

The Informer



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

South West District United Methodist Women Newsletter
WINTER 2022

President's Ponderings

Hello fellow United Methodist Women!

I have been thinking about the future for our great organization. When I first became affiliated with United Methodist Women, I was the youngest active member in my local unit. I attended monthly meetings - at first, simply to have adult time - then I learned about the many awesome things United Methodist Women did and had been doing for years.

Ladies, as we grow and move forward we have to remember times change and so must we. If in-person meetings are not working to attract younger members, we must step out and be open to what works for younger women. You know technology has grown and it is becoming easier to use every day. The conference has a ZOOM account available for use.

Some suggestions for us:

- 1) Do a video of your monthly program meeting and make it available on your church website
- 2) Invite members of the district team or the conference team to come and provide information on the changes going on in the United Methodist Women organization.
- 3) Invite the younger ladies to go on a field trip to one of the local agencies we support
- 4) Invite a smaller local United Methodist Women unit to your monthly gathering
- 5) Send notes to the women in your local church that are not active in United Methodist Women letting them know you are praying for them. Include one interesting fact in the note about what United Methodist Women is doing locally, nationally, or internationally.
- 6) Offer child care during your monthly gathering (and call it a gathering rather than a meeting)
- 7) Print *The Informer* and give it to women in your church or Sunday school class

SOUTH WEST DISTRICT MISSION TEAM 2022

President

Michele Smith
251-895-1306

Vice President

Secretary

Marcie McNeal
251-509-6062

Treasurer

Sally Pehler
251-490-4717

Communications

Susan McRae
251-751-1775

Mission Coordinators

Education and Interpretation

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Stephanie Bromley
251-689-3771

Social Action

Ginger Sorenson
251-608-3050

Spiritual Growth

Anne Capps
334-852-1234

Committee on Nominations

Judy Burnham
251-473-6565

Registrar

Mary Presley

Historian

Shirley Bryan

Parliamentarian

Debbie Bell



As we grow as United Methodist Women, let us always remember that our founding members did what they did despite not having a voice in church leadership. We United Methodist Women are an important missional arm of the United Methodist Church. We will continue to celebrate our cause of helping women, children, and youth as the guiding principles of our faith indicate.

Michele Smith
President, 2021-22
South West District United Methodist Women

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

Secretary's Scribbles

Welcome Secretaries and Happy New Year!

Let me introduce myself as your District Secretary and point of contact through this term. I will share information and tips to assist you with your role as Unit Secretary. Please do not hesitate to reach out and ask me for any concerns or needs during your term in this leadership position. Welcome aboard!

Here's a brief rundown of your main duties:

- Keep accurate minutes of all meetings
- Be the custodian of all unit records and official documents
- Keep an accurate roll of all unit members

The Secretary is crucial to the smooth running of a UMW meeting as well as activities before, during and after Committee meetings.

In order to be effective, the Secretary should ensure that they carry out the following activities:

Before the Meeting

- Consult with the President on the order of business for the meeting, and the way in which it should be dealt with on the agenda.
- Circulate to all members (a) any papers to be discussed at the upcoming meeting and (b) a copy of the agenda, minutes of the previous meeting; and
- Make sure that any reports or information requested at the last meeting is available or that there is a good reason why not.

At the Meeting

- Arrive in good time before the meeting with the minutes and with all the relevant correspondence and business matters for that meeting, in good

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.



order. Record the names of those who are present, and convey/record apologies received from those who are absent;

- Read the minutes of the previous meeting, and if they are approved, file in archive;
- Report on action or matters arising from the previous minutes. Read any important correspondence that has been received;
- Take notes of the meeting, recording the key points and making sure that all decisions and proposals are recorded, as well as the name of the person or group responsible for carrying them out. Make sure action points are clear; and
- Make sure that the President is supplied with all the necessary information for items on the agenda, and remind the President if an item has been overlooked.

After the Meeting

- Prepare a draft of the minutes and send to the President for approval;
- Promptly send all correspondence as decided by the President

Please do not feel overwhelmed or anxious about your responsibilities. I am here to provide resources, training, guidance, and support.

Thank you for taking on this important role in your local UMW unit. I look forward to working with you!

Ref. Volunteer Now in partnership with Developing Governance Group

Marcie McNeal
 Secretary 2021-22
 South West District United Methodist Women
mcnealms@gmail.com
 251-509-6062

Treasurer's Tidbits

I hope this year finds you all well, happy and ready to assist the women, children and youth in the communities of our South West Alabama UMW District.

With the new year and our new name, the South West District United Methodist Women has grown to nineteen (19) units including those from the Mobile District and units from the southern portion of the Demopolis district.

Unfortunately, both district areas were short of our 2021 AWF-UMW budget goals by over \$7000 combined.

Fortunately, however, we had seven (7) 5-star units including the unit at

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



The Informer

New Life UMC. Special thanks and congratulations to New Life UMW for finishing strong with 5-star unit status as they dissolved as a United Methodist Women unit!

Our 2022 South West District budget goal is \$24,575.

Congratulations and thanks to our first units to send contributions in – Toulminville-Warren Street UMW and Theodore UMW. Please continue to be creative with your activities and fundraisers throughout the year. Even if your unit is not meeting in person, pledges and fundraiser funds collected from your members should be sent to me for distribution to our designated recipients who so desperately need it.

Treasurers, forms that you need and plenty of mission gift “greeting cards”, such as Gift in Memory, Birthday, Thank You, Thinking of You, Congratulations and Gift to Mission Christmas cards, are available. Please let me know what you need.

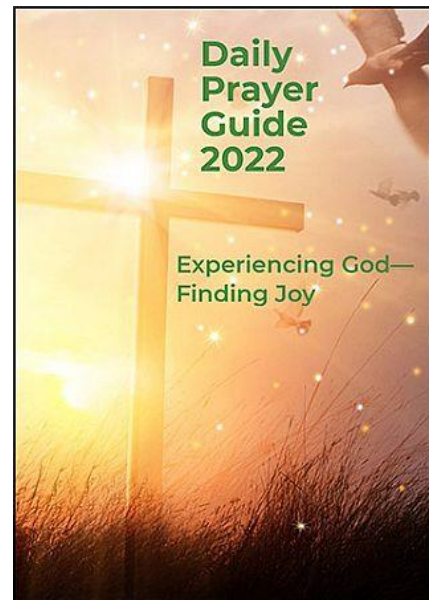
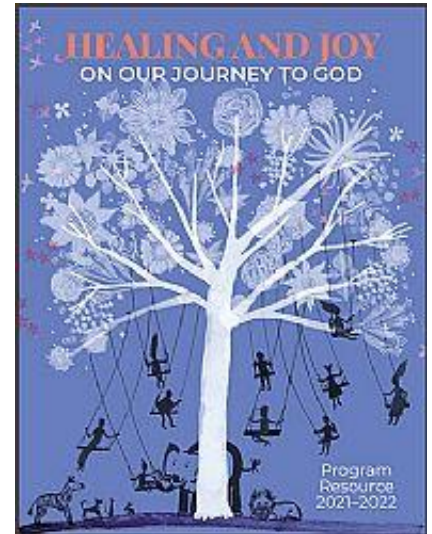
Lastly, Unit Treasurers or Acting Treasurers are asked to please send me an email and/or text with your contact information. My new mailing address is noted below.

Sally Pehler
Treasurer, 2022-23
South West District United Methodist Women
c-251-490-4717
s.pehler@comcast.net
PO Box 1435
Point Clear, AL 36564

South West District Established 2022

It is with excitement and anticipation that 2022 ushers in the expanded **South West District** United Methodist Women, made up of UMW units in Sumter, Choctaw, Wilcox, Clark, Washington, and Mobile Counties. Active units include **Christ UMW, Dauphin Way UMW, Grand Bay UMW, Grove Hill UMW, Kingswood UMW, New Hope UMW, Pine Grove UMW, Pine Hill UMW, Saraland UMW, South Brookley UMW, Spring Hill UMW, St. John UMW, St. Mary UMW, St. Mark UMW, Theodore UMW, Theodore First UMW, Thomasville UMW, Toulminville-Warren Street UMW, and Wesley Chapel UMW.**

Together, we can be a powerful mission force on behalf of women, children





The Informer

and youth in need. Essential, however, is the effort needed to come *together*, as we all lead busy lives in distant and diverse communities. Each United Methodist Women member is encouraged to recall our purpose and our commitment to our Lord and Savior.

South West District Annual Day

We are looking forward to South West District Annual Day 2022, set for **Saturday, March 19 from 10 AM-12 PM**. We are planning to meet in person with masks and social-distancing at **Grove Hill UMC** in Grove Hill, AL.

During this gathering, we will formally install the new South West District leaders, as well as recognize officers in the South West District United Methodist Women units. Our local United Methodist Women units will receive Mission Today awards, and we will honor the units which participated in the Reading Program, attended virtual or in-person events and participated in mission studies. We will also recognize those United Methodist Women who departed from this earth in 2021. As an added opportunity, South West District's own Joyce Genz, AWF-UMW Conference Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator, will offer insight into E&I mission giving and resources.

You are encouraged to bring a personal and/or unit love offering for the District-wide UMCOR project scheduled for May 14th. Any checks should be written to **Christ UMW**.

Your support for this gathering of mission-focused sisters in Christ is so important – please make every effort to attend!

District-wide UMCOR Project

All units are invited to contribute to and/or assist at an annual UMW UMCOR project to be held at **Christ United Methodist Church** on Saturday, **May 14th from 10 AM until 12 noon** to create Hygiene Kits. NO shopping required! With our donations, contents of the Hygiene Kits are bulk-ordered. Many hands are needed to construct the kits before transport to the UMCOR facility in Baldwin, Louisiana, to be available for those in need when disaster strikes. This project is a tradition that has morphed into a district-wide project that is actually *fun!*

To download the Reading Program information use:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogramcatalog2021.pdf>



Subscribe to Faith Talks at
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>



Subscribe to *response* magazine in digital or print form at
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response>





The Informer

Last year, just over 500 kits were assembled by 27 volunteers with donations from Christ UMW, Kingswood UMW and South Brookley UMW. The 2022 goal is **550** kits but this can only be reached with the support of the units within our district.

Unit or individual donations should be written to Christ UMW and brought to Annual Day or sent to by April 15th to the Christ UMW Unit Treasurer -

Phyllis Allen
6895 Providence Est Dr S
Mobile, AL 36695

District Mission Study

Our District Mission Study for 2022 will utilize the book *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. To be held at **Theodore UMC** from **10 AM – 2 PM** on **May 21st**, this study will be most enlightening to all. Bring your own lunch and prepare to learn!

Education and Interpretation

Mission Giving is the Lifeblood of United Methodist Women

Every officer has an opportunity to promote mission giving in her office communications with district and local leadership but it is the primary responsibility of the E & I Coordinator to guide the leadership team in developing strategies to visualize the five channels of giving and pledge

Our foremothers are still providing mission funds for our mission programs through endowments. We now have an opportunity to do the same for those who follow us.

Save the date: **Day of Giving is March 23.**

Embrace the future for women, children and youth by giving to the [Legacy Endowment Fund](#) on Day of Giving, March 23, and join us on Facebook Live for our annual [Day of Giving event](#) to hear from United Methodist Women staff and members as we share the impact of our work together.

dollars at work. Since the majority of our districts have not filled the E&I office, it is imperative that we all make mission giving a priority and tell the powerful stories of our mission dollars at work. To help you visualize these stories, there are excellent mission videos and articles on

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org.

All brochures, Program Resources and the Daily Prayer Guide are now, or will be shortly, available.



Give to The Legacy Fund at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home>





The Informer

Hopefully, you have had an opportunity to explore the [United Methodist Women Digital Resources](#) site via *Mighty Networks*. This community-building portal is a place to share resources and ideas with other members and to have digital access to the 2021-2022 Program Resource book, *Healing and Joy on Our Journey*. Via the site, the 2021 September-December programs are free; the 2022 Program Resource book and the special programs are available for \$10. If you have already purchased the 2022 Program Resource book, you can take advantage of the \$5 offer for the Digital Resource at Mighty Networks.

Use this link to *create an account* and sign in: <https://united-methodist-women.mn.co/> A **Mighty Networks Onboarding Session** on Zoom is scheduled for **February 23rd at 6 PM** and is an opportunity to learn more about this digital resource. Have fun with the resources and use them for the benefit of your unit or your personal use.

As an added bonus, the Daily Prayer Guide is available each day on the Facebook page [facebook.com/dailyprayerguide](https://www.facebook.com/dailyprayerguide).

As always, I stand ready to provide resources and ways to increase Mission Giving to guarantee our Regional Missionaries, National Institutions and our important mission efforts for women, children and youth will continue even in our uncertain economic times.

Blessings as you love and serve others,

Joyce Genz

Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator

Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women 2021-22

Membership Nurture and Outreach

From all the years of everything my church, Christ UMC, has taught me, from Divorce Care, Sunday Schools, Disciple classes, and small group Bible studies to the Christian Singles' Program, mission trips, Christian retreats, etc., I've realized more and more how important it is to be a part of something greater than myself. Being nurtured in and taught of the powers of Christianity, I've grown to absorb what God has in store for me and to broaden my horizons becoming more involved, especially in United Methodist Women.

As a fairly new member of UMW, I am consistently astonished at the plethora of services this wonderful group offers, locally to globally! United Methodist Women is made of women who truly desire to make the world a better place and we need to extend that invitation and motivation for others to do so as well! If we work together sensing what God is calling us to do, we can become great Christian leaders.

The editor of "Response", the magazine of women in mission, said, "I hope 2022 nurtures and uplifts us in ways we cannot imagine. Faith means following the stars God reveals in our lives, knowing joy is the promised result." I, too, hope we find the joy, as Paul teaches us in Philippians, *in your mind, in your heart and in your prayers*, and that we nurture one another, realizing how important it is to be a part of something bigger than ourselves.



Stephanie Bromley
Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator 2022-23
South West District United Methodist Women

Social Action

For more than 150 years, Methodist women organized for mission have worked in the name of Jesus to take positions on social justice issues and change legislation, systems, structures and practices considered unjust and oppressive. These bold foremothers advocated to end lynching, improve women's health, raise women's status in society, organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families, and they adopted the Charter for Racial Justice.

Today, we continue to build on this foundation as we work to end maternal mortality, attain a living wage for all, interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and ensure energy that is just for all. As United Methodist Women of the 21st century, we are called to be bold in our witness, working to dismantle systems of oppression and build, together, a better world.

From Why United Methodist Women Engage in Social Action

Ginger Sorenson
Social Action Mission Coordinator 2022-23
South West District United Methodist Women

Spiritual Growth

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. ²Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. ⁴Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we who are many form one body and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching let him teach; ⁸if it is encouraging let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others let him give generously; if it is leadership let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Romans 12: 1-8

As Spiritual Growth Leaders, we are challenged in several ways –

- to listen, *really listen* to God;
- to search for and discover God's will for you;



- to discover your gifts and graces and have the courage to use them.

As United Methodist Women Unit Mission Team Leaders, we are challenged to be visionaries for our members and fill the world with love in many different and unique ways as we –

- ensure that the Purpose of United Methodist Women comes alive for our ladies;
- enable our members to grow spiritually and become whole persons through Jesus Christ;
- form creative, supportive fellowships;
- expand the concepts of mission;
- participate in the global ministries of the church.

As Members of United Methodist Women we are challenged to:

- respond to our leaders,
- be committed to our Purpose in its entirety,
- be involved in mission, filling the world with love.

Lord, I pray that this newly-merged South West United Methodist Women district will become an even stronger group of women, who will support and lift each other up. I pray for Your guidance as we move into another uncertain year of non-traditional meetings and gatherings. I pray for the health and safety of my fellow United Methodist Women in their fight to serve and give of their time in mission for women, children, and youth throughout our world. Thank you Lord for this group and for all You do for us.

In Your Precious Son's name,

Amen

Anne Capps
Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator 2022-23
South West District United Methodist Women

Committee on Nominations

The South West District UMW Committee on Nominations is seeking names of women willing to serve as District Officers for 2022. Open positions include **Vice President, Education & Interpretation** and **Nominating Committee**. Prayerfully consider if God is calling you or someone you know to serve the South West District in one of these positions.

Carolyn Brown, Sallie Brown, Judy Burnham, Mary Gipson, Geneva Hogan, Esme Quijada
South West District UMW Nominating Committee





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

January 15	<i>Executive Team Meeting XTeam Officers & District Presidents</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	
January 29	South West Mission Team Meeting	Citronelle UMC	10:00 AM
February 19	<i>AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day</i>	<i>Mariana First UMC</i>	<i>10 AM – 3:30 PM</i>
March 19	District Annual Day	Grove Hill UMC	10:00AM-12:00 PM
May 21	District Mission Study Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools	Theodore UMC	10:00 AM-2:00 PM
June 11	District Mission Team Meeting 2022 Budget Meeting	St. John UMC	10:00 AM
July 16	<i>Executive Team Meeting X Team Officers, District Presidents & District Treasurers 2022 District Budget Reviews</i>	<i>Enterprise UMC/Zoom</i>	<i>8:00 AM</i>
July 23-24	<i>Cooperative Mission u</i>	<i>Virtual</i>	<i>Schedule Pending</i>
October 7-8	<i>AWF-UMW Conf Spiritual Enrichment Retreat</i>	<i>Blue Lake Assembly Grounds Friday 3:00 PM check-in or Saturday 7:00 am check-in</i>	
October 15	District Spiritual Enrichment Day	Pine Hill UMC	10:00 AM- 12 PM
November 12	District Mission Team Meeting	St. John UMC/Zoom	10:00 AM
November 14	UMW DAY	ALL LOCAL UNITS CELEBRATE	
June 12-15	ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ANNUAL CONFERENCE	<i>Dunn-Oliver Acadome Alabama State University Campus Attendees: AWF-UMW President & District Presidents as Voting Delegates</i>	