



Greater New Jersey (GNJ) Conference United Methodist Women (UMW)

January 6, 2022

Greetings and welcome to our Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women's website. A virtual greeting such as this has been the norm for a while now. We welcome 2022 as the year many get "boosted" and continue wearing masks that protect ourselves and those around us. We are working on our new districts within the GNJ Conference, seizing this as an opportunity for a new thing and a bright future.

We continue in 2022 to work for climate justice, such that those who are least able to resist are not the most harmed by the location of landfills, incinerators, power plants, and other polluting industries. "UMW will continue to live into the *13 Steps to Sustainability* that provides concrete ways to counter climate injustice through our own event planning and daily habits."

We continue in 2022 to speak through our Charter for Racial Justice conversations and against the criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration. We especially act to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline that disproportionately affects young African-American females, who are suspended at six times the rate of white girls. These two, climate justice and criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration, are our priority issues for the quadrennium 2021-2024. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/issues>

In May of this year, we will attend Assembly, the quadrennial gathering of United Methodist Women from around the world. My most memorable trip to Assembly was with my mother, Deaconess Helen McCahill, when my younger daughter was only two months old! I have a photo that shows us at the top of the arena, overlooking thousands of women, with ones nearby holding my daughter. Please go to the website to see the exciting video made in Columbus, Ohio, at the 2018 Assembly and register now for Assembly2022 (choose virtual attendance to save \$\$\$ on airfare, hotel and food costs!). <https://assembly2022.org/>

Thus we begin another year in our United Methodist Women's life of "faith, hope and love in action" with the women, children and youth of this world. This year, may we take up the challenge of those last two words of our motto and ACT in ways both big and small, globally and locally, collectively and individually, to transform the world through our witness as United Methodist Women.

Sincerely,

Sue Zahorbenski, President, GNJ UMW
Diaconal Minister
United Methodist Church at New Brunswick