

# Genesis

## Purpose

*United Women in Faith is 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 mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

## President:

Linda Parrish  
[lindaparrish.uwf@gmail.com](mailto:lindaparrish.uwf@gmail.com)

## Vice-President:

Deaconess Ester Kim  
[esterkim.umw@gmail.com](mailto:esterkim.umw@gmail.com)

## Secretary:

Mary Van Tol  
[maryvantol.uwf@gmail.com](mailto:maryvantol.uwf@gmail.com)

## Treasurer:

Donna Spear  
[donnaspear.umw@gmail.com](mailto:donnaspear.umw@gmail.com)

## Secretary of Program Resources:

Jackie Brooks  
[jbrooksumw@gmail.com](mailto:jbrooksumw@gmail.com)

## Committee on Nominations Chair:

Paulette Monroe  
[Paulette\\_monroe@yahoo.com](mailto:Paulette_monroe@yahoo.com)

## Dean, Mission u 2024-2025:

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix  
[norahh51@hotmail.com](mailto:norahh51@hotmail.com)




FLORIDA CONFERENCE  
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

51st CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

*"You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again. It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot." Matthew 5:13 (NRSV)*



\* **Saturday, November 9, 2024**  
**10:00 A.M.— 3:00 P.M.**  
**First United Methodist Church**  
**72 Lake Morton Drive**  
**Lakeland, Florida 33801**

Come and hear our Guest Speaker Bishop Tom Berlin as we celebrate with our theme:

**"Remind, Restore, Refresh"**

Register on our Website at: [flconfuwf.org](https://flconfuwf.org)

**All are welcome to attend the 51st Conference Annual Meeting ~ "Remind, Restore, Refresh"**

**First United Methodist Church,  
72 Lake Morton Drive, Lakeland, FL 33801**

**Saturday, November 9, 2024**

**9:00 am—Registration**

**9:45 am - 3:00 pm—Program**

**\$28.00 lunch included**

**\$18.00 meeting only**

**Register on our website by October 31, 2024**

<https://flconfuwf.org>



## Pledges

**3rd Quarter: October 5**

**4th Quarter: December 10**

Contact Donna Spear

donnaspear.uwm@gmail.com

## District Officer Updates

**November 1**

Send all District Annual Meeting minutes and Officer information to Secretary Mary Van Tol  
maryvantol.uwf@gmail.com



## President Linda Parrish

On Sept. 17, 2024, one of the Scripture readings for the day in the *Daily Prayer Guide* is from Proverbs 25:1-28. Among those verses are these two:

*"Don't jump to conclusions – there may be a perfectly good explanation for what you just saw"*

*"Anyone who tells lies against the neighbors in court or on the street is a loose cannon."*

~ From *The Message*

I, for one, like to think that people in authority would always tell the truth and would check their facts before making public comments. Based on the two verses above, there have always been those who tell lies to make themselves look better than others or to promote their own ideas. We humans have so many flaws! I am certain that those of you reading this are truthful people and would never make up stories just to inflate your own egos. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we really did love our neighbor as ourselves?

## Vice President Deaconess Ester Kim



We are hosting a special virtual event called **"Heaven & Earth"** with Rev. Dr. Hedy Collver, Senior Pastor, First UMC Coral Gables as our leader. Join us as we explore the powerful connection between heaven and earth in anticipation of the **Advent** season!

### Virtual Zoom

**Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 6:30 — 8:00 pm**

**Registration will open November 1 on our website.**

See the flyer on page 11



## \$\$ Treasurer Talk \$\$



Has anyone asked you where our Mission Giving dollars go? In addition to keeping our districts and conference going, our money goes to support social action and justice work, scholarships, spiritual growth and nurturing opportunities, national mission institutions, regional missionaries, international mission, and lots more! See the attached to this newsletter **“Where the Money Goes 2024”** for lots of great information. Don't forget to share!

## Treasurer Donna Spear



**LOVE OFFERING** Remind your unit to finish strong this year and give a Love Offering to Mission Giving. You can bring it to your District Annual Meeting, Conference Annual Meeting, or send it to your district treasurer.

**Love in Action can Change the World!**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Looking for a little bling?

#### Order a shirt to promote FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

**Color: Pink Cost: \$30**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ District (circle one): EC GC NE NW SE SW

Size (circle one): S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Sleeve Length (circle one): Short  $\frac{3}{4}$  Length

Neck Style (circle one): Scoop (rounded) V-neck

Please return form and payment by Oct 15, 2024 to Donna Spear, 5107 N Seminole Ave., Tampa, FL 33603

Checks should be payable to FCUWF (or Florida Conference United Women in Faith).

Shirts will be delivered at Conference Annual Meeting on Nov. 9, 2024 at First UMC Lakeland.

If someone besides you will pick up your shirt, please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### Multicultural Dolls and Books Project

Those of you who have been busy making clothes for **DOLLS**, please dress your babies in their new outfits, and bring them to our Conference Annual Meeting.

We are also collecting **CHILDREN'S BOOKS** featuring people of color. Bring your books to our Conference Annual Meeting, or to donate toward the purchase of books, send a check to Donna Spear, 5107 N Seminole Ave, Tampa, FL 33603. Make your check payable to FL UWF, and write "books" in the memo line. (For inspiration, check out the children's books in our United Women in Faith Reading Program.)

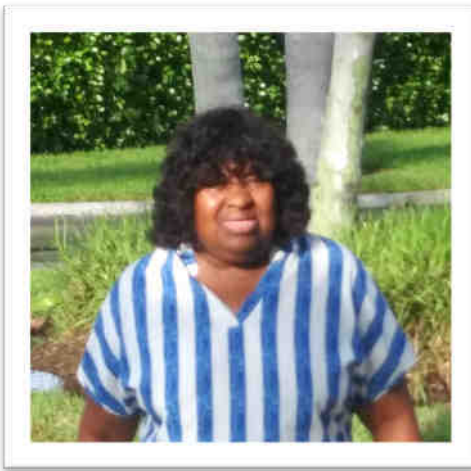
Florida Conference United Women in Faith's Conference Annual Meeting will be held at First UMC Lakeland on November 9. Contact Donna at [donnaspear.umw@gmail.com](mailto:donnaspear.umw@gmail.com) for more information.



## Paulette Monroe, Chair

### Committee on Nominations

The Committee on Nominations has been working hard this past year and are presenting the following nominees for your consideration to elect at the 51st Conference Annual Meeting on November 9, 2024. Nominations from the floor will be considered as long as the individual has already agreed to serve and they fall within the tenure guidelines. Contact me for more information. (paulette\_monroe@yahoo.com)



**MARIE SHARPE** is no stranger to the organization of United Women in Faith. She has served on the local, district and conference levels. She served the conference E&I coordinator, Christian Personhood/Spiritual Growth, Mission-u/School of Christian Mission Committee and as a Children Study Group Leader. Marie also served as a District Treasurer. She recently relocated into the South East District, making arrangement to transfer her membership from St. Andrew UMC in Winter Park FL.



**JULIE RAMGA** is a committed member of UWF serving in the Gulf Central District. She has served as a Past District President of the formal South-Central District before the merger into the Gulf Central District in 2017. Julie is a committed Servant, open to new possibilities of this organization. Currently she is serving in the Gulf Central District CON class of 2024. She is a member of St. Andrew UMC in Brandon, FL.

#### **Charter for Racial Justice Committee Additions:**

**Dr. Judith Pierre Okerson**, past United Women in Faith president

**Dr. Gwendolyn Dixon**, North West District president



The Policies and Standing Rules Committee has submitted the following changes to our Conference Standing Rules for your consideration during the Business session of the Annual Meeting on November 9, 2024. The Leadership Team approved removing the Secretary of Program Resources as an elected office due to National's downsizing of her responsibilities. Information for resources will be handled by appointed members of the Leadership team as needed. The highlighted areas below are the paragraphs of the By Laws that are being revised.

## I. ELECTED AND APPOINTED LEADERS

### 1. ELECTED MEMBERS

Elected members of the Leadership Team shall be the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, ~~Secretary of Program Resources~~ and Chair of Committee on Nominations. Officers will be elected for a two-year term. All officers will assume their duties on January 1, following their election.

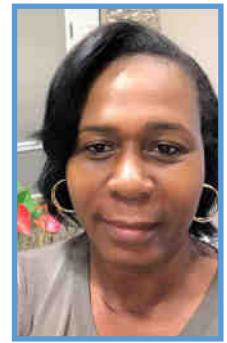
## MISSION u

1. RELATIONSHIP: The Committee on Mission u is a standing committee of the Conference Leadership Team. Overall plans for Mission u shall be submitted to the Leadership Team for approval, including location, date, study group leaders, resource persons, registration fee, budget, and offering.

3. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Elected officers of the Committee on Mission u shall be the Dean, Assistant Dean, Registrar, Secretary, Business Manager, Media Technology Coordinator, and chair of the Mission u Committee on Nominations. ~~The Conference Secretary of Program Resources will serve as Resource Room Coordinator~~. The Conference President, Treasurer and Conference Language Coordinators will serve on this committee.

# Secretary Program Resources

## Jackie Brooks



### NEW PROGRAM RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

EARLY BIRD - PRINT and DIGITAL RESOURCES

<https://uwfaithresources.org/category.cfm>

**20% off retail price including shipping and handling.**

Pre-order the print and digital subscription today for 20% off your full Bundle order!

(Regularly over \$114 plus shipping and handling fees.)

Hurry, this offer is available to the first 2,000 subscribers.\*

#### **The Bundle this year includes for pre-order:**

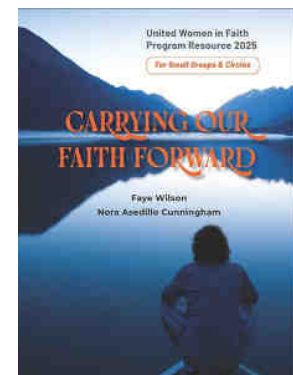
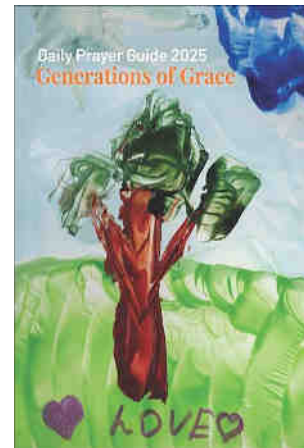
Daily Prayer Guide 2025 (Retail price: \$19.99)

Program Resource 2025 (\$14.99)

Adult 2025 Curriculum for Mission u (\$14.99)\*\*

Quadrennial Calendar 2025-2028 (\$14.99)

\*\*Mission u Adult Curriculum 2025 available soon!



**Download the 2025 Reading Program Books Here:**

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11998&catid=2175>



## Social Action Liaison Ann Eachus

Unless you have been spending the summer in a hammock with a good book or perhaps a trashy novel, you have probably noticed there is an election coming. There are news reports on the radio, editorials in the newspaper, ads on television all trying to get your attention and/or warning you about misinformation on social media. But do you talk about the issues with anyone? Starting a political conversation is a tricky thing. I have a suggestion. Interfaith Power and Light has just published its 2024 Faithful Voter Reflection Guide with short discussions of some issues to consider when evaluating candidates and offering a couple of "questions for reflection" on each one.

United Women in Faith is one organization endorsing this guide. A question relating to Environmental Justice is "Who are people in your community and nation who you can learn from about how to ... address environmental racism?" And on the topic Building an Economy of Inclusion, it asks "How can we ensure all Americans can provide for their families and live with security and dignity?"

You can download the guide for free:

<https://interfaithpowerandlight.org/faihvoters/guide/>

Once you are primed and ready to vote, you need a plan. Check your voting status by entering your address in the League of Women Voters web site [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

Have you requested a vote by mail ballot? Nothing is harder to predict than the future. Hurricanes and COVID happen and they might happen on November 5. Voting by mail is good insurance. You can follow your ballot once you put it in the mail.



### Doll Project Update:

At our 51st Annual Meeting we will be blessing the dolls you dressed as part of our racial justice action event for 2024. The over 260 dolls that have been ordered will be distributed to our Florida Mission Institutions (Cornerstone Family Ministries in Tampa and Wesley House Family Services in Key West) and other child care centers throughout the state.



**"Bring your dressed dolls to  
Annual Meeting.**

**The cradle is waiting."**

## Mission u Dean Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix



### Celebrating Mission u 2024 and Preparing for Mission u 2025

The Florida Conference United Women in Faith Mission u was a great success with 140 people in attendance at the in-person event this past July in Lake Mary, and 20 participating in virtual Mission u. We experienced inspiring curriculum and keynote presentations about drawing closer to God and **"Living the Kingdom,"** while also enjoying a number of activities and the warmth of our sisterhood.

As we prepare for Mission u 2025, we are thrilled to announce that we are returning to the Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North hotel. The dates are **July 18-20, 2025**; please put them on your calendars now.

The theme for **Mission u 2025** is

**"Hope as Resurrection People,"**

**Adult study is "Practicing Hope."**

This is certainly something we can all benefit from in our daily lives and develop more deeply in our faith journeys.

There are approximately 40 weeks until Mission u 2025; time to begin setting aside a few dollars each week now in order to experience the coming blessing that is Mission u. Scholarships will also be available and more information about them will be available on our website:

**[flconfuwf.org/2025-mission-u](http://flconfuwf.org/2025-mission-u)**



Dean Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix



Assistant Dean Lorraine Mayfield Brown



Guest Speaker D. Kate Pravera

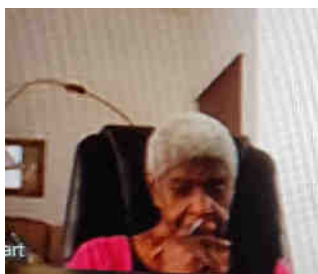
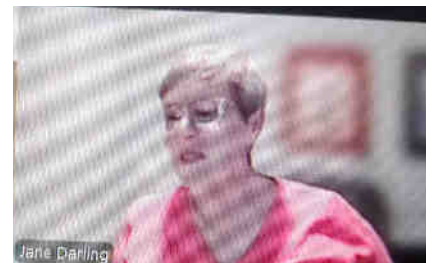
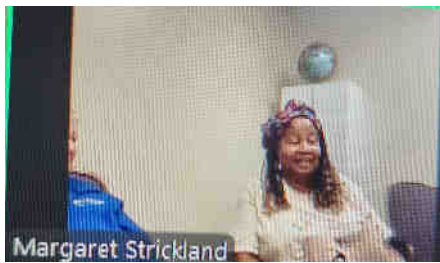
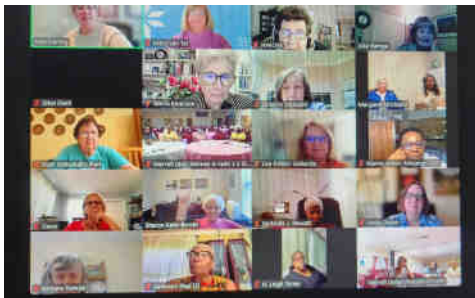
## ***Mission & Registration, Plenary, Classes, Morning Watch***



## ***Mission u Ubuntu, Haitian Dancing, Chair Yoga***



## ***Mission u — Virtual Sessions***



# Heaven & EARTH

AN ADVENT VIRTUAL RETREAT IN ART

Led by

**Rev. Dr. Hedy Collver**

Senior Pastor, First UMC Coral Gables

December 5, 2024

6:30-8:00pm via ZOOM

Suggested donation of \$5

All proceeds go to Mission giving



Join us for a transformative virtual retreat as we explore the powerful connection between Heaven and Earth in anticipation of the Advent season! Through a creative art project that reflects on childhood hope, life's disappointments, and God's redemptive love, this interactive, sensory experience will uplift your spirit and connect you with others in faith. Don't miss this opportunity to reflect, create, and grow in God's love!



United  
Women  
in Faith

Registration opens Nov. 1

Go to [flconfuwf.org](http://flconfuwf.org) for  
registration & materials list

**SAVE THE DATE**



United  
Women  
in Faith

**MARCH 7-9, 2025**

*Connecting in Sisterhood:  
Abounding in Hope*

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Mary Mitchell



Hosted by

The North East District & The North West District  
United Women in Faith

We invite you to attend our joint spiritual enrichment retreat at Epworth By The Sea on St. Simons Island Georgia. This riverfront setting has natural scenic surroundings that will enhance your opportunity to experience spiritual growth, renewal, fellowship, and fun. It will be a wonderful weekend that you don't want to miss. So let's plan to get together!

More information about the event will follow.

Contact persons: Denise Morrell  
nesi5440@gmail.com

Bess Dickson  
dicksonbess.uwf@yahoo.com



# District News

The **North East District** of United Women in Faith was invited to partner with **Nehemiah 5 Foundation**, a nonprofit organization founded by UWF North **East District member Theresa Tippins**, and **New Dawn Outreach Ministries**, a nonprofit founded by Dawn Elmore, to provide and distribute clothing and minister to unhoused citizens in Jacksonville, Florida on Saturday, September 14th. Space for sorting the UWF clothing donations prior to the event was graciously provided by First United Methodist Church of Jacksonville. The North East District is grateful to have received this invitation to partner in serving over 100 unhoused citizens in Jacksonville, FL.



The **Gulf Central District** learned about the plan to purchase multicultural dolls as part of the Charter for Racial Justice grant and challenged units to make outfits for them. One member, **Palma Ceia**, took on the task to sew, and sew we did!



We are excited that our dolls will be presented to **Cornerstone Family Ministries** which is supported by our mission giving. We are fortunate that it is local and we have a hands-on relationship with them.

Cornerstone serves the needs of children from diverse backgrounds using education and Christian character building to equip children and their families to navigate the difficult circumstances they find them-



The **South East District** United Women in Faith held our second annual Soul Care Retreat on August 31<sup>st</sup>. There were 82 people in attendance. Along with a keynote speaker it included : Walking the labyrinth, chair yoga, and aromatherapy.



## 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 9	51st Conference Annual Meeting	First United Methodist Church, Lakeland
December 5	Heaven & Earth Advent Retreat	6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. On Zoom

## 2024 DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETINGS

October 5	East Central	FUMC Mount Dora	10:00 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.
October 19	South West	FUMC Bonita Springs	10:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m.
October 19	Gulf Central		
October 26	North West	John Wesley UMC, Tallahassee	10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.
October 26	South East	Miramar UMC	
TBD	North East		

## 2025 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 15	Haitian Convocation	El Shaddai/Wesley Memorial UMC, Ft. Myers
March 23	United Women in Faith “Day of Giving”	
April 14-16	Children’s Week	Tallahassee
June 5-7	Florida UMC Annual Conference	Lakeland
July 18-20	Mission u/Spiritual Retreat	Weston, Lake Mary, Orlando
July 22, 24,	Virtual Mission u	Zoom
July 29, 31	(Four 2 hour sessions)	
September*	Social Action/Racial Justice event	Zoom
November 8	52nd Conference Annual Meeting	TBD
December*	Advent Event	Zoom

\*Dates and times to be determined.

For questions or to subscribe to this newsletter  
contact editor at mvantol@gmail.com

