

ALERT

ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE - UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2020 Spring Alert

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2020 Conference Officers

President	Debbie Bell
VicePresident	Katy Wrona
Secretary	Cathy Givan
Treasurer	Jean Creswell
Communications Coordinator	Michele Smith
Program Resources	Joyce Genz
Nominations Chair	Peggy Cunningham
Spiritual Growth	Tutti Johnson
Social Action	Ora Gillespie
M.N. & O.	Kristine Jones
Education & Interpretation	Joyce Genz

2020 Committee on Nominations

Reda Brooks	Zan Jones
Cheryl Mothershed	Nettie Lang
President SEJUMW	Betty Helms
UMW National Vice President	Clara Ester
Web Manager	Anne Capps



As I am sure most of you are aware, our meeting has been postponed until sometime after July. We are working with the Renaissance Hotel for a date that will work for us. The election of directors will be held electronically at a time to be announced. We will elect our new SEJ Team at the SEJ meeting. No refunds will be offered. It is our hope that everyone currently registered will be able to attend when we have our event. In the meanwhile, stay healthy. I will be in touch to keep each of you up to date as we move forward.

Betty



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Conference President's Report

When I first joined in with the Mission of United Methodist Women at my church, I recall our Annual Pledge Service in the Circle meeting. We would all be given the "Membership Joys" tri-fold Pledge card and the treasurer would also give us a blank envelope that contained a 3X5 index card. The Pledge program would include information from the program book or just from memory. Once the treasurer finished her plea to pledge, we'd each sit in silence and contemplate what to give to UMW. I remember reading that Membership Joys foldout because it had "I Commit!" section that included these statements of I Commit and I Celebrate Mission:

I Commit: My Prayers, That I will grow and renew my relationship with God and others; My Time, That I will respond to human need through study, reflection and action; My financial gifts, That I will share in the global ministries of the church through United Methodist Women.

I Celebrate: I will make the most of learning opportunities and mission-education events; I will expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission; I will engage in mission studies at schools of Christian mission; I will read response magazine and join the Reading program; I will be empowered by the history and heritage of United Methodist Women.

Then I'd tear at the perforated part of the Pledge card, and right there at the sentence "For the coming year, I pledge \$_____ to be paid...." and I'd choose yearly, but there were options for monthly or quarterly. I'd tear at that perforated part of the card, stick in my envelope with my check; seal it and hand back to the treasurer. I couldn't ever get anyone to tell me how much to pledge, they'd always say that's between you and God. And so, God and I would go back and forth about how much to write that check for, just like we always did (still do) with the tithing check (but that's another His-story!)

I love God and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, and I know that powerful Trinity loves us all. Our United Methodist Women organization loves turning Faith, Hope and Love into Action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world. The Pledge card has been renovated somewhat, it's still trifold, it still has the perforated part that I write down my Pledge for the coming year, it includes a bit more info about what we do and who can join and now says "What is United Methodist Women?" Now, all that to say it's not a requirement for membership - but My Pledge and your Pledge is how United Methodist Women totally funds our Mission for women, children and youth around the World. We do not receive any funding from anywhere except our purses, the bake sale proceeds, the soup sales and the yard sales we host or work annually. God knows, your continued support and Pledges to United Methodist Women is so appreciated.

Continue to visit our conference UMW website for current news and information.

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

In His service

Debbie Bell, President (2017-2020)

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women

mawbel36575@yahoo.com



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Conference Secretary's Report

Secretaries,

Communication is a key role! Your unit, district and conference depend on you for maintaining its records. To assist you in performing your important responsibilities, I have compiled information from the United Methodist Women, National Office and the 2020 AWF-United Methodist Women Workbook into a secretary handbook. The handbook is available on the conference website at www.awf-umw.org. Also, feel free to email me at cathy3163@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

Faith, Hope, Love in Action,
Cathy Givan

Conference Treasurer's Report

In 2019, the combined Alabama West Florida Conference districts fell slightly short of its Pledge goal of \$126,000 by donating \$117,240 to missions and sending \$88,126 to National. The \$29,114 difference was used for Administrative, Membership & Development funding for all the districts and the conference. For the 2020 year, the districts have pledged the following to mission giving and has a goal of \$118,200 and sending 85% of that or \$100,470 to National.

6. MISSION GIVING (PLEDGE)	Pledge
Bay Pines	14,000.00
Demopolis	15,000.00
Dothan	14,000.00
Marianna / Panama City	11,000.00
Mobile	20,000.00
Montgomery / Opelika	8,000.00
Montgomery / Prattville	11,000.00
Pensacola	22,500.00
Events - Offering	2,700.00
TOTALS FROM DISTRICTS	118,200.00

But we need your help to do this. I know many of you are concerned where our United Methodist Church and our United Methodist Women are headed in the future. Well, I can guarantee you one thing, God is still in control and women, children and youth (our mission) still need help and a voice from us. Don't give up the race, let's continue *In His Service* by serving as we have the last 150 years.

Jean R. Creswell
 AWF-UMW Conference Treasurer
 2/3/2020



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Conference Communication Coordinator's Report

Ladies, as I write this the World as we know it is changing. We must adjust and be open to all communication avenues available. Please reach out to me with questions about different ways to "meet" with your local UMW

Faith, Hope, Love in Action

Michele Smith

Communications coordinator

Spiritual Growth Report

Hey, y'all! Hope you had a great holiday season following our 2019 Spiritual Enrichment Retreat last October! We had a wonderful three days together worshipping our God, crocheting beautiful crosses, making a new and different cross on wooden plaques, learning Armchair Yoga, and just spending some time visiting with each other and enjoying great weather that allowed us to walk around the campus at Blue Lake Assembly. Everyone enjoyed our speaker, the Rev. Reba Wiley, who fed us with inspirational messages that we were able to take with us after our Holy Communion Service Sunday morning. All in all, it was just a very easy, refreshing time to step apart from our day-to-day lives and relax with friends in the presence of Jesus Christ.

And now we are setting out on a new adventure! Many of you asked that SER could become a two-day event, so that's our plan for 2020. Mark your calendars for this new Spiritual Enrichment Retreat October 9-10, 2020, tentatively beginning early Friday afternoon and adjourning at 4:00 p.m. Saturday following our Holy Communion and Going Forth Service. We already have our speaker for this year, Bishop David Graves! We are busy trying to work out a schedule that will meet your requests for some different things and I really believe you will find much to enjoy.

I'm working very hard to assure that you find the things you love most about SER while making the changes necessary to accommodate the shortened schedule. I'm excited to try something new, but it's up to each of you to attend if we are going to make SER 2020 a huge success! I'll have more information for you as we plan, so be sure to check each issue of the Alert to find out what's going on!

Blessings!

Tutti Johnson

AWF-UMW Spiritual Growth coordinator

i.am.tutti.53@gmail.com



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Social Action Report & Charter for Racial Justice

In 2019 we continued the quadrennium advocacy for these priority issues. All of the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women members received focus information for:

- **Climate Justice:** *Just Energy for All (Be stewards of God's Creation)*
- **Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration:** *Interrupt the School - to - Prison Pipeline (Reduce racial disparities in school discipline)*
- **Maternal and Child Health:** *End Maternal Mortality (healthcare workers, lawmakers, and health advocates should work toward implementing better health)*
- **Economic Inequality:** *Income and wealth inequality in the United States impacts women and communities of color, which, in turn, further marginalizes those who may already be vulnerable. United Methodist Women are called act locally and in national efforts to begin to bridge the inequality gap.*

Websites, flyers and newsletters were provided on the Campaign. All of the websites may be found on www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/

Many local units had mission studies and invited other units in their district to join in the presentation. It made for a larger group setting, participation, conversation and a great time in sharing thoughts and insight. I was a part of that group that consisted of four (4) other units and the presenter, Nancy Travis, Dalraida United Methodist Church, was outstanding. "Women Rising Up for Human Dignity and Rights" was to study. Rizah's silent vigil for her family and the injustices Native Americans continue to face and as United Methodist Women, we need to rise up with our native sisters as they engage in actions to uphold their human rights.

Some Baypines District Local Units lead a Pilgrimage of faith and healing in October 2019 to the Legacy Museum and Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) in Montgomery. The Montgomery/Prattville District welcomed and joined the 80 travelers at River City United Methodist Church for devotion before we started the walk faith. After visiting both museums, the group returned to the church to discuss an action plan for moving forward and what our next step would be. Communion was part of the closing activity for this day of faith and healing.

Many of our units had a Happy Birthday celebration for our 150 years of service. There are several pictures I will post for our Annual Day in February along with the final quadrennium advocacy for these same issues in 2020.

The 2020 Cooperative Mission Studies topics will be promoted during Conference Annual Day in February.

Faith - Hope - Love in Action

Ora A. Gillespie

AWF-UMW Social Action Coordinator

1/16/20



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Membership, Nurture, & Outreach Report

Hello Lovely Ladies!

I hope this new year finds you all doing well. As we move from completing the Census for 2019, we can refocus ourselves to generating a growing membership. You might be asking yourself, "Ok, but how do we do that?" I have at least one answer for you and it will only take 10-15 minutes of your time. Check out www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/member-toolkit It even has a short video that provides a great discussion on how you can utilize the tool kit for your particular membership. All the hard work is done for you. You only need to follow the steps!

When was the last time you held a membership drive? Have you ever? Spring is a great time to have a membership drive. Maybe it's at your Wednesday night supper. Maybe it's in the breezeway on Sunday morning in between church or Sunday School. Where ever the people are in your church, that's where United Methodist Women need to be. Tell those who stop by your table all the great things United Methodist Women do, and invite them to be a part of your next event. Don't be bashful. Instead, be BOLD.

I am now accepting nominations for the 2020 Nell Chance award. Deadline is July 1, 2020. So go ahead and send those names and why you are nominating her to KristineUMW@gmail.com Congratulations again to our 2019 Nell Chance award winner, Sara Mundy, of Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church.

In His Service,
Kristine Jones

Mission u 2020 **The Way of Peace: Our Longing for Community**

Have you saved the dates July 24 & 25 for Mission u 2020? I hope so, because you won't want to miss it! Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Montgomery provides an excellent venue, with classrooms close to the Christian Activity Center, where we will be having our gatherings for lunch, snacks and plenaries. I am grateful to the United Methodist Women at Aldersgate for welcoming us with open arms!

Have you visited the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice? If not, consider coming to Montgomery a day early or staying a day late to learn more about the history of racial injustice in our country and the ways it continues today. To learn more or purchase tickets in advance go to <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/visit>.

Elsewhere in this Alert you will find information about the studies, hotel, and other details, as well as the registration form. See you soon!

Laurel Akin
Mission u 2020 Dean



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Education and Interpretation Report

What is the one thing you can do as the Education & Interpretation Coordinator to increase pledge to mission?

If you are like me, you want to know the answer to that question! Every year it is challenging to make our district pledges. The single most important action that we can take as E&I officers is to help a member connect emotionally to a ministry or a cause. It is easy to see the benefits of our local agencies, such as Dumas Wesley Community Center, but we must work a little harder to visualize our national or global ministries as more than statistics or names in the Prayer Calendar. You can do that by painting word pictures through a specific story of our dollars working in one of the UMW supported ministries. Use photos and stories in the **response** magazine, or videos from the National UMW website. Research a ministry to find a Facebook page or website that features some of the recipients of UMW grants. You might even schedule a video call with a ministry director.

Growing our opportunities of service and gifting our resources of prayers, time, talent and money will allow our organization to put faith into action in a greater measure in 2020. Are we being mentored by those in leadership? Are we being mentors to our sister UMWs? Are we being strategic in identifying and mentoring younger women? Our Conference leadership developed the “Priddy Pals” program to encourage mentorship of younger women from 16 to 39. Our future growth depends on it.

Our transformational Reading Program, Mission u, and district or local mission studies give us tools for growing spiritually. Don't neglect the promotion of educational opportunities offered at all levels of United Methodist Women.

Recently, I have been meditating on what it means to be more than a United Methodist Woman in name only, enjoying the fellowship of sisterhood without the hard work and commitment of putting “faith into action.” Our United Methodist Women's resolution for 2020 should be “to be totally committed to growing spiritually, standing with the marginalized, and proclaiming the good news that God loves all His creation.”

In His Service,
Joyce Genz
 251.259.1675



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Program Resources Report

Reading Program: Please encourage all members to participate in the UMW Reading Program. After looking at the statistics of readers in each district, I know we have a long way to go to reach even 10 percent of our membership. Know your district numbers and see how you can double that for 2020. Encourage readers to report books read, even if just one. Just starting the process may spur them on to read more books. The UMW Reading Program-Individual Form is on page 14 of the Local Forms PDF or EXCEL file at awf-umw.org.

One idea to increase participation is to have a monthly or bimonthly book club. Some local units have a monthly book club and publish a calendar of meetings and books to discuss. Books are chosen to ensure each participant can complete Plan II if she reads all the chosen books. Other members don't want the pressure of meeting deadlines, so they read their own selections. You may have the luxury of having a library in your church where members can check out Reading Program Books. I know that is not an option for small units, but many public libraries carry some of the program books or can obtain them for you from other libraries. Swapping books with other members is also a great option. We all benefit from the diversity of books and are challenged and transformed as we read.

Program Resources: There are many program resources available as our tools of the trade: The Prayer Calendar, **response** magazine, United Methodist Women Handbook 2017-2020, Program Book. In the past, a Program Resources officer ordered these for her district. You may still order individual items to sell but they are non-returnable so plan carefully. However, there are many free resources available. The UMW Handbook can be downloaded as well as individual programs for The Pledge Service, World Thank Offering, and Call to Prayer and Self Denial meetings from the Program Book.

The Prayer Calendar is available daily online on Facebook (www.facebook.com/umwprayercalendar). Many of the response magazine articles are available at (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/response). Did you know that response magazine has a monthly podcast as well as archived response podcasts (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/audio). Subscribe to "United Methodist Women: response" on your favorite podcast app. There are podcasts in English, Spanish and Korean.

By now, you may have ordered your "Bookstore In A Box" from the UMW resource website (www.umwresources.org) for a \$10 shipping charge. In case you need one or to order an additional box, the stock number K3205 is the last option on the Program Resources Order List Form. *Please note that you should order the "Box" at least 2 weeks in advance of your event to avoid expedited shipping costs.*

I love to explore all the resources that are available to us on the National website. If you haven't done so yet, I highly recommend spending some time getting acquainted with all that's available. As always, let me know how I can better serve you on this journey together.

In His Service,
Joyce Genz
 251.259.1675



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2020 AWF Conference Calendar of Events

Theme: In His Service

1 Timothy 3:13 ***"Those who have served well gain a good standing and considerable confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*** (CEB-Common English Bible)

JAN 17-18 (Fri-Sat)	Friday start 5:00PM XTeam Officers & Distr. Presidents	*Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: Marianna UMC, Marianna, FL
FEB. 6-8 (Fri-Sun)	Friday start conf president, treasurer, CON Chair, GC delegates	Leadership Development Days (LDD) Location: St. Louis, MO National organizes hotel/event schedule
FEB 14-15 (Fri-Sat)	Fri 3PM Checkin All invited	AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day Location: Enterprise First UMC, Enterprise, AL
APR 17-19 (Fri-Sun)	POSTPONED	Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) meeting Location: Mobile, AL
JUL 10-11 (Fri-Sat)	Friday start 5:00PM XTeam Officers & Dist. Presidents AND District Treasurers	**Executive Mission Team Meeting 2020 District Budget Reviews Location: Gadsden St. UMC, Pensacola, FL District Treasurers will also be required to attend this meeting
JUL 24-25 (Fri-Sat)	Schedule pending	Cooperative Mission u Location: Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery, AL
OCT 9-10 (Fri-Sat) ! NEW, 2 DAYS!	Fri 3 PM Checkin Sat 7AM Checkin All invited	Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat 2021 Executive Mission Team elect/install Location: Blue Lake Assembly Grounds
NOVEMBER (Recommended)	ALL	UMW Day celebrations per Local Unit Be Invitational!
NOVEMBER 7 (Sat ONLY)	Sat. 8:30AM to 3:30PM	District president & District treasurer ONLY Location: TBA

CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINES FEB.10, MAY 10, JULY 10, NOV. 10

* Includes conference executive mission team officers AND District Presidents

** Includes conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents AND District Treasurers

- † March 6-7, 2020 COSROW – Blue Lake Assembly Grounds – All Invited
- † June 7-10, 2020 UMC Annual Conference – Frazer MC – AWF-UMW Conference/District President
- † June 27, 2020 “called” AWF-UMW Conference/District President – location TBA
- † ~~May 5-15, 2020~~ General Conference 2020 – Minneapolis, MN – Delegates **POSTPONED**



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A Bright Spot **Southeastern Jurisdiction Speaker Spotlight**

Elizabeth Chun Hye (Liz) LEE is privileged to serve as the Executive for Economic and Environmental Justice and Climate Justice Lead at United Methodist Women, a powerful lay women's organization 800,000 strong who are advocating for climate justice and just energy for all.

Why is the work you do so important right now?

Most of the energy we use to stay cool, travel to church, and charge our phones comes from fossil fuels. Pollution from fossil fuels is the greatest threat to children's health and cause of the climate crisis. Fortunately, cleaner energy sources like wind and solar already exist. If we take seriously God's call to care for all creation, we must advocate at the local, state, and federal level for a renewable energy system centered on equity and justice.

Why are women's voices so important right now, especially during an election year?

We need to let our elected officials know that climate change is a women's issue. Globally, 80 percent of those displaced by climate change are women. We have a particular responsibility to call upon and vote for officials who will take bold measures to advance climate justice and reduce our domestic emissions.

A prayer for this election year:

Creator of Life, you called us to be caretakers of creation. We repent for harming our children's health and being complicit in the climate crisis by polluting the earth through our energy use. We are grateful that cleaner energy exists that can reduce harm. Shake us out of apathy. Grant us, our faith communities, and our elected officials, vision and boldness to change our behaviors and adopt policies that will advance climate justice and just energy for all. In the name of our healer Jesus Christ. Amen.



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COOPERATIVE MISSION U



WHEN:

July 24 & 25, 2020

WHERE:

Aldersgate UMC

6610 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36116

Special Publication:

Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission
Debbie Bracewell

Spiritual Growth Study:

Finding Peace in an Anxious World
Dianna DuFriend & Deaconess Celeste Eubanks

Issue Study:

Pushout – The Criminalization of Black Girls in School

Team One: Zan Jones & Brenda Boman

Team Two: Deaconess Clara Ester & Gerry Stiffler

EDUCATE TO TRANSFORM
EACH YEAR UNITED METHODIST
WOMEN AND OTHERS PREPARE FOR
FAITHFUL LIVING AND ACTION BY
STUDYING MISSION STUDIES.

REGISTER: BY MAIL OR ONLINE
AT:

WWW.AWFUMC.ORG/MISSION
U2020

HOTEL DETAILS

Room block at Comfort Inn & Suites
1201 Towneplace Dr.
Montgomery, AL
Special rate: \$99.00 plus tax

Scholarships are available!

Email: betty@fumcdothan.org

Laurel Akin, Dean

Rev. Jim DuFriend, Assistant
Dean

Schedule:

7:30-8:00 a.m. Registration

8:00-8:50 a.m. Welcome and
 Plenary

9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Class
 Session

12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30-5:00 p.m. Class Session

Friday Only: 5:00-5:50 p.m.

Plenary

Dismissal



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2020 HEALTH FORM AUTHORIZATION
FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Physician's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Health Insurance Company: _____ Policy #: _____

Allergies to medications: _____

In the event of an emergency, contact: Name: _____

Relation: _____ Phone #: _____

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at the Mission u Event, I authorize the ALWF Mission u to:

1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation is needed.
2. Release my health information to the authorized individual/agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.

I hold harmless the ALWF Conference Mission u, the ALWF Conference, the United Methodist Church, and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Consent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Consent Plan: This authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication, and any treatment procedure deemed "life-saving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person listed as emergency contact person is unable to be reached. I hold harmless the ALWF Conference Mission u, the ALWF Conference, the United Methodist Church, and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Consent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Non-Consent Plan: I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the case of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place: _____

I hold harmless the ALWF Conference Mission u, the ALWF Conference, the United Methodist Church, and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for nay act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Consent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____



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Save the Date
2020

Southeast Jurisdiction UMW
Quadrennial meeting

~~April 17-19 Mobile, Alabama~~
~~Renaissance Riverview Plaza Hotel~~

POSTPONED

POSTPONED



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