



United  
Women  
in Faith

Florida Conference  
of The United Methodist Church

# Genesis

Winter 2025, vol.53 no. 3

FL conference Website: <https://flconfuwf.org>

## 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

## Vice-President:

Deaconess Ester Kim  
esterkim.umw@gmail.com

## Secretary:

Mary Van Tol  
maryvantol.uwf@gmail.com

## Treasurer:

Donna Spear  
donnaspear.umw@gmail.com

## Committee on Nominations Chair:

Paulette Monroe  
Paulette\_monroe@yahoo.com

## Dean, Mission u 2025-2026:

Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown  
lmahfiel@tampabay.rr.com

## Social Action Liaison:

Ann Eachus  
ann.uwf@eachus.org

## Spanish Language Coordinator:

Angela Kim  
angelakim.uwf@gmail.com

## Millennial Liaison:

Christine Schneidman  
christineschneidman@gmail.com

## Legacy Liaison:

Pamela Davis  
pameladavis.umw@gmail.com



## President Linda Parrish

## Parting Thoughts

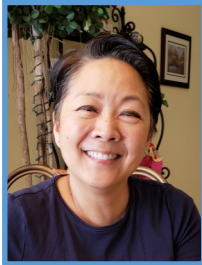
Does time really go faster the older you get? Of course, not really, but it sure seems so. I have had the honor of being your conference president for the past two years. The best part? Working with women who love the Lord. While we haven't always agreed on everything, we know that we care for each other and that our hearts are for mission.

We sang some familiar Christmas songs in church today – I do love the old carols. I was reminded of a Peter, Paul, and Mary song (at least I think it was theirs). Something about “don't let the light go out”. Many of you have been a light to me – helpful, encouraging, even feeling comfortable enough to vent once in a while.

Thank you for these past two years. My hope for the new leadership team and the various committees is that they will keep the candles of mission, fellowship, and love of God burning brightly.



# Parting Thoughts from our Conference Officers and Coordinators



Deaconess Ester Kim

*Vice President*

*It was a privilege to serve as your vice president for these past two years. My inexperience definitely showed, but everyone was so accommodating during my learning process. I appreciate the opportunity and value the support and encouragement you have extended during my term.*



Donna Spear

*Treasurer*

*I can't believe my 6 years is over already! During my tenure, I've learned so much about United Women in Faith and all the wonderful ways our money is used. Along the way, I've met positive, committed, capable women. It's been my privilege to serve as your treasurer. Thank you for all the kindness you've shown me throughout. And thank you for the time and financial resources you've committed to keeping our organization going and our mission efforts thriving, as you've put your "Faith, Hope and Love into Action".*

*I never take you for granted – Thank You!!*

Mary Van Tol

*Secretary*



*Serving as secretary for the past four years has been a privilege. Getting to know the dedicated women on our leadership team who have been supportive and shown me grace has been a highlight of my term. I would also like to thank all those who served as their district secretaries for replying to my requests for leadership updates. My hope is your unit secretaries will do the same for you for the coming year. Sending out many blessings as you continue to serve the women, children and youth in your communities.*

## Parting Thoughts from our Conference Officers and Coordinators



Paulette Monroe

*Chair CON*

*Serving as the Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations has been an incredibly exciting and rewarding experience. The journey was both challenging and fulfilling, offering unique opportunities to connect with remarkable individuals throughout our organization at the National, Conference, District, and Local levels, as well as with the Conference Leadership Team.*

*Throughout my tenure, these interactions have provided some valuable opportunities to participate in meaningful discussions centered on our mission work, and to invite others to join us in our efforts.*

*More importantly, the connections have enabled us to make a tangible difference as we continue advocating for women, children, and youth—not only in Florida, where we reside, but across broader communities both near and far.*

*I count it a great privilege to have been asked to serve in this capacity and consider it a true blessing. As I approach the conclusion of this chapter, with one more year remaining as a committee member before rotating off the class of 2026, I want to express my heartfelt commitment to the United Women in Faith. This organization will always remain close to my heart throughout my lifetime.*

*I will always remember that each of us possesses talents, opportunities, and gifts, which are temporarily entrusted to us by our creator. I encourage everyone to use those gifts fully while time allows, as the needs around us are great and time is short.*

*Above all, make God your partner in service.*

## Parting Thoughts from our Conference Officers and Coordinators



Ann Eachus

*Social Action*

*It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve with the Conference leadership team as Social Action Liaison for 2 years. Highlights include:*

- ◆ *Working with the SE Jurisdiction Racial Justice Committee to plan the Conference zoom with Clara Ester when she talked about her work with Martin Luther King, Jr.*
- ◆ *Seeing the 260 multicultural dolls dressed by our members dedicated at our Annual Meeting.*
- ◆ *Hosting Nicole Leon from the Florida Immigration Law and Justice Center when she spoke on "Know Your Rights" on a Social Action Zoom.*
- ◆ *Meeting with UWFaith members when speaking at local and district events.*
- ◆ *Being reminded to take action myself when sending on Action Alerts to all of you.*
- ◆ *Meeting with and learning from other Conference Social Action Coordinators on networking Zoom events.*

*Thank you to everyone, Ann!*

Angela Kim

*Spanish Language Coordinator*

*"For everything there is a season" (Ecclesiastes 3:1a), and this season I celebrate the completion of a 2 year appointment where I led courageously and served joyfully on five committees. God wink highlight was seeing the fruition of my Program Committee idea to invite General Secretary and CEO Sally Vonner to speak at the Conference Annual Meeting.*

*My next season is facilitating an Assembly 2026 "Soul Care Movement for All Bodies" workshop, and a mini-soul sabbatical to rest, replenish and be ready to answer when God calls and from the "Here I am, Lord" beloved hymn, 'I will go, Lord, if you lead me, I will hold your people in my heart.'*



Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix

*Incoming President*



Christmas greetings, sisters of the FL Conference United Women in Faith. It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that I look forward to working together with you in 2026 as we continue to put love into action for women, children, and youth throughout the world. But first, we celebrate and give thanks for our Lord coming to earth, showing us how to live and to love, and establishing a personal relationship with us. In spite of all the pain and suffering we experience or witness, we are blessed by a loving, gracious God who reaches out to us and walks beside us always. May your Christmas be filled with all of God's blessings and may the new year present many opportunities for us to lead in peace and in justice.



*We did it!*

**Florida Conference United Women in Faith reached our  
\$150,000 Mission Giving Pledge for 2025!**

**Mission Giving Pledges for 2026**

January is the time for each of us to make a personal **Mission Giving Pledge** for 2026.

For printable pledge cards, use this link: [Click for Printable Pledge Card.](#)

Encourage your local unit treasurer to **turn in your unit's pledge** to your district treasurer, and do your part to help your unit achieve its goal. **All-access members** can submit their mission giving through their district treasurers, or at <https://flconfuwf.org>.

**Elected Officers at the 52nd Conference Annual Meeting on November 8  
at the First United Methodist Church of Plant City.**

The following women will begin their terms on January 1, 2026.

**Officers**

President—Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix, norahh51@hotmail.com

Vice President—Veta Daley, boar7661da@gmail.com

Secretary—Janie McMillan, Janiemcmillan.uwf@gmail.com

Treasurer—Natacha Etienne Joseph, Natachaetiennejoseph.umw@gmail.com

CON Chair—Deborah C. Jenkins-Bailey, dcjenkins@att.net

**Coordinators**

Communication—Mary Van Tol, maryvantol.uwf@gmail.com

Haitian Language—Kerlyne Charles-Jeune, kasey6889@gmail.com

Social Action—Edith Zewadski-Bricker, edithzewadskibricker@gmail.com

Millennial Liaison—Christine Schneidman, Christineschneidman@gmail.com

Legacy Liaison—Pamela Davis, pameladavis.umw@gmail.com

**Committee on Nominations**

Class of 2026—Paulette Monroe, Paulette\_monroe@yahoo.com

Class of 2028— Marie Sharpe, tennessee1010@aol.com

Class of 2028— Julie Ramga, julieramga.umw@gmail.com

Class of 2029 —Shari Gillis, sharimgillis.umw@gmail.com

Class of 2029— Dreena Robinson, dreena085@gmail.com



# Haitian Convocation registration is now open!

Contact the Registrar Rodna Choute, email: [rodnachoute@aol.com](mailto:rodnachoute@aol.com)



FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL HAITIAN CONVOCATION

March 14, 2026 From 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

**THEME: Inspire, Influence, Impact**

Guest Speaker: *Grace E. Okerson, MDiv, MA*



Church Host: First United Methodist Church Winter Park

125 N Interlachen Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789

**NO ONE SHOULD MISS THIS EVENT**

Registration Open: December 5, 2025 to February 14, 2026  
Contribution \$30.00 per person (event, breakfast and lunch)  
Registrar: Rodna Choute  
3700 28th street SW Lehigh Acres FL 33976  
Zelle: 954-495-3788 email: [rodnachoute@aol.com](mailto:rodnachoute@aol.com)



KONFERANS FLORIDA FANM INI NAN LAFWA  
KENZYÈM ANYÈL KONVOKASYON AYISYÈN

14 Mas 2026 — soti 9:00 am rive 4:00 pm

**TÈM: Enspire, Enfliyanse, Enpak**

Oratè Envite : *Grace E. Okerson, MDiv, MA*



Legliz ki ap Resevwa nou

First United Methodist Church Winter Park  
125 N Interlachen Ave. Winter Park, FL 32789

**PÈSONN PA DWE RATE EVENMAN SA-A!**

Enskripsyon ouvè: 5 Desanm 2025 rive 14 Fevriye 2026  
kontribisyon: \$30.00 pa moun (evènman, dejene ak manje midi)  
Enskri avèk: Rodna Choute  
3700 28th Street SW Lehigh Acres, FL 33976  
Zelle: 954-495-3788 Imèl: [rodnachoute@aol.com](mailto:rodnachoute@aol.com)

Registration for Assembly 2026 at [uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly)!

United Women in Faith

**ASSEMBLY 2026**

May 15-17, 2026  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
[uwfaith.org/assembly](http://uwfaith.org/assembly)

**Dream it!  
Believe it!  
Do it!**

# Mission u 2026



Lorraine Mayfield-Brown, Dean

Come join us at our transformative educational event this July! Over one hundred forty United Methodist Sister will attend the "Experiencing Emanuel" where we explore and discuss how Emanuel calls us into action. In addition to the 8 hour study, Mission u planners are offering exciting electives to strengthen your spiritual growth.

Our planners are offering these fun sessions:


**Line Dancing Movement, Reading Program Discussion, and Origami Ubuntu session.** This year we offer, a One Conference, One Book offering from our 2026 National Reading Program. In particular, we'll have a discussion on the book, **Freeing Jesus** by Diana Butler Bass.

The plenaries will cover highlights from National Assemble and spotlight the national social campaigns. Don't forget the Spirited Music, The Seek and Find Band who had us singing and dancing last year promise to return.

**Save the Dates: July 17-19, 2026 at the Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North.**

**Virtual Mission u will be available Tuesdays, July 21, July 23, and Thursday, July 28, July 30th evenings.**

Scholarships will be available for attendance. More information to come. I look forward to seeing you!





## Mission u 2026: Experiencing Emmanuel


FL CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH MISSION U 2026  
**In Person:** Friday, July 17 - Sunday, July 19, 2026  
The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North Hotel  
2974 International Parkway, Lake Mary, FL 32746

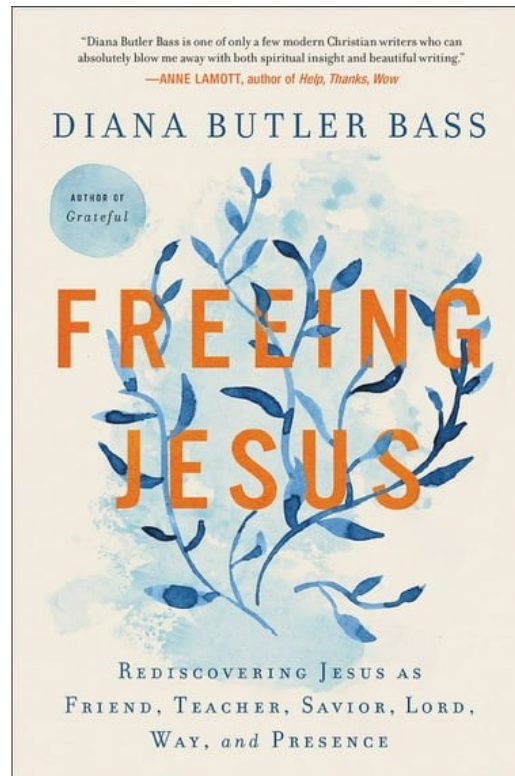
**Virtual:** Tuesdays and Thursdays  
July 21, July 23, July 28 and July 30, 2026  
6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

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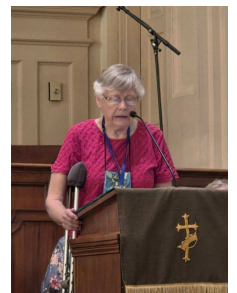
 **Adult Curriculum:** *A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives*  
This curriculum is designed to help participants take a step back and a closer look at the various ways we see Emmanuel within and around biblical stories. What can it look like to walk with God as people who face adversity, issues of justice, and a heritage of relational and spiritual connections? This curriculum encourages participants to seek out and name the experiences of Emmanuel from biblical times to our present day as we look toward our future in faith.

 **Youth Curriculum:** *God With Us: Experiencing God's Presence in Our Lives*  
This curriculum invites youth to wonder about where and how God is present in their lives and what that means. *God With Us* breaks down Biblical characters and stories to explore how God is present in extraordinary and ordinary lives. Throughout, youth will explore how they can encounter God in suffering and tough times, as well as in resistance and our spiritual lineage. By the end, youth will be affirmed and learn the importance of being their authentic, God-created selves.

 **Children's Curriculum:** *Experiencing Emmanuel*  
The *Experiencing Emmanuel* children's curriculum helps children give voice to the sacred. Faith is a lifelong journey of seeking and naming the presence of God in our lives. Scripture shows us how God's people came to know God and each other—and how those stories shaped their identity. As we interpret these stories, our sense of self and community is formed. This curriculum invites children into that journey and offers a path for children and their mentors to explore faith together, building vocabulary, confidence, and a deeper awareness of God's presence in their lives.



# Conference 52nd Annual Meeting November 8, 2025



**Leadership Development Days (LDD)** will be **January 23-25** and is open to all District Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers, Committee on Nomination Chairs.

In addition all Conference Nomination Committee members, Millennial Liaison and Communication Coordinator are invited to attend.

The theme for is **UWFaith 101**. Jane Darling will be our guest speaker and Conference officers will be training the District officers. There will be an opportunity for individual district meetings to plan for their unit training as well. Registration and dinner begins on Friday at 5:00 PM. The program will start at 7:00 PM and end on Sunday at 11:00 AM.

Contact Donna Spear ([donnaspear.umw@gmail.com](mailto:donnaspear.umw@gmail.com)) for information about registration.

## 2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 23-25	LDD	Warren Willis Conference and Camp Center (Leadership Development Days-District Officer training)
February 22-27	Children’s Week	Tallahassee
March 14	Haitian Convocation	First UMC Winter Park, FL
March 23	<b>United Women in Faith “Day of Giving”</b>	
May 15-17	Assembly 2026 United Women in Faith	Indianapolis, IN
June 4-6	Florida UMC Annual Conference	Lakeland
July 17-19	Mission u	Westin Lake Mary Hotel, Orlando North
July 21, 23,28,30	Virtual Mission u (Four 2 hour sessions)	Zoom
Sept. (TBD)	Social Action/Racial Justice Event	Zoom
Nov. (TBD)	53rd Conference Annual Meeting	TBD



For questions or to subscribe to this newsletter contact editor at [maryvantol.uwf@gmail.com](mailto:maryvantol.uwf@gmail.com)

