

Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting
Alabama-West Florida Conference
United Methodist Women
February 19th, 2022



Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of MARIANNA
2901 CALEDONIA ST. MARIANNA, FL 32446



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.

Our Vision

Our vision sharpens and energizes the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women to remain vital in the years to come. Inspired by 1 Thessalonians 1:4, the vision describes a United Methodist Women organization that is turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Our Annual Meeting

Conference leaders plan an annual meeting to conduct the business of the conference organization. The meeting may also include worship and other programs. *United Methodist Women Handbook 2021-2024*, page 10.

Our Offering

Our offering today is designated to Conference Pledge to Mission. Make checks Payable to: **AWFC-UMW** and on the For line: **Annual Day 2022**.

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**AWF CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
ANNUAL DAY 2022**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022

MORNING SESSION

9:00 AM Registration

9:50 AM Gathering Music

10:00 AM Program

Processional

Welcome Rebecca Wester, Marianna First UMW Unit President

Hymn #593 - "Here I am Lord" Worship Leaders

Session Opening Debbie Bracewell, President

Opening Prayer Pastor Nathan Attwood, First UMC

Greetings from the Conference Bishop Graves, AWFUMC

Purpose Laurel Akin, Communications Coordinator

Credentials Report Debbie Bell, Secretary

Response Moment Joyce Genz, E&I Coordinator

Prayer Calendar Zan Jones, Spiritual Growth

Charter for Racial Justice Zan Jones, Spiritual Growth

UMW News / Highlights Debbie Bracewell, President

Reading Award Joyce Genz, E&I Coordinator

Introduction of Speaker Katy Wrona, Vice President

Message, *Service & Peace* Rev. Ashley Davis, DCM

Transitional Music

11:30 AM Memorial Service Kristine Jones, MN&O

12:30 PM Lunch

1:10 PM Gathering Music

1:15 PM Program

Session Opening Debbie Bracewell, President

Hymn – “The Summons” Worship Leaders

Treasurer’s Report Cynthia Brown, Treasurer

SEJ Report Barbara Carroll, SEJ Chair of Nominations

National Report Betty Helms, National Board of Directors

Mission u Report Clara Ester, Mission u Asst. Dean

Introduction of Speaker Katy Wrona, Vice President

Message, *Service & Peace* Rev. Ashley Davis, DCM

2:15 PM Break - Transition to Sanctuary

2:30 PM Closing Worship

Opening Prayer Michele Smith, Southwest District President

Scripture Deanie DeFelix, Marianna/PC/Dothan District President

Hymn #431 – “Let There Be Peace On Earth” Worship Leaders

Offertory Cynthia Brown

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! AMEN.

Communion

Rev. Ashley Davis

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE II

INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader to people:

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

Leader and people: **Glory to God. Amen.**

TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. The pastor may lift hands and keep them raised.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, given for you.

Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you.

Amen

Closing Prayer

Katy Wrona, Vice President

Hymn #347 – “Spirit Song”

Worship Leaders

Benediction

“May You Run & Not be Weary”

Biography



Rev. Davis is a life-long United Methodist and is a native of Luverne, AL. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and a Master of Divinity degree from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. She is currently serving as the Director of Connectional Ministries and Conference Secretary for the Alabama-West Florida Conference. In her role as Director of Connectional Ministries, she helps to steward the vision of the annual conference making sure that the resources of the conference

are used for our missional priorities.

Prior to her service in the conference office, she served on staff at Woodland United Methodist Church in Pike Rd. She also served in campus ministry at the Troy University Wesley Foundation for eight years. Following her time in campus ministry, she served the Trinity-Wallsboro charge for three years. She is the mother to her 18-year-old son, Will, who is a Freshman at Auburn University.

Rev. Davis is passionate about life-long learning, discipleship processes in the local church, and spiritual formation. She is a recent graduate of the Two Year Academy for Spiritual Formation through the Upper Room. She enjoys traveling, playing the guitar, surf fishing, and hanging out with her dog, Princess Leia. Her current favorite spiritual discipline is centering prayer.

CELEBRATING THE PAST YEAR

ANNUAL DAY 2021

Our Annual Day 2021 was held via zoom for the first time ever. It was a new and fun experience for us all. We were able to reach over 100 UMW members across the conference online.

Deaconess Celeste Eubanks was our guest speaker. She gave a great message around our theme of “Hope, Joy, Peace, Trust, Power.” She empowered each of us to be leaders in our units, in our church, and in our community. We had a great fellowship in a new way. The interactive memorial service allowed us to say goodbye to beloved sisters.

I am grateful for every opportunity, in person or virtual, for us to gather.

Katy Wrona, AWF-UMW Vice President

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT 2021 Report

A RETREAT FOR SOUL CARE

OUR FIRST LIVE, ON-SITE GATHERING October 8-9 at Blue Lake Assembly was quite a success! Reverend Jean Tippit, District Superintendent of the Pensacola District and the Marianna-Panama City District, spoke to us about the power of prayer.

Our breakout sessions were well attended with UMW members soaking up Praying with Color (leader Katy Wrona), painting Kindness Rocks with sayings and brilliant colors (leader Sharon Hogan), Essential Oils of the Bible to smell and learn about their ancient uses (leader Debbie Bracewell), Powered by Prayer (leader Sarah Wrona), Prayer through Motion (leader Michelle Hamff), Armchair Yoga (leader Susan Hill), and Contemplative Prayer (leader Reverend Jean Tippit).

New conference officers were installed by Cathy Givan, and we ended the event with communion given by Reverend Tippit. To say “a good time was had by all” barely touches the joy experienced as we learned together, prayed together, and relaxed together.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2022

SUBSCRIBE TO *Alert* NEWSLETTER

Our Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women newsletter is published 4 times a year, to **ALERT** you of upcoming events and enlighten you of past events. Please reach out to me, either by email (laurel36330@gmail.com) if you wish to begin receiving a copy or have not received a copy. This can be emailed to anyone; it is always sent to District Presidents and Local Unit United Methodist Women presidents around the conference as long as I have a correct email address. It can be mailed via USPS for \$8.00 per year. As we focus on our AWF-UMW theme for 2022 of “Service and Peace”, I'm looking forward to helping communicate.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RETREAT 2022

On October 7-8th, 2022, we will meet at the Blue Lake Assembly Grounds with a focus on "Service & Peace." Once again, we will be hosting a two-day event, Friday & Saturday! Watch for all the details in the coming months for the opportunity to retreat and be in fellowship with our UMW friends from around the conference!

2022 COOPERATIVE MISSION u

Date: July 22nd & 23rd, 2022

Location: Aldersgate UMC

Registration information coming soon! Check out AWF-UMW.org for more information!

Our 2022 Mission u will offer the following study: *Luke 13*

Study Leaders: Rev. Brian Miller, Rev. Andy Gartman, Rev. Jackie Slaughter, Rev. Kitsy Dixon, Joyce Genz, and Cynthia Brown.

REPORTS OF THE MISSION COORDINATORS

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH

Greetings!

Have you heard of an “elevator speech”? Think about being in an elevator. You start on the ground floor and are headed up. You notice someone around you and you strike up a quick conversation. You find out it’s someone new to your area and she doesn’t know anything about the community. What do you tell her? Do you tell her the best restaurants? Best places to shop? Or.... do you tell her about UMW? An elevator speech is between 30 and 60 seconds long. It’s a short description about UMW that any listener can understand quickly. It’s a happy, upbeat “speech” about what matters most to you about UMW. It can be the fellowship. A sense of community and belonging. Gathering with a group of women to talk about your faith and how you see God working in your life. And maybe it is a bit of getting those details from the local ladies about the best restaurants and places to shop. Whatever you decide to share with someone in a short amount of time, I urge you to consider sharing your love for UMW.

The Unit survey is postponed until April 2022.

NELL CHANCE AWARD 2022

This award is named for Nell Chance as a way to remember her and the many ways she believed in our mission as United Methodist Women. She was a moving force in the mission work of United Methodist Women of the Alabama West Florida Conference for many years and a passionate believer in our mission to women, children and youth. Nell was a member of Monroeville United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church in Monroeville, Alabama. During her adult life, she served in many positions not only in her local unit, but district, conference and jurisdiction as well.

The award is open to all ages who are currently active in United Methodist Women. A brief letter should be submitted by individuals or mission teams giving biographical information and explanation of how this person has demonstrated the standards set by Nell Chance. A photo of the nominee, if available, included with the letter will be most helpful. The letter should be sent to Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator by December 31. If you have a nominee, please email Kristine at KristineUMW@gmail.com.

SOCIAL ACTION

Why United Methodist Women Members Engage in Social Action

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

United Methodist Women members engage in social action drawing from our Biblical and theological Christian tradition and our Wesleyan Heritage. We look to the Bible and to United Methodist Church social policy and prioritize the needs of women, youth and children as we set priorities for social action. We also draw on our rich 150-year heritage of engagement in mission as advocates for justice. At unitedmethodistwomen.org you will find resources to assist as you plan programs with members to explore what grounds us and motivates our collective action.

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

The highest priority of the E&I coordinator is to empower women to visualize the United Methodist Women's mission and understand the ways their financial gifts create miracles for women, children and youth locally, nationally and around the world. During Covid-19, many of our local units have used creative ideas to enhance unit pledges. Others have met challenges in connecting with members. As a result, our conference failed to fulfill its pledge budget. I would love to hear of ways that worked in your unit to maintain or increase your Pledge to Mission when it was difficult to meet in person.

The unitedmethodistwomen.org has a wealth of information to enhance our understanding of the need to give or to provide **Soul Care**. There is an archive of **Faith Talks and response** podcasts, as well as the inspiring **Voices from the Field** videos from regional missionaries that you can share with your units highlighting your pledges at work. Articles in the *response magazine* highlight our dollars at work as well.

Another responsibility of the E&I in our conference is promoting the **Mission Today** criteria, which really is a method to ensure each unit fulfills the United Methodist Women's mission. One 2022 goal is to encourage more units to complete their Mission Today Report. Because of the challenges in gathering together, **Mission Today** unit participation was lower in 2021. In the area of transformative education, we've also met challenges. Many units have had difficulty obtaining books to complete the Reading Program. I am happy to report that Readers may choose from the 2015-2022 book lists and may count books on these lists and not reported previously on reading report. Participants who listen to a book being read also count toward the number of readers for a unit. Hint! Read a short book to your unit or circle members in a meeting. Read the children's books to your grands/children or a Sunday School group. Have a young person read one of the youth selections to you and discuss it with them. Book clubs are another way to encourage reading. However, we were able to participate in Mission Studies and Mission u virtually and those study guides count as bonus books in the assigned categories. We want to encourage anyone and everyone to benefit from the life-changing information in the books. There is such a wide selection that everyone should be able to read at least 1 book but preferable 5 books plus the *response magazine* to qualify for Plan 1.

I am looking forward to this new year and seeing more of our United Methodist Women involved in transformative education opportunities, supporting the mission through giving and being actively involved In God's Service.

Joyce Genz, Conference Education and Interpretation Coordinator

TREASURER'S REPORT

We are near the end of 2021, especially as far as receiving donations from the local units to the districts and from the districts to the conference. The figures aren't final, but we stand at 62.6% of reaching our pledge from the districts. Because we deduct some from the pledge monies that we send to National for our Administration and Membership Development funds, we are at 57.7% of our pledge to National. The last two years have been tough with our local units not meeting in person. But we are thankful that we are starting to get back to normal. Hopefully 2022 will be a bright and momentous year of giving to our mission of helping women, children and youth.

The 2022 Pledge has been approved by the districts and the conference mission teams and will be presented at the 2022 Annual Day by our newly elected Alabama-West Florida Conference UMW treasurer, Cynthia Brown. This will be the last posting by me as the outgoing treasurer, and I can't emphasize how much I have enjoyed working in this role. The individuals I have meet and the officers that I have worked with have been a pleasure. I know that Cynthia, who is also taking my place as conference registrar, will do an excellent job.

The district treasurers have all been diligent in their roles and have been a joy to work with. In 2021 we had seven district treasurers as the two Montgomery districts shared one treasurer, Brenda Hargrave. Brenda and Dothan's treasurer Carolyn McInnis are rotating off after serving six years. Anne Capps, Demopolis district treasurer served two years, but because of the merger of districts, will not serve in 2022. However, Sally Pehler will continue to serve Mobile and a portion of the merged Demopolis district (Clarke, Choctaw and Wilcox counties). A new district treasurer, Jill Farris, will serve the newly merged districts of all the former Montgomery-Prattville and Montgomery-Opelika districts along with the remainder of the Demopolis local units. Peggy Pelt will serve the combined districts of Marianna-Panama City and Dothan. Susan Morrison will continue to serve Baypines, and Margaret Larson will continue with Pensacola. In the merger, the districts combined their pledges and budgets for 2022.

For the Year 2021		as of 12/31/21		
MISSION GIVING (PLEDGE)	Pledge	Paid by Districts	Balance	% Paid
Bay Pines	14,000	9,512	4,488	67.9%
Demopolis	14,000	8,883	5,117	63.5%
Dothan	12,000	9,039	2,961	75.3%
Marianna/PC	11,000	9,540	1,460	86.7%
Mobile	20,000	14,977	5,023	74.9%
Mtg/Oplk	6,750	5,170	1,580	76.6%
Mtg/Pratt	10,000	7,168	2,832	71.7%
Pensacola	20,000	17,365	2,635	86.8%
Events - Offering	2,700	879	1,821	32.6%
TOTALS FROM DISTRICTS	110,450	82,534	27,917	74.7%
Pledge to National	93,883	69,329	24,554	73.8%

THE AWF-UMW CONFERENCE TEAM

DEBBIE BRACEWELL	PRESIDENT
KATY WRONA	VICE PRESIDENT
DEBBIE BELL	SECRETARY
CYNTHIA BROWN	TREASURER
LAUREL AKIN	COMMUNICATIONS
DESIREE CLARK	NOMINATIONS CHAIR
MEMBERS	COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS
JOYCE GENZ	EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION
KRISTINE JONES	MEMBERSHIP NURTURE & OUTREACH
ORA GILLESPIE	SOCIAL ACTION
ZAN JONES	SPIRITUAL GROWTH
DAVID GRAVES	AWF BISHOP
SUPERINTENDENTS	ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE
GERARDINE STIFFLER	BAYPINES DISTRICT PRESIDENT
DEANIE DEFELIX	MARIANNA /PC/ DOTHAN DISTRICT PRESIDENT
MICHELE SMITH	SOUTHWEST DISTRICT PRESIDENT
MARSHA CLAYTON	MONTGOMERY DISTRICT PPRESIDENT
JOAN SIMMONS	PENSACOLA DISTRICT PRESIDENT

CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

HELEN McGONIGAL	Deceased	1973 - 1976
SUE JONES	Deceased	1977 - 1980
JANE WEEKLEY		1981 - 1984
ELOISE McGUCKEN	Deceased	1985 - 1986
ANNE DALTON		1987 - 1989
RUTH ANN POWERS		1990 - 1992
JEAN SUBLETTE		1993 - 1996
NELL CHANCE	Deceased	1997 - 2000
DOROTHY BOOKER		2001 - 2004
LINDA SHERRY		2005 - 2006
BETH BOWDIN	Deceased	2007 - 2010
BETTY HELMS		2011 - 2014
LYNN HAMRIC		2015 - 2016
DEBBIE BELL		2017 - 2020

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING

SPEAKERS

AWFUMC CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

UMW CONFERENCE OFFICERS

PAST UMC CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS

NATHIONAL UMW STAFF FOR LEADERSHIP

ALL WHO CAME

ALL WHO SENT GREETINGS