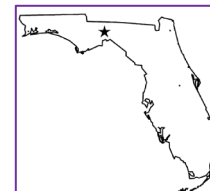




Florida Conference United Methodist Women



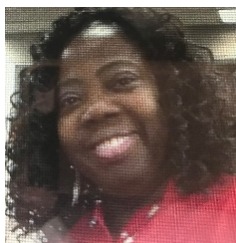
Genesis

August 2020; vol. 47 no. 3

Website: www.flconfumw.org

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.



“Be still and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations,

I am exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

Where does the year 2020 go! I cannot believe we are gearing up toward fall already. As the saying goes, “time flies when you are having fun!”

Indeed, we are having great fun in the mission work despite a pandemic that keeps us from meeting face to face. I want to thank each of you for the work you are doing in your local units, local churches and in your communities, and for your creativity. I have heard reports about units and circles feeding the hungry in their communities, while observing social distancing. I have heard the story of an unit holding its regular meetings via telephone lines. I have heard about units keeping in daily contact with their entire membership via WhatsApp. I know about one unit who is holding its book review virtually. I have heard report about one unit hosting a Social Justice Action virtually. The list goes on and on. United Methodist Women in the Florida Conference, you are moving forward by faith!

Your Conference Leadership Team is not stagnant either. Last spring, I promised we will move forward with our plans amid the pandemic, we did just that! Our different committees (Program, Finance, Nominations, Mission u, and Leadership Team) have been meeting and planning virtually since early April. We have adapted the children’s study “Managing Our Emotions” in a way it can be used for children’s sermon, Sunday School class, Vacation Bible School, or just for a fun learning activity with family members. The study can be downloaded from our Conference UMW webpage www.flconfumw.org or The Florida webpage www.flumc.org/unitedmethodistwomen.

President: Judith Pierre-Okerson
judithpierreokerson.umw@gmail.com

Vice President:
Shelley Davidson
Shelleydavidson.umw@gmail.com

Secretary: Jackie Brooks
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Treasurer: Donna Spear
donnaspear.umw@gmail.com

Program Resources:
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Jannetthawley.umw@gmail.com

CHair, Committee on Nominations: Kenya Monroe
Kenyamonroe.umw@gmail.com

Dean, Mission u: Pam Davis
psdavis@hotmail.com

The adults' study "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" is being offered throughout the summer in English and will be offered in Haitian Creole in September, all virtually! Materials for the adults' study included video which can be accessed from our webpage or from the National Organization webpage www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world to be used for a mission study or a program in a local unit meeting. Rev. Monique McBride will facilitate our spiritual enrichment retreat, September 11-12 via zoom. This will be a new experience for all of us, but without doubt a blessed one. Please do register for this event via our webpage if you have not yet done so. Harriett Jane Olson, the General Secretary/CEO of the National Office will join us virtually as the quest speaker for our 47th Conference Annual Meeting, November 14. Registration is forthcoming

In this era of injustice and overt racism we cannot remain silent. To echo the late Rep. John Lewis, "we have the moral obligation to stand up, speak up and speak out." To that end, we welcome Edith Zewadski-Bricker to our Leadership team as the Social Action Liaison. Edith will assist us in carrying our social justice mandate. We are excited to have Kay Roach back to the team as the Vice-President of the South Eastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women Leadership Team. We are grateful for Gertrude Jarrett Stewart's service. She completed a four-year term on the Jurisdiction Leadership Team as their secretary and a member of the Conference Leadership Team. Join me in thanking Gertrude for representing our Conference by showering her with Gift to Mission cards: 17037 NW 66th Ct Hialeah, FL 33015.

Let us continue to move forward with the assurance God is leading the way!

Judith P. Okerson

Deaconess Judith Pierre Okerson, PhD
President United Methodist Women, Florida Conference
The United Methodist Church

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With sad hearts we tell our members of the passing from this life to eternity of a former Conference President, Ann Hunter. Ann died earlier this month on Sunday, August 1st. She served the conference, first as Treasurer (1974-1977), and then as President (1978-1981). Last November, Ann contributed, via a video recording, to the sharing of our 150th heritage celebration. She was then 93 years old. We are encouraged to help her son and daughter-in-law appreciate why Ann dedicated most of her life to this creative, supportive, fellowship community of United Methodist Women by sending them a Gift in Memory Card. Mail cards to Lee and Nancy Hunter - 2925 Alta St - Leesburg, FL 34748.



With former Presidents at a past CAM

Greetings from your Conference Vice President...

Hello all! I have GREAT news to share with you!! Coming to you for the very first time ever, the Spiritual Enrichment Retreat VIRTUALLY! That's right...via Zoom! Covid-19 has taken our entire world into places we never thought we'd be, doing things we never thought we'd do and experiencing things we never thought we'd experience, but we are BOLD United Methodist Women and face any challenge! So, with that said, I am pleased to share with you below information about the event. Our theme will be "Moving Forward by Faith" and our guest speaker will be Rev. Monique McBride. Monique has an amazing, spiritual time planned for us. There will be prayer times, meditations, worship, and four (4) workshops (one of which includes baking your own communion bread) and virtual communion. The workshops will be approximately 45 minutes each with a short break after each workshop. You may attend ALL, or you can pick and choose which one(s) you would like to attend. You will not be bored with this event, instead you will be *transformed!*

DATES AND TIMES:

Friday, September 11, 2020 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 8:00 am to 8:30 am (Morning prayer)

BREAK TIME: Retreat resumes at 2pm --- Participants are encouraged to join the Laity Session and Commissioning of the Deaconesses from 10:00-12:00. The link for this event is available from Florida Conference Website).

Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 2:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Please make plans to join us in sharing this time of interaction, serious-but-fun event for a bit of Spiritual Revival.

To register (if you have not already), you can – Registration by September 1st:

- 1) Go to our Conference website at: www.flconfumw.org and click on the "click here to register" button
- 2) Click on: <https://fl-umw-2020-spiritual-retreat.eventbrite.com>
- 3) Go to our Facebook page at: [Facebook - Florida Conference United Methodist Women](#)

Please note that the ZOOM link and supplies needed for the event will be emailed only to those who register a week prior to the event.

Be safe and Be well,

Shelley Davidson

Vice-President

Shelleydavidson.umw@gmail.com

MOVING FORWARD BY FAITH



Florida Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Enrichment Retreat via ZOOM!

September 11-12, 2020

Friday: 6:30 pm – 8 pm

Saturday: 8 am to 8:30 am

Saturday: 2 pm – 6:30 pm

RETREAT LEADER: Rev. Monique McBride

*“She is clothed with strength and dignity and she laughs
without fear of the future”. Proverbs 31:25 (NLT)*

MORE GREAT NEWS TO SHARE FROM THE VP!!

Come and celebrate with us at our Conference Annual Meeting. Where, you may ask?? This event will also be held **VIRTUALLY!** Yes, your Florida Conference will be held via Zoom! In addition to conducting business of the Conference Organization, the Annual meeting will be a time to celebrate the mission work of our local units, commemorate the legacy of the women throughout this conference who have gone to glory this past year. And fellowship with one another.

This event will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2020 via Zoom, and our theme will be, “Moving Forward by Faith”.



Our very own Harriet Jane Olson will be our guest speaker! Ms. Olson is the General Secretary/CEO for the United Methodist Women's organization. She has served as chief executive

officer of the United Methodist Women's national administrative and policymaking arm since 2007. United Methodist Women is a nearly 800,000-member organization within the United Methodist Church in the United States. Ms. Olson is a Harvard Law School graduate and practiced real estate and environmental law (1983-96) at a N.J. law firm. She also has a bachelor's degree from Houghton College in Houghton, N.Y., where she serves on the board of trustees.

Please look forward to receiving information in the coming weeks, via email, about the event!

I look forward to “Moving Forward by Faith” with you.

Be safe and Be well,

Shelley Davidson
Vice-President



WORDS FROM THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY

To God be the glory!

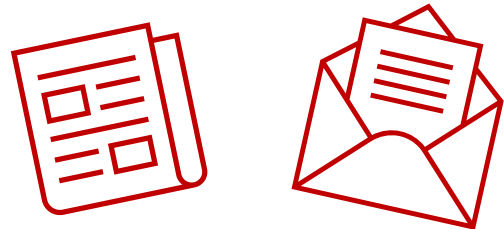
We are now in the 8th month of 2020 and the 6th month of COVID-19. Many had looked at the year 2020 where goals would be made or as the year to make change happen!

The dictionary says 20/20 vision is a term to express normal visual acuity (the clarity or sharpness of vision) measured at a distance of 20 feet. The United Methodist Women has always shown their clear, sharp vision for women, youth and children, but who would have thought that vision would have included holding meetings, events, or fundraiser online! As we move into this new area of how we continue to move forward, let's not forget how important it is for us to stay connected with ALL United Methodist Women.

Take time to update the ladies contact information. Some now have added email address. Some may have a new address due to the changes we have been faced with. But through it all stay connected!

Jackie Brooks
Conference Secretary

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another . Romans 12:4-5





FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS SLATE

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS CLASS OF 2021

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix (SE)

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix is a lifelong Methodist and has been an active member of United Methodist Women throughout her entire adult life. She has served in various leadership positions at the Unit and District levels and is currently President of United Methodist Women at First UMC of Coral Gables. She is a native Floridian, having been born and raised in Miami to parents who emigrated from Cuba in the 1940s. Dr. Hendrix holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in psychology, counseling, and higher education leadership from the University of Florida and the University of Miami and retired after 35 years at Miami Dade College as a full-time Professor and former Academic Dean and Campus President. In addition to her passion for the work of United Methodist Women, Nora is passionate about her family including three grown children and three precious grandchildren.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS CLASS OF 2024

Thomasina (TJ) Ford (NE)

Mary Reed (NC)

Thomasina Ford, affectionately known as TJ, has been an active member of the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women. She has served as a Spiritual Growth Coordinator and Vice President for her local unit at Ebenezer Methodist church where she currently attends and has also held the Spiritual Growth Coordinator and been Vice President for the North East District. She is a University of Florida graduate and is a nurse by profession. She is currently employed at Gateway Jacksonville.

Mary Reed is a seasoned and motivated service professional, specializing in retirement. She has been a member of UMW for many years where she has served on the Committee on Nominations, E & I, Social Action and Vice President for the North Central District. Mary has also served as Chairperson of Committee on Nominations for Mission u. Mary is a graduate of Bethune Cookman University. She is the mother of three adult children, she has nine grandchildren and eleven great grands. She is now embarking on a challenging project of homeschooling one of her grandchildren and great grands. Mary enjoys bringing value to individuals and says that she truly finds working with her UMW team "truly inspiring."

LANGUAGE COORDINATORS

KOREAN – Jiyeon Sophia Pak (GC)

Jiyeon Sophia Pak was born on March 31, 1976 in South Korea. Sophia immigrated with family to America at the age of 4 with her parents and three older brothers. Her father, Kun Won Yu was a UMC and KUMC pastor until he passed away, on September 21, 2018. During his last 17 years, he lived as a missionary in Peru. Sophia is a wife to husband Jun Pak, married for over 20 years. She has two children, Aaron (18) and Isabelle (14). Sophia has been teaching in Hillsborough County for the past 18 years where she is currently teaching Language Arts in high school. Sophia is currently an active member of the Tampa Korean United Methodist church. Sophia has served on the Committee on Nominations for the Florida Conference. Her passion is doing short term mission trips both locally and internationally. Her retirement plan is to follow her father's footsteps to be a missionary till her last breath to give glory to God, just like her father. and to be a United Methodist Woman.

Living in a virtual world does not take away your voice in selecting the leadership for the organization. Nominations from the floor is one way you can participate in this process. The form below provides the opportunity for those who would want to make a nomination from the floor for the position mentioned on the CON report.

Please do pay attention to the deadline and where to send the form if you wish to nominate

Florida Conference United Methodist Women Form for Nominations from the Floor 2020 Conference Annual Meeting Submission Deadline: October 31, 2020

The United Methodist Women’s bylaws allow for nominations from the floor. Please use this form for nominations from the floor for this year’s extraordinary virtual meeting and election. If you want to nominate for more than one office, you must complete a form for each.

All nominations from the floor must be mailed to Judith Pierre-Okerson – 7952 Plantation Blvd – Miramar, FL 33023 or email JudithPierreOkerson.umw@gmail.com. Form must be received by Saturday, October 31, 2020 by 11:59 pm

If you have questions, contact Kenya Monroe, Committee on Nominations chair, at 813-245-2236 or Kenyamonroe.umw@gmail.com

1. For which office is your nomination?

- Committee on Nominations Class of 2021 _____
- Committee on Nominations Class of 2024 _____
- Committee on Nominations Class of 2024 _____
- Korean Coordinator _____

2. Nominee’s Contact Information

Name: _____

Local unit: _____ Local Church _____

District: _____ Email Address _____

Address: _____

City/Town:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code

3. Please enter the nominee’s home, cell and work numbers. If she does not have one, or it is unknown, please enter “NONE” in the space.

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Work Phone _____



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Women

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4. Which title/prefix does the nominee prefer to use when being addressed?

- Ms.
- Mrs.
- Dr.
- Deaconess
- Other (please specify)

5. Please identify the age range of the nominee.

- 18-30 years
- 31-40 years
- 41-50 years
- 51-65 years
- 66-70 years
- 71 and over

6. Please identify the ethnicity/race of the nominee. Choose all that apply.

- African
- African-American or Black
- Asian-American or Asian
- Caribbean
- Caucasian or White
- Haitian
- Hispanic or Latina
- Hmong
- Native American
- Pacific Islander
- Please write in your own preferred description _____

7. Please identify the District and local church to which the nominee belongs.

District: _____ Local Church _____

Nominator Information

Please let us know who you are.

1. Nominator Contact Information

Name: _____

Local unit: _____ Local Church _____

District: _____ Email Address _____

Address: _____

City/Town:

State/Province:

Zip/Postal Code

2. Did the nominee give you her consent for the nomination?

Yes _____ No _____



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\$\$ Treasurer Talk \$\$

By Donna Spear, Treasurer, Florida Conference United Methodist Women



Mission Giving Update

Thank you to all as you continue to faithfully support United Methodist Women through your Mission Giving! Our second quarter giving is down slightly from our first. It takes commitment during this time of social distancing, but our work "on behalf of women, children, and youth" makes it totally worthwhile.

Finance Committee

Your District Treasurers have been hard at work. The Finance Committee met on August 8th and approved District and Conference budgets for 2021. The District budgets and District pledges will now be voted on at District Annual Meetings.

Online Mission Giving is Coming Soon!

In the very near future, possibly by the time this Genesis goes to print, there will be a PayPal link on the Florida Conference United Methodist Women's website (<https://flconfumw.org/>) to give online, for those who choose to do so. Credit will be given toward the Mission Giving Pledges of Local Units and Districts. You can opt to give a single time, or set up recurring gifts (for those of us who like to "set it and forget it"). And, of course, traditional ways of giving will continue as well.

Rainbow Givers



Congrats and many thanks to our 138 Rainbow Givers for 2019!! If you wish to be a Rainbow Giver for 2020, act now! A Rainbow Giver.....

1. Makes and remits a **Pledge to Mission**.
2. Honors any person, male or female, with a **Special Mission Recognition** pin and certificate. The minimum amount is \$40.
3. Honors someone with a **Gift to Mission** in the amount of \$5 or more. Let this special person know with a card, note, call, text, or email.
4. Honor the memory of a friend or relative with a **Gift in Memory** in the amount of \$5 or more. Choose to send a card or not. Honor someone who passed away recently or long ago.
5. Contribute to the **World Thank Offering** in any amount.

Feeling Creative?

If your circle or local unit has a creative way to promote and collect the World Thank Offering in these crazy Covid times, please let me know so we can feature you in our next edition of Genesis.



Secretary Program Resources
Jannett S. Hawley

Greetings all my Faith Sisters!

The Reading Program is alive and well!! I understand many Units were unable to get access to their church libraries but we know how resourceful United Methodist Women are! I'm sure the local libraries were very busy! Many told me they read e-books on their readers! I look forward to receiving the district reports. Those reports are due to me by September 15th. Remember, just the church name and number of readers.

The 2020-2021 Program Book is available to order on line or call:

www.umwmissionresources.org **800 305-9857 - M3353 \$10.00**

In a couple of weeks check the order list on line or call the resource center and you should be able to order the "Quad Calendar" (\$10). I have written to Andrew Chu, my contact at National, for updates. He said the order form will be updated this week. Keep an eye out for it.

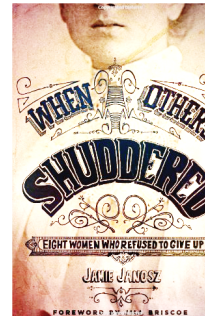
2020 Reading Program Suggestions – Education for Mission (another good read)

WHEN OTHERS SHUDDERED: EIGHT WOMEN WHO REFUSED TO GIVE UP

JAMIE JANOSZ

MOODY PUBLISHERS (2014)

Learn about eight women (Fanny Crosby, Mary McLeod Bethune, Nettie McCormick, Sarah Dunn Clarke, Emma Dryer, Virginia Asher, Evangeline Booth and Amanda Berry Smith) who were called to serve God and change the world. Their stories inspire us to follow God's calling in our own lives and teach us that each individual person can make a difference.



FAITH TALKS: A PODCAST JUST FOR YOU.....

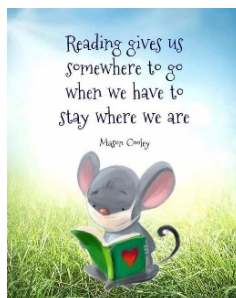
Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women.

Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. Check out interviews with

United Methodist Women mission studies' authors and more: @ unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks



Response Magazine (July/August) - has "Empowering Women Leaders" article by our own Magdala Edmonds. 2015-2020 United Methodist Women Board of Directors.



We've Missed YOU at Mission u! Come home, family, for 2021!

It is with great joy that I serve an awesome God, and have been asked to answer the call to serve as your Dean, Mission u 2021. I join a fantastic Mission u team who brought many opportunities to gather for Mission u events, even though we were not together in person at Florida Southern College. **We truly missed seeing each and every one of you!** From our precious young babies to our seniors. However, many of you whether you were 2 or 92, joined us for several Virtual Mission u events held on Zoom. It was exciting to see our little ones sitting on mother's laps, eating, drinking, acknowledging each other with "hi you'all," waves, and shout outs. We even had our furbies friends--cats, birds, and dogs on the Zoom. I was so elated to see all of the Zoomies navigate the virtual platform, and exclaim, "I'm ON, I can see YOU!!!" In addition, the BEST part was after being "quarantined" and social distancing for nearly 100 days, we were able to give virtual hugs and SMILES. The smiles along with the prayers are what left me with the feeling that I had truly been to Mission u 2020! A special thanks to everyone who made this possible!

So, mark your calendar to attend 2021 at beautiful Florida Southern College – exact date TBA, but most likely in July. You will be welcomed with their warm hospitality and genuine smiles as we return to their campus. We pray that this will be like a reunion after having been apart for nearly 2 years. We will have so much to share and hopefully we will be able to come together to do just that. Resting in the arms of Jesus and once again, sitting beside old and new brothers and sisters in the Florida Conference!

United Methodist Women's [Mission u](#) events are great opportunities to study current issues impacting society, grow spiritually and be in community with fellow United Methodists working to put faith, hope and love into action. The 2021 Mission study events offer classes on spiritual growth and an issue study in addition to fellowship and worship. The 2021 United Methodist Women mission studies are:

- **Responding to Violence (Children & Youth Study)**
- **Moral Witness of the Church**
- **Luke 13: New Biblically Based Curriculum**
- **Pushout – The Criminalization of Black Girls in School**

Additionally, we will have studies available in Haitian, Hispanic, and Korean. These events are open to any who would like to attend. Mission u is a great way to introduce all of God's people to the community found in being part of United Methodist Women. Please make plans to attend and invite others to join us the work of United Methodist Women that leads to abundant life for all.

I recall a song that spoke to my heart after my mother passed, "[Softly and Tenderly](#)"... Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me, See on the portals He's waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me. Come home, come home. Ye who are weary come home.

Be safe, stay well, pray for each other, our nation and...
"Come Home UMW Family for 2021!"

Faith, Hope, Joy, and Love in Action!

Pam

Pamela Davis, Dean, Florida Conference Mission u

Introducing New Leadership Team Members-at-Large...

Kim Wendt

Young Women's Coordinator, Florida Conference Leadership Team
United Methodist Women

Let's be bold. Seriously. Let's build a network of emboldened of Next Gen UMWomen to shatter stereotypes and commit to help lead the organization into its next 150 years of mission.

Embracing younger women is one way the Florida Conference UMWomen is moving forward in mission. Plans are underway to extend our sisterhood, service and leadership opportunities to Next Gen, young women in local churches

throughout the Conference – along with developing virtual connections with other Next Gen UMWomen groups across the United States.

We want to make a difference, here and now, providing opportunities for community outreach: replicating the "Ubuntu Day of Service," during which participants volunteer with local nonprofits throughout the state.

Who we are:

- We are busy... with jobs, kids, college, careers.
- We are virtual... we live virtually: text, Instagram, Discord, Twitter.
- We are powerful post moderns... interested in making a difference directly, with less lip service and more action.
- We care... from climate change to educational justice, we share a deep global concern about others.

OUR FIRST TASK: Link up. Simple right? If we are going to make a tangible difference, create community, and promote justice.... We need to link up. **Text me at 561.436.8555.** Intro yourself. Let's share our stories and put our action ideas together.

Kim Wendt is a member of Oceanview United Methodist Church in Juno Beach, FL where she is on staff as the Director of Praise and Worship. She is her United Methodist Women's Unit President and serves as the Atlantic Central District Vice President. Kim is active in the Southeast Walk to Emmaus and has been a Ministry Leader and a Florida State Representative for the national Christian-based, 12-Step Recovery Program called Celebrate Recovery™.

Preferring to be unconventional, Kim facilitates and encourages all sorts of hands-on activities, creative story-telling, deep personal spiritual reflections, community building, virtual connectivity, games, visual arts and, of course, music. What Kim *doesn't* do: boring.

Other interests: Born and raised in rural northern Maine, she loves nature, history and conservancy. She is a member of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, The Conservation Fund and MOFGA (Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association). With the help of the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation EQIP Program, she and her husband are restoring a 68 acre northern Maine farm originally built in the late 1700's.



Edith Zewadski-Bricker
Social Action Liaison to the Florida Conference Leadership Team
United Methodist Women

How blessed we are...even now!

Social Action is front page news and United Methodist Women have a unique opportunity to be leaders working for Racial Justice. Yes, universal health care, climate justice, fair wage for all, immigration and so many other issues are absolutely critical, but in this country right now we have unique opportunity to address changes to the racism in our institutions. Let's seize the moment and put our faith, hope and love into action.

No doubt we are all suffering to some degree from the anxieties of the pandemic. Having the courage and taking action to change the things that fall short of the glory of God is a way to deal with anxiety, according to our Mission u study, [Finding Peace in an Anxious World](#). I, for one, am ready to make changes, but I need the guidance of UMWomen to know what I can do.

How blessed we are to have social action guidance right on our phones. Simply go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/actionalerts> to sign up. These thoughtful, practical Alerts will come in your email and tell you exactly what you can do...and, for the most part, it takes only minutes of your time to make a real contribution to the movement toward a more just and reverent world.

How blessed we are to be part of an organization that values Black leadership. (Just by being a member of UMWomen you are contributing to racial justice.) How blessed we are to be part of an organization that has been working for racial justice for decades. (Doesn't that stir your soul?) How blessed we are to have the resources to bring God's kin-dom on earth . . . resources on the UMWomen website, in the UMWomen's 2020 Reading List, from "response" magazine, and through our Mission u studies. (Have you accessed them?)

I truly believe that UMWomen was made for a time such as this. The article, "United Methodist Women Board Affirms Black Lives Matter to God and to United Methodist Women" at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-board-affirms-black-lives-matter-to-god> spells out exactly what we as members of United Methodist Women can do. I challenge you to read it and click on some of the embedded links that interest you. I double dare you.

Faith, hope and love in action,
Edith



FROM OUR DISTRICTS...

Atlantic Central District IN THE NEWS!!

From the August *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* participant: *"Thank you for a wonderful first session. Surely a learned a lot more about what can be done on Zoom. Beautiful fellowship and on line too. I have not been able to attend Mission u in years because it always conflicted with a generational family vacation. I am glad to finally be a part of it again."* - Pam Anders, FUMC United Methodist Women, Clermont.

Study Leader Kim Wendt (VP of ACI District) made sure to thank a long list of people. *"There are so many people who came together to make this effort possible: 11 Mission u teachers and facilitators, the Florida Conference team, leaders from ALL eight Florida UMW Districts and of course, the participants themselves."* The Study was fantastic and well received.

Atlantic Central District UMWomen members, Cheryl Rich & Mary McLendon participated in the first June study. Mary McLendon says: *"Finding Peace in an Anxious World' was a fabulous class! It was 4 weeks (the next class is 5 weeks) and met one night a week for about 1.5 hours. The discussions on Zoom were not cumbersome and since we mostly broke out into small groups of 5-6 ladies, it seemed like a small, intimate study group. The book for the class was written in 2019 but is so applicable to today's world, it's uncanny. The framework for the class is the Serenity Prayer – each of the four parts is a chapter in the book and framed the lesson for that week. The facilitator, Kim Wendt, is knowledgeable and caring and keeps things moving. Each small group had collaborative homework between classes which allowed me to get to know other ladies in the Central Florida UMW. I would highly recommend it."*

Cheryl Rich added: *"To expand upon what Mary said, while it does focus on the Serenity Prayer.... the themes go through Serenity, Acceptance, Courage and Wisdom. I agree completely with the benefit of this series and highly recommend it"*.

Certainly, the *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*

Mission Study is an amazingly apt, appropriate and needed Study in today's 'new normal' of COVID-19, racial unrest, financial worry and political upheaval.

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Trust and Obey

Lynn Lovallo, NW District President

Last New Year's Eve I looked forward to 2020 with excitement and anticipation. I had already decided this year I was going to focus on my relationship with God; I was rolling off all committees at Church, Emmaus and Wisdom's Wellspring. I was going to be a "Mary" not a Martha. My family and I had celebrations planned with big birthdays, a college graduation, life-long dreamed of trips (Alaska cruise) and lots of time for Bible study with small groups and growth. Well, the only thing that became reality was the "growth" part. Some of that growth was the result of my saying "yes" to serving as the North West District President.

In January my oldest daughter had a heart stent operation at 50 years old. The virus arrived in February/March. My church was not able to meet in person and our congregation has lost eight members so far this year who died (not from the virus, but other illnesses). My mother-in-law died in July. Our district lost a dear sister in Christ to a murderer in June (how could that happen?!!!) and like everyone else all our events had to be changed or cancelled.

Over and over in my head I kept hearing, "trust and obey." I turned often to my Bible for words of understanding and to prayer for comfort. The learning that became necessary to function as a part of the Florida Conference UMW Leadership Team (zoom classes) has been a blessing. The willingness of ladies to step up and design different ways of doing studies and Mission U was inspiring—if they can do that, so can I. The support of United Methodist Women has been humbling and encouraging-- life will go on, we will get better/smarter and we can do all things through Christ if we **"trust and obey."** My prayer for all is that God continue to bless each and every one of you as we do the best we can and help each other.

South East District Update

Finding Peace in an Anxious World Mission Study

A total of 10 SE District members (including our Conference President Judith Pierre-Okerson) participated in the 8-hour pilot mission study *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* in June. District treasurer Kim Youngblood and Pam Davis served on the Core Team, and First Boca member Pam Toy served as a breakout group facilitator.

Black Lives Matter to God and to Us

On Friday afternoon, June 5, members of the Burton Memorial Unit and my sister and I from the Coral Gables unit participated in a Black Lives Matter rally at the Key Largo municipal building. Burton Memorial Secretary Edith Zewadski-Bricker made a banner with the words, **Black Lives Matter to God and to US**—with the UMWomen logo broadly displayed on an orange strip. The banner is available to SE District units and our sister districts to display on social media; contact Sharyn Ladner.



Good enough to show again; contact Sharyn to use in your district.

Upcoming events

Like other districts in the Florida Conference, our South East District Annual Meeting on October 24 will be virtual. We are pleased to announce that Chaplain Denise Sawyer will be our virtual speaker. Rev. Sawyer will be speaking on her experiences serving as a Lee County hospital chaplain during this difficult COVID-19 time. We have scheduled two classes in September-October to prepare our unit presidents for this Zoom-based event.

Although we have cancelled our annual Mission Sampler, we will be offering in its place in January 2021 a 4-hour Zoom version of the *Finding Peace*

in an Anxious World Spiritual Growth mission study. This will be a district event—all are welcome to attend. We also plan to hold all of our 2021 District Leadership Team Meetings on Zoom.

Stay safe—blessings and love,
Sharyn Ladner, President
South East District United Methodist Women

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Upcoming in the South West District

Mary Van Tol, President

The SW District will have a 4-hour mission study on *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* in lieu of its usual Mission Sampler on Tuesday and Thursday of the 2nd and 3rd weeks of September. It will be the of the Any unit that has five or more attend will receive mission study credit and mission today credit, as indicated by our Conference President. More information can be found in the District's *Sojourner*.

The District Annual Meeting also will be a virtual Zoom Annual Meeting on October 24th at 10 am with the theme "Standing Together 6 Feet Apart Letting Our Light Shine." We will conduct a short business meeting, give out awards and recognize unit achievements, remember our women who have passed this year, and have a few brief speakers including videos from our Conf. president Judith Pierre-Okerson and DS Rev. Thom Shafer and a representative of the Fair Food Program.



From One of Our Local Units...

Staying in Touch and Active During Challenging Times

Linda D. Cook, Trinity Gainesville Unit

During this time of the pandemic and social distancing, staying connected to our UMW membership is very important. Many of our members live alone and the social distancing aspect of the “new normal” is particularly hard. Here are a few things that our unit has done or is continuing to do to stay in touch.

- On Monday of each week, the unit president collects Joys and Prayers from the membership using email. A prayer list is created and circulated on Tuesday morning. At 10:00 am we join in corporate prayer.
- Care card ministry has been initiated for membership who are in nursing homes or not able to be out and about. Each member of the leadership team is asked to mail at least one card every week to someone on the list.
- Traditionally, we have hosted a reception for the graduating seniors and their families. Since that was not possible this year, we mailed each graduate a Cross in my Pocket prayer and the cross, a “congratulations graduate” face mask and a gift card to Starbucks. Our circles sent a card to each of the graduates. The response was amazing...we made church council with parents sharing how excited their graduates were with the attention.
- Our Unit Reading Chair has made the Book Cart available to members during a designated time period on one day during the week. With the help of the church staff, we have been able to push the cart outside and members can come by and return or check out books.
- We have continued to publish our monthly unit newsletter, the LINK. It is sent electronically to all members with email and sent surface mail to others.
- Our local leadership team and four of our circles have met via zoom.

- With the help of Kim Wendt, VP for the Atlantic Central District, we held a Zoom training for our Leadership Team in July. The next step is a training for individual members on August 25th.
- Nine members have sewn over 1450 face masks which have been distributed to five nursing homes, the church family including UMW members and the Florida Children’s Home, and 14 community groups such as Partnership for Strong Families, Child Advocacy Center and the homeless center.

Upcoming Events via Zoom:

- Planning is underway for our annual Fall Kick-Off scheduled in September. Electronic invitations will go to all women in the church and our guest speaker will be our pastor, Rev. Catherine Fluck-Price. We will break into circles during the session so members can do some socializing as well.
- In September/October, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* will be offered to the entire church as a Wednesday night Mission Study. The eight individuals who have participated in the Conference offered session will provide leadership.





did you know....

Your Florida Conference United Methodist Women now has:



<https://flconfumw.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/Florida-Conference-United-Methodist-Women>



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**Sharing
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Still have
Questions??



Contact
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450 Martin Luther King, Jr.
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Contact: Leah Pittard
United Methodist Women's
Communications Committee
rockpitt2@verizon.net

August 2020 *Genesis*



Make It Happen!

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Calendar of Events - 2020

September 11-12	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	Your home via ZOOM
September 12	Commissioning/Ordination Services	Livestream
November 14	Florida Conference Annual Meeting United Methodist Women	Your home via ZOOM
	<u>Tentative early dates for 2021</u>	
January 28-30	National Leadership Development Days	ZOOM
February 13	Leadership Team/Membership	ZOOM
March 13	Haitian Convocation	Ft. Pierce Haitian UMC
April 10	Leadership Team/Charter for Racial Justice	Lakeland

**Florida Conference United Methodist Women Spiritual Enrichment Retreat
via ZOOM!**

September 11-12, 2020