



The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2020 Issue 4

WINTER 2020

2020
Dothan District
Mission Team

President
Debbie Bracewell

Vice President
TBD

Secretary
Marilyn Skipper

Treasurer
Carolyn McInnis

Program Resources
TBD

Spiritual Growth
Jane Dyer Brown

Membership Nurture
& Outreach
TBD

Social Action
Jean Johnson

Education &
Interpretation
TBD

Communications
Carolyn McInnis

Nominations
TBD

IN HIS SERVICE 2020

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

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



This will be the last newsletter article I will write as president of the Dothan District of United Methodist Women. When I think about the last few years I have served, I think about the amazing women in this district who work diligently to fulfill the purpose of United Methodist Women. While 2020 has been a most unusual year for all, Dothan District has continued to work. We hosted an excellent Conference Annual Day in February, and while much of our “usual” work was shut down in March, we tried to find ways to connect. Our technology skills were challenged as we learned to communicate with Zoom to host a District Spiritual Day and a 4-part mission study on “Finding Peace.” If you click on this link—<https://www.awf-umw.org/copy-of-dothan>—you can view the mission study episodes and Spiritual Day. We have learned that “Safe at Home” does not have to mean giving up or losing contact with our sisters in United Methodist Women.

The Mission Team is already planning events for 2021. We hope to have face-to-face events, but we know, if needed, technology will enable us to reach our membership. We will continue utilizing Zoom as needed for district and conference programs. The mission team, Carolyn McInnis and Jane Brown, will need your help to plan successful events; they will need your help as planners and as participants. I challenge you to work a bit harder, step up when asked, and invite new members to your units.

I am humbled by your gifts of the Emerald Special Recognition pin and the Legacy necklace. I thank you for your gifts of service and for the blessings I have received through working with you. While looking forward to working with all the districts as the new Conference President, I know I have benefitted greatly from working with you in our district endeavors.

Blessings,
Debbie Bracewell
President
Dothan District
United Methodist Women



SECRETARY

When Jolinda (Strickland) asked me to serve as District Secretary, I said yes knowing that I had lots of questions and doubts about doing the job. As I rotate off the Leadership Team, I know that I have learned so much about our organization. I have attended many meaningful events in our district and around the conference. The dedicated, talented women I have met are just too many to count. And I have had so much fun with it all!

Marilyn Skipper
Dothan District Secretary



2020 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission
\$14,000.00

TREASURER

2020 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission Received
\$10,787.68

There is no doubt that 2020 has been a difficult year for everyone. I have heard many people say that they are just ready for it to be over, but we must remember that we have many things to be thankful for each day. I am thankful for each one of you and am looking forward to the day that we can meet in person.

United Methodist Women's mission did not stop because of the pandemic. Your continued financial support for United Methodist Women provides funds to help women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world. I have received \$10,787.68 toward our district goal of \$14,000. This is 77% of our 2020 goal! Also, I have collected \$1,701.15 for our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering, \$376.00 for the Mattie Kolb Scholarship, and \$1,920.00 for our Conference Love Offering.

I am not sure what all of our meetings will look like next year, but be assured that Jane and I will do our best to make our meetings occur and to keep you informed about what is going on in the district and the conference. We will need your help. We need our members to attend our ZOOM meetings until we are able to meet in person. When we start to meet in person, we will need units to step up and offer to host meetings.

I believe that our January Training Meeting and our District Annual Day in February will be ZOOM meetings. I hope you will participate in these and all other meetings. Also, I hope that by April we may be able to have an in-person mission study. If you did not attend the ZOOM mission study in October, please visit our District United Methodist Women's website. There are links to the study on the webpage (it was one study broken into four parts).

If you have any questions or if I can help you in any way, please let me know. If you have not used ZOOM and would like to attend our ZOOM meetings, please call me and I will help you get connected through your computer or your phone.

Blessings,

Carolyn McInnis
Dothan District Treasurer

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2021



Each year, we gather to celebrate this observance and to give prayerfully and sacrificially. Women, children, and youth across the world have felt the love of God through A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial funds that have been given by countless women gathered in circles of care. As United Methodist Women members, we bow to meet God in prayer and then rise to give of ourselves so that God's vision of an abundant and beloved community for all can be realized. The kin-dom comes as we live in the light of God's vision for humanity, mutuality, and seeing oneself in the eyes of another.

This year the program written by Grace Musuka is called "She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference." The objective is to highlight United Methodist Women programs and encourage women to continue to give thoughtfully in order to make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth around the world.

2020 has been an exceptionally difficult year. The term "COVID-19" has become a major focus for us locally, districtwide, statewide, nationally, and internationally. It is time for us to remember Nehemiah 8:10, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." Ezra was speaking to the remnants of Israel, who had returned to Judah to rebuild the city and the temple. Think about the remnants returning home, getting back to some sort of normality, rebuilding their lives, families, churches, and communities to be ready for the future. Let us be reminded by this verse and follow their example as we rebuild our lives, families, churches, and communities to be ready for the future. It is time to be in prayer and to support the programs of the United Methodist Women. This year's program will be a delightfully interesting one.

Praying we will be able to meet in person,

Jane Dyer Brown

Dothan District Spiritual Growth Coordinator

SOCIAL ACTION

Dear Dothan District Friends in Christ,

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as your Spiritual Growth Coordinator then Social Action Coordinator over the past five plus years. I am glad I was recruited by some forward-thinking women who wished to see the United Methodist Women kept strong at the district level. Together we have accomplished God's work in many ways: encouraging one another in our discipleship journeys, supporting missions both with hands-on projects and through our gifts, and solidifying friendships in Christ. As Bishop Graves said at this year's Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, we can do more "In His Service" when we work united as one. That is the legacy of the United Methodist Women. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

Jean Johnson

Dothan District Social Action Coordinator



ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST WOMEN EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION/PROGRAM RESOURCES

Through our Mission Giving, we enable positive change in women and children's lives in ways we may never fully know. To continue learning about the needs and inspiring leaders in our communities, we must join in **education** for mission. I encourage all of you to promote and participate in the educational opportunities United Methodist Women provides: Mission Studies, **response** magazine, the Reading Program, Mission u, Leadership Development Days, our online Bridge courses, Faith Talks, webinars focusing on our Justice Priorities, and more. Our Mission Giving underwrites ALL of these excellent educational opportunities and resources!

Our parallel task is the **interpretation** of why we give. When we learn about the need, we are genuinely motivated to provide resources and encourage others to experience the joy of giving. We do that by sharing real-life stories of our mission dollars at work. Many stories are available on our national website and in the resources listed above. Encourage all UMW members to give through the five channels of Mission Giving. We are all aware of the Pledge to Mission - our personal, individual giving promise and the World Thank Offering, an individual offering collected throughout the year that develops our generosity and gratitude for God's blessings. Did you know that anyone can award a Special Mission Recognition as a way to honor and celebrate a deserving person for their mission work? Individuals may also give a Gift in Memory to express condolences to those experiencing grief by sending a thoughtful sympathy card. The Gift to Mission cards provide another opportunity to recognize a variety of occasions including Birthday, Get Well, Congratulations, New Baby, Thinking of You, and more. E – I – E – I – oh, just think what we could do for women, children, and youth around the world if we utilized ALL these five ways of supporting mission!

Build some excitement at your next District Annual Day by singing this song the tune of *Old MacDonald*.

There are some women in this world

E-I -E-I- OH!

Who know the call of Jesus Christ

E-I -E-I- OH!

They study and learn and give what they earn

Here a dollar! There a dollar! Everywhere there're mission dollars!

Mission Giving women here!

E-I -E-I- OH!

[E-I -E-I- OH! is sung by all]

May this year be one of full participation in United Methodist Women through Education and Interpretation. Let's Make It Happen!

Joyce Genz

Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Alabama West Florida Conference

United Methodist Women

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 (please report any December deaths by January 10) 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	

2020 District and Conference UMW Dates

January 23 — Dothan District Training , 9:00—11:00, location TBD or ZOOM
 February 20 — Dothan District Annual Day, time and location TBD or ZOOM
 March 5-6 — Conference Annual Day, TBD
 April 17 — Dothan District Mission Study, TBD
 July ? — Mission u, Aldersgate UMC, Montgomery, date TBD
 August 14 — Dothan District Spiritual Day, TBD
 October 8-9 — Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat (SER), Blue Lake

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.



TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Age _____ Email _____

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 _____

Areas of Special Interest or Concern

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <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) |

Do you wish to serve on which level (circle): Local District Conference

Which office(s) on the 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 _____.