission u and Dumas Wesley (the only agency in our conference recognized by the National United Methodist Women). Pay close attention to the newly revised Remittance Form. All the various means of giving are clearly marked on it. You will see a place at the top right of the form for reporting "Your Change Can Change a Life." You are encouraged to place jars around your church to collect loose change as a way to contribute to Mission Giving. Of course, you are always welcome to donate to local missions as well. Just remember that United Methodist Women's units need to support United Methodist Women's missions first.

It is the time of year we focus on the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial program. The 2018 program is entitled "Learning for a Lifetime: Developing Leaders"; it can be found in the Program Book, or you can find it on-line at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org. An offering is usually sent.

The Mission Today form did not change this year, and I hope you are already looking for ways to become a Mission Today Unit in 2018. If I can help in any way, please call on me. Also, I hope to see you at Mission u at St. Luke United Methodist Church July 20-21. The mission studies are always very educational and interesting.



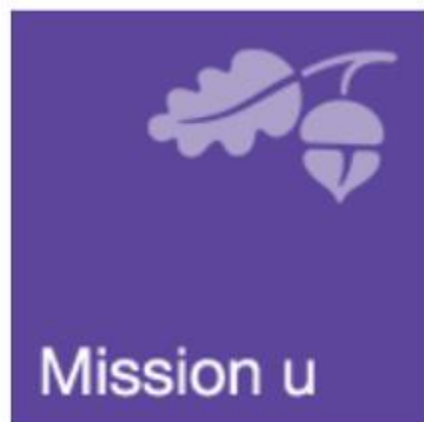
Shirley Hodges

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Blessings to you, and thank you for all you do in the name of women, children and youth.

Our Purpose:

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



Mission u 2018

Friday, July 20 - Saturday July 21, 2018

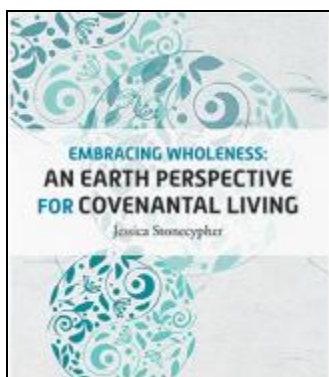
Saint Luke United Methodist Church

Pensacola, Florida.

A cooperative event by Alabama-West Florida Conference Board of Church and Society and United Methodist Women.

Mission u Attendance

Every church and local unit of United Methodist Women is strongly encouraged to participate in what are timely studies. It is our hope that units will take advantage of this opportunity by sending at least three people to Mission u in order to offer all three studies in their local unit.



Spiritual Growth Mission Study

Leaders:
Jim DuFriend and Gail Baughman

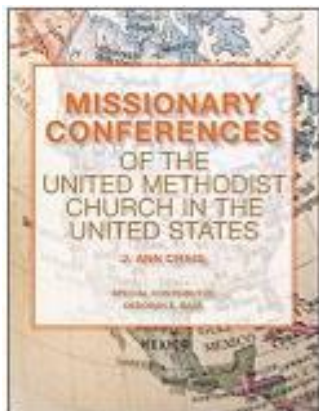
The Spiritual Growth Study, Embracing Wholeness is the second in a two-part series about covenantal living.



Issue Study

Leaders:
Betty Helms and Angie Woodward

What About Our Money? A Faith Response explores how we relate to money within the context of our faith.



Geographic Study

Leader: Joyce Genz

Missionary Conferences of The United Methodist Church in the United States is a mission journey that guides us through the missionary conferences: Alaska Missionary Conference, Oklahoma Missionary Conference and Red Bird Missionary Conference.



Mission u 2018 (CONTINUED)

Mission u Team 2018

Dean

MARGARET LARSON

Associate Dean

LAUREL AKIN

Secretary/Registrar

TUTTI JOHNSON

Nominations Chair

SUSAN HUNT

Business Manager

BETTY HELMS

Lodging:

#1 Courtyard Marriott 451 Creighton Rd, Pensacola, FL 32504

Reservations: Individuals to call 850-857-7744 to

make their reservations by June 15, 2018.

Check in after 3 pm & checkout time 12 pm

Standard King \$149.00

Standard Double \$149.00

Breakfast buffet included in guestroom rate.

#2 Hampton Inn & Suites

7050 Plantation Rd, Pensacola, FL 32504

Reservations: Individuals to call 850-505-7500 to

make their reservations by June 15, 2018.

Minimum Two Nights Stay

Standard Queen \$149.00

Breakfast included in guestroom rate.

Scholarships Are Available:

Scholarship are available for adults to attend the 2018 school.

Don Brill Scholarship:

for clergy during the first five years of their ministry and who have never attended a Mission u Event.

Lib Claridy Scholarship:

for lay persons who have never attended a Mission u Event.

Nell Chance Scholarship:

for NEW United Methodist Women member who have never attended a Mission u Event.

Contact: Betty Helms, Scholarship Chair

REGISTRATION FORM

<http://www.awf-umw.org/missionu.html>



TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader - Send to District Nominations Chair)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____

Email _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Age: _____ 20's _____ 30's _____ 40's _____ 50's _____ 60's _____ 70's _____ 80's+

Languages Spoken _____ Racial/Ethnic Group _____

Professional skills, job experience _____

Office(s) held in United Methodist Women

	Office(s)	Dates of Service
Local	_____	_____
	_____	_____
District	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Conference	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Jurisdiction	_____	_____
	_____	_____

Additional Experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community

Special Talents or Skills:



Talent Bank Information Continued

Areas of Special Interest or Concern:

<input type="checkbox"/> secretarial	<input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members	<input type="checkbox"/> publicity
<input type="checkbox"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> social issues	<input type="checkbox"/> workshops
<input type="checkbox"/> computer	<input type="checkbox"/> creativity	<input type="checkbox"/> newsletters
<input type="checkbox"/> accounting/bookkeeping	<input type="checkbox"/> recording minutes	<input type="checkbox"/> retreats
<input type="checkbox"/> organization of details	<input type="checkbox"/> public policy	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input type="checkbox"/> nominations	<input type="checkbox"/> public relations	<input type="checkbox"/> youth
<input type="checkbox"/> program planning	<input type="checkbox"/> community building	<input type="checkbox"/> children
<input type="checkbox"/> administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Inclusiveness/pluralism	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Which office(s) on the Conference United Methodist Women's Team would you most like to hold given the opportunity to serve?

<input type="checkbox"/> President	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture & Outreach
<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Action
<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth
<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations	<input type="checkbox"/> Communications
<input type="checkbox"/> Education & Interpretation	

Why are you interested in this position and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization?

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for:

Full day _____ Weekend _____ Extended Time _____
Yes or No Yes or No Yes or No

_____ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in _____.

You may send your completed Talent Bank Form as an attachment emailed to awfumw@gmail.com.

OR send to the Nominations Chair of your District or Conference

ANNUAL DAY 2018



FIRST TIMERS TO ANNUAL DAY!





ANNUAL DAY



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2018

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR REPORT

YOU CAN BECOME INFORMED OF ALL OF THE ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE ALERT TODAY!

- To receive a copy of the ALERT in the mail, please send in your Name, Address and Telephone Number to Debbie Bush. Enclose a \$4.00 check made payable to: "**Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women.**"
- You may receive a copy of the **ALERT** free by email. Please email Debbie Bush with your request at: **Savannahgirl2759@gmail.com** and you will be added to our email list.
- **Stay informed and catch up with your Conference news and make sure each person, unit and District knows what is happening in the Alabama West Florida Conference!**



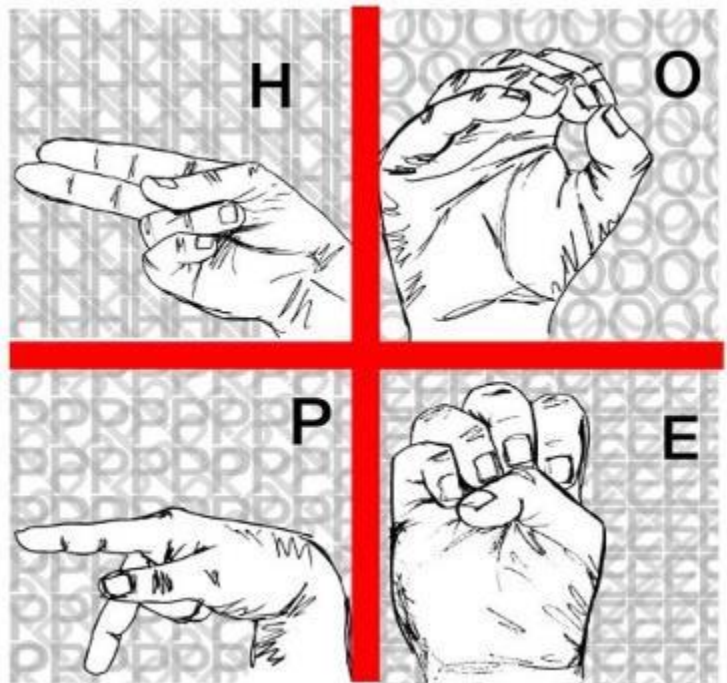
Debbie Bush,
Conference Communications Coordinator

ALERT

STAY INFORMED

HEBREWS 6:19-20

"This HOPE we have as an anchor of the soul, a HOPE both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us, having become a high priest forever."



The following reports were not available at the time of publication:

Spiritual Growth Report

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Report

Look for these reports in the next Publication of the ALERT!

United Methodist Women
Alabama-West Florida Conference
Communication Coordinator
Debbie Bush

Save the Date for 2018!

May 18-20

Assembly - Columbus, Ohio

July 13-14

**Executive Committee - Dothan UMC
(Presidents & Treasurers)**

July 20-21

**Mission u - St. Luke UMC
Pensacola, Florida**

October 19-21

**Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
- Blue Lake**