

1 **Florida Conference United Methodist Women**
2 **48th Conference Annual Meeting**
3 **Virtual**
4 **Created with Love**
5 **Saturday, November 6, 2021**
6 10:00 a.m.
7

8 **Call to order/Welcome/Introductions/Purpose.**

9 Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, Conference President, called the meeting to order and welcomed
10 participants to the virtual 48th Annual Meeting of the Florida Conference of United Methodist
11 Women. She gave a special welcome to all clergy persons, retired and active Missionaries,
12 deaconesses, and Home Missioners who were in attendance. Thanks to Rev. June Edwards for her
13 support to the United Methodist Women organization and to the Conference Leadership Team.
14 Rev. Edwards has served six years as our liaison to the Cabinet. Pres. Pierre-Okerson also
15 welcomed our guest speaker, United Methodist Women National President, Ainise 'Isama'u. She
16 also included Deaconess Gail Boykin-Douglas. Gail is the Vice President of the Northeastern
17 Jurisdiction United Methodist Women and the immediate past chair of the Governance Committee
18 of the National Organization. A special welcome to all first-time attendees.
19

20 Judith recognized the presidents of our predecessor organization attending the meeting.

21 Kay Roach 2016-2019

22 Nelida Morales 2010-2013

23 Paulette Monroe 2006-2009

24 Gail Christy-Jones 2002-2005

25 Annie Woods 1998-2001

26 Betty Sue Mason 1994-1997

27 Dorothy Collins 1990-1993

28 Nancy Weinberg 1986-1989

29 Ressie Mae Bass 1982-1985

30 Dollie Watkins Crist 1974-1977

31 Ms. Liz Johnson – Women Society of Christian Service in the Central Jurisdiction
32

33 All recited the Purpose in attendance
34

35 **Video Greetings**

36 Alice Williams and Derrick Scott, Board of Lay Leader, Florida Annual Conference, spoke on the
37 four Ps for Laity
38

39 **Scripture Reading Ephesian 2:10 (NLT) read in:**
40

41 Creole by Natacha Etienne, Haitian Language Coordinator,

42 Korean by Julie Yo, Korean Language Coordinator,

43 Spanish by Maria Escobales

44 English by Sharyn Ladner, South East District President.
45

46 **Invocation**

47 Rev. June Edwards, District Superintendent, North Central District gave the invocation.

48

49 **Video: Liturgical Dance**

50 New Life United Methodist Haitian Mission

51

52 **Prayer Calendar**

53 Mae Griner, North Central District President, presented the prayer calendar.

54

55 **Video: Annual Meeting Greeting**

56 Harriett Jane Olson, General Secretary/CEO, United Methodist Women

57

58 **Introduction of Speaker**

59 Shelley Davidson, Conference Vice President introduced the speaker.

60

61 **Speaker**

62 Ainise 'I'sama'u United Methodist Women National President

63

64 Recapped the scripture for today's event, Ephesians 2:10, and asked what are the good works God
65 has prepared for you? These are some of the good works God has prepared for us. We attend
66 worship service, pray regularly, study scriptures, give generously from our finance, join a small
67 group, go on Mission trips, love our neighbors, care for the poor, work for justice. But God's plan
68 is much broader and deeper than the list above. The more we grow in our faith the more we will
69 see ourselves as God's masterpieces. So, as we work together for United Methodist Women, we
70 will focus on what we are called to do today. What are we called to do? What are the needs of
71 women today members and non-members? What are we called to advocate for? Faith and Hope
72 sustained our foremothers. What will our legacy be? How can we be as creative as our foremothers
73 were? Take time to pause and reflect on these questions.

74 No one tears a piece from a new garment and sows it on an old garment, otherwise the new will
75 be torn, and the piece from the new will not match the old, and no one puts new wine into old
76 wineskins, otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled, and the skins will be
77 destroyed, but new wines must be put into fresh wineskins. United Methodist Women has come to
78 a point where it is ready to make new wine in a new wineskin. We have been served well by the
79 structure and programs contained within the old wineskins. Many of the things we have loved
80 about United Methodist Women are part of the grapes that have been used to make the wine in the
81 old wineskins and will be part of the grapes that make the wine in the new wineskins.

82

83 **In Remembrance**

84 Natacha Etienne-Joseph, South East District President

85 Atlantic Central - 40, East Central - 17, Gulf Central -62, North Central -17, North East - 28, North
86 West - 17, South East - 17, and South West -35.

87

88 **Video: Recording for Nancy**

89 Camille Miller, Carmen Miller, Cassidy Miller, Grace Okerson

90

91 **Mission Giving/Recognition** Donna Spear, Conference Treasurer,

92 Played a Video: UM Women: "Responding to the Challenges of Our Time"

93

94 **Recognized the following outgoing Conference officers who will receive SMR pins:**

95 Jackie Brooks, Secretary, Jannett Sue Hawley, Sec. Program Resources, Kenya Monroe, CON
96 Chair, Dr. Nora Hendrix, CON. An extra special thank-you to Rev. June Edwards who has served
97 as our cabinet liaison for five years.

98

99 Thank you to Ainise for being our guest speaker. She will receive an SMR pin. Kim Wendt, for
100 sharing your expertise in technology, will receive an SMR pin. Finally, for her outstanding
101 commitment to Florida Conference United Methodist Women Genesis, Leah Pittard will receive a
102 Diamond SMR pin.

103

104 **The following received GTM cards:**

105 Gail Boykin Douglas, Camille Miller, Carmen Miller, Cassidy Miller, Grace Okerson, Derrick
106 Scott III, and Alice Williams.

107

108 **5 Star Units**

109 87 – 5 Star Units for 2020

110 140 – Rainbow Givers

111 Donna stated how grateful she was to all who supported the Mission of United Methodist Women
112 by giving Special Recognition pins and making their Gifts to Mission and in Memory.

113

114 **Turn it up**

115 Mary Van Tol, President, South West District

116 Assembly 2022 is coming to Orlando on May 20-21, 2022. At Assembly 2022 we will turn it up
117 for spiritual healing and renewal. We will enter the next chapter as brave, change-making women
118 celebrating new ways to join and support the work for women, children, and youth that centers our
119 sisterhood. There were two promo videos shown including one by Jurisdictional leader Rita Smith
120 shared her experiences of the 2018 Assembly. We are in need of 300 volunteers.

121

122 **Business Session**

123 Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson, the President, called the business session of the meeting to order. She
124 informed the participants that the leadership team had designated the entire electronic platform
125 as the bar of the conference. Judith appointed Deaconess Gail Boykin-Douglas to serve as
126 parliamentarian for this session. A poll was provided for all to indicate whether they approved
127 the appointment. The appointment was approved. Judith continued by asking for the district's
128 roll call from Jackie Brooks, Conference Secretary. All districts were represented at the meeting.

129

130 Judith noted the Leadership Team had approved the 47th Conference Annual Meeting minutes, and
131 they have been filed in our records and posted on our website before today's meeting.

132

133 Judith appointed Mary Van Tol and Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix to review and present the minutes
134 of the 48th Annual Meeting to the Conference Leadership Team. A poll was provided to indicate
135 whether they approve the appointment. Appointment was approved.

136

137 Judith called on Linda Parrish, the Atlantic Central District President and Chair of the Conference
138 Standing Rules and Policies sub-committee to report on the work of the Committee.

139

140 **Chair of the Conference Standing Rules and Policies**

141 Linda Parrish stated our tradition in the Florida Conference is, along with the conference and
142 district leaders, for each local unit, through the president or designated, to have one vote in the
143 business session of the Annual Meeting. Since last year, due to our meeting online, the Leadership
144 Team started to make an exception to allow everyone attending the Conference Annual Meeting
145 to vote. The sub-committee named by the president to study the Handbook and existing Standing
146 Rules and Policies thinks this, indeed, is a good inclusion model. All our members, not just a few,
147 have an active role, through their votes, in the decision-making. Thus, the proposed amendment to
148 the Conference Standing Rules makes this exception part of our new way of life as an organization.
149 The Leadership Team that serves as the Conference Standing Rules and Policies recommends the
150 addition of one section titled "Voting Body" to the Standing Rules that will read as such.

151

152 **Voting Body**

153 The voting body of the Annual Meeting of the Conference Organization shall be composed of all
154 United Methodist Women members of the Florida Conference who are duly registered for the
155 event. Judith asked if there were any questions on the Proposed Amendment to the Standing Rules.
156 (No Questions) A poll was provided to indicate whether they approved the Proposed Amendment
157 to the Standing Rules. Amendment was approved.

158

159 **Financial Report**

160 Donna Spear, Conference Treasurer, the total Administration and Membership Development report
161 for 2020. The total amount received was \$14,335.70, disbursed \$63,699.90, and the remaining
162 balance was \$148,290.80. The Mission Giving totals for the 2020 calendar year are \$325,496.31.
163 (No Questions)

164

165 **2022 Budget**

166 The report presented by Donna Spear recommended from the Conference Committee on Finance
167 and the Conference Leadership Team, is now brought to this body for approval. The Proposed
168 Budget for 2022 total A&MD is \$164,455.00. Total Budget \$492,705.00.

169

170 Judith: The Proposed 2022 Budget comes to us as a recommendation of the Finance Committee
171 and the Conference Leadership Team \$492,705.00. A poll was provided to indicate whether they
172 approved the Budget. The Budget was approved.

173

174 **Election of Officers**

175 Judith: Call on our Parliamentarian, Deaconess Gail Douglas-Boykin, to provide information on
176 the Bylaws of Nominations

177

178 Gail: The organization's Bylaws call for nominations from the floor for all elected and appointed
179 positions. I understand a nomination from the floor was published in late July and posted on the
180 United Methodist Women Conference website. The membership was asked to submit additional
181 nominations from the floor for this business meeting.

182

183 Kenya Monroe, Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations presented the 2022-2023 Slate of
184 Officers.

- 185
186 President – Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson (SE)
187 Vice President – Shelley Davidson (SW)
188 Secretary – Mary Van Tol (SW)
189 Treasurer – Donna Spear (GC)
190 Secretary of Program Resources – Jackie Brooks (NE)
191 Language Coordinators:
192 Haitian – Natacha Etienne-Joseph (SE)
193 Hispanic – Maria Escobales (GC)

194
195 Kenya: The Committee on Nominations has reviewed two nominations from the floor for the
196 Committee on Nominations for the class of 2024 and the class of 2025. The nominations were
197 received before the deadline and the Committee on Nomination has vetted the nominees. On behalf
198 of the Committee, Kenya recommended that we include these nominees as part of the slate to be
199 elected by the body. The nominees were Gail Donley from the North Central District for the class
200 of 2024 and Ciliane Louis from the South East District for the class of 2025. A poll was provided
201 to vote on the recommendation to include the nominees for the slate. The recommendation passed.

202
203 A poll was provided to approve the 2022 – 2023 Slate. (Nominees were elected)

204 **Installation of the Officers** – Knitted Together To Do God’s Good Work
205 Ainise ‘Isama’u - United Methodist Women National President

206
207 **Social Action Spotlight**

208 Edith Zewadski - Bricker, Social Action Liaison, shared a video about Redlining titled “Race: The
209 Power of Illusion”, shown by the National Office during the United Methodist Women’s Summer
210 Matinee series. The video has the power to open hearts and minds.

211
212 **Local Units Missions Recognition**

213 Anne Winn, East Central District President

214
215 **Mission Today:**

216 Atlantic Central (3), East Central (7), North West (4), Gulf Central (14), North Central (9), South
217 East (6), South West (10)

218
219 **Mission Studies:**

220
221 **Women United for Change: 150 years in Mission**

222 Atlantic Central (1)

223
224 **Finding Peace in an Anxious World**

225 East Central (20)

226 South East (6)

227 South West (9)

228
229 **Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom**

230 Gulf Central (6)

231 North West (6)
232 South East (2)

233

234 **Pushout: Criminalization of Black Girls in the Schools**

235 South East (2)

236

237 **The Reading Program:**

238 Atlantic Central 9 churches 38 participants

239 East Central 6 churches 47 participants

240 Gulf Central 12 churches 29 participants

241 North Central 4 churches 27 participants

242 North East 5 churches 15 participants

243 North West 6 churches 8 participants

244 South East 6 churches 16 participants

245 South West 13 churches 45 participants

246

247 **Announcements:** Shelley Davidson, Conference Vice President

248 Evaluations and Goal Setting, Saturday, December 4, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at College Heights UMC.

249 Lakeland for outgoing and incoming Conference officers.

250 Advent Retreat: On the Way: Retreat for Women, Sunday, December 5th, 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm

251 Cost \$10.00 (Virtual)

252 Leadership Development: January 14-16, 2022 at the Warren Willis Conference Center

253 Assembly 2022

254

255 **Evaluation Reminder** – Mary Van Tol, President of South West District

256 Evaluation will come in your email

257

258 **Sending Forth**

259 Deaconess Judith Pierre-Okerson, Conference President

260 Gave closing remarks and encouraged all to continue to make ourselves available to do the good
261 things God has planned for us to do in a new wineskin. May the Lord help us to continue walking
262 in the path of the good works of justice, compassion, and mercy. May we keep an open mind to all
263 that God would have us do for women, children, and youth in these new days by faith.

264

265 The 48th Conference Annual Meeting is now adjourned! Go in peace

266

267 Meeting Adjourned at 12:15pm

268 Jackie Brooks, Secretary Florida Conference United Methodist Women

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277 COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF THESE CAM MINUTES

278

279

280

Mary Van Tol

11/30/2021

281

Mary Van Tol

Date

282

283

Minutes Approved as Written

Minutes Approved as Corrected

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286

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix

11/29/2021

287

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix

Date

288

289

Minutes Approved as Written

Minutes Approved as Corrected