



Florida Conference United Methodist Women



# Genesis

Spring 2018 vol. 45 no.2

## Purpose

*United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God, 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.*

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## From President Kay Roach

Greetings Sisters in Christ:

*"This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it."* Psalm 118:24 (NKJV)

I love the scripture above. I think you would agree that some days are more difficult than others to feel like rejoicing, but isn't it wonderful that we have a loving God who can help us to rejoice and be glad in it? I pray that you all had a blessed Holy Week and even a more blessed Easter!



Spring has sprung and time is not standing still! District retreats and mission studies as well as local mission work in your communities I know are keeping everyone busy.

I pray that your plans are coming together to attend Assembly - May 18-20 in Columbus, OH. United Methodist Women is currently the largest faith-based women's organization in the world and Assembly is the largest quadrennial gathering of that organization. At Assembly you viscerally feel "The Power of Bold" with the combined energy of 8,000 women through communal, face-to-face growth, action, celebration and inspiration – 8,000 women in ONE time, ONE place, ONE space...this is ASSEMBLY. Hope to see you there! Assembly is a time for fellowship and revived focus on our special calling to the needs of women, children and youth. We will also have the wonderful opportunity to witness the consecration of our own Conference Vice President, Dr. Judith Pierre Okerson as a Deaconess.

Our mission opportunity in the month of June will be to attend the Florida Annual Conference at Florida Southern College in Lakeland. What a great time to volunteer to be a district-at-large delegate (check with your district office). Following in July at Bethune-Cookman University will once again host our Mission u. Great studies with even better study leaders. The month of September offers you to attend our yearly spiritual enrichment retreat at the Life Enrichment Center, Fruitland Park (Leesburg) *Sacred Spaces* and then November brings our Conference Annual Meeting at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland. Look for additional information on all events in this newsletter

Your district and conference leaders are always available to assist you in any way to help you learn about how we can together make Faith, Hope, Love in Action happen!

Blessings,  
Kay Roach

*"It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me"*  
Galatians 2:20

## WE ARE A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

My heartfelt gratitude for all your prayers, hugs and cards. I am so blessed to be part of such a supportive community! Grace and I appreciate your outpouring of love as we continue to grieve an amazing father and a loving husband.

I know some of your local United Methodist Women groups will not meet during the summer months. I want to take this opportunity to remind you of a few things as you are getting ready to take a break to recharge and refuel. Please review your minutes, check your program calendar, your program planning sheets where you can find records of the amazing work, I know you are doing in your local unit and your community. Do send your **Mission Today** report to your district leadership team before your Annual Meeting. Let us have one hundred percent Mission Today reporting at the Conference Annual Meeting in November!

Did your unit conduct at least one **mission study** this year? If not, you still have until August to sponsor a study or partner with a neighboring unit to do so. The studies that are eligible to receive certificate in 2018 are: Spiritual Growth: *The Bible and Human Sexuality* (2016) – *Living as a Covenant Community* (2017); *Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living* (2018); Issue: *Climate Justice* (2016/2017). *What about Our Money* (2018/2019) - Geography: *Latin America, The People of Faith* (2015/2016) – *The Missionary Conference of The United Methodist Church in The United States* (2017/2018). Send your report to the designated member of your district Leadership Team by August 31<sup>st</sup>. Meanwhile, I hope you are making plan to attend **Mission u** July 12-15 at Bethune-Cookman University.

It is not too early to start making plans to carpool to attend the **Conference Spiritual Retreat**, September 7-9, 2018 at the Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park (Leesburg). The theme is “Sacred Spaces” and our Adult retreat leader is the Rev. Vidalis Lopez, Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church, Coral Gables. Kenya Monroe, member of the Conference Committee on Nominations, will lead the Youth Retreat. All units are encouraged to sponsor at least one youth from their local church to experience this event. Limited scholarships from the Conference are also available for the youth to attend. Please contact your District President prior to the August 24<sup>th</sup>, registration deadline.

Our **Conference Annual Meeting** will continue with the theme “Sacred Spaces”. Julie Taylor, Executive Director National Farm Worker Ministry, will be the Keynote Speaker. The gathering will take place November 3, 2018 at First United Methodist Church, Lakeland.

Thanking God for each one of you!

Together in mission.  
Judith Pierre-Okerson, PhD  
Vice-President  
Judithpierreokerson@gmail.com





Graphic from United Methodist Women Program Book 2017-2018

Florida Conference



## Spiritual Enrichment Retreat

September 7 – 9, 2018

Life Enrichment Center  
4991 Picciola Rd., Fruitland Park

## Sacred Spaces

Then you will live a life that honors the Lord, and you will always please him by doing good deeds. You will come to know God even better.

Colossians 1:10 (CEV)

**Retreat Leader: Rev. Vidalis Lopez**

Associate Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Coral Gables

**Youth Leader: Kenya Monroe**



## Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Registration Form

**Sept. 7-9, 2018**

**Life Enrichment Center**

**4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, FL 34731**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
As you would like it on your name tag Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

**\$145** for room and meals (Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast) Double occupancy.

**\$185** for room and meals (Friday dinner – Sunday breakfast) Single occupancy

**\$75** for room and meals (Saturday lunch – Sunday breakfast) Double occupancy

**\$95** for room and meals (Saturday lunch – Sunday breakfast) Single occupancy

**\$40** for Commuter (Saturday lunch, dinner and day fee)

**\$75** for Youth

Make checks payable to: **Florida Conference United Methodist Women.**

A limited number of Scholarships are available. Check with your district president. Scholarship deadline is Aug. 10. Include Registration form with scholarship application.

Please indicate if interested in the **Craft Class** \_\_\_\_\_ A \$3 fee will be collected at Registration.  
(Class size limited to first 25 requests. Registrar will advise.)

Registration Deadline: Aug. 19 Check-in begins on Friday, Sept. 7 at 3:00 P.M.

Choice of Roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Disability Housing Needs (1st floor, Handicapped) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need wheelchair access? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you need an interpreter for the hearing impaired? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you need a language interpreter? \_\_\_\_\_ Language? \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, please notify:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Physician: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Medical Concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

Health/Dietary Needs/Other \_\_\_\_\_

Childcare Needed? \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Ages: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send to Registrar:** Ethel Ewing, 823 Lakeside Ct, Lakeland, FL 33815.

Phone: 863-680-4072 Home 863 370-8757 Cell Email: [ethelewing@msn.com](mailto:ethelewing@msn.com)





### Spring is here!

It's a great time to order Special Mission Recognitions pins. What a wonderful way to say thank you to someone that you wish to honor, and at the same time, give mission dollars that support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children and youth.

Ethel Ewing, Conference Treasurer



These lovingly made Infant Hats will be on display in the Prayer/Meditation Room at the 2018 United Methodist Women assembly in Columbus, OH. There are 164 warm, cozy hats made by women from Arlington, St. Paul and Mt. Zion Churches in Jacksonville, blessed by the pastor of the Arlington Church and taken to Assembly by Marie Rivera, our Hispanic Coordinator. Following Assembly, they will be distributed through United Methodist Women Maternal Health Work. Many thanks to these women and the many who donated yarn and funds that these colorful caps will bless the newest of God's family.

### Committee on Nominations

The Conference would like to announce the appointment of Mrs. Marie Rivera Deaconess of the North East District as Hispanic Coordinator. She attends Arlington United Methodist Church; Dr. Arlinda Burks is her Pastor. Please support her and all the coordinators so we can do all that we can to include all the women of the Florida Conference.

2019 will be a big election year as we will be seeking a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Nominations Chair and adding to the committee.

Please complete a talent bank and forward it to your District Nomination's chair or President who will get it to me.

Thank you for being a supportive fellowship as we continue to put faith hope and love in action.

In His Service  
Denise Morrell  
904 207 0642

Watch for the  
**SPECIAL MISSION U**  
edition of *Genesis*

Dates - Times - Place - Cost...

Studies... Study Leaders

ALL Registration Forms...

What to bring... Projects...

**Coming Soon!**



Greetings Florida Conference Ladies!

I hope by now you have been able to dive into the many Reading Program categories! The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It's an excellent way for you to deepen your spirituality and your faith! The books for Mission u will also cause you to get a better sense of the mission work being done throughout the world.

Soon, summer will be upon us and that means "summer reading" time! I am sure your District Secretary of Program Resources has been keeping in touch with you regarding the many books UMW has to offer. We have several ways to obtain our reading materials. One is by attending District and Conference events. Another is by attending Mission u! At these events your Secretary of Program Resources will have a wide variety of books and various items – and some are even free!! Another way to obtain the books is to go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>. This is the Amazon site and each time a purchase is made using this address, UMW receives 5% back to the organization. So you see, United Methodist Women provides great ways to read!

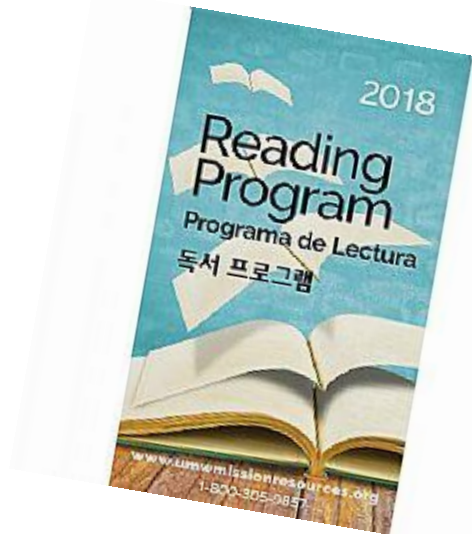
To find out which book(s) you'd like to purchase, you can click on the following link - [2018 Reading Catalog](#) and access the entire selection of 2018 books. Remember to keep track of which books, from which categories you read and submit those reports to your District Secretary, Program Resources. Then in November your names and districts will be featured at the Conference Annual Meeting!

Keep up the reading and I'll see you in July at Mission u!!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email or call me at: [shelleydavidson.umw@gmail.com](mailto:shelleydavidson.umw@gmail.com) or at 863-599-9070.

Happy Reading!

Shelley Davidson  
Secretary, Program Resources  
Florida Conference United Methodist Women



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



Congratulations to Shelley Davidson, Conference Secretary of Program Resources, whose logo artwork submitted to the SEJ-UMW Planning Team was selected for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting April 17-19, 2020 in Mobile, AL. You made us proud!

*Calling u...there!*

## SE DISTRICT EVENT

South East District's Day Apart received a challenge from their speaker, Rev. Dawn Worden, to be a community to justice in our age of "smart phones and social media," and that we are "dominos called by God to make a difference, living with Christ at the center." As her "awesome and inspiring" message ended women from the Burton Memorial Unit unfurled a banner featuring the phrase, Disarm Hate, designed by Edith Zewadski-Bricker. The banner is available for United Methodist Women units and districts.



The 7th Haitian Convocation was held at Bethesda Haitian United Methodist mission on February 24, 2018. There were 164 people attending, including children. The SE District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Weems, elaborated on the theme "a call to community", using Colossians 3:15 as basis. This annual convocation was truly a blessing in every way, gathering together as one to serve and learn, and aid as United Methodist Women is a true meaning of togetherness. Thanks to all who shared their lives on this day to make it a great community in Jesus' name. Hope to see you all there at the eighth annual Haitian Convocation next year!



**"For the Love of Children...Recognizing MECE"** was the theme of our UMW unit meeting on February 17, 2018 at First Boca, United Methodist Church. We had this recognition to honor and thank our educators who daily share their love with children, in conjunction with Valentine's week. Pam Davis, President, began with prayer and the lighting of a candle, remembered the gun violence on Valentine's Day at the High School in Parkland with prayer and a lighted candle, and encouraged to "Put Children First" in Florida. . Cathy Herschelman, MECE Director, had a presentation sharing an overview of the school, a timeline over the years, goals for the school, and ways that our UMW can get involved. The Susanna Circle made the "thank you" boxes for teachers and staff members, some were present.



## Florida Conference United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women of  
The United Methodist Church  
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Lakeland, FL 33801

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Lakeland, FL

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United Methodist Women's  
Communications Committee  
rockpitt2@verizon.net



**Make It Happen!**

## FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

### Calendar of Events

May 18 – 20	United Methodist Women Assembly	Columbus, OH
June 7 – 9	Church Annual Conference	Florida Southern College Lakeland
July 12 -15	Mission u	Bethune-Cookman University Daytona
September 7 - 9	Spiritual Growth Retreat	Life Enrichment Center Fruitland Park
October 6	Conference Leadership Team Meeting	Lakeland
November 3	Conference Annual Meeting	First United Methodist Lakeland
<b>2019</b> February 16	Conference Leadership Team Meeting Membership Emphasis	Lakeland