



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

The Connection

DOTHAN DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Volume 2020 Issue 2

SUMMER 2020

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)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



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

What a Spring we have experienced! I can't think of one word to describe what we have gone through these past few months. I can tell you I miss my circle, my unit, and my district United Methodist Women. We all have realized how much our church friendships mean to us.

While we may not want to participate in face-to-face meetings just yet, we need to find a way to resume our meetings and district events. The Dothan District Mission Team is working to set up video conferencing opportunities for us to get together, see each other's faces and study and worship together. Zoom conferencing has become a great tool for conducting meetings and social get-togethers. For those of you who do not have computers or do not feel comfortable using computers, Zoom has a phone option that allows you to participate—you won't be able to see us, but you can join in the conversations.

We are working to put together possible mission studies, social action and spiritual growth studies, and other activities to keep us connected and involved. A great benefit of video conferencing is that we do not have to drive anywhere, and we can involve our membership who may be unable to participate in other ways. With creative leadership and willing participants, we may find video conferencing gives us a way to reach more of our membership and the ability to invite others to join us without leaving our homes.

On a more serious note, we have several Dothan District team members rotating off the leadership team. These officers are elected in an even year: president, secretary, mission coordinator for social action, mission coordinator for education and interpretation, and communications coordinator. With the exception of the E & I coordinator (we currently do not have one), the current officers in these positions will be rotating off as they have served the maximum number of years. We need YOU to help us fill these roles to continue the work of United Methodist Women in our district. The current Mission Team members have been emailing their counterparts in

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the district units sharing their roles and asking for nominations. While there is a bit of work involved in serving on the district mission team, you will find the blessings far outweigh any perceived obstacles. Prayerfully consider how you can serve the Dothan District.

Your District Mission Team is working to develop fall activities that will be safe as well as spirit filled.

Blessings,

Debbie Bracewell

President

Dothan District United Methodist Women

2020 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission
\$14,000.00

TREASURER

2020 Dothan
District Pledge to
Mission Received
\$6,966.50

Thank you for continuing to support United Methodist Women at the difficult time of self-distancing! I have received and sent \$6,966.50 to the Conference toward our district goal of \$14,000. Also, I have collected \$1,305.15 for our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering, \$350.00 for the Mattie Kolb Scholarship, and \$1,690.00 for our Conference Love Offering.

I know that while we are not meeting, many units are also not collecting pledges. Please remember that although we are not meeting, United Methodist Women are still working and supporting women, children, and youth in the United States and around the world. As soon as we start meeting, please remember your pledge to United Methodist Women. You may also mail your pledge to your local unit treasurer, and she will send it in for you. Sending cards is also a great way to stay in touch with friends and loved ones and support United Methodist Women. If you need any cards, please contact your local unit treasurer and she will obtain the cards you need.

Hopefully, we will be able to start meeting in the fall and can get back to "normal." I miss being with my circle, local unit, district, and conference sisters in United Methodist Women. We are trying to find ways for us to meet while continuing to follow the guidelines for social distancing.

If you have any questions or if I can help you in any way, please let me know.

Blessings,

Carolyn McInnis

Dothan District Treasurer

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.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH



As Spiritual Growth Coordinator, I'm checking on you and have been praying for you. I've been watching many services & Bible studies on Facebook, YouTube, and Zoom. I have also been reading lots of books. This isolation has really worked for me!

I want to highly encourage you to go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks> to listen to the United Methodist Women's podcast. These are current, well-resented topics.

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

Thursday, June 11 at 2:00 pm ET: Faith Talks - Education Inequity - [register now](#)
Thursday, June 18 at 2:00 pm ET: Faith Talks - Caring for the Body with Ghylian Bell - [register now](#)

Also, there are 13 previous Faith Talks podcasts that you can hear.

Jane Dyer Brown

Dothan District Spiritual Growth Coordinator

response, an award-winning publication, is the official magazine of United Methodist Women and is published by the national office. Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work.

response features include

- Bible studies
- opportunities for spiritual growth and development
- program suggestions
- articles on where the Pledge to Mission money goes
- regular features such as "Bright Lights" and "Responsively Yours"



response helps United Methodist Women reach out to

- New and potential members of United Methodist Women
- Every woman in your church who shares our commitment to mission and welfare of women, youth, and children
- High school and college students, especially the young women in your congregation
- Sunday school teachers who can share **response** mission stories with all ages
- Leaders in your congregation, including your pastor, who will appreciate knowing more about the women's role in your church's mission outreach
- Your friends and neighbors in other faith communities who share our passion for children and youth and for social justice
- [Subscribe today for yourself or as a gift](#)



DOTHAN DISTRICT UMW SPOTLIGHT ON SOCIAL ACTION



How Can We Make Our Lights Shine for Christ in Times of Darkness?

As United Methodist Women, we are women of action. We are servants of the Lord Most High, and we are open to opportunities to use our skills and gifts to care for others. How do we do that during times like these, when we are either sheltered in place or trying to social distance? So many of us are part of the vulnerable population who are risking COVID-19 if we jump in to help in times of crisis like we have been accustomed to do. Our churches are working hard to find the best way to reopen and stay safe. We know there is so much need in the world, and yet we don't see it except on TV if we are staying at home.

However, there are opportunities we can make for ourselves in this particular time of darkness. Technology can be our friend. I have seen women of all ages embrace email, texting, FaceTime, Zoom, YouTube, and other forms of reaching out to others. I've been in virtual worship, prayer groups, meetings, and Bible studies from right here at home. The spoken and written word is powerful. As United Methodist Women, we need to search out ways to get the message of Christ's saving grace in any format possible. We can serve by giving of our time making masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, giving of our resources to food pantries, lifting up prayers for the suffering, and a multitude of other ways. We can shine in this darkness.

I encourage you to check out the Church and Society website, www.umcjustice.org, for ways the United Methodist Church is seeking to address social justice. Also of interest is this link where "Church and Society" takes its signature Seminar Program virtual in a series of webinars on COVID-19 and social justice issues. The weekly series, called *Pre-existing Disparities Revealed*, explores how the pandemic intersects with topics such as systemic racism, the prison system, and access to food. By the time you get this newsletter, some of the seminars will be archived at this YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/umcjustice>, but some are scheduled during June: June 4, 11 and 18.

There are things we can do. And, to take action in some way, large or small, gives us all hope.

Blessings to you all and I pray for your health and safety,

Jean Johnson
Social Action Coordinator

SURVEY

Your Dothan District Mission Team wants to know how we can better serve you through this "safer at home" situation. If you have not responded to the survey that was sent out a couple of weeks ago, please take the time to answer the questions below and email your answers to Carolyn at cmcinnis595@gmail.com. Thanks!

1. Would you be willing to participate in online conferencing (ZOOM) workshops/studies, etc.?
2. Would you be using your phone or your computer to participate?
3. What suggestions do you have for studies or workshops?
4. Do you visit the district, conference, or national United Methodist Women websites? If so, which one(s), and how often do you visit?
5. What other suggestions do you have for ways that we can safely connect with each other during this time?

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN JURISDICTION EVENTS

Dear Southeastern Jurisdiction Event Attendee,

This year has become a year unlike any other in our lifetime. We know you are making all manner of decisions about what can proceed as hoped and expected and what must be cancelled or postponed, and each of these hard decisions brings with it its own grief. It is with great concern for the health and wellness of our membership that we have decided to cancel the Jurisdiction Events for 2020 and not reschedule them into 2021. Since 80 percent of registrants fall in the “at risk” category of 60-plus it is impossible to guarantee everyone’s safety until a vaccine has been successfully implemented across our country and beyond.

This decision was reached after much discernment, discussion, and prayer. Please know that it is because we want our membership safe during this pandemic, the leadership of the board and each Jurisdiction came together to arrive at this decision.

Please join us by showing support for your Jurisdiction teams as, yet another set of plans is disrupted during this anxious time, when the most marginalized persons are at such egregious risk.

Much time was invested by the 5 Jurisdiction teams over the past 4 years planning details and working with members and staff to make sure all five events were great celebrations of the 150th anniversary. The creative efforts of each team and the hundreds of volunteer hours created bonds of friendship that will never be broken. We are heart sick at missing this time to come together in celebration, study, and planning for the next quadrennium. There will be time allotted to celebrate the work of these amazing teams at the next Assembly.

All UMW quadrennial elections normally taking place at the Jurisdiction Events are now taking place remotely. This includes the Jurisdiction Team elections. All normal election protocols are possible through virtual elections including nominations from the floor. Delegates and nominees will receive direct communications about election training and procedures through their Jurisdiction Committee on Nominations Chairs and the National office.

We ask that everyone who has registered for the Jurisdiction Events wait just a little longer for information about refunds while we work with our teams to share any owed expenses amongst all Jurisdictions so that contributions per person will be minimal. We will email all registrants when ready. Please do not call your Jurisdiction Teams to allow them the time to figure out the best procedures for next steps. A FAQ document will follow to guide Conferences on final reconciliation of any remaining travel purchases.

Stay safe and stay in love with God.

Sincerely,

Shannon Priddy
National president

Judi Nibbelink
Western Jurisdiction president

Betty Helms
Southeastern Jurisdiction president

Denise Snyder
Northeastern Jurisdiction president

Rita L. Smith
North Central Jurisdiction president

Charlotte Morrow
South Central Jurisdiction president

Mission u

Although in-person Mission u events have been cancelled for 2020, the national website has information about how to explore this year’s topics online and through downloads. Please visit the website at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-u> to get more information. Also, the 2021 studies are listed, so we can start thinking about next year!

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 Jean Johnson, 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 Debbie Bracewell, President
New Officer Lists Unit Secretary	By November 30 Marilyn Skipper, District Secretary
*Included in the Consolidated President's Report	

Mattie Kolb Scholarship News

We had 51 applications for our team to review this year. Everyone was in quarantine so I divided them up and each team member reviewed theirs and brought their choice to the zoom meeting. Our winner this year of the \$500 scholarship went to Amy Forehand. I think her letter of acceptance speaks for its self.

"My lifelong dream of attending the University of Alabama is moving forward thanks to generous educational scholarships like yours. Since being named one of the recipients of the Mattie Kolb Scholarship, my dream is becoming a reality at The University of Alabama School of Nursing College. The \$500 award gives me an opportunity to earn skills that will serve the medical community following graduation.....my passion for medicine is matched only by my love for people, so my decision to specialize in nursing comes from the heart."

Well done ladies. It has been a tough year and I am proud we were able to at least give one scholarship.

Ms. Mattie Kolb would be proud.

Jolinda Strickland

Mattie Kolb Scholarship Chair



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 _____.