



Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XLI, No. IV

October 2020

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.

The Mission Tapestry is a publication of the Arlington District United Methodist Women. Its goal is to keep units at the local/ congregation level informed about opportunities for living out our PURPOSE. It is published quarterly—January, April, July, and October.

Articles for publication are welcome and should be directed to ArlingtonDistrictUMW@gmail.com by the 1st of the publication month.

Check out our website at www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org

District President's Message

I hope this finds you all well and adjusting to cooler weather. We had our District Annual Meeting September 26, 2020, via Zoom. Thirty-eight members attended and eleven units were represented. Because we had the meeting via zoom, at least one member was able to attend who normally does not come. She lives far out and cannot make the drive.

Thanks to everyone who “came” to the meeting.

The last six months have made it difficult to do much of the mission work we usually do. However, I know how resourceful we can be as women and as United Methodist Women. Many of our units have adapted to this new **“normal” by recognizing and creating new ways to be in mission, as well as continuing to support our long-standing missions.**

We have continued to support; Henry Fork Center, The Lamb Center, UMCOR, Kits for Conference, Rising Hope, and Prison Ministries. We are supporting local food pantries, making art kits, and sewing masks. Sterling has given hygiene kits to Women Giving Back and Mobile Hope, two charities that support women and children in their area. Clarendon noticed there were families who needed food but were unable to pick it up. They organized a

plan to bring the food to them and, seeing the food was not enough, added to it. Once the immediate need was met, they networked and found a program that would support them long term.

Mission is only part of what we do. It is important to stay connected, to grow as persons and learn. Many units have embraced, with some trepidation, the technologies to keep us connected. They are using zoom to have Executive Meetings, circle/fellowship meetings and studies. I have been sending a quote once a week to the unit presidents and district officers. It is something **short and uplifting, a “quick quote”** that might help them through the week. Program resources include The National Office, which has **“Faith Talks”, studies on Climate Justice, Social Justice, and other issues.** Use these for programs in your units.

I hope you use the ideas above as a **springboard to help you think “out of the box” as we move towards the end of 2020 and look forward to 2021.** I know that with Gods help we will get through this and possibly be changed for the better.

“The task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us.” Unknown Author

Doris Douglass, President
Arlington District UMW

Secretary

Janet Keener

*October 2020*

Dear UMW Sisters in Christ,

It's *October* already! We stay busy and wonder how time has passed so quickly. The Lord is leading us; we must learn how to follow, using different means of gathering with **ZOOM**. Our pastor's current sermon series is leading our church to better discern and define our *Vision*, our *Mission*, and our *Action Plan*. These concepts immediately "spoke" United Methodist Women to me:

Vision - Setting priorities to improve Climate Justice and Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline.
Mission - Working with our National Mission Institutions, Interfaith Council, missionaries, and more to support our Vision.
Action Plan - Everything that we do to put Faith-Hope-Love into Action locally, nationally, and globally.

As individuals and units, we determine visions, mission, and action plans to move forward from our experiences of 2020. Included will be the celebrations of the *Fall* and *Winter* holidays, especially *Thanksgiving* and *Christmas*. We celebrate the gifts of Love, Joy, Kindness, Goodness, plus much more with family and friends. Together I like to call them *family*.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming *Virginia Conference UMW Annual Meeting* and *Arlington District UMW Mini Mission Encounter* happening this *Fall* via ZOOM.

Until next time, I wish you *Happy Thanksgiving* and *Merry Christmas!* Enjoy sharing with your *family!*

God Bless,
Janet
janet_keener@cox.net



Treasurer

Beth Meserve

Thank you to all those who joined us online for our first ever virtual District Annual Meeting. We had 39 people attend, which was awesome. I would like to give a special thanks to Stan and Frances Ellis for all their work hosting the meeting. I hope many of you will join us at our Virtual Mini-Mission Event in November.

Candle Burning

We raised \$694 through Candle Burning this year. This allowed us to burn a candle for 19 minutes and 26 seconds. The donations raised by Candle Burning are added to our pledge to mission which supports UMW mission work. The cost is only \$.60 per second and is a great way to remember our loved ones.

The units who contributed to Candle Burning were:

Andrew Chapel
 Calloway
 Friendship
 Herndon
 Mount Olivet
 Sterling
 Wesley

5- and 6-Star Units

To be recognized as a 5-star unit, you need to give to the 5 channels of Mission Giving which are: Pledge to Mission, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, Special Mission Recognition, and World Thank Offering. Once you have met the requirements for a 5-star, you can become a 6-star unit by also contributing through Candle Burning.

We had six 6-star units:

Andrew Chapel
 Friendship
 Herndon
 Mount Olivet
 Sterling
 Wesley

Certificates will be mailed to the units in a few weeks.

Rainbow Giver

Being a Rainbow Giver automatically qualifies your unit as a 5-star unit. If you would like to become a Rainbow Giver for 2021, look for the Rainbow Giver form found in this copy of the Tapestry.

We recognized 8 Rainbow Givers:

Frances Ellis		Karen McElfish	Mount Olivet
Cathy Gordon	Andrews Chapel	Tracey Brooks	Sterling
Doris Douglas	Friendship	Marlene Cavaiola	Sterling
Levenia Kibler	Herndon	Phyllis Kirkman	Wesley

Treasurer

Beth Meserve

(continued)

Legacy Givers

The Legacy Fund was established to undergird the work of future generations of United Methodist Women. The income from this fund will ensure a regular source of support for the core expenses of being in mission.

There are many ways to contribute to the Legacy Fund.

Online at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund

Text: “41444” on your cell phone and enter “Legacy 150” in the message area.

By check to: United Methodist Women National Office, 475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, ATTN: Legacy, New York, New York, 10115

Through your local unit, which is forwarded to the District Treasurer, then on to the Conference.

We recognized 5 contributions made to the Legacy Fund through the District. Those contributions were made by:

Wesley

Frances Ellis (in Memory of Lisa George)

Herndon

Jeanne Kennedy (in Honor of Friendship UMW)

Andrew Chapel

Budget

We will start a new budget year in January 2021. The budget year runs from January – December. Our 2020 budgeted pledge to missions is \$20,000, the same as last year. This includes money from candle burning, gift to mission cards and gifts in memory. Due to the pandemic, we are falling short of our pledge this year, but we are looking forward to a better year next year, in many ways.

Our budget for Administration and Membership funds for 2020 is \$3420. This helps pay for our event speakers, printing expenses, and our Tapestry Newsletter. It also allows us to provide scholarships to various UMW events throughout the year. Please be sure to send in your membership dues. It only costs \$2.50/member per year.

Thank you all for your support of the United Methodist Women!

Beth Meserve, District Treasurer

507 N Brighton Ct.

Sterling, VA 20164

703-404-0542

beth.meserve@gmail.com

Treasurer

Beth Meserve

VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UMW RAINBOW WOMAN

Yes, YOU can become a RAINBOW WOMAN!

Have you thought about you personally giving to all five channels of giving?

A Rainbow Women gives to all five channels of giving:
 \$40 to give someone special a Special Mission Recognition Pin
 \$ 5 Pledge to Mission
 \$ 5 Gift to Mission
 \$ 5 Gift in Memory
 \$ 5 World Thank Offering
 \$60 Total



Your \$60 RAINBOW WOMAN offering must specify that you are giving to the above five channels and designate who you want your pin to go to, who your Gift in Memory is for and that you are giving that \$60 for a Rainbow Woman. If you simply give \$60 to your unit treasurer, you will not be a Rainbow Woman. You must designate that it is for Rainbow Woman giving.

1. Special Mission Recognition Pin in ___ Honor or ___ Memory of:

 (Please check appropriate box) (Name of person being honored or memorialized)

Send pin to: (Name) _____
 (Address) _____

2. Pledge to Mission

3. Gift to Mission Card – Which card to send? _____
 (Thank You, Baby, Birthday, In the Service of Christ, etc.)
 Send card to: (Name) _____
 (Address) _____

4. Gift in Memory: In Memory of:

 (Name of person in whose memory the gift is made)
 Send card to: (Name) _____
 (Address) _____

5. World Thank Offering

Given by (Rainbow Woman's Name) _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 District: _____

All components must be submitted to your Unit Treasurer at one time. We suggest that this Rainbow Woman gift be given in addition to your regular pledge to mission.

If you have any questions about becoming a Rainbow Woman, please contact:
 District Treasurer: Beth Meserve, 507 N Brighton Ct., Sterling, VA 20164; 703-404-0542
 Email: beth.meserve@gmail.com

Education & Interpretation

Dana Connor

Mission Encounter - Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

Each year, United Methodist Women members prepare for faithful living and action by participating in Mission Encounter, a transformative education program that offers study on biblically grounded curricula. Mission studies are offered each year - a geographical, topical, and spiritual growth study. These studies are intended to motivate, inform, and enrich our commitment to be in ministry for a more just and equitable world, locally and globally.

In place of in-person events in 2020, each of the Mission Encounter curricula have been adapted for virtual or at home learning, or other online learning opportunities were offered to deepen our learning on related issues. Those adaptations and learning alternatives can be found at the links below.

The 2020 Mission Studies were:

- Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in an Anxious World

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world>

- Spiritual Growth Youth Study: Managing Anxiety

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/managing-anxiety-youth>

- Spiritual Growth Children's Study: Managing Our Emotions

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/managing-our-emotions-children>

- Issue Study: Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/pushout-the-criminalization-of-black-girls-in-schools>

- Special Publication: Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/women-united-for-change>

In 2021 Mission Encounter will offer the following studies:

- Finding Peace in an Anxious World
- Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools
- Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: **Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship**
- A Youth Study: Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence
- **A Children's Study: Responding to Violence**

Social Action

Cheryl Moore

Social Action Starts with Civic Engagement

It was great to see some of you on the Zoom screen at our District Annual Meeting in September and to have the opportunity to put names together with faces. I look forward to seeing you again on November 5, at our Mini Mission Encounter, which will also be held via Zoom. We will hear a presentation by Kim Bobo, Executive Director of the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), **about legislative priorities for the 2021 General Assembly. As you know, VICPP is our “boots on the ground” in Richmond and helps us with strategy and efforts to reach lawmakers who are making important decisions in our state – decisions like whether employers should be required to provide paid sick days for employees, which came close to passing in 2020 and will be on the agenda again in 2021.**

As you know, there is an important election coming up on November 3. Although this is not a year to elect our General Assembly members, we have the opportunity to choose our President, U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative and, depending on where you live, vote for local legislators and other issues. As Americans, it is our civic responsibility – and our privilege – to vote. Fortunately, in a time when Covid-19 may cause trepidation about voting amidst Election Day crowds, there are other options available. For example, starting this month (or already ongoing), there are opportunities to vote early, in person at locations throughout our communities. Check the website of your local registrar or elections office for specific locations. You do not need an excuse to vote early. As always, you may also vote via absentee ballot, which can either be mailed via USPS or dropped off at one of the in-person voting locations. For more information, check out <https://www.vote411.org/>, a comprehensive website **where you can check your voter registration status, find out what’s on the ballot in your community, and learn about your options for voting.**

Whatever option you choose, I hope you will view the candidates and issues through the lens of your **faith as a Christian and United Methodist Woman. Educate yourself by looking at candidates’ websites to learn more about their positions. Participate in candidate forums sponsored by organizations such as the nonpartisan League of Women Voters. We also have a great resource in “Democracy, Values & the 2020 Election: A Reflection Guide for Faith Communities”, which was produced by Faith in Public Life and the Virginia Interfaith Power & Light and endorsed by United Methodist Women.** You can download it here: <http://www.arlingtondistrictumw.org/voter-reflection-guide.html> and use the discussion questions in your UMW unit and other church groups, or to ask questions of candidates.

Until we see each other again, either on a Zoom screen or in person, stay healthy, stay connected to your UMW sisters and your community, stay in touch, and please take the time to VOTE.

Cheryl Moore
cherylwaitmoore@gmail.com
703-981-9879.

Program Resources

Phyllis Kirkman

Welcome to the 2021–2022 United Methodist Women Reading Program. The year 2020 was tumultuous and uncertain. A global pandemic highlighted the importance of connection, even (or especially) while social distancing. Reading books at home and sharing them with friends and family—through email, phone, or video calls—can be a way to relax and engage in the world without leaving home.

The year also marked a civil rights uprising. Black lives matter—and Americans are raising consciousness and moving the country towards great social, political and cultural change, opposing police brutality, systemic racism and anti-Blackness.

The Reading Program has always included books showcasing diverse characters and provoking critical **thinking about many issues, including race and racism. We hope you'll read at least one of these books** that center stories around the Black experience and elevate our understanding of how to be anti-racist, including:

- **Sulwe**, a picture book by Lupita Nyong'o about one girl's journey towards loving her dark skin.
- **Anxious to Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism**, a practical guide for having difficult conversations.
- **The Unstoppable Garrett Morgan**, a charming, inspirational story of a Black businessperson and entrepreneur that is suitable for youth.
- **So You Want to Talk About Race**, a book that appeared in last year's Reading Program and is now available in Korean.
- **Rise!: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People**, Maya Angelou, which has beautiful illustrations.
- **The Hate U Give**, a young adult novel that was written in response to the shooting of Black American Oscar Grant.

The reading program for the first time will span two years instead of one. The purpose of the Reading Program is to **better understand and participate in God's mission today, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues, and to enhance and act on self-knowledge. Even when we're apart, we're together**—and still working to deepen our understanding of the intersections of race, class, sex, religion and gender through books and discussion.

God Bless.
Andris Salter
Operations Officer
United Methodist Women

Reading is an exercise in
empathy; an exercise in
walking in someone else's
shoes for a while

Malorie Blackman



Mini Mission Encounter

When: November 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

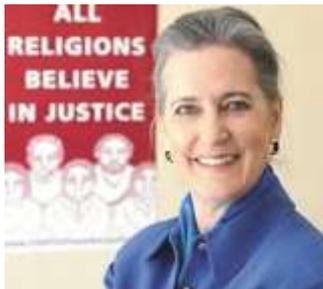
Where: Held via Zoom.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqc-2rrzsrH9TqDdWMXB2neO-fraFQh1BP>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Who: A conversation with Kim Bobo, Executive Director Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) <https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/> and Karen McElfish, Conference Social Action Coordinator



Kim Bobo



Karen McElfish with Carol Barton, UMW executive for community action.

What: Kim and Karen will discuss the legislative priorities that VICPP will focus on during the 2021 General Assembly session and share suggestions about how UMW members can engage in advocacy to promote economic, racial, social and environmental justice in our state.

Save the Date for a New Thing
Arlington District Day and Leadership Development

Formerly known as Training Day
January 23, 2021 at 9 a.m. via Zoom

Come and learn about UMW positions:

A new role you have taken on, or

A role you've always wondered about or might be interested in.

Circle Leader
Communications Coordination
Education and Interpretation Coordination
Language Coordination
Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordination
Nominations
President
Program Coordination/Vice President
Program Resources Coordination/Management
Secretary
Social Action Coordination
Spiritual Growth Coordination
Treasurer

This is open to ALL United Methodist Women—
no need to be a current officer.



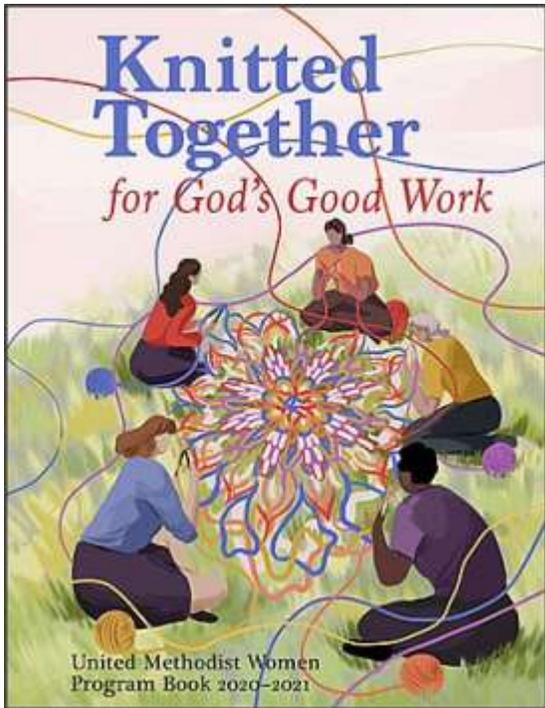


Arlington District United Methodist Women 2020/21 Calendar

PURPOSE
of the United
Methodist Women

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.

Event	Date
VA Conference 48th Annual Meeting—via zoom	October 24
Arlington District Mini Mission—via zoom	November 5 at 7 pm
Arlington District Day—via zoom	January 23, 2021 at 9 am
Arlington District Spring Prayer Event @ tbd	April 17



Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2020

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

Doris Douglass
7213 Vellex Lane
Annandale, VA 22003
703-642-0661
DorisDouglass@msn.com

Vice President

Still vacant at this time

Secretary

Janet Keener
1803 Midlothian Court
Vienna, VA 22182-3428
703-281-7685
Janet_Keener@cox.net

Treasurer

Beth Meserve
507 N. Brighton Ct.
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703-404-0542
beth.meserve@gmail.com

MISSION COORDINATORS

Education and Interpretation

Dana Connor
39400 Buchannon Gap
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571-926-2800
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Social Action

Cheryl Moore
6008 19th St N
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Membership Nurture and Outreach

Still vacant at this time

Spiritual Growth

Phyllis Kirkman
8234 Winder St
Vienna, VA 22180-6962
703-281-1305
umwspirit@gmail.com

Secretary for Program Resources

Phyllis Kirkman
8234 Winder St
Vienna, VA 22180-6962
703-281-1305
umwspirit@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Still vacant at this time

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Communications/Editor of the Tapestry

Frances Ellis
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703-476-1127
FWEllis@aol.com or
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