



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

ALERT

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2015 Conference Officers

President	Lynn Hamric
Vice President	Margie Miller
Secretary	Charlotte Hobson
Treasurer	Margaret Larson
Prog. Resources	Margie Outlaw
Communications	Laurel Akin
Nominations Chair	Cynthia Brown

Mission Coordinators

Spiritual Growth	Nancy Shealy
Social Action	Zan Jones
M.N. & O	vacant
Ed. & Interp	Shirley Hodges

Committee on Nominations

Toni Broughton	Cynthia Brown
Ruth Ann Powers	Imogene Martin
Betty Helms	Julia Norton

United Methodist Women Program Committee Representative

Clara Ester

Mission u: July 31-Aug 1, 2015

Learning together for the transformation of the world!

Dean Margie Miller and Associate Dean Betty Helms invite you to join us for Mission u 2015, July 31-August 1, at First United Methodist Church in Dothan! This is a beautiful venue for our 47th year of mission study in the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

The study leaders for “Created for Happiness” are Reverend Tonya Elmore and Clara Ester. “Latin America: People and Faith” will be lead by Debbie Bracewell and Susan Hunt. Ann Aldridge will lead “The Church and People with Disabilities.” Check inside for information about each of our leaders.

The planning team for Mission u includes representatives from our Conference United Methodist Women, Conference Board of Global Ministries, and Conference Board of Church and Society. A lot of love and planning have gone into Mission u to enable us to have a meaningful school for each participant. Please be open to the Holy Spirit and the challenges of sharing and celebrating the love of God for the world.

Margie Miller, Dean of Mission u 2015

Study books are available online at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-do/transformational-education/mission-study>

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings,

I begin this message with a request. Please print at least one copy of this Alert and give it to a member of your church who is not a member of United Methodist Women. At the same time be ready to talk to this woman about who we are and what we do. Trust me, it is not difficult. These are your friends and neighbors and now we want them to be our sisters in United Methodist Women.



Remember as United Methodist Women our Purpose takes us beyond the commitment to and responsibilities for our local church. United Methodist Women's sole purpose is to work for the betterment of women, children and youth the world over. Women, children and youth are those most often left out of God's feast. They are systematically marginalized and discriminated against.

We commit ourselves and our gifts to help relieve suffering and improve the quality of life for these individuals. We are all called to be in mission but United Methodist Women are called for an emphasis on specific individuals.

In addition to ministering to the needs of others with a hand up and not a hand out we also believe in equipping our members to be leaders in their communities, agencies, governments and churches. Training takes place in the local, district, conference, jurisdiction and national levels allowing everyone an opportunity to participate.

All of our meetings, projects and work are undergirded with a strong and sound Biblical understanding and implementation. To know God, as our Purpose begins, gives us the direction we need before we begin our work. This is why we always incorporate scripture, prayer and Bible study in everything we do. Our efforts to be totally transparent and totally inclusive are two of the reasons our organization is as strong and successful as we are. We are also the organization that is willing to take on the social ills of our world and diligently work to alleviate them. This did not just begin but was the reason for our founding mothers making the commitment they did almost 150 years ago.

Now each of us has an opportunity to not only remember these great women and the work they and the thousands who followed in their footsteps have done but also to insure this work that is so important continues. Please join me in making a contribution to the Legacy Fund.

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund is a secure web site with information and giving options.

You may also contribute by giving to your local, district or conference treasurer.

Give to the
Legacy
Fund

Keep United Methodist Women alive!

F. Lynn Hamric

A Message from the Vice President

Annual day weekend, October 23-24, 2015, is for all members of United Methodist Women of the Alabama-West Florida Conference. On Friday evening we will have a program on United Methodist Women for Justice with the Reverend Carolyn McKinstry and Dr. Marva Dianne Usher-Kerr. Our Annual Day program on Saturday is being planned with Dr. Usher-Kerr as our keynote speaker.

Lynn Hamric, conference president, and I would like to see all of you at Blue Lake for our Annual Day weekend.

See you at Blue Lake,
Margie Miller, Vice President



Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Did you know United Methodist Women are the tie that binds one hundred National Mission Institutions together? We connect with seventy Community Centers located in thirty-five states; Eight Women's Residences; Eight Residential Treatment Centers; Schools, Colleges and Universities. We are a CARING CONNECTION with women children and youth. These community centers, residential treatment centers, women's residences and schools and colleges are places where God is saving and rebuilding precious lives each day. They are places of vital mission where people of faith and compassion demonstrate their commitment to renew hope and restore community among God's children.

Take hold of this cord and join with almost 1,000,000 women as we go "MARCHING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD". YES...WE ARE STILL ALIVE!

As Bishop Fowler stated..."Get out there and do it"! COME JOIN US!



Always,
Your servant Nancy Shealy
Spiritual Growth Coordinator



Spiritual Growth Study: Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God

This class may be taken Friday Saturday with one of these leaders:



The Reverend Tonya Elmore

Tonya's birthplace is Chicago, IL, but while still a toddler the family moved to Iowa where she would spend the next twenty years of her life. Tonya's parents now reside in Paxton, FL and her younger sister, lives in Freeport, FL. Tonya has never married, but she is the parent of a wonderful "fur-child" Sadie who has also been adopted as the mascot for the First United Methodist Church of Enterprise.

At the 2013 Annual Conference Session Tonya became the senior pastor of the Enterprise First United Methodist Church after having served six years as the District Superintendent of the Mobile District as well as several other appointments to local churches throughout the conference (Seale/Alexandria 1992-1995, Capitol Heights, Associate 1995-Dec. 1996, Floral/Christian Home/Hopewell Jan 1997-2000, Point Washington 2000-2007, Mobile District Superintendent 2007-2013). Tonya received an Associate of Arts degree from Muscatine Community College in Muscatine, IA (1982); a Bachelor of Arts degree from Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL (1988); and a Master of Divinity degree from the Theological School of Drew University in Madison, NJ (1992). Tonya was ordained a deacon in the Alabama West Florida Conference in 1991, and was ordained an elder and received into full membership in the conference in 1994.

While not officially "at work" Tonya enjoys riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle, playing golf or relaxing with a good book.

Clara Ester

Memphis native Clara J. Ester, is a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College in Memphis with a B.A. degree in Elementary Education. As a college student she was a youth representative for major concerns such as the sanitation strike, the school boycott, and the hospital strike in Memphis. She was so involved with the sanitation strike that it put her in places that literally changed her whole life. Clara was at the Lorraine Motel when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated and ran to his side after the fatal shooting.

Clara moved to Mobile, AL in February 1970 to work at Dumas Wesley Community Center as a neighborhood organizer and a youth worker. She later assumed the roles of Program Director, Associate Director and retired December 2006 as the Executive Director.

A member of Toulminville-Warren Street United Methodist Church, Clara has held many leadership positions in the community, the local church, Mobile District, AWF Conference as well as United Methodist Women. She serves on the National Program Advisory Committee as the representative for the AWF United Methodist Women, the Conference Circles of Transformation team, the Board of Laity, Committee on Investigation and the Conference Committee on Episcopacy.

Clara is a deaconess in the United Methodist Church and presently serves on the Board of the National Association of Deaconess & Home Missioners. She has one son, Reginald.



Geographic Study: Latin America: People and Faith

This class may be taken Friday or Saturday with one of these leaders:



Debbie Bracewell

Debbie Bracewell is a retired teacher, executive, editor, speaker and cheer judge. She currently is a tutor, substitute teacher, president of the Recovery Organization of Coffee County, independent Young Living Distributor, and a volunteer for church and community.

Debbie has been a member of the Enterprise First United Methodist Church Circle 6 since 2004 and is the current president of United Methodist Women unit at Enterprise First United Methodist Women. She is the Dothan District chair for Membership Nurture and Outreach and also publishes the district newsletter. She has taught the *Immigration* mission study and the *Roma of Europe* study for the Dothan District. She taught *The Church and People with Disabilities* study at the July 2014 Mission u event. This summer she will be teaching the *Latin America: People and Faith* study for Mission u.

Debbie is a widow with 2 sons, 2 stepsons, and 10 grandchildren. In her spare time she enjoys gardening.

Susan Hunt



Susan Hunt is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. She graduated in 1995 from Auburn with a Bachelor of Industrial Engineering and worked for several years in that field in Birmingham.

Hearing a call into full-time Christian ministry, she discovered the US-2 program of the General Board of Global Ministries. Susan's placement was in Oklahoma City, OK, working with UMCOR and the United Methodist church there as they responded to natural disasters in Oklahoma. After her two years of service as a US-2 was complete, she worked for over 7 years in a large United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City as the mission outreach coordinator.

Susan returned to Alabama in January 2009 to begin her current position as Director of Mission and Advocacy for the Alabama-West Florida annual conference. She was commissioned a Deaconess of the United Methodist Church in March 2004.

2015 Conference Events

Mission u	July 31-Aug 1
Annual Day	Oct. 23 & 24

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.

**Issue Study:
The Church and People with
Disabilities
Friday only**

Mission u Dean 2015



Ann Aldridge

Ann Aldridge is a life-long Methodist. She has a Bachelor's degree from Appalachian State University and master's degree from the University of Tennessee. She has worked as an

education director and principal at the North Carolina School for the Deaf and an adjunct instructor at Appalachian State University, Lenoir-Rhyne University, and Western Piedmont Community College. Currently Ann is working as a licensed sign language interpreter.

A member of Oak Hill United Methodist Church, Ann has served as Sunday School teacher, chair of administrative council and chair of finance, staff-parish, and trustee committees, choir member, volunteer organizer, and many United Methodist offices.

In the Marion and Catawba Valley District, she has served as president of UMW, district delegate to Annual Conference (Marion and Catawba Valley), leadership team (Marion and Catawba Valley), committee on ordained ministry (Marion and Catawba Valley), Givens Estates Board of Directors, and certified lay speaker.

In the Western Carolina Conference, Ann was Mission u study leader for "The Church and People with Disabilities" in 2014 and two other studies previously, study leader for several district mission studies, UMW secretary and secretary of program resources, vice-chair of Brooks-Howell Home Board of Directors and secretary of WNCC Deaf Ministry.

Ann has been a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference twice and registrar of UMW Regional School of Christian Mission.

She is married to Wade and mother of Richard and Brandon and foster mother of Chris.

Margie Miller

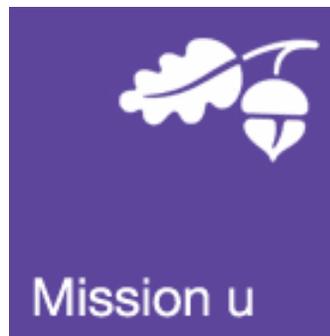


Margie Miller loves United Methodist Women and has been a member for almost 48 years. From her first meeting at Canterbury United Methodist Church in Mountain Brook, Alabama, she found a place to serve her church.

Margie has served the UMW at local, district and conference levels, including four years as conference Education and Interpretation Coordinator and the Cooperative school of Christian Mission and Mission u Planning Team and the Conference Board of Global Ministries. Presently she is president of her local UMW unit and Conference vice-president as well as dean of Mission u.

Margie attended Perry Business College in Columbus, Georgia and is a licensed Florida Realtor. Her hobbies include golf, bridge, reading and shopping with friends. She recently celebrated a 50th wedding anniversary and has three children and four grandchildren.

Margie's prayer is that your life will be blessed by this year's Mission u event.



2015 Alabama-West Florida Conference Mission u Event Registration July 31 & Aug 1, 2015

Deadline for registration is July 17, 2015. Registration can be completed by mail Send this completed form with full payment to Registrar, c/o Margaret Larson 168 Cabana Way, Crestview FL 32536. Make checks payable to AWFC Mission u. Questions can be directed to 850-217-6960 or maggie42@cox.net

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____ District _____

Please check all that apply:

Female Male Clergy Lay CEU Credit

Conference/District Officer & Position _____

Need assistance traveling/moving around the campus

If dining on campus, list special needs (dietary, physical, access, etc.) of participants and attach to this form.

Study Course Registration and Fees

Each study is a 6 hr course and offered during one full day. Registration begins each day at 8.00 am. The opening or orientation begins at 9.00 am. Classes finish at 4.30 pm

Fees include registration fee and lunch and dinner on the day of your study. A \$10 late fee will be added for those registering after July 17 2015.

The fee does NOT include accommodations. Each participant is responsible for his/her own hotel accommodations. A block of rooms has been reserved at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites (334-793-9090). Ask for Mission u room at \$79.99 per night. This includes a continental breakfast.

Full School Package (\$45): Choose one study from each day

Friday Only (\$28): Choose your Study

The Church and People with Disabilities

Latin America

Created for Happiness

Saturday Only (\$28): Choose your Study

Latin America

Created for Happiness

Please complete Health Form on other side

Health Form Authorization for Emergency Medical Treatment Form

Name _____ DOB _____

Physician's Name _____ Phone # _____

Health Insurance Company _____ Policy# _____

Allergies to medications _____

Current medications _____

In the event of an emergency, contact:

Name _____ Relation _____ Phone# _____

Name _____ Relation _____ Phone# _____

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at a UMW event, I authorize AL/WF UMW to:

1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation if needed.
 2. Release my health information to the authorized individual or agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.
- I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date _____ Consent Signature _____

Consent Plan

This authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication and any treatment procedure deemed "life saving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person(s) above is unable to be reached. I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date _____ Consent Signature _____

Non-Consent Plan

I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the cases of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place:

I hold harmless the AL-WFL Conference United Methodist Women, the AL-WFL Conference, The United Methodist Church and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Date _____ Consent Signature _____

Date _____ Witness Signature _____

From the Treasurer

Thank you for all the cards and well wishes after my surgery. I think I am recovered. We are nearly halfway through the year and two districts have sent me no money for Remittances or Conference Askings. Please contact your local units if they have not been sending money to you. We need to get the money flowing or we will not make our pledges. Thank you to the districts that have sent money, keep up the good work. In August we will be working on Budgets for next year. If you have any problems let me know and between us we should solve them.

Have a wonderful blessed summer,

Margaret Larson



Give Thanks.
Give Now.



Program Resource News

Greetings:

What a wonderful year this has been so far! I hope you all are having a great first half of the year, including reading some of the books in our Reading Program. How many books have you read so far? Help your district take home the Bookworm while you help yourself grow in knowledge and in spirit.

In His Service,
Margie Outlaw
Program Resources



***ALERT!* . . . Are you a Subscriber?**

You too can become informed of Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women events and activities by subscribing to *Alert* today!

Send your name and address and telephone number to Laurel Akin, 104 Windwood Lane, Enterprise AL 36330. Enclose a \$4.00 check, made payable to Alabama-West Florida Conference United Methodist Women (AWFCUMW). You may receive a copy of *ALERT* free by email. Email laurel36330@gmail.com with your request and you will be added to our email list. **Please include a telephone number! With each issue that is sent, several mailed and emailed copies are returned!**

United Methodist Women
Alabama-West Florida
Conference
Laurel Akin
104 Windwood Lane
Enterprise, AL 36330

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
2015

