

The Purpose

Winchester District
United Methodist Women on a Mission



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

January 2021

FROM YOUR NEW DISTRICT PRESIDENT

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Many of you already know me (or at least my name) from my seven years as your district treasurer. But now I'm wearing a new "hat," and I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve in a new way. If ever you need help with anything, please feel free to contact me anytime. If you phone me, please use the landline number given below, because my cell phone isn't turned on every day.

Now then, ladies, on to the business at hand. Here we are already past mid-way of the first month of a brand-new year. Have you gotten your unit's motor restarted yet? Or maybe yours just slowed down a bit and never really stopped. In either case, it's time to keep hanging in there, get re-energized, and continue with the work that United Methodist Women are noted for.

All unit presidents were sent a summation of the discussions at our zone meetings last fall. Lots of ideas came out of those discussions. One of them was a district project to transport UMCOR kits to Mechanicsburg, PA. (You can read more about this in the Vice President's article.) Did you find some ideas that worked for you? Or maybe you've tried something entirely new and found it successful. If so, let your district officers know. We're always glad to hear -- and share -- success stories.

A wise preacher once said, "The church that aims at nothing usually hits it." The same holds true for a UMW unit. Something to think about.

Blessings,
Mary Preston, District UMW President
landline: 540-338-4152
cell: 540-454-7513
Email: K4LJH@comcast.net

FROM YOUR NEW VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings from your new Winchester District UMW VP. It is an honor to serve you in this new capacity. It is my pleasure to announce that our board will be coordinating an effort to collect your assembled UMCOR kits and get them transported to Mission Central, a warehouse distribution center located in Mechanicsburg, PA. Their website can be found at missioncentral.org along with guidelines on kit assembly. It is our purpose to get your kits that are already assembled or can be quickly assembled to this central location so they can be distributed as the needs arise.

We have set up two temporary collection areas, Braddock Street UMC 115 Wolf St. Winchester, VA 22601 (Contact person Carolyn Woodrum. Please text her cell at 540-336-4680) and Harmony UMC 380 E. Colonial HWY. Hamilton, VA 20158 (Contact person Mary Preston 540-338-4152) Please call Mary or text Carolyn to arrange a delivery time. All kits must be at one of these two locations by Saturday, Feb. 13th, 2021.

Tips-

1. Only School Kits, Hygiene Kits, and Cleaning Buckets are accepted.
2. Toothpaste is no longer included in the hygiene kit and therefore you do NOT need to include a dollar as was done in the past.
3. Put one type of kit in each cardboard box. Be sure to put a packing label inside which states the type of kit and the number of kits in the box. A label with the same information needs to be on the outside of each box too. Cleaning buckets do not have to be in boxes but are not to exceed 70 lbs.

A donation of \$1 per kit is expected to help with shipping costs. Please have one check from each unit made out to Mission Central (Not UMCOR) and give the check to the contact person listed above when you drop off the kits to either Braddock Street UMC or Harmony UMC.

Let's get 2021 off to a great start with this mission project. If you have any questions about this or anything else, feel free to contact me.

Thanks,
Debbie Jones, District Vice President
home: 540-869-5468
cell: 540-409-8260
email: drdjonesy@yahoo.com

SAVE THE DATE

- **ANNUAL PRAYER BREAKFAST SET FOR MARCH HAS BEEN CANCELLED!!**
- **March 23rd**
 - Day Of Giving For The Legacy Fund
- **April 24th @ 9:00 AM VIA Zoom**
 - Winchester District Spring Event. "Dismantling Racism" **Details will be announced as planning is**

FROM YOUR DISTRICT TREASURER

My heartfelt greetings go out to each of you at the beginning of this greatly anticipated 2021 New Year! I look forward to serving again as the Winchester District Treasurer and supporting all treasurers more on aspects of our “money matters”. Now, let’s check out the news and reminders.

District Pledge for 2020

Amidst the challenges that financially impacted every unit in 2020, our District managed to end 2020 better than we thought. We met **72%** of our district pledge of \$54,000 and contributed \$48,849.90 to our mission pledge. This was a great accomplishment, and every unit that helped us get there deserves a tremendous Thank You!!

Unit Pledge for 2021

The executive leadership decreased the District Pledge to Mission to \$48,000 for 2021. This was done after careful consideration and understanding that many units’ fundraising events in 2020 did not happen due to the pandemic. Only a few of our units have sent in their 2021 pledge amount typically given during our Annual Meeting (done in October 2020 via Zoom). To those units that have sent in their pledge amount, Thank You. I know some units had not met by October to discuss their finances and 2021 pledge amount. I hope those discussions have now happened; but if not, units/circles should promptly discuss this important matter and communicate/email their pledge amount for 2021 to me ASAP. I hope you’ll be able to let me know by February 15th what your unit’s pledge amount will be. This helps me track our district progress towards meeting our pledge amount. With God’s blessing, I pray most units can make the same effort to send some or all of its pledge in the first and second quarter of 2021. We all know this year will be another challenge as some uncertainty of conducting normal events and activities continues. But we can look to new and different ways to stay committed to helping others through our mission work and giving.

1st Quarter Remittance

Please mail the 1st quarter remittance to arrive in my mailbox no later than March 8th to allow me time to submit the remittances to the conference treasurer. Know that it takes at least 2-3 days for your postmarked letter to reach me via “snail mail”. Treasurers sometimes miss the deadline, so their unit remittance can’t get recorded in that quarter. If possible, please send in your unit’s Administrative and Membership Development (A&MD) fee in this first quarter. This money is what allows the district to pay the bills for expenses and events.

Remittance and other Forms

2021 remittance forms were included in the unit packets provided to Presidents by Zone Leaders after the October Annual Meeting. If you need a remittance form, contact me and I’ll email/mail it to you.

Any unit that wishes to send a donation for a mission project that’s **not** listed on the remittance form will **now** need to send these mission donations, including UMCOR, directly to that mission without going through your District Treasurer. If any such donation is received by me, I will return it back to you. Please let me know if you need help finding any of these or other mission addresses.

Legacy Fund

United Methodist Women are still contributing to the Legacy Fund endowment. For those who wish to send a donation direct to New York (instead of through your district treasurer), the address and instructions are on the conference website www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Angela Lane, District UMW Treasurer
1110 Huntmaster Terr. NE, Apt 301, Leesburg, VA 20176
cell: 703-298-4068
email: angln46@comcast.net

Sharing a thought... "You're just one step away from starting a new beginning – make it a leap." Angela L. Lane

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH (MN&O)

New Year's Greetings to all:

You should have received information about completing your 2020 UMW Census forms. Information was enclosed with District packet and I have sent out reminders via email.

Just a few reminders for accurate membership count:

- **Remember to count your pastor as a member of UMW; but if that pastor serves 2 or more churches, he/she is only counted one time and one unit only.**
- **Keep accurate membership roll. Enter the name, address, and phone info.**

As of December 31st, 2020, updated rolls and report are to be sent to me, via mail or email. Your unit's Census form is due by **January 31st, 2021**.

Information needed:

- **Check your beginning membership number from last year's report. (check Census report submitted last year – information in packet or via email).**
- **Report gains and losses in membership.**
- **Conclude with the total membership for the year 2020 (ending in December 2020).**

Again, I know this has been a difficult year for all our units in all areas of achievements, but remember each **Member** – through this time of isolation and solitude, **Nurturing** one another and **Outreach** in love and concern.

Love and Blessings!
Pauline Skiles, Membership Nurture and Outreach
home: 540-545-8779
cell/text: 540-664-2842
email: apskiles@comcast.net

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Correction -- plus an apology

At the district annual meeting last Fall, we inadvertently omitted **Bethel-Warren UMW** as having received the Living Into Our Purpose **gold** award. The Bethel-Warren unit may be small, but it is mighty and hard-working, and we want to give credit where credit is due. Our sincere apologies, ladies. Color our cheeks red with embarrassment!

Stamps

In case you haven't heard, the person who received our stamps lost his market and asked that we not be send him any for the time being. We are hopeful that this is only temporary, so in the meantime keep saving those stamps. You'll just have to hold on to them a little longer until we get the go-ahead to send them on.

Norma O'Donnell, Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
cell: 540-327-9839
email: nfodennell1@gmail.com

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Winter and gray days seem to be with us, and now seems to be good time to curl up in front of a warm fire with a cup of tea and good book. It is the beginning of the year and time for us to start thinking about UMW Reading Program. Think of creative ways to enjoy the books available, zoom book clubs, invite a few units to join virtually and invite the author of a favored book to join your discussion. Hopefully, we can find creative ways to enjoy the Reading Program and connect with our UMW sisters.

Due to Covid 19, closure of the national office for many months and quarantine, the national office has determined that combining the 2021-2022 reading list would be a better way of handling the above situation. Something new this year is that the Reading Program now includes Faith Talks podcasts and movies that will count as books read. Faith Talks podcasts (which come in threes) will count in the Spiritual Growth category. Participating in or listening to two podcasts will count as one book read. All three will count as a bonus book. As for the movies, there are three; and each will count as one book read in the Social Action category.

Those movies are:

- Just Mercy

- The Hate U Give
- Pushout

You may download the UMW reading list for 2021-2022, (TWO YEARS) at this link:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram

If you have any questions, please let me know, and Happy Reading!!

Carolyn Woodrum,
 Acting Chairman, Program Resources Committee
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 Cell: 540-336-4680
 Email: cayray36@aol.com

DISTRICT MISSION ENCOUNTER

Grace, peace and Happy New Year to all.

It is my prayer as we enter another year that all are safe and staying well. I want to ask you to save the date, Saturday, September 11, 2021, for District Mission Encounter at Stephens City UMC in Stephens City, VA. Our District M.E. Committee will meet in March, and we will keep you informed as we follow the decisions of the Virginia Conference UMW.

I ask for your prayers as we seek God's will as we look forward to carrying out His great mission. Thanks to all who serve for serving on this committee and to all who support us by attending this awesome and enlightening event.

Remember to SAVE THE DATE, Saturday, September 11, 2021.

Blessings,
 Lillian B. Sloane, lsloane@comcast.net -540-635-2623
 Jeraldine Ridgway, Co-Chairs, budd3@comcast.net 540-635-5483

HISTORIAN'S CORNER

In 1939 the Central Jurisdiction was formed as part of a North-South compromise to create The Methodist Church. It was based on race and covered most of the African-American churches in the southeastern and south-central states and the north. Mary McLeod Bethune opposed the organization because it might increase segregation. In 1953 the first Charter of Racial Justice Policies was adopted by The Women's Division of Christian Service. In 1980 at Women's Division recommendation, the Charter was adopted by the General Conference of the UMC. The Central Jurisdiction was abolished at the 1968-72 General Conference establishing the United Methodist Church. I read somewhere that the EUB delegates insisted on that. When I was a district and conference UMW officer, at most annual meetings there would be a seminar of some type on the Charter. One problem I experienced was that southern women (including me) could not understand why some comments (not blatant racism) were

insulting to our AA sisters. I think that problem continues today. The Winchester District is planning a Spring Event on Racial Justice. I hope you will participate and that we will learn the background for our unintentional hurts.

Janice Webb, District UMW Historian

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