



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

# THE HOLSTONIAN

Holston Conference United Methodist Women  
January • February • March 2022

## *Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call*

### Meet the Deaconess of Holston Conference



**Deaconess Elizabeth (Lisa) Nichols** was commissioned a Deaconess in October 2000 under the program direction of Betty Purkey, Executive Secretary of Deaconess Service. I joined Deaconess after determining that I wanted to devote my life to

God's service, and the Order of Deaconess was a representation of that desire. I have served as Deaconess/Church and Community Worker at Community Outreach in Nevada, Missouri, St. Elmo/Alton Park Partners and St. Andrews Center in Chattanooga, TN, Henry Fork Service Center in Rocky Mount, VA, and at Jubilee Project in Sneedville, TN. I have enjoyed working with different people in very diverse situations and have been encouraged by their commitment to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Deaconess Mitzi Sadler-Thorne** I had always thought while growing up that I wanted to be a missionary. I felt like being a deaconess was like that of a missionary. I live in Rich Creek with my husband, my two daughters and my nephew. I attend Narrows First United Methodist Church. I am currently the UMW President for the New



River District. I am a Special Education Teacher at Pikeview Middle School located in Princeton, West Virginia. It is important to me that students know that they can succeed and believe in themselves.

**Deaconess Donna Camper** My call to deaconess



began several years ago when I became active on the conference and district levels. I met several deaconesses and was intrigued. I had felt a call to ministry and began that process, but it never felt quite right. My heart leapt at the deaconess

path. I am a former educator, with 38 years in the classroom. I also founded and became the executive director of Bristol Recovery Road, a recovery facility to help those with drug and alcohol addictions and incarceration to begin new lives after rehab. I have been involved with this for 15 years. I am now mentoring the new director and program. I am married to Joe, have one daughter and a precious grandson. Currently, I lead music at Enterprise United Methodist Church.

**Deaconess Margaret Frazier** of Jonesborough



serves as the Director of Youth Ministry at Colonial Heights UMC, Kingsport. Her favorite part of ministry is crafting spaces during vacation bible school, mission experiences, bible study, fun events, or retreats for youth, children, and adults to engage in thoughtful conversation

about who God is and how God is calling us to live together. She is a lifelong United Methodist and originally from the South Georgia Conference. She received her MTS from Wesley Theological

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

Seminary, Washington, DC, where she met her husband Caleb, who is an ordained elder in the Holston Conference. Currently, she is a candidate for the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner and a part of the cohort set to be consecrated at General Conference 2022. She was introduced to the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner while serving as a US-2, UMC young adult missionary, in Baldwin, LA at UMCOR Sager Brown. She appreciates how the Order upholds the rich history of lay ministry in the UMC and looks forward to continuing this legacy of spirit filled work. Margaret and her husband have two children.

**Deaconess Cindy Campbell** grew up in Hamilton County, Tennessee and recently returned after living out of state for 40 years while attending college and developing her career in journalism and public relations. She is married to J.R., her husband of 27 years.



They have 4 grown sons. Cindy was consecrated as a Deaconess in 2018 at the UMW Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Her ministry is in Aging programs that bring together the Love, Justice and Service ideals of the Deaconess and Home Missioner movement for laypersons in ministry. She loves to create bridges that connect people; assisting those who want to give back to their community by helping those who need a hand. She learned compassion for older people from her grandmother and other older family members who were known in their community for being helpers. Cindy is the Transportation Coordinator for Southeast Tennessee Area Agency on Aging and Disability, where she coordinates the MyRide program. Cindy brings her wide work experience in public relations, church ministry, and working with senior adults through parks and recreation and church programs. She was the volunteer coordinator for the Meals on Wheels program in one of Georgia's largest counties just prior to joining SETAAD.

**Deaconess Claire Lovelace** grew up in Dunlap, TN;



Earned a B.A. degree in 1961 from Tennessee Wesleyan College with a major in English and a minor in Religion; an M.A. degree in Religion and Social Welfare from Scarritt College & Graduate School in 1970. In 1987 was commissioned a

Deaconess in the United Methodist Church. She served for 13 years in Knoxville Cooperative Parish and Knoxville District of Holston Conference, UMC. She taught in adult education programs in Knoxville and later in Weber City, VA after moving to Tri-Cities. Her last assignment was three years as Director of Neighborhood Reconciliation Services in Johnson City, TN before her retirement in 2005. She is married to Rev. David H. Lovelace, a retired pastor of Holston Conference. They now reside at Asbury Place, Kingsport. They have been active in Munsey Memorial UMC and First Broad Street UMC in retirement.

**Deaconess Betty S. Purkey** I was commissioned a deaconess in October 1982 and retired in October 2011. My ministry included the following appointments:



Executive Secretary of Office of Church and Community Ministry and Executive Secretary of Deaconess Program Office of the General Board of Global Ministries in New York City, NY, Church and Community Worker with the Scott County Church and Community Renewal Project in Scott County, Virginia, and Program Coordinator of the Latino Institute of Pastoral Care, Inc. in New York City, NY.

Being a deaconess has enriched my life and ministry in ways too numerous to even begin to mention. I am especially thankful for the support I have received from United Methodist Women during my 29 years of service as a deaconess.

Not Pictured **Deaconess Terri Goodin**

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## 2022 A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial - Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call

Every year, “A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” encourages women to step out in faith and bring the love of Christ into a hurting world through their prayers and selfless giving.

The theme this year is “Love, Justice and Service: Answering the Call” and the Mission Giving offering will support the vital and vibrant ministry of deaconesses and home missionaries, consecrated laity who have dedicated the entirety of their lives to vocations of love, justice, and service. These vocations include social work, education, health care, advocacy, immigration reform, anti-poverty initiatives, antiracism efforts, legal justice and more. *(See the Deaconess of Holston Conference in this edition of the Holstonian.)*

Local units are encouraged to participate in a special service, program, or event lifting up the 2022 [Call to Prayer & Self Denial](#). Women are encouraged to give thoughtfully to support the education and training of deaconesses and home missionaries as well as retired deaconesses who continue to make a difference in the lives of women, children, and youth.

## A Day of Giving – Embracing the Future

Save the Date: March 23, 2022, Embrace the future for women, children and youth by giving to The Legacy Endowment Fund on Day of Giving, March 23. Join the Live Facebook Event to find out how the gifts are being put to use.



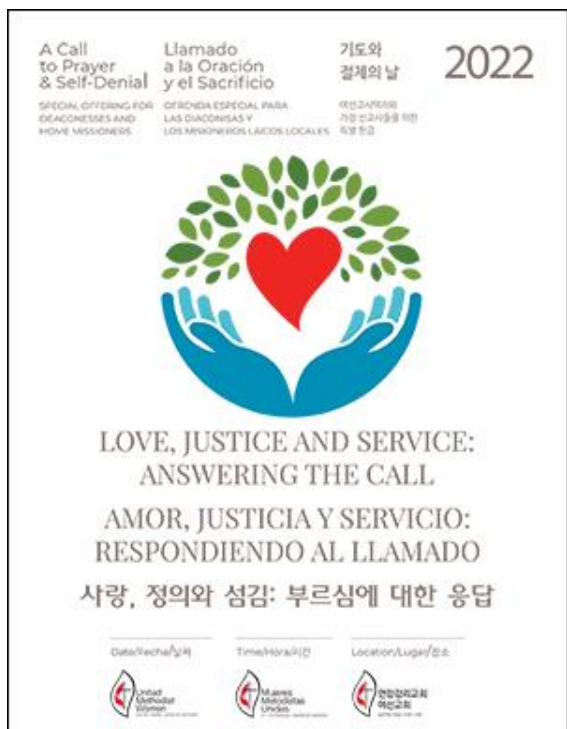
The Legacy Fund is a forward-looking permanent endowment that undergirds the work of future generations of United Methodist Women as they engage in mission with the women, children, and youth of their day, allowing us to stand beside them long after we’ve gone, just as our foremothers now stand beside us.

The Legacy Fund will ensure a regular source of support for the core expenses of being in mission, core expenses like membership nurture, leadership development, and technological updates of data and communications operating systems.

You can make this happen by giving online at: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150> or by phone at 800-278-7771.

According to Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary United Methodist Women, “On Wednesday March 23 we will commemorate and celebrate our founders and the origins of United Methodist Women in our support of Day of Giving, with all proceeds on that special day directed to the Legacy Fund.

Your contribution and participation in Day of Giving bears witness to your commitment to the future of United Methodist Women as well as its present and will be an investment in our continuing legacy of mobilizing assets and change as God calls us. Thank you for all the ways you live the legacy of United Methodist Women!”



# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## Conference-wide Leadership Development & Officer's Training 2022



In late January the Holston Conference United Methodist Women leadership team hosted its first ever conference-wide leadership development and officers training for local unit, district, and conference

officers. According to evaluations, email responses, and word of mouth, the event was well received and considered successful. Held virtually, the new format was partially due to hardships caused due to the Covid 19 pandemic, and also in response to feedback provided by the nine district presidents.

National staff members and women (plus one man) in leadership roles from across the states led participants in conversation about the roles and responsibilities of the various positions that make up the leadership teams on all levels of the organization. While the trainings were unable to be recorded, you can gain access to the various handouts at: <https://www.holston.org/umw>.

## District & Local Treasurer Training Set

Karen Adair, outgoing conference treasurer and Mona Geer, incoming conference treasurer have set the date, time, and location for *all district and local unit treasurers*. Please note and mark your calendars.

Saturday, March 19, 2022

**District Treasurers 10:30 a.m.**  
**Local Treasurers 1:00 p.m.**

Holston Conference Center  
217 South Rankin Road  
Alcoa, TN, 37701

Lunch will be provided. You must RSVP to Karen Adair @ [karen.adair.umw@gmail.com](mailto:karen.adair.umw@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance and be counted for lunch.

## Committee On Nominations Training

Saturday, March 19, 2022

10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Via Zoom (see below to register)

Nominating Committee Chairs and all nominating committee members (local, district and conference) will benefit from and are encouraged to participate in training specific to nomination and leadership development. Topics to be covered include learning ways to be an effective Nominating Committee; how nominating committee members and chairs are selected; and understanding roles, responsibilities, and tenure.

Hear ideas to increase completion of Talent Bank & Recommendation to the Committee on Nominations Sheets and to increase Nomination committee members engagement with members. Presidents and others interested are welcome.

## MNO Coordinators Training

Saturday, March 19, 2022

10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon

Via Zoom (see below to register)

All Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinators (local, district and conference) and committee members are encouraged to participate to learn more about the role of MNO and why it is vital to the organization and to the work we are called to do. Learn specifically about membership growth, retention, and member engagement. Information will also be shared about the New Wine Skins Initiative and exciting developments and changes occurring within the organization. All others interested in membership are welcome to register to participate as well.

### Registration Link:

(Position - select either Nominating Committee or Membership Nurture Outreach)

<https://holston-reg.brtapp.com/UMWTrainingNominatingandMembershipNurtureandOutreach>

Join Zoom Meeting

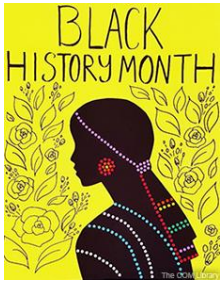
<https://zoom.us/j/97547005756>

Dial by Phone: (646) 876 9923

Meeting ID: 975 4700 5756

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## Black History Month



February is [Black History Month](#) is a time to reflect on the history of black Americans and to honor the individuals and groups who have worked tirelessly toward racial justice.

As outlined in the Racial Justice Charter, United Methodist Women works to eliminate all forms of institutional racism; to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community; to support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in the church and community, and much more.

Holston Conference United Methodist Women on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, adopted as policy the five following items as criteria for implementing the Charter for Racial Justice.

- Encourage conference, district, and local level to have leadership that reflects the racial makeup of their United Methodist constituents.
- Promote annual participation by conference, district, and local level leadership teams in anti-racist training.
- Participate in the United Methodist Women Charter for Racial Justice.
- Empower members to take individual anti-racist action through education, advocacy, or civic engagement.
- Connect mission giving to achieving racial justice goals.

Every month and especially during February, United Methodist Women are encouraged to engage in activities as individual members, local units, districts, and as a conference to achieve fulfillment of these criterion. See [Racial Justice Engagement Opportunities](#) for ways to build awareness, grow your understanding of racial justice, build relationships across lines of race and ethnicity, take action, and practice accountability. Earn local unit recognition as you learn, grow, develop, and take action at the Holston Conference Annual Meeting.

## Celebrating Women History Month



March is Women's History Month—a time to lift up all the women who have made an impact on our collective history. For over 150 years, since the Woman's Foreign

Missionary Society was first formed in 1869 in Boston, United Methodist Women has been on the forefront of developing leaders, fostering spiritual growth, and advocating for justice.

United Methodist Women members who create historic change are women like Alma Matthews, who assisted immigrant families arriving in New York, and Pauli Murray, who advocated for racial justice in schools. They include Juna Lear Locksmith, who advocated for Native Americans, and Africa's first woman bishop, Joaquina Filipe Nhanala.

Today, United Methodist Women continues to work for positive change and equips women around the world to become leaders of tomorrow. During [Women's History Month](#), we honor not only the history of United Methodist Women, but of all women.

During the month of March, chose a book from the UMW Reading program to learn about women who have made an impact including, Stacey Edgar, author of *Global Girlfriends: How One Mom Made It Her Business to Help Women in Poverty Worldwide* and *Woman Rise Up!* by Cindy Jacobs.

"Global Girlfriends" is an inspiring story about how Stacey created a socially conscious business that helped poor women in five continents feed their families, send their children to school, and gives simple actions one can take to eliminate extreme poverty.

Cindy Jacobs in "Woman Rise Up!," reveals the biblical foundation for women in ministry and leadership. God has gifted women with beautiful and unique calls on their lives. She shows how to navigate discrimination with grace, strength, and confidence, and she empowers women everywhere to press into God to discover their unique purpose.

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## Do No Harm: Understanding & Challenging the School-to-Prison Pipeline

One of two United Methodist Women National Social Action Campaign is Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline (a campaign to end policies and practices that funnel black and brown children away from educational success and into the criminal justice system).

Recently the Holston Conference United Methodist Women hosted a two-hour seminar with over 120 registered participants entitled "Do No Harm: Understanding and Challenging the School-to-Prison Pipeline." Emily Jones, executive for racial justice for United Methodist Women, was the featured facilitator. The workshop ended with all being challenged and being encouraged to follow-up on their learning with action and to engaged in the campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

Pictured below is the first fruits of that challenge, Jamie Singer brought to our attention the [Equity Policy](#) proposal for Knox County School. A gathering of United Methodist Women from the Smoky Mountain and Tennessee Valley Districts attended to show support in favor of the policy. While the policy did not pass, it was referred back to the Alliance for Educational Equity Committee for additional review.



Donna M. Mosby, President Holston Conference United Methodist Women and Jamie Singer, social action advocate, Ebenezer United Methodist Women at the February 7 Knox County school board work session, Knoxville, Tennessee.

[Together, United Methodist Women Can Interrupt the Pipeline](#) As United Methodist Women, we will continue to grow our missional leadership skills working as school-to-prison pipeline interrupters to build a better future for children and youth.

- Educate yourself. Share what you learn with your family, your local unit, and your church.
- Bring your gifts to the table and join an existing local effort. Many cities and towns already have active, community-based campaigns underway to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.
- If there is not yet an effort in your local community, prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to be the spark that gets the fire going. Convene a team of leaders and thought partners in your area. Include other United Methodist Women and invite other mothers, educators, and youth.

Assess the dynamics and needs of your community. Talk to key decision makers, especially principals, school superintendents and boards of education. Teach them how the school-to-prison pipeline hurts children. Show them solutions and alternatives.

- Support youth leaders in your community. Too often, the voices of children and youth of color are dismissed and ignored. Seek to teach and learn from young people in your community. Ask good questions, listen, and take their stories to heart.



The organizing group from left to right: Jamie Singer, Alice Nichols, Donna M. Mosby, Susan Daffron, Pat Bellingrath, Danielle Meyers

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## Scenic South District United Methodist Women History (Submitted by Karen Adair, District President)

The Chattanooga District began in September 1973 and by January 1974, 48 units had been established. Today it is called the Scenic South District of Holston Conference and encompasses areas including a few units in north Georgia and the Sequatchie Valley, with most of the units located in Hamilton County. Women through the years have served in this organization with many leadership skills. The first Heritage Committee started in 1976 and included Mrs. Robert Flegal; Mrs. Charles Harris, Ms. Sarah Jacoway; and Mrs. V.E. Reynolds. Mrs. J.B. (Martha) Ragsdale served on the 1976 committee as chairperson. In 1981, Mrs. J.B. (Martha) Ragsdale; Mrs. Jack (Maxine) Berry; and Mrs. George (Billie) Spencer served with Ms. Lorena M. Hight who was chairperson. These strong women formed United Methodist Women which began our heritage. Mrs. Michael (Lori) Sluder served on the committee in 1993. Thank you, Lori for your willingness to serve.

As we became United Methodist Women, our membership grew to 2,634 members. The new units became active and involved in mission work, meeting their Pledge to Mission and serving the community faithfully through the years. While our membership has decreased, our purpose is still before us and we are striving to being a supportive and faithful fellowship.

It is with honor that we celebrate and remember a



Methodist pioneer, the Reverend Sallie Crenshaw. She received a call from the national board of missions to establish a much-needed day care center in Chattanooga. It was called the Good

Shepherd Fold daycare center and was located in the St. Elmo area of Chattanooga. The Bethlehem Center was born out of the Good Shepherd Fold

daycare center. Today we are so thankful and grateful for the Sallie Crenshaw Bethlehem Center



(United Methodist Neighborhood Center) on 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Chattanooga

Tennessee. This center has served many children from the Alton Park area for many years. In 2020, 'The Beth' celebrated 100 years. For more information, their web site is [www.thebeth.org](http://www.thebeth.org).

The Chattanooga District/Scenic South district rejoices those strong and courageous women like Ms. Lorena M. Hight and Mrs. Olin (Jean) Troy represented our district with leadership roles. Ms. Lorena Hight served on the "Committee of 40" which was a "The Listening Team" to gather information from women for the new organization. Mrs. Olin (Jean) Troy was a member of "Committee of 24" which worked out the guidelines for the organization.

Lisa Lamb Nichols, a deaconess, lives and works in Hancock County, TN, and is the director of the Jubilee Project. Despite many challenges, Lisa finds hope every day working with the people in this deprived area. She strives to offer a helping hand to everyone. Lisa was raised in the Chattanooga area. We are proud that one of our fellow Chattanoogaans has followed her call.

Thank you to these women and others that are unnamed for the influence and knowledge they shared. We remain faithful and proud to serve a Christian organization and we pray we will be vibrant for many years to come and be supportive of changes as they occur.

As we celebrate our heritage and remember our past, may we look forward to the future years with United Methodist Women, and may we remember the many wonderful and faithful foremothers who have guided us over the last 150 plus years.

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## History of the Tennessee Valley District United Methodist Women

A combination of Oak Ridge and Knoxville Districts  
(Submitted by Danielle Meyers, District President)



It is not easy to write the history of the Tennessee Valley District United Methodist Women. It has not been in existence very long and the pandemic has been detrimental to our units. The District was created when the Holston Conference changed from 12 to 9 districts. The Tennessee Valley District encompasses what was once the Oak Ridge and Knoxville Districts. The counties of the District are: Knox, Roane, Anderson, Morgan, Scott, Campbell, Union, and part of Loudon. This large geographic span contains 82 churches. Within that number there are 39 United Methodist Women units.

The Tennessee Valley District United Methodist Women, at least twice a year, contribute commodities to organizations in our area recognized by the United Methodist Church. These organizations are: Wesley House (Knoxville, TN), the Morgan-Scott Project (Deer Lodge, TN), and Susannah's House (Knoxville, TN). Units throughout the year contribute lunches and volunteer at Wesley House. We help in our communities as much as possible.



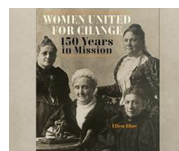
Renewal and spiritual growth are important to our District. Every Spring we try to have a *Time Apart* event. This is a good time for our District team and all our units to focus on worship and revitalization. We also participate in Wesley House's fundraiser known as *Tablescapes*. This event is very popular with our units as they enjoy decorating a table creatively in a theme of their choosing. Throughout the year we participate in Conference events and conclude our year with our District Annual Meeting held in November.

Social Action is important to our District as with all United Methodist Women. We always have a Social Action event (usually in late summer). We have done this recently in collaboration with the Smoky Mountain District. Combining our districts means we reach more people and share more resources. This year we focused on Climate Justice. Many of our members were eager to learn what changes they could make in their lives. The information received was very vital to what is happening today.

What does the future hold for the Tennessee Valley District United Methodist Women? We know that our foremothers did wonderful things in the previous Oak Ridge and Knoxville Districts. We will continue to do the same. Working together, all our units are able to help women, children, and youth locally and globally.

Thank the Lord for Faith, Hope, and Love in Action!

## United Methodist Women History



Learning our stories helps us connect to the past and transforms our present. By telling and sharing the history of United Methodist

Women, we can all be inspired to continue to contribute to God's work in the world. [Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission](#), by Ellen Blue retells the founding of United Methodist Women and how the small Woman's Foreign Missionary Society grew through the efforts of many individual women. Today, these stories of our foremothers inspire us all to act, to serve others, and to keep the legacy of United Methodist Women alive and growing.



# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## New Changes for United Methodist Women



United Methodist Women is making changes to better reflect how we answer our calling today. It's an exhilarating time as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action, and impact. Over the past couple of years we've

been hearing about exciting changes on the horizon for our beloved organization: [New wine skins, new programs](#) and new ways to join the work. The wait is almost over.

You will want to make sure to tune into the national organization [Facebook page](#) on Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> for the unveiling, with special appearances expected from General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson and National President 'Ainise 'Isama'u. Plan now to join in and help celebrate!

March is also both Women's History Month and the month of our founding in 1869. March is the perfect time for us to honor our history by stepping boldly into our future.

We are women of passion and power united by God's love in our mission to uplift women, children and youth. Each of us are an essential part of our bright future as we stand together to continue to put love into action.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Exactly what changes will we be seeing and when?*

The changes will include:

- A *new look* with updated and exciting ways of sharing our mission story
- A *new easier-to-navigate website* that will have:  
A homepage designed to pique new women's interest in our organization and start them on a journey to membership, and

A special portal on the homepage where members can log in to access resources specially designed for them.

- *Soul Care Retreats* with templates. This is a pilot member-recruitment program through which current members invite nonmember friends to themed retreats specially designed to nurture our bodies, minds, and souls.

The retreats end with an invitation to join and/or learn more about turning your love into action through United Methodist Women.

- *Mission u innovations*. In response to today's increased demands on women's time and conference United Methodist Women's stretched capacities, the Mission u program is being updated.

Beginning this year, Mission u will introduce three new curricula—one for children, one for youth and one for adults—all focusing on a shared biblical theme. The new Mission u curricula will be adaptable for use in small groups, local churches, vacation Bible schools, retreats and other settings.

Through these vibrant, relevant, justice oriented and biblically centered curricula, Mission u will continue its commitment to learning together for the transformation of the world and expand its impact.

- A *new national membership option*. This will enable women to join our sisterhood via our new website. They will learn about and be able to participate in programs and events online or connect in person to local units if they so choose.
- More *targeted giving options*. Members and nonmembers alike want more options to target their financial gifts to specific program areas, such as Spiritual Growth or our priority justice issues.
- *New tools for treasurers*. New tools, like Vanco Faith, will be available to enable treasurers to collect and manage giving and registrations electronically.
- *Innovations in the Leadership Development Days* programs.
- *New and innovative resources*, including:  
Mighty Networks, an exciting new online platform where members can connect, and engage new resources like the Program Resource and Mission u curricula.

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

New Wineskins refers to Jesus' metaphor in Mark 2:21-22 where he prepares people for big changes that are coming by explaining that new times require ways of doing things.

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 burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.

United Methodist Women is again saying "yes" to being part of what God is doing in the 21st century by creating new and improved ways for women today to gather for faith, sisterhood, and action to improve life for women, children and youth.

*For United Methodist Women at this time, New Wineskins refers to:*

1. The exciting changes on the horizon for United Methodist Women, and
2. Sharing this great news with members.
3. Preparing members for these changes and launch of this rebranding of our organization.

*I'm hearing United Methodist Women is rebranding. What does it mean?*

"Brand" is just a term to describe what people can expect you to consistently deliver. "Branding" includes the things we do—our look, our actions, our messages—that let people know who we are and what we consistently deliver.

Rebranding United Methodist Women means we are changing the way we tell our story and our look as well as updating our programs, resources and outreach efforts so that we are more nurturing to current members and are more welcoming to new women and those of diverse backgrounds and life stages.

***Why we are refreshing our organization:***

## **Member Perceptions**

**80%** of existing members feel positive about our organization.

## **Non- Member Perceptions**

**97%** of non-members affirmed UMW work as *mission, service, faith*.

## **How we Gather**

For nonmembers over 55, **70%** found the way UMW gathers to be uninviting.

For nonmembers under 55, **80%** found the way we gather to be uninviting.

## **Age difference a big hurdle**

For nonmembers under 55, nearly **60%** found the average age of members too different from their own.

## **Appealing to new women**

Black people represent **13%** of the U.S. but only **4.5%** of UMW membership.

White people represent **90%** of The United Methodist Church but only **61%** of the United States.

## **Appealing to new women**

**62%** of women of all ages considered themselves "spiritual," understood as being a whole person who is connected to humanity, nature and the Bible.

## **Goals for Growth and increased Impact**

**Target Audiences: Women 35 +**

Nurture the Base

Grow the Base

Build the Pipeline

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

*"A time of remembering our past, embracing our future and caring for ourselves spiritually."*

Join the Spiritual Growth committee as they host a spiritual enrichment event on Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, from 10 until noon Eastern Time via Zoom. Danielle Meyers, Tennessee Valley District President, will lead participants in studying "Women Shaped by God Shaping History."

Time will also be spent understanding the importance of our spiritual life during these challenging days. We had hoped to be able to gather in-person but have decided to wait until another time.

But in the meantime, we will gather virtually and together, we will learn, reflect, and care for ourselves. We look forward to being with you! Please put this date and time on your calendar. It is a good thing when we gather as United Methodist Women!

Join via Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97645775228?pwd=M0ozdm5Jei9YdWE5V1hSYld5VXdGQT09>

Meeting ID: 976 4577 5228

Passcode: 254496

Dial by Phone

+1 (312) 626 - 6799 US

Meeting ID: 976 4577 5228

## SAVE THE DATE Mission u 2022



**Who Can We Be Together?**

Building Communities  
of Hope and Joy

mission u 2022

Coming back this Summer by popular demand is Mission u 2022 which will be a hybrid event. We will gather in person at Cokesbury United Methodist Church in Knoxville, TN, as well as virtually on Friday, July 22 through Saturday, July 23, 2022.

The theme is ***Who Can We be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy.*** We will study and learn from Luke 13 what would be possible if we were to tend to the needs in our communities as Jesus did. We will explore the parable of the barren

fig tree, Jesus heals on the Sabbath, the parable of the mustard seed and more. Under the new curricula, adults, youth, and children's studies will all focus on Luke 13.

Study Leaders for the adult study are Rev. Linda Ray, Rev. Nickie Fox, Rev. Mike Sluder, Lisa Nichols, Lisa Black and Becky Hall. Youth Study Leader is Jim Gass. Children's Study Leader is Mitzi Sadler-Thorne.

Please save the date for Mission u and watch for more information concerning registration and lodging in the days ahead. I hope to see you there!

Blessings,  
Susan Daffron, Dean of Mission u  
Holston Conference United Methodist Women

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## 2022 CONFERENCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<b>January 8</b>	Holston Conference UMW Mission Leadership Team Meeting
<b>January 22</b> 10:00-12:00	Holston Conference United Methodist Women Social Action Event “Interrupt the School-To-Prison Pipeline - Push-Out” (Virtual Event)
<b>February 1-28</b>	Black History Awareness Month
<b>February 20</b>	Remit to District Treasurer 1st Quarter Pledge to Mission
<b>March 1-31</b>	Women’s History Month
<b>March 26</b>	Holston Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Enrichment Event “Spiritual & Selfcare Retreat” (Hybrid Event)
<b>April 9</b>	Holston Conference UMW Mission Leadership Team Meeting
<b>April 23</b>	Holston Conference United Methodist Women Rise Event “Climate Justice Campaign: Just Energy for All” (Hybrid Event)
<b>May 1-31</b>	Asia American & Pacific Islander Awareness Month
<b>May 20</b>	Remit to District Treasurer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter Pledge to Mission
<b>May 20- 22</b>	United Methodist Women Assembly 2022 (National Event) “Turn it Up!” Orlando, Florida
<b>June 1-30</b>	Immigrant Heritage Month in United States
<b>June 5-8</b>	Holston Annual Conference
<b>July 9</b>	Holston Conference UMW Mission Leadership Team Meeting
<b>July 22-23</b>	Holston Conference United Methodist Women Mission u Cokesbury United Methodist Church, Knoxville (Hybrid Event)
<b>August 6</b>	Holston Conference UMW Social Action Event (Hybrid Event)
<b>August 20</b>	Remit to District Treasurer 3rd quarter Pledge to Mission
<b>September 16-17</b>	Holston Conference UMW Spiritual Enrichment Event, 49 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, & Officers Training (Hybrid Event) MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center, Kingsport, Tennessee
<b>Sept. 15-Oct.15</b>	Hispanic/Latino Heritage Awareness Month
<b>October 15</b>	Holston Conference UMW Mission Leadership Team Meeting
<b>October 14-16</b>	National Observance of Children’s Sabbaths® Celebration
<b>November 1-30</b>	Indigenous People Awareness Month/ Native American
<b>November 20</b>	Remit to District Treasurer 4th quarter Pledge to Mission
<b>December 15</b>	Local Unit Membership, Program & Finance Reports due to the district.

United Methodist Women’s Day to be observed on a Sunday selected by the local unit in consultation with the Church’s Pastor

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## 2022 Conference Elected Executive Officers

<p><b>President</b>                  Donna M. Mosby                  106 Haven Hill Lane                  Oak Ridge, TN 37830                  (865) 482-4193 (home)                  (865) 919-5866 (cell)  <a href="mailto:dmosbyumw@gmail.com">dmosbyumw@gmail.com</a>                  Tennessee Valley District</p>	<p><b>Mission Coordinator:                  Education &amp; Interpretation</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Nominations Committee Chair</b>                  Monica Sheppard-Viator                  4429 Plymouth Drive                  Knoxville, TN 37914                  (865) 691-5552  <a href="mailto:monicaasv@comcast.net">monicaasv@comcast.net</a>                  Tennessee Valley District</p>
<p><b>Vice President</b>                  Margaret Forby                  118 Skyview Drive                  Greeneville, TN 37745                  (423) 620-2680  <a href="mailto:margaretforby@yahoo.com">margaretforby@yahoo.com</a>                  Mountain View District</p>	<p><b>Mission Coordinator:                  Membership Nurture &amp; Outreach</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Nominations Committee</b>                  Jackie Roop                  4890 Hwy 126                  Blountville, TN 37617                  (423) 323-8064  <a href="mailto:roopjackie@yahoo.com">roopjackie@yahoo.com</a>                  Three Rivers District</p>
<p><b>Secretary</b>                  Jana Davison                  343 Sundown Circle                  Seymour, TN. 37865                  (865) 705-7570  <a href="mailto:janadavison@charter.net">janadavison@charter.net</a>                  Tennessee Valley District</p>	<p><b>Mission Coordinator: Social                  Action</b>                  Brittany Eastridge                  3917 S Mission Oaks Drive                  Chattanooga, TN 37412                  (423) 605-1119  <a href="mailto:bheastridge@gmail.com">bheastridge@gmail.com</a>                  Scenic South District</p>	<p><b>Nominations Committee</b>                  Cheri Patterson                  226 Grace Street                  Bristol, TN 37620                  (423) 306-3842  <a href="mailto:cwinepat@gmail.com">cwinepat@gmail.com</a>                  Clinch Mountain District</p>
<p><b>Treasurer</b>                  Mona Geer                  P. O. Box 147                  Signal Mountain, TN 37377                  (423) 280-1394  <a href="mailto:Mona.A.Geer@gmail.com">Mona.A.Geer@gmail.com</a>                  Scenic South District</p>	<p><b>Mission Coordinator:                  Spiritual Growth</b>                  Pat Bellingrath                  801 Bluff Drive                  Knoxville, TN 37919                  (865) 591-6274  <a href="mailto:patbellingrath@gmail.com">patbellingrath@gmail.com</a>                  Tennessee Valley District</p>	<p><b>Nominations Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>
<p><b>Communications Coordinator</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Secretary of Program                  Resources</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Nominations Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## 2022 Conference Appointed Executive Officers

<p><b>Young Woman Representative</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Language Coordinator</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Charter for Racial Justice Policy</b>          Donna M. Mosby          106 Haven Hill Lane          Oak Ridge, TN 37830          (865) 482-4193 (home)          (865) 919-5866 (cell)  <a href="mailto:dmosbyumw@gmail.com">dmosbyumw@gmail.com</a>          Tennessee Valley District</p>
<p><b>Mission u Dean</b>          Susan Daffron          2618 Brantley Park Boulevard          Maryville, TN 37804          (865) 216-8421  <a href="mailto:spdaffron1@gmail.com">spdaffron1@gmail.com</a>          Smoky Mountain District</p>	<p><b>Ethnic &amp; Cultural Diversity Coordinator</b>          Kacye Castenir          2432 Wilkinson Pike          Maryville, Tennessee 37803          (865) 805-0980  <a href="mailto:kacye37@yahoo.com">kacye37@yahoo.com</a>          Smoky Mountain District</p>	<p><b>Archivist/Historian</b>          Carolyn Haerr          311 Toestring Cove Road          Spring City, TN 37381          (423) 365-9346          (423) 305-5748  <a href="mailto:carolynhaerr@bellsouth.net">carolynhaerr@bellsouth.net</a>          Hiwassee District</p>
<p><b>Legacy Fund Coordinator</b>          Tawana Teague          205 Redstone Drive          Bristol, TN 37620          (423) 573-1550          (423) 367-9371  <a href="mailto:singdancemusick@yahoo.com">singdancemusick@yahoo.com</a>          Clinch Mountain District</p>	<p><b>A Way Forward Coordinator</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Deaconess Representative</b>          Mitzi Sadler-Thorne          P.O. Box 45          Narrows, VA 24124          (540) 599-8026  <a href="mailto:mitzi.sadlerthorne@gmail.com">mitzi.sadlerthorne@gmail.com</a>          New River District</p>
<p><b>Conference Assistant Treasurer</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>	<p><b>Conference Registrar Coordinator</b>          Lynice Broyles          126 Mesa Drive          Gray, TN 37615-5409          (423) 426-1730  <a href="mailto:lbroyles@comcast.net">lbroyles@comcast.net</a>          Three Rivers District</p>	<p><b>Childcare Event Coordinator</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>VACANT</b></p>
<p><b>Holston Conference Bishop</b>          Debra Wallace-Padgett          P.O. Box 850          Alcoa, TN 37701-0850          (865) 630-4080          Holston Conference</p>	<p><b>Extended Cabinet Representative</b>          Rev. Kim Goddard          P.O. Box 925          Wytheville, VA 24382          (276) 228-4922  <a href="mailto:kimgoddard@holston.org">kimgoddard@holston.org</a>          New River District</p>	<p><b>National Program Advisory Group</b>          Lynice Broyles          126 Mesa Drive          Gray, TN 37615-5409          (423) 426-1730  <a href="mailto:lbroyles@comcast.net">lbroyles@comcast.net</a>          Three Rivers District</p>

# Holston Conference United Methodist Women

## Responsively Yours: Prayer, Purpose, Presence, Power

by **Harriett Jane Olson**

*General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson addresses attendees of the New England Conference United Methodist Women 150th anniversary celebration.*



As I look at United Methodist Women's history, I have been noticing some common threads that tell us something about our DNA.

Prayer. United Methodist Women and our predecessors have always been women of prayer. We pray for ourselves as we grow in Christ through challenges and joys, and we pray for our sisters. We pray about needs and injustices in our own community and nation and in places around the world. We pray for guidance as we seek to follow God's direction for how our organization should respond. We pray for those who serve. Prayer is a hallmark of United Methodist Women's predecessors, and it is integral to who we are today and to who we are becoming.

Purpose. Our predecessors didn't use the same words as we do in our Purpose to describe their work, but the movement of women organized for mission has always been purposeful. The 1869 Boston meeting resolved to respond to the needs of women and children in India. The Woman's Home Missionary Association organized to address the needs of formerly enslaved women and their children. The women who organized deaconess and missionary training schools worked purposefully to strengthen and equip the women who were responding to God's call for service. Focusing on the purpose for the work spurs us to move in new ways and with new connections to follow God's call.

Presence. The women went. Teachers, medical professionals, administrators, leaders and women with a willingness to work in many different capacities offered themselves for service. They built relationships with communities in the United States and around the world. Thousands of women supporting the work identified with it through the letters and articles by those who were deployed that filled our magazines and booklets. This aspect of "presence" was severed by the Agreements of 1964, which assigned administration of the work that the women had built (including the deaconess office) to the Board of Missions of the Methodist Church. Although we continued to fund the work, not being present with each other was painful and undermined the work in many places. We have been building a new connection through regional missionaries for the past 20 years and for the past 10 years have been forming new bonds of presence with our work in the United States. At the Boston 150th anniversary celebration on March 23, General Secretary Thomas Kemper said, significantly, "We acknowledge and repent of the harm done to women and to women's work in the 1964 reorganization" and the patriarchy that was at its root. New forms of being present in the communities where we serve is an important aspect of how our organization will move forward in the years to come.

Power. The combination of these aspects of our history with sacrificial and consistent giving and the amazing women and children with whom we work in communities has led to an impact that only God could have imagined. The power that comes from knowing oneself to be loved by God and the support of an amazing sisterhood following God's call has crossed more boundaries and reached more people than our histories will ever be able to tell.

May the needs of our day, the persistence of our sisters in prayer, presence and power and the call of God moves us into the next 150 years of mission service.

**Harriett Jane Olson**, General Secretary  
United Methodist Women

**RESPONSE: MAY/JUNE 2019 ISSUE**



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Holston Conference  
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**2022 Newsletter Deadlines**

Spring Edition March 20, 2022  
April, May, June

Summer Edition June 20, 2022  
July, August, September

Fall Edition September 20, 2022  
October, November, December