

Message from GNJUMW President

December 2021

A Message from Sue for CHRISTMAS 2021

Every year my mother, Helen McCahill, wrote a Christmas letter to keep in touch with all her friends and family around the globe. I have copies of many of these letters, starting with 1963 when we moved to a new (over 150-year-old) home in Dover. Early on, the letters gave news of her children, Susan, Wendy and Jay. As we grew, her focus on other people grew. Soon her letters were filled with issues of poverty, homelessness, and injustice.



This year she was having difficulty composing her annual sharing of the joys and challenges of life as a deaconess in the United Methodist Church. This is what she struggled to share: Helen was embarrassed to have fallen victim to two scams. It was solely her dream to build transitional housing for women and their children that made her desperate to raise money. After the scam, she wished to warn others not to purchase gift cards for strangers, even though she herself had no fear of strangers. She was a fearless advocate for homelessness prevention. She had a dream for a better and more compassionate world for everyone.

I want to share the serious implications of diabetes and the importance of taking your medication and seeing your doctor regularly. The notes and cards over the years mentioned Helen's efforts to take good care of herself. She wanted to live to be a hundred but only made it to 87-years-old. To the very end she was helping others – that morning, she was cleaning snow off her car to go help a friend in need. Even after death, she is helping medical students to learn by donating her body. Continuing to learn and teach and grow were vital to her, and she leaves behind many books as evidence.

Mission u (formerly known as The Cooperative School of Christian Mission) was one of the events she attended annually. Her goal was to bring someone new along to experience the joy of learning and the supportive fellowship. She wished others had her compassion for housing for women, children and youth, who are the mission focus of United Methodist Women. Through her travels and contact with people of differing race, income, gender or sexuality, she expanded her concept of mission. In the words of Bishop John Schol, "Helen was a champion for justice."

Sue Zahorbenski
President GNJUMW

Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>



United
Methodist
Women



Mujeres
Metodistas
Unidas



연합감리교회
여성교회

Greater New Jersey Conference United Methodist Women Virtual Officer Training

All are invited to Register for this meeting:



“LEAD LIKE MLK”

Saturday, January 15, 2022, 10:00am-noon

Visit www.gnjumw.org, Events, for link to MLK training event video.

United Methodist Women

2022 Assembly



TURN IT UP! for spiritual healing and renewal, women leaders making an impact, and justice for women, children, and youth.

Join women ready to worship, act, and celebrate our sisterhood, reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward.

<https://assembly2022.org>

Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>

Our Heritage



The United Methodist Women have celebrated their 150th anniversary and still counting.

Where did we come from and where are we going? What are our stories? Check out our Legacy here at: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home>.

Find Us:



GNJ United Methodist Women
<https://www.gnjumw.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111312445695999/>



United Methodist Women
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org
<https://www.umwonline.org/home>



<https://www.facebook.com/UMWomen>



<https://twitter.com/UMWomen>



<https://www.pinterest.com/UMWomen/>



youtube.com/UMWomen



<https://www.instagram.com/umwomen/>



<https://www.flickr.com/groups/umwomen>

Be strong and courageous for the Lord is with you wherever you go.

JOSHUA 1:9

December 2021

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Joyce Pratt
Communications Coordinator

Redistricting for Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women Approved on January 15, 2022

"The Leadership Team of the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW) moves forward in 2022 with the six newly-aligned districts as approved by the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Church Adjourned Session of the Annual Conference on Oct. 14, 2021. The six districts in two regions are Skylands, Meadowlands, Raritan Shore (Metro-Highlands), Central, Delaware Bay and Cape Atlantic (Coastal Plains)."

This resolution, as clarification for our purposes only, was suggested at a GNJUMW redistricting meeting on Saturday, December 11, 2021, drafted by the Standing Rules Committee, and approved at the Leadership Team meeting on January 15, 2022.

Elections in each new district will be held no sooner than 30 days from the January 15, 2022 meeting to allow notification to the local units.

The changes in the GNJUMW Districts will take effect on Monday, February 28, 2022.

Sue Zahorbenski
President, GNJUMW

The United Methodist Church in Greater New Jersey Redistricting Plan

COVID, financial challenges and future changes in The United Methodist Church, have required the cabinet to assess districting, resourcing and staffing to fulfill and grow the mission of GNJ. To learn more, visit:

[GNJUMC Redistricting Plan](#)
[GNJUMC New Districts](#)

The six districts clustered into two main regions and superintendents are as follows:

Metro-Highlands Region

Meadowlands District – Rev. William W. Williams III
Skylands District – Rev. Dr. Eunice Vega Perez
Raritan Shore District – Rev. Glenn J. Conaway

Coastal Plains Region

Coastal District – Rev. Hector Burgos
Cape Atlantic District – Rev. Brian Roberts
Delaware Bay District – Rev. Glenn J. Conaway

United Methodist Women Assembly 2022

UMW Assembly- "Turn It Up"

May 20-22, 2022

Ubuntu May 19, 2022

Registration deadline is April 11, 2022

In person Registration: \$365 Virtual: \$235

Proof of Covid vVaccination is required.

Hotel expenses: \$158-\$203

Up to four persons/rm double/ double rm.

Expenses: Friday and Saturday- Breakfast and Dinner Lunch is provided.

Sunday- Breakfast.

LDD training will be at Assembly

Legacy Banquet- Sat May 21st 5-6:30pm (Must register in advance)

Keynote Speakers:

Heather McTeer Toney: She is the first African- American, youngest female to serve as mayor of Greenville, Mississippi. She was appointed by President Barack Obama as Regional Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Janet Wolf: Worked as a poverty rights organizer, UM pastor with an urban and rural congregation, college and seminary professor and teacher who worked inside prisons.

Anise 'Isama'u: A United Methodist woman who worked with young women of Limitless.

Harriett Olson: Chief Executive Officer of UMW, national administrator and policy making leader since 2007.

Townhall and workshop Speakers:

Sophie Agtarap: For Such a Time as This: Racism and Antiracism and the United Methodist Church.

Catherine Akale: Leadership Development- A Necessity for Change Makers.

Esther Barkat: Learning to Breathe- Understanding the Power of Our Emotions

Derrak Belase: You Have What You Need, ABCD of change

Many others will be assisting with Town Hall Meetings and Workshops.

Greater New Jersey Conference Mission u

United Methodist Women Virtual Officer Training



“LEAD LIKE MLK” January 15, 2022

The virtual Officer Training program included a video commemorating Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life and work as a civil rights activist to introduce how United Methodist Women can “Lead Like MLK.” All conference leaders were scheduled in breakout rooms to learn and discuss new plans and opportunities for Greater New Jersey. GNJUMW President Susan Zahorbenski served as program facilitator.

GNJUMW Fall Meeting October 16, 2021

The GNJUMW fall meeting was presided by President Sue Zahorbenski via zoom on the topic “Equity in Voting” with three speaker presentations followed by the business meeting.

Speaker Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, co-chair with Rev. William J. Barber II of the Poor People’s Campaign, shared the work of the Poor People’s Campaign and the Kairos Center on democracy and protecting and expanding voting rights.

Speaker Toni Zimmer, Board member of the League of Women Voters of Sussex Highlands (LWVS), presented the role of the League of Women Voters and their work to ensure all voices are heard.

Speaker Joyce Pratt, freelance writer and President of T&J Associates of NJ LLC and the Oneal Group discussed the importance of equitable access to voting in New Jersey and three issues that could affect the ability to vote: School Segregation, Redistricting/Redlining/Gerrymandering, and our debt ceiling.

Social Action 2022

United Methodist Women are getting ready for something new! With so much still going on in our lives and our world, I encourage you to make space to listen to what's going on inside you as we enter a new season. How do you feel about opening to new possibilities? What will help you embrace these new changes with hope and courage?

Ask yourself these questions and listen to what emerges in you before and again after exploring the resources below:

How is this for you?

What do you appreciate about this?

What bothers or worries you about this?

Are there other things you're feeling?

What did this remind you of?

What did you wish happened?

What's the most important thing for you?

In preparation for UMW National's new look and new programs, we're offering online courses about our New Wineskins Campaign.

To enroll in these free, online courses about new changes coming email:

distancelearning@unitedmethodistwome.org

Be sure to put "wineskins" in the subject and include your first and last name in the email. Here are some additional helpful links.

New UMW videos:

https://youtu.be/uklY8sFS_40

<https://youtu.be/ZFKzxJjWVWw>

Course 1: 30 minutes

<https://unitedmethodistwomen.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/10649/slide/5652>

Course 2: 35 minutes

<https://unitedmethodistwomen.bridgeapp.com/learner/courses/10988/slide/5949>

1. (Continued on page 8)

Social Action 2022 (Continued from page 7)

When women engage with us, we want them to clearly identify the following traits. We want them to say that we are: Inclusive, Live-changing, Bold, Fresh, Spiritual. We want women to have an "emotional connection that evokes belonging, empowerment and relevance."

We want women to say, "I belong to a sisterhood and can put my faith into action to make a difference in the world around me, in the areas that matter to me."

Please reach out and share your thoughts after exploring these resources. We will all hear more details after Assembly. Our Social Action Campaigns through 2024 will remain Climate Justice and Criminalization of Communities of Color/Mass Incarceration.

Give yourself the time you need to embrace a season of possibilities.
You are loved. We are all in this together.

Blessings and peace,
Sherri Shumate
GNJ Social Action Coordinator
Sherri.shumate@gmail.com

Resources and Actions for Racial Justice
<https://tinyurl.com/UMWresources>

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jh6l4h4e-O9GrSZnEpcMg_BRW-0oGBYkv1Q23JPkk0/edit?usp=drivesdk

UMW New Wineskins for Growth

"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will bust the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins." –Mark 2:21-22 (NIV)

United Methodist Women are making new wineskins so that new generations of women can join in the joy of turning faith into action with a community of like-minded women. Videos and online courses are offered on the New Wineskins Campaign. For more information on the wineskins campaign, E-mail distancelearning@unitedmethodistwomen.org and turn to page 14 for Faith Talks' special edition.

Legacy Endowment Fund

Yvonne Bouknight, GNJ Conference Legacy Liaison
ybouk@verizon.net, 201-396-9531

A New Logo for the Endowment Fund was introduced in the Fall of 2021. So, what is Next and Why? Check out the video on the You Tube link below to learn why as well as ways you can give to the Endowment Fund. <https://youtu.be/YmwMFLy5yF4>

Remember, all gifts given, no matter how small, will grow to build a legacy for generations to come. For more information or to give, contact Kenya Roberts at

vroberts@unitedmethodistwomen.org or
email legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org or
call 212-870-3705 or
write directly to United Methodist Women National Office
Attention: Legacy
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, New York, NY

If you are interested in being a part of the GNJ Conference Legacy Committee contact, Yvonne Bouknight. The Goal for 2022 is to have one representative from each district to serve on our Conference Legacy Committee. You are needed to develop new ideas and share the message of how to give and why the Legacy Endowment Campaign Is important.

A Toolkit is available to all members. The kit contains Bible studies, logos and other resources to inspire giving to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign [Get the Toolkit!](#)

The Legacy Fund is made up of a representative from each district. Those wishing to serve may contact Yvonne Bouknight at ybouk@verizon.net.

The Legacy Endowment Fund is managed by Wespeth, a socially responsible investment management firm. Changes in the campaign balance is result of fluctuations in the stock market.

[Ways to Give](#)
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org



Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>

DISTRICTS & OTHER NEWS

Central District

Capital District Fall meeting was held on October 2, 2021 at Turning Point United Methodist Church. District Superintendent Rev. Hector Burgos installed officers and served communion. Pastor Maritza Gonzalez presented a talk about “Pushout,” the criminalization of Black girls in America’s schools. Next conference meeting was Redistricting on December 11, 2021 and Officer Training will be held on January 15, 2022. [Debbie Campion, VP, and Lesley Koengetter, outgoing President]

Charter for Racial Justice

The conversation series continued with “Focus on Muslim Experiences Post 9/11” with speaker Ruby Kish on Saturday, September 11, 2021, “Focus on Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) Experiences with speaker Susan Kim on Saturday, October 9, 2021, and “Focus on Indigenous Peoples Experiences on Saturday, November 13 with speaker Cynthia Mosley and Connectional Officer Sung-ok Lee. [Leslie Bivins]

Church Women United (CWU)

CWU Assembly was held on October 7-9, 2021

CWU Northeast Regional Assembly. CWU virtual NE Regional Assembly is scheduled for President’s Day weekend, February 18-19, 2022 with the theme, “It Starts with Unity.” The program will begin with a 9:00am Bible study on the Scripture 1 Peter 3:8-9 and workshops beginning at 10:00am. For details, see the flyer below.

[Sara Joslin]

Delaware Bay District

Gateway South District. Mini-School Forum, “Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School,” virtual event is scheduled for February 12, 2022 - Gathering at 9:00am and Forum at 10:00am to Noon. Facilitators are Kathy Schulz and Yvonne Bouknight. Visit www.gnjumw.org website, Districts, for registration by February 5, 2022 with link. Offering to benefit The Neighborhood Center in Camden, NJ. [Connie Dirocco] See flyer below.

GNJAC Legislation Report

The Intersectional Peace with Justice Legislation presented to Annual Conference by the United Methodist Women passed by a vote of 464-19. The resolution calls for commitments to education, respectful healing conversations and inclusive communities. For additional information, read GNJUMC “Forward,” pages 45 and 46 at: www.gnjumc.org/content/uploads/2021/05/2021-AC-PreCon-WB-5.25.pdf. – Reported by Sue Zahorbenski.

[continued on page 13]

A Look Back and A Glance Forward United Methodist Women Report 2021 Gateway South District

*Isaiah 43:19: "For I am about to do something new.
See, I have already begun!
Do you not see it?" (NLT).*

There is a song my choir sings, and, it has these lyrics. 'As I look back over my life, and I think things over. I can truly say that I've been blessed, I've got a testimony.' That song comes to my mind as I think back over this past year. We are still living in a pandemic, with new variants seemingly always on the horizon—yet Still I Rise (Maya Angelou).

Beginning in January with the special session of GNJAC, LDD classes, there was something enriching and meaningful to the community throughout the year. Our Leadership Team Meetings continued, and many initiatives were suggested and implemented.

A few events that stand out to me are The Spring Meeting, and the Districts' Breakout Rooms, a wonderful concept. The three-day Mission U, and the Fall Meeting.

We enjoyed a productive year, still supporting The Neighborhood Center as well as our connection with the UMC of Magnolia's Hope Center, pastored by Rev. Cherese Evans. Pastor Evans was our guest speaker at our Fall Meeting.

When 2021 began I did not know that we would be Re-Districted to new locations, with new names. I am very grateful for the time I served in Gateway South, and I will miss the ladies. However, God is doing a new thing and I embrace a new opportunity to serve in Cape Atlantic.

*Another year is Dawning! Dear Master let it be
In working or in waiting, another year with Thee.*

Words & Music by Frances R. Havergal & Friedrich Von

Submitted by: Virgie Williams, Gateway South District President

**New Year's Resolution:
A promise to do something different
To improve your life and/or the life of others!**

Mission u



A Transformative Biblical Curriculum for Adults,
Youth and Children

Three Day Mission u: July 14-16, 2022, 9am to 3pm

Thursday July 14 and Friday July 15, 2022 will be Virtual 6:45pm - 9pm.

Saturday July 16, 2022 will be hybrid, in person and virtual, Aldersgate UMC – E. Brunswick, NJ

Theme: Luke 13: Who Can we Be Together?

Children and youth studies available.

There will be an ingathering of can goods, boxes of plastic forks and spoons (no knives please), and packages of napkins. Group project will be wrapping these together for Elijah's Promise Soup Kitchen, New Brunswick, which has served up to 32,000 meals a month during pandemic.

On-line registration TBA shortly.

Love offering to be given online.

Three Day Study Leaders:

Adult Study: Who Can We Be Together?

Wilhelmina Jackson and Rev Donald Kirschner

One Day Mission u: July 23, 2022, 9am to 3:30pm

Theme: Luke 13- Who Can We Be Together?

Study Leaders: Jay Brown and Kathy Schulz

Youth Study: Community in the Midst of Challenging Times

Rev Erica Munoz and Yvonne Bouknight

Children's Study: Our Growing Tree: From Self Love to the Beloved Community and all of God's Creation.

Alice Bennett and Lisa Gilmore.

Questions? Contact Marilyn Powell at mpowell56@comcast.net

District & Other News (Continued from page 10)

Skylands District

Skylands District Annual Fall Meeting was held October 23, 2021 at Montville United Methodist Church. Speaker was Clara Ester, a retired UM deaconess and former civil rights activist, who presented via Zoom from her residence in Alabama. [Barbara McShane]

Standing Rules for GNJUMW was updated and prepared for the United Methodist Women Annual Meeting on October 16, 2021. [Grace Rapp]

United Methodist

Conference Communications Coordinators

Online training courses for conference communications coordinators is available to anyone who has not attended training. To take the course, log into the online learning platform Bridge at www.unitedmethodistwomen.bridgeapp.com. The course **United Methodist Women Conference Communications Coordinators** should appear under your "My Learning" tab. If not, email distancelearning@unitedmethodistwomen.org. Your username is your email address. [Tara Barnes, UMW]

Reading Program Books

Program books and handbooks will be mailed to each District President. *Healing & Joy on Our Journey to God* is the title of the new Program Book.

Dear Helen:



United Methodist Women, January 2022

Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>



Faith Talks Special Edition on UMW Future:
New

Wineskins Campaign

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On Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 4 pm ET, CEO Harriett Jane Olson and other leaders discussed the future of United Methodist Women.




United Methodist Women CEO and General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson

On **Wednesday Oct. 20 at 4 pm ET** a **special edition** of Faith Talks was held on the future of United Methodist Women and the New Wineskins Campaign preparing members for exciting changes on the horizon that will energize women to turn their love into action for women, children and youth for another 150 years.

This special edition of Faith Talks featured a panel of United Methodist Women board and national leaders including CEO Harriett Jane Olson, UMW CEO and general secretary.

Jesus said, “No one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”

That’s just what United Methodist Women is doing through new and improved programs and a rebrand launch set for 2022 designed to nurture current members and attract new women!



Northeast Regional Assembly

"It Starts With Unity"
1 Peter 3:8-9

Gianni Daniels-Staley
Northeast Regional Coordinator

February 18-19, 2022
7-8:30pm; 9 AM - 5:30 PM
Virtually Through Zoom

Registration is **FREE!!!!**

**MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT YOUR STATE/LOCAL UNIT**

Rhode Island

New York

Massachusetts

New Jersey

Further Information:
Gianni Daniels-Staley
646-546-7270
staley.glann103@gmail.com

GNJUMW Calendar of Events 2021-2022

2021

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Oct 27, 6-7pm | Leadership Team, Redistricting |
| Nov 13, 12-1 | Charter for Racial Justice Know Your Neighbor, Zoom link to Register |
| November 17 | Executive/Planning Committees for "Lead Like MLK" Training Event, 6pm |
| November 27 | Micro Retreat 10AM-10:45 Zoom Link to Register |

2022

| | |
|------------------|--|
| January 12, 2022 | Zoom rehearsal, 6pm |
| January 15 | Virtual Officer Training on Zoom, "Lead Like MLK" - Leadership Team afterward |
| March 5 | Leadership Team, 9-11:30am, Zoom |
| April 9 | Spring Meeting, Location or Virtual TBD |
| May 20-22, 2022 | Assembly in Orlando, FL, "Turn it Up!" including Leadership Development Day https://assembly2022.org/ |
| May 24 Tue., 6pm | Executive Committee/Planning Committee for "Recipes for Success" |
| June 4 | Officer Training, "Recipes for Success" followed by Leadership Team, in-person! |
| July 14-16 | Mission u 3-day, Virtual with Live/Hybrid Option on Saturday. |
| July 23 | Mission u 1-day, Virtual. |
| August 6 | Treasurer's Meeting 9:30-11, Leadership Team Meeting 12-1:30 |
| September 20 | Tuesday, Exec Committee/Planning Committee, 6pm |
| October 15 | GNJUMW Annual Fall Meeting, 9:30-12:30 |

Calendar Updates:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1l4005orBabWfchfIO_BiHeQ6jzJAKqOnD15Pt5icTiE/edit



Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>

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 participation in the ministries of the church.

연속적인 여성이 단위 그리 예 사람을
 자체적으로 포용하여 자용 여성의 수혜를
 위하여 하려는 자의, 기관 및 단체를
 통하여 세계적인 차가를 해 의 를 자
 의 사역.

y de apoyo, y ampliar los conceptos de misión mediante la participación en los ministerios globales de la iglesia.

La unidad organizada de Mujeres Metodistas Unidas es una comunidad de jeres cuyo PROPÓSITO consiste en reconocer a Dios y experimentar libertad en la totalidad de sus vidas mediante Jesucristo; desarrollar un compañerismo creativo

GNJUMW Voices of Purpose



United Methodist Women



Mujeres Metodistas Unidas



연합감리교회 여성교회