

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

October 8-9, 2021

Blue Lake Methodist Camp



Hope, Joy, Peace, Trust, and Power

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Jesus Christ had, so that, with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
Romans 15: 5-6 [NIV]

Agenda

Friday, October 8

3:00 pm	Registration Opens
5:00 pm	Devotion (Chapel or Lake)
5:15 pm	Dinner
6:15 pm	Focus Group #1
7:15 pm	Plenary Session with Rev. Jean Tippit
8:15 pm	Focus Group #2
9:00 pm	Fellowship / Karaoke in the Lounge

Saturday, October 9

7:15 am	Devotion (Chapel or Lake)
7:30 am	Breakfast (Registration Opens)
9:00 am	Business Meeting
10:30 am	Focus Group #3
11:30 am	Lunch
12:30 pm	Focus Group #4
1:30 pm	Plenary Session with Rev. Jean Tippit

Worship Session – Friday

Gathering Music	Song Leader & Pianist
Welcome	Debbie Bracewell, President
Music	Song Leader & Pianist
Welcome Speaker	Katy Wrona, Vice President
Message	Rev. Jean Tippit, DS
Music	Song Leader & Pianist
Closing Prayer	Katy Wrona, Vice President

Business Session - Saturday

Call to Order	Debbie Bracewell, President
Prayer Calendar	Jill Lowman, Montgomery-Prattville
CON Report	Peggy Cunningham, Chair CON
Elections	Debbie Bracewell, President
Installation of Officers	Cathy Givan
Recognition of Retiring Officers	Debbie Bracewell, President
Approval of Proposed Standing Rules & Policies	Joyce Genz, Chair Standing Rules
Approval of 2022 Budget	Jean Creswell, Treasurer
Closing Remarks	Debbie Bracewell, President

Worship Session - Saturday

Gathering Music	Song Leader & Pianist
Announcements	Debbie Bracewell, President
Music	Song Leader & Pianist
Welcome Speaker	Katy Wrona, Vice President
Message	Rev. Jean Tippit, DS
Communion	Rev. Jean Tippit, DS
Music	Song Leader & Pianist
Benediction	Rev. Jean Tippit, DS
Closing Farewell	Katy Wrona, Vice President

Biography of Speaker



Reverend Jean Tippit currently serves as the District Superintendent for Marianna/PC and Pensacola. Her previous appointments include the Discipleship Pastor at Christ UMC Mobile, St. Francis Street/West Wilmer/Whistler as an associate, Grace UMC in Mobile and Bonifay UMC. She was ordained as an elder in 2016. She served as a youth minister for twenty years in the Alabama-West Florida Conference before answering her call into pastoral ministry. Tippit completed her undergraduate studies in communications at the University of South Alabama and received her Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary. She is married to Keith, and they have two adult daughters: Amy (Adam) and Ashley.

Focus Groups

Session 1: Friday at 6:15 pm

Powered by Prayer with Rev. Sara Wrona (Room 263)
Prayer Through Motion with Michelle Hamff (Lounge)
Kindness Rocks with Sharon Hogan (Room 116)

Session 2: Friday at 8:15 pm

Prayer Through Color with Katy Wrona (Room 163)
Kindness Rocks with Sharon Hogan (Room 116)
Essential Oils with Debbie Bracewell (Room 263)

Session 3: Saturday at 10:30 am

Contemplative Prayer with Rev. Jean Tippit (Large Assembly Room)
Essential Oils with Debbie Bracewell (Room 263)
Armchair Yoga with Susan Hill (Chapel)

Session 4: Saturday at 12:30 pm

Powered by Prayer with Rev. Sara Wrona (Room 263)
Prayer Through Motion with Michelle Hamff (Lounge)
Prayer Through Color with Katy Wrona (Room 163)
Armchair Yoga with Susan Hill (Chapel)

Slate of Officers' Bios

TREASURER—Cynthia Brown



Cynthia Brown is a native of Alabama. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Troy State University, Troy, AL in Accounting and her Masters of Business Management work was done at Troy University at Montgomery. Her dedication to improving the quality of life for individuals in low-income communities was demonstrated by the development of Heritage Training and Career Center, a non-profit which provides remedial education, employment and support services to children and families that live below the poverty level and/or individuals in need of a hand-up in Autauga, Elmore and Montgomery Counties and a critical housing repair programs in the City of Montgomery.

Cynthia is a member of the United Methodist Women at Chapel United Methodist Church, Eclectic, AL where she serves in many capacities. Cynthia lives in Elmore County, Alabama, and has one son, JaMel and one grandson, JaDarien “JD”.

Communications Coordinator—Laurel Akin



Laurel Akin is a deaconess with a ministry of photography and writing. She has been active in United Methodist Women for 30 years and is a member of Enterprise First United Methodist Church, Enterprise, AL. Laurel is married to Bob Akin, and her three children, Jack, Michael, and Emily, have blessed her with six grandchildren.

Nominations Committee Class of 2025—Melda Deverell



Melda is a graduate of Auburn University and a retired teacher. She and husband Bob have two children, Kristine and Brad, and two grandchildren, Clair and Caran. Other members of her household include three dogs, Nymeria, Astro, and Leonidas. Melda has been a member of the United Methodist Church since she was a child.

Chairperson of Committee on Nominations—Desiree Clarke



Desiree has been a life long member of Spring Hill Avenue United Methodist Church in Mobile, AL. She currently serves as Vice President for her local unit. She is a full time care giver for her elderly aunt. She has been married for 28 years to Patrick, and they have one daughter, Nicole.



Spiritual Growth Coordinator—Zan Jones

Zan Jones is a native of Baton Rouge, Louisiana residing in Mobile, Alabama for over 29 years. She is a member of Toulminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church where she serves as an usher, Chairman of the Prayer Ministry and Spiritual Growth Coordinator for her United Methodist Women unit. She has served as the Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW Social Action Coordinator, Chair of the Committee on Nomination and presently is the conference representative for the national board for the Charter for Racial Justice. She is active in her community. She serves on the Mobile District United Methodist Board Ignite Mobile, also volunteers with Communities of Transformation for the Mobile District. Her love of people is implied in her profession as a healthcare worker for over 35 years. She is loving wife to Reginald and mother to Ashton Jones. In her spare time, she loves to play tennis.



Membership Nurture & Outreach—Kristine Jones

Kristine Jones will be returning to the position for MN&O. Kristine lives in Montgomery, AL and is a member of First United Methodist Church Montgomery. She is a family law attorney in Montgomery and the founding member of the KJ Law Firm LLC. Kristine is also a 1st Lt. in the AL National Command Jag Corps (Army). Kristine has three dogs, Maverick, Cochise, and Skittles.



Vice President—Katy Wrona

Katy Wrona currently serves as the Vice President of AWF-UMW Conference United Methodist Women. In September of 2018, she became the Communities of Transformation Director for the AWF Conference. She joined COT in September 2014 as the Mobile Site Coordinator where she launched and developed the Mobile Site. Katy learned about being part of a community from her mother, a local pastor in the United Methodist Church and feels she is living into her calling walking with others as they become part of a new community. Katy loves to swim, cook, and hike in the Smoky Mountains. Katy is excited to continue her work with United Methodist Women as Vice President.

STANDING RULES

Changes to be voted on during the October 9, 2021 Business Meeting at Blue Lake Methodist Camp. You may review the entire document with recommended changes at www.awf-umw.org. The deletions are indicated by ~~strikethrough~~ font and the insertions are in red font.

Recommendation 1 Resolve minor errors throughout the document that didn't change intent in such as areas as word forms, capitalization and punctuation, formal title and organization names, outline numbering, and section and page references to the United Methodist Women Handbook as the official document for 2021-2024 hasn't been approved. Since the recommended changes are minor but extensive, they are not included in the *Alert*. You may view all such changes at the above link.

Recommendation 2- Begin Rules with Roman Numeral I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION and add a hyphen to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women in all uses.

I. **NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION, Con. Art. 1**
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Recommendation 3- Add Roman Numeral II and a new section description of Relationships to other United Methodist Women Organization.

- II. **RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER UNITED METHODIST WOMEN ORGANIZATIONS, Art II**
- A. The Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women shall function in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws for Jurisdiction and National Organizations of United Methodist Women. These standing rules are supplementary and secondary to them.
 - B. Each member of the Conference Executive Mission Team has a direct relationship to the United Methodist Women National Office to secure training for the fulfillment of her role and for the giving and receiving of information relating to her position.
 - C. Each member of the Conference Executive Mission Team has a direct relationship to her counterpart on the District Executive Mission Team to provide training for the fulfillment of her role and for the giving and receiving of information relating to her position.
 - D. Article (Art.) and page numbers, when included, refer to the current United Methodist Women Handbook unless otherwise noted.

Recommendation 4- Add description of members and duties of the Committee on Nominations and reword the first sentence in III.A.

- III. **COMMITTEES, Art. IV**
- A. There shall be a Committee on Nominations.
 - 1. The committee shall be composed of at least five persons including the Chairperson, who is selected by the committee and confirmed by conference election.
 - a. The committee shall be representative of the conference membership in matters of employment, age, racial, and ethnic background.
 - b. No committee member will hold an office in the organization beyond the local unit.
 - c. The committee shall be divided into classes, with no member serving more than one 4-year term.
 - d. Committee members of a new class will be elected annually to replace the class that is rotating off.
 - 2. The committee will perform the following duties:
 - a. Gain understanding of the conference program and the responsibilities of each office.

- b. Work throughout the year to identify women for leadership roles in the conference organization.
- c. Ensure that the leadership reflects the diversity of the membership within the conference. Elements of this diversity include but are not limited to age, race, marital status, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, sexual identity, gender expression and disabilities.
- d. Make a slate of nominees available to the Conference Executive Mission Team and then to the membership at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting in which the election is held.
- e. Make nominations to fill vacancies that may occur ad interim.

Recommendation 5 – Delete the last phrase in IV.F.2.a. COMMITTEE ON PROGRAM

2.a Plan and recommend to the organization programs that contribute to the fulfillment of the PURPOSE., ~~including the program of the annual meeting.~~

Recommendation 6 – Add a new section IV.I. to define members and duties of the COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

- I. There shall be a Committee on Finance.
 - 1. The committee shall consist of the following members:
 - a. Treasurer, who shall be chairperson
 - b. President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth
 - e. Vice President
 - f. Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation
 - g. Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach
 - h. Communications
 - i. One District President
 - j. Chairperson, Committee of District Presidents
 - k. All District Treasurers (for Summer Executive Meeting only)
 - 2. The committee shall perform the following duties:
 - a. Recommend all annual rates as listed in the conference policies to the Conference Executive Mission Team during its Summer Executive Meeting.
 - b. Present an annual district and conference budget and pledge, as well as, the National pledge to the Conference Executive Mission Team during its summer executive meeting.
 - c. Present any recommendations pertaining to finances to the Standing Rules and Policies Committee.
 - d. Review the conference financial report quarterly and annually and make any recommendations to the conference treasurer in clarity and stewardship.
 - e. Ensure that all financial requirements are met, all audits are passed, all district treasurers are trained, and that the conference has a plan of action to assure its legal financial obligations.

Recommendation 7 - Add Committee on Membership Nurture and Outreach.

- J. Committee on Membership Nurture and Outreach.
 - 1. The committee shall consist of the following members:
 - a. Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach, who serves as chairperson
 - b. President
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation
 - e. Chairperson, Committee on Nominations
 - f. Chairperson, Committee of District Presidents

- g. Two District Presidents
- 2. The committee shall perform the following duties:
 - a. Analyze, in cooperation with the District Executive Teams, the membership needs of the conference, set goals, and plan campaigns to assist membership growth in cooperation with the leadership team as based on the data from the annual unit survey of members.
 - b. Recommend plans to the Conference Executive Mission Team to nurture membership growth among special constituencies within the conference, such as younger women, women of color, employed women, etc.
 - c. Resource and train District Executive Teams or committees on membership, if they exist.
 - d. Promote, solicit and select the recipient of the annual Nell Chance award.
 - e. Plan and present the annual memorial service for deceased members of the previous year.

Recommendation 8- Add section for Conference representation on Committee on Cooperative Mission u

K. There shall be Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women representation on the Committee on Cooperative Mission u, which is its own entity with Bylaws.

- 1. The following Conference Executive Team members shall serve on the committee:
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation
 - e. Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth
 - f. Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture and Outreach
 - g. Mission Coordinator for Social Action
 - h. Chairperson, Committee on Nominations
- 2. The conference representatives shall perform the following duties:
 - a. Assist in planning and promoting a Conference Cooperative Mission u, which will serve as one means of fulfilling the Purpose.
 - b. Give emphasis to the global mission of the church, an integrated program of missionary outreach, Christian social action, spiritual growth, and program planning to promote the total mission emphases of United Methodist Women.

Recommendation 9 - Delete VI. Assembly and combine with VII Jurisdiction. Renumber to VI. and remaining sections.

VI. ASSEMBLY/JURISDICTION QUADRENNIAL MEETING, Art. V, Sections 3 and 4.

- A. Three conference officers and one alternate shall serve as voting delegates to the **Assembly**/Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting as follows: Delegates shall be president, vice president and secretary. The treasurer shall serve as the alternate.
- B. Delegate names shall be published in the *ALERT* (conference newsletter) which contains the call to the Annual Meeting at least three months preceding the **Assembly**/Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting.

Recommendation 10 - Add a description of the conference treasurer to the National Office at the beginning of VIII.A. and delete the last sentence in B and delete B.1.a & b.

VIII. FUNDS Art. VII

- A. All funds received by the conference treasurer from any source will be remitted to the treasurer of the United Methodist Women National Office, except for those set aside for conference administration, membership development, and funds designated for specific purposes.
- B. Annually by December 15, districts shall return to the conference treasurer any monies left in their treasury, with the exception of an annual start-up fee up to \$750. The other exception is noted below:
 - ~~1. The only monies a district may hold at year's end are as follows:

 - a. \$50 for workshops. This money may accrue for no longer than four (4) years; if unused the monies will be returned to the conference treasurer as Administration and Membership Development funds.
 - b. \$25 per year may be put into savings for up to five years for Scholarships to Church Women United.~~

Recommendation 11- Add a description for current and future district mergers.

IX. District Structure

- 1. In order for units and districts to fulfill their purpose in United Methodist Women, it may be necessary for a district to merge with another district. This merging may require renaming a district. If at some time in the future, those merged units have the officers and membership to stand on their own, they may revert back to the former district.
- 2. This merger should take effect only at the beginning of a calendar year to avoid confusion of elections, finances and general administrative procedures.

Standing Rules & Policies Committee,
 Parliamentarian, Chairperson
 Committee members:
 President
 Treasurer
 Secretary
 Committee on Nominations Chair

2022 Alabama West Florida United Methodist Women Budgets and Pledges	Former District Lines	2022 New District Lines
2022 DISTRICT BUDGETS		
Bay Pines	\$ 1,628	\$ 1,628
Demopolis	\$ 1,856	

Dothan	\$ 1,686	
Marianna Panama City	\$ 1,664	
Mobile	\$ 3,236	
Montgomery / Opelika	\$ 1,012	
Montgomery / Prattville	\$ 1,307	
Pensacola	\$ 2,850	\$ 2,850
Marianna / Panama City / Dothan		\$ 3,350
Montgomery / Opelika / Prattville / No. Demopolis		\$ 3,326
Mobile / So. Demopolis		\$ 4,085
TOTAL DISTRICT BUDGETS	\$ 15,239	\$ 15,239
AWF - UMW CONFERENCE BUDGET	\$ 25,105	\$ 25,105
COMBINED BUDGETS AWF-UMW	\$ 40,344	\$ 40,344
2022 DISTRICT PLEDGES		
Bay Pines	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000
Demopolis	\$ 10,000	
Dothan	\$ 9,500	
Marianna Panama City	\$ 11,000	

Mobile	\$ 20,000	
Montgomery / Opelika	\$ 6,750	
Montgomery / Prattville	\$ 8,500	
Pensacola	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
Montgomery / Opelika / Prattville / No. Demopolis		\$ 20,675
Marianna / Panama City / Dothan		\$ 20,500
Mobile / So. Demopolis		\$ 24,575
Events - Offering	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,700
Total PLEDGE	\$ 99,450	\$ 99,450
TOTAL CONFERENCE PLEDGE TO NATIONAL (85% of Total District Pledges)	\$ 84,533	\$ 84,533
<p>The above was passed by the AWF-UMW Conference Mission Team in its July 10, 2021 and August 31, 2021 Executive meetings. No vote from the membership at large is required. The second column of numbers represent the combination of districts that will take place January 1, 2022 due to the pooling of resources for leadership positions, events and monies.</p>		
<p>Presented by: Jean R. Creswell, AWF-UMW Conference Treasurer 10/9/21</p>		

Thank you!!

Patric Newton & Paige Haley

The Blue Lake Team

The UMW Program Committee

UMW Conference Officers

UMW Units

UMW Assembly

May 20 -22, 2022

“In 2022 we will reflect on today’s challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this we will TURN IT UP!”

Registration NOW Open!!

Website: <https://assembly2022.org>