



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2021

Issue 3

FALL 2021

2021

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of 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

2021
Dothan District
Mission Team

President
TBD

Vice President
TBD

Secretary
TBD

Treasurer
Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources
TBD

Spiritual Growth
Jane Dyer Brown

**Membership Nurture
& Outreach**
TBD

Social Action
TBD

**Education &
Interpretation**
TBD

Communications
Carolyn McInnis

Nominations
TBD

Dothan District UMW Information

Due to the continuing loss of local units, the conference UMW will be voting on merging UMW districts at the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat in October. **This vote ONLY affects our UMW districts. It does NOT affect which district a church is in for the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Church Conference. United Methodist Women districts do NOT have to match the UMC districts.**

Our UMW district simply does not have enough people able to serve as district UMW officers to continue as a stand-alone UMW district. We are looking at combining with the Marianna/Panama City district so that we will still be able to attend district UMW meetings and have enough officers to meet the needs of both districts.

We are not the only district in this situation. The conference executive board has met and discussed possible district mergers. If the conference UMW votes to pass the recommendations, the Montgomery/Opelika UMW district and part of the Demopolis UMW district will combine with the Montgomery/Prattville UMW district, the other part of the Demopolis UMW district will combine with the Mobile UMW district, and the Dothan UMW district will combine with the Marianna/Panama City UMW district. The combined UMW districts will be renamed and the conference UMW map will reflect the changes. If all of these changes take place, then we will have five UMW districts instead of eight. I do not think Bay Pines and Pensacola are merging.

Please try to attend the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat. All local unit presidents have a vote in conference elections and changes to policies. If you have any questions, please contact me or Debbie Bracewell.

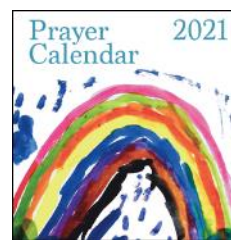
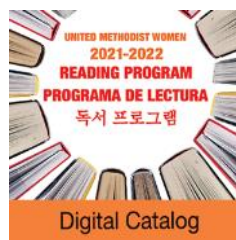
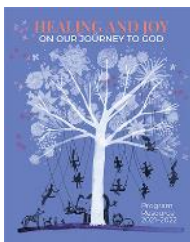
Carolyn McInnis
Dothan District Treasurer

United Methodist Women

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

United Methodist Women presented the two Social Action Campaigns for the 2021-24 quadrennium, which are connected to our two issue priorities. Our issue priorities are Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration. The United Methodist Women's national office staff is ready to support you in campaigns in your church or in your district. Please contact Emily Jones at ejones@unitedmethodistwomen.org for more information about how to Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline, and Elizabeth Lee at elee@unitedmethodistwomen.org for more information about Just Energy for All.

There are free graphics, campaign posters, and booklets available at the UMW website. Go to the website and type in "Social Action" or "Spiritual Growth". Also available is reading program information, retreat manuals, mission maps, brochures, and Mission Studies. Please take time to review and use the materials available at this site.



2021 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission
\$12,000.00

TREASURER

2021 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission Received
\$6,142 (51.2%)

I cannot believe it is the first day of September. My summer seems to have flown by. Sadly, we are still dealing with the Covid-19 virus and were not able to meet in person this year, but the conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat will be an in-person event at Blue Lake on October 8-9. Please visit the conference website and register for this event.

Thank you for continuing to support United Methodist Women with your generous donations. We traditionally take up our World Thank Offering in the fall, so please be sure to get your donation in to your local unit treasurer as soon as possible. As you can see, we are at 51.2% of our annual district pledge. Our World Thank Offering is part of our district pledge, so please give generously.

Blessings,

Carolyn McInnis

Dothan District Treasurer



Spiritual
Growth

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Spiritual
Growth

Spiritual Day 2021

Spiritual Day was held as a Zoom meeting on Saturday, August 14, 2021 from 9:30 – 11:00. Eighteen (18) UMW members from the Alabama-West Florida Conference attended. The focus was one of United Methodist Women's Mission issue: Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration with information on the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

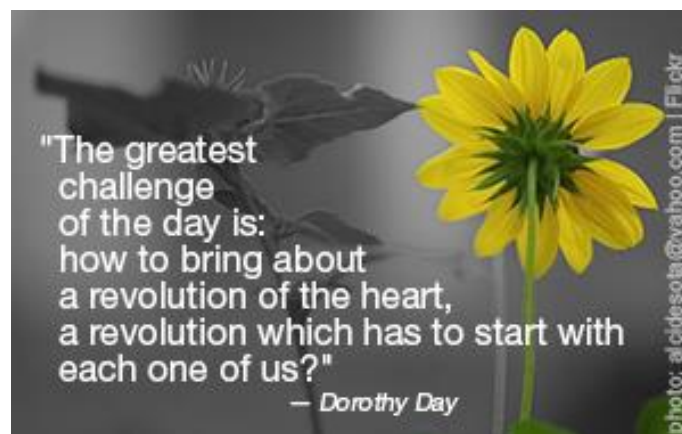
Ashley Adams, Attorney with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) was the presenter. She shared information about EJI, founded in 1989 by Bryan Stevenson, a widely acclaimed public interest attorney and best-selling author of *Just Mercy*. EJI works in the areas of Criminal Justice Reform, Racial Justice, Public Education and has developed a Museum and Memorial. The National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum (from enslavement to mass incarceration) are located in Montgomery.

Everyone who attended this zoom meeting was blessed with the information Ashley shared. EJI is working with youth (13-18) offenders, who have been incarcerated for numerous years and may not have received proper representation. They also have a long term supervised release program concentrating on the unique needs of formerly incarcerated people who entered prison as children. This program is called Post-Release Education and Preparation or PREP. Please visit www.eji.org for more information.

Jane Dyer Brown

Dothan District Spiritual Growth Coordinator

“Spiritual growth is an act of engagement. It is not static or stagnant; it moves, is pushed against, molded and shaped in our hands and in our hearts! The revolution in the world begins with a revolution within us.
Are you ready for the journey?”



Equal Justice Initiative

www.eji.org
122 Commerce Street
Montgomery, Al 36104

The Equal Justice Initiative is committed to ending mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, to challenging racial and economic injustice, and to protecting basic human rights for the most vulnerable people in American society. Founded in 1989 by Bryan Stevenson, it is a non-profit organization that provides legal representation to people who have been illegally convicted, unfairly sentenced, or abused in state jails and prisons. This organization challenges the death penalty and excessive punishment and provides re-entry assistance to formally incarcerated people.

EJI produces groundbreaking reports, an award-winning calendar, and short films that explore our nation's history of racial injustice. In 2018, the Legacy Museum: from Enslavement to Mass Incarceration and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice were opened as part of the national effort to create new spaces, markers and memorials that address the legacy of slavery, lynching and racial segregation, which shapes many issues today.

Interesting Facts

- The US has 5% of the world's population but nearly 25% of its incarcerated population.
- Our spending on jails and prisons reached \$87 billion in 2015, an increase of 1000% from the \$7.4 billion spent in 1975.
- In 1972, there were only 200,000 people incarcerated in the US, but today that number has grown to 2.2 million.
- From 1980 to 2017, the number of women in jails and prisons in the US grew 75%.
- Over 225,000 women are incarcerated today.

Please go to www.eji.org for more information.

United Methodist Women: Faith • Hope • Love in Action

We are women with a 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."

REPORTING DUE DATES

Local Officer to District Officer

<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Treasurer's Report Unit Treasurer	By November 30 Carolyn McInnis, District Treasurer
*Name of Deceased Members Unit Secretary	By November 30 ** Jane Dyer Brown, Spiritual Growth
*Local New Unit Report Unit Secretary	By November 30 TBD, Membership Nurture & Outreach
*Social Action Report Unit Social Action Coordinator	By November 30 TBD, Social Action
*Reading Program Reports Unit Program Resource	By November 30 TBD, Program Resources
*Mission Study Participants Unit Education & Interpretation	By November 30 TBD, Education & Interpretation
Consolidated President's Report Unit President	By November 30 TBD, President***
New Officer Lists Unit Secretary	By November 30 TBD, District Secretary

***Included in the Consolidated President's Report**

**** Please report any December deaths by January 10**

***** Please send Consolidated President's Report to Carolyn McInnis**

2021 District and Conference UMW Dates

February 20 — Dothan District Annual Day, 9:30, Zoom

March 5-6 — Conference Annual Day, Virtual, Register at www.awf-umw.org

July 22-24 — Mission u, Virtual, Register at www.awf-umw.org

August 14 — Dothan District Spiritual Day, Zoom

October 8-9 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake