Florida Conference United Methodist Women







December 2021; vol. 48 no. 3

Website: www.flconfumw.org

Purpose

United Methodist Women 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.

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""Be still and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." Psalm 46:10s

I pray this new year will find you well in body, mind, and spirit!.

The year 2021 was yet another challenging one, but through it all,

United Methodist Women in the Florida Conference, you have kept the faith and have remained focused on our mission. Among others, the Haitian leaders bravely embraced the challenges of the technology and held the annual Haitian United Methodist Women Convocation virtually. The conference Leadership Team and Mission u Committee took a leap of faith and offered an in-person and two virtual Mission u events.

With no doubt, 2022 will come with its own set of challenges, However as women of faith, I know we will embrace those challenges and turn them into new possibilities. Meanwhile, your Conference Leadership Team will continue to responsibly plan events in 2022 to keep you engaged AND will remain flexible to ensure everyone's safety amid the continuous dangerous pandemic.

I want to encourage more of you to register for the 2022 Assembly. Yes, the Early Bird Registration has passed, but regular registration will remain opened until April 11, 2022. The rates now are \$365 for the in-person event and \$235 for the virtual one. If you are not sure whether you want to attend in person or virtual yet, register anyway. You can switch your registration from virtual to in person or vice-versa once you do so prior to the registration deadline.. The virtual option is a full event experience with 5 Community Gatherings, 1 personal Workshop selection per day, behind the scenes speaker interviews, virtual prayer and meditation time, special networking time and a Saturday night party! The in-person event will offer deep and rich worship experiences with dynamic speakers such as Janet Wolf, author of the Mission u study on Mark, as Bible Study leader. Heather McTeer Toney from Moms Clean Air Force as a justice speaker, and the women Bishops of the United Methodist Church will lead a special worship segment. The conference Block is full, however if you need assistance with housing, please contact Mary VanTol at

<u>maryvantol.umw@gmail.com</u>. We are still in need of volunteers to make the women feel welcome in our conference. To volunteer, contact Judi Levan at <u>Judilevan.umw@gmail.com</u>.

Join me in giving thanks to Leah Pittard for her service as the editor of *Genesis* particularly for these past six years. We say goodbye to Leah with our gratitude. With great appreciations, we welcome Linda Parrish back as the *Genesis* Editor for this season.

I believe it is appropriate to borrow the last two sentences from my Sending Forth while closing the 48th Conference Annual Meeting for this last 2021 *Genesis* Edition. "Transformed by God's grace through Christ, we are not afraid of the new things that are coming to us. May we keep an opened mind to all that God would have us do for women, children, and youth in these new days, by faith!"

Wishing you all a safe, healthy, and blessed New Year!

Judith P. Okerson

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



TURN IT UP! for rebirth in a new time

TURN IT UP! for women leaders

TURN IT UP! for justice for women, children and youth

Assembly registration fee: \$365 in-person/or \$235 virtual

Deadline, April 11, 2022.



your sisters in Christ.

I bring you holiday greetings, and I pray each of you are well and preparing for our Savior's birth!

For those of you who are current and incoming District officers. I am hoping by now you have registered for the Leadership Development Days - Officer Training. This training is extremely important to you as you will receive information on continuing to lead your ladies on the right UMW path. You will receive training and information from your Conference Counterpart as well as enjoy the wonderful fellowship with

We will be meeting for the first time as Conference and District Officers since the beginning of the COVID pandemic "in person" for training! This will be at the Warren Willis United Methodist Conference Center (WWUMCC) in Fruitland Park. This will be an event that you, along with your counterparts will be able to experience leadership development workshops, spirit-filled worship and networking. PLEASE NOTE, you will be required to show proof of vaccination upon arrival and will be required to wear a mask while indoors.

Remember, ALL Florida Conference information and events and various District events can be found by going to the Conference website at: <u>http://www.flconfumw.org</u>.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Christmas Blessings.

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

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Blessed Christmas



\$\$ Treasurer Talk \$\$ By Donna Spear, Treasurer, Florida Conference United Methodist Women



Every drop counts!

"A Drop in the Bucket". Have you ever felt that way? That your effort was just a drop in the bucket? Maybe your yard has been neglected for a while. You weed a bed, tidy it up, plant some lovely flowers. You step back to admire your work. Then you look around and see many more beds that need the same attention, not to mention the beds on the other side of the house. Many

things in life can make you feel that way. You work very diligently, and it's just a drop in the bucket.

Worldwide mission efforts can be like that, too. The needs are great! At times overwhelming! The projects I work on, the amount of time and money I contribute, is just a very small drop in a very big bucket. But.... here's the beauty of United Methodist Women. My small contribution combines with the efforts of other women in my church's unit, which combines with all the units in my district. These small drops combine. Imagine a lovely pitcher of clean, clear water. Under certain circumstances this water can be life-saving. Or maybe just make life seem much better on a hot, sweaty day. Mission is like that. It saves lives. It makes life better for others.

Back to the pitcher. If the combined efforts of the units in our district are like a pitcher of drops of water, think about all the districts of United Methodist Women in our Florida Conference, together with all the other conferences of United Methodist Women around the world. 800,000 members! That's more than a pitcher. It's a waterfall! We're talking Niagara Falls! There's just no stopping us!

Important Deadline for Local Unit Treasurers

The end of the year is fast approaching! It is extremely important for local unit treasurers to send in their 4th quarter remittance to their district treasurer on or before December 10, 2021. The fiscal year for all levels of UMW is December 31. Unit funds go to district, district funds go to conference, and conference funds go to National UMW – all this needs to happen before the end of the year! While money can be sent anytime, it's extremely helpful to adhere to the deadline as closely as possible, so end-of-year reconciliations and reports can happen at all levels.



Mission Giving Update and "Emptying the Treasury"

With only one quarter left to go, Florida Conference United Methodist Women is just slightly over halfway to our 2021 Mission Giving Pledge of \$325,000. Please help us to finish the year strong by continuing to give faithfully, and consider an additional love offering. Encourage your

local unit treasurer to follow the UMW handbook and "empty the treasury". This means that at the end of the year, the local units should keep only the funds they need to start the new year, and to remit remaining funds to their district to keep all of our mission work going!







FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN BUDGET for 2022

PLEDGE TO NATIONAL SEJ PLEDGE	325,000.00 3,250.00
SEJ PLEDGE Administration & Membership Development Church Women United Florida Impact District's A&MD Goals and Evaluations * Leadership / District Training * Committee on Nominations Annual Conference Florida Conference Mission u Leadership Update at Mission u (includes travel) Spiritual Enrichment Retreat Conference Annual Meeting Multicultural Programming Children's Advocacy & CWU Scholarships to Retreat and Conf. Annual meeting SMR, GTM, GIM <i>Genesis</i> Newsletter Conference Directories Committee Meetings Annual Samplers/Handbooks Technology Expenses Operating Expenses Audit Contingency Assembly / SEJ **	5,250.00 500.00 500.00 41,155.00 3,000.00 7,500.00 900.00 2,500.00 5,000.00 12,000.00 2,000.00 2,000.00 5,000.00 5,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00 8,000.00 1,200.00 5,000.00 1,200.00 5,000.00 1,000.00 5,000.00
Assembly Offering	500.00
TOTAL Administration & Membership Development	164,455.00
TOTAL BUDGET	492,705.00
* 2-year budget cycle	

** Balance carries over to following year

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN READING PROGRAI

Secretary Program Resources Jannett S. Hawley

My Dear Sisters,

This is my last article for the Genesis! It has been two years since I was elected and the time has flown by. It has been just a little challenging due to Covid-19 but as always, we stepped up to make these past two years viable thanks to the internet and Zoom. I do have a piece of information that was shared by my National counterpart, Andrew Cheu: Andris Salter has retired this December. Deaconess Molly James Vickery has replaced her. I'm sure you already are aware the Prayer Calendar has a new name: <u>Daily Prayer Guide 2022</u>. Since the Sampler is not available for now you must order it. Another thing, <u>remember to check www.unitedmethodistwomen.org to keep up to date</u> with the Reading Program. United Methodist Women want every member to continue reading and to think critically about current issues via the annual selection of books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work.

REMINDER

For 2021–2022, participants can read books from the 2015 through 2022 reading lists.

Faith Talks: Faith Talk podcasts can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to two Faith Talks podcasts. <u>If you participate/listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.</u>

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

Movies: Watching these movies and documentaries will also count toward the Reading Program:

- 1. Just Mercy
- 3. Pushout

Children and youth books can be found within each of the categories.

Bonus books: These <u>count as two books</u> in different categories. The Mission u studies also count as Bonus Books.

Please remember to read Response magazine. This too is included as part of the Reading Program.

GOD'S MANY BLESSINGS TO ALL UMW DURING THIS HEAVENLY SEASON AND ALWAYS.





WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS







So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. - 1 Corinthians 10:31. New International Version

- Because in Zambia drought and flooding, both, together, affecting the same farmlands, are wiping out crops, forcing people to migrate, and threatening famine.
- Because coastal regions in Fiji are being forced to relocate because of rising sea levels.
- Because, in the mountainous regions of Haiti, the warmer temperatures cause hurricanes to become more frequent and wetter, landslides are destroying the deforested countryside decimating farms.
- Because, in war-torn Yemen, warmer temperatures are increasing the incidence of Malaria, and causing water scarcity.
- Because, in the Philippines, poor sanitation is exacerbated by flood waters.
- Because in the country of Kirbati, a country destined to be wiped off the face of the earth, sea-level rise is already contaminating the soil and water supply, and higher temperatures are causing coral bleaching and marine heat waves, forcing the fish north and disastrously impacting the livelihood of the citizens.

Because our brothers are sisters around the world, especially those living in places that add the least carbon emission, are facing disease, famine, migration, and death.... we, as Christians, need to change our relationship to food.

Did you know that a third of the greenhouse gases come from our food system (i.e. production, transportation)? The Academy of Natural Sciences states it well, "The food choices we make every day have a big effect on the environment. **The good news is that even small changes in what we buy and eat can add up to real environmental benefits**, including fewer toxic chemicals, reduced global warming emissions, and preservation of our ocean resources."

By far the most significant change we can make is to eat less red meat. A mere one pound of beef requires an astounding 7 pounds of feed, 1,000 gallons of water and 2 acres of land. Meat production, alone, leads to thousands of <u>air-quality-related-deaths</u> every year right here in the US as well as around the world.

A 2021 National Geographic article states that "new research shows that 16,000 U.S. deaths are the result of <u>air polluted by growing and raising food</u>—and 80 percent of those result from producing animal products like meat, dairy, and eggs." We spend a lot of time thinking about how our diet affects our own health, but our penchant for red meat is killing other people, too.

In 2022, consider a New Year's Resolution about food and faith. Our food choices impact our health, as we all know, but as you have just read there is a significant impact our diet has on the environment! Your Conference President, Judith Pierre Okerson is a vegetarian; I am a pescatarian (a vegetarian who eats fish). We have chosen to eat to the glory of God. I challenge you to do the same.

How we eat matters. So, let's eat for the planet. Let's eat and drink for the glory of God!

Edith Zewadski-Bricker, Social Action Liaison

FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 14 - 16	Leadership Development Days	WWUMCC, Fruitland Park*	
January 22	Mission u Committee Meeting	Zoom	
January 29	Program Committee Meeting	Zoom	
February 12	Leadership Team / Membership Emphasis Zoom		
February 26	CON Committee Meeting	Zoom	
March 12	Haitian Convocation	itian Convocation Ft. Pierce Haitian UMC	
March 19	Program Committee Meeting	Zoom	
March 26	Mission u Committee Meeting	Zoom	
April 9	CON District Training	Zoom	
April 23	Leadership Team / Charter for Racial Justice Zoom		
May 14	Program Committee Meeting	Zoom	
May 20 - 22	Assembly	Orlando	
May 28	Mission u Committee Meeting	Zoom	
June 9 - 11	Florida Annual Conference - UMC	Lakeland	
July 11 - 16	Mission u Event	WWUMCC, Fruitland Park*	
July 26 - Aug 2	Mission u Event	Zoom	
August 5	Program Committee Meeting	Lakeland	
August 6	Mission u/Finance Committees	Lakeland	
Aug. 29 - Sept. 6	General Conference - UMC	Minneapolis, MN	
September 9 - 11	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	WWUMCC, Fruitland Park*	
October 1	Leadership Team / Membership Emphasis Zoom		
November 2 - 4	SEJ Conference	Lake Junaluska, NC	
November 19	Conference Annual Meeting	to Be Determined	
December 4	Advent Retreat	Zoom	

* Warren Willis United Methodist Conference Center

Events From the Conference Calendar...

Benediksyon pou nou tout,

Mwen ta renmen di Seyè ak Sovè mwen an, ansanm ak nou tout mèsi nan fon kè- m, paske nou te pèmèt mwen sèvi kòm kowòdonatè lang ayisen pou 2 ane ki sot pase yo. Li pat fasil, sitou mwen pat kapab vizite legliz otan ke mwen ta dwe, men pa gras Bondye nou fè li. Mwen priye 2022 a pral pi bon e mwen pral kapab vizite plis legliz ke posib, pou m ka konnen nou epi ankouraje nou pou patisipe nan tout evènman Fanm Metodis Ini yo. Komanse ak 11zyèm konvokasyon anyèl ayisyen nou an ki prèske rive. Donk tanpri sove dat la Samdi 12 Mas 2022. Nou planifye rankontre fas-a-fas nan legliz Metodis Ini nan Fort Piece. Sepandan jis nan ka sa pa ta posib, nou ap prepare pou rasanbleman vityèl tou. Tèm nan: ''Mache ansanm nan Lanmou BonDye'' , vèsè Filipyen 3:16 Oratè a ap: Sè Jeanine Jacques nan legliz Metodis Ini. New Life HAITIAN UM MISSION . Map voye plis enfomasyon ban nou pi devan lè dat lapi pre. Mwen ta renmen pwofite okazyon sa a pou m swete nou tout Jwaye Nwèl ak yon Nouvèl Ane 2022 plen ak sekirie epi lasante. Mwen rekonesan anpil e m ap tann pou m kontinye sèvi panden dezan ankò kòm Kowòdonatè konferans lang ayisyen nan Florid.

BonDye beni nou tout. Natacha Etienne Joseph Lang ayisyen Kowòdonatè koferans Florid.







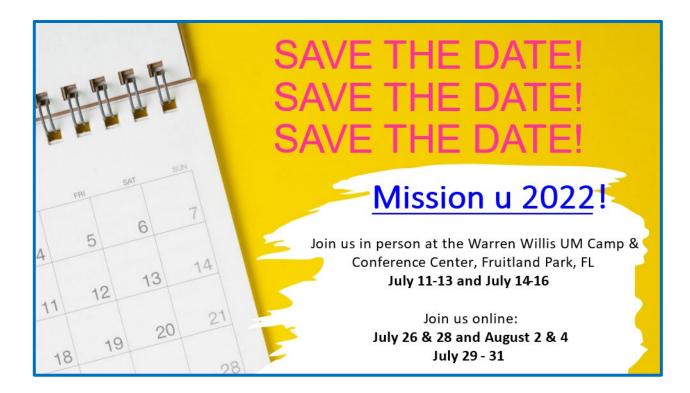
Blessing to you all,

I would like to say thank you to my Lord and savior and to all of you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to serve as your Haitian Language Coordinator for the past 2 years. It was not easy, especially not able to visit churches as much as I should, but by the grace of God we made it. I pray 2022 will be better and I will be able to visit as many churches as possible to get to know you and to encourage you all to participate in all the United Methodist Women events.

Starting with our **11th Annual Haitian Convocation**, it's almost here so please save the date **SaturdayMarch 12th, 2022**. We are planning to meet face to face at **Fort Piece United Methodist Church** in Fort Piece. However, just in case, we are preparing for virtual gathering as well. Theme will be: **"Walking Together in God's Love".** Verse Philippian 3: 16 Speaker will be: Sister Jeanine Jacques from New Life UM Mission. I will keep you posted once we finalize everything,

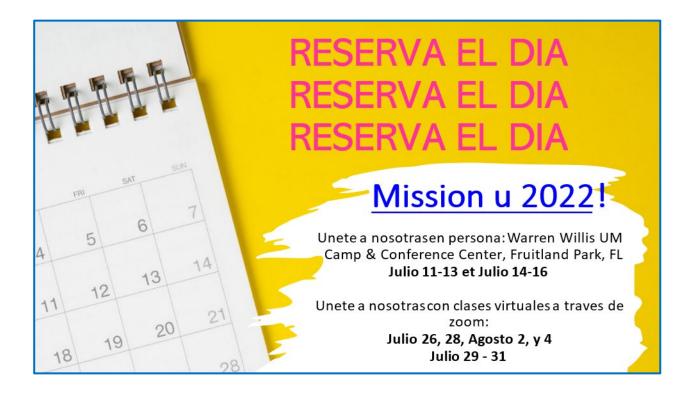
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year 2022. I'm so thankful and looking forward to SERVING you for another 2 years as your Conference Haitian Language Coordinator.

God bless you all. Natacha Etienne Joseph Florida Conference Haitian Language Coordinator.



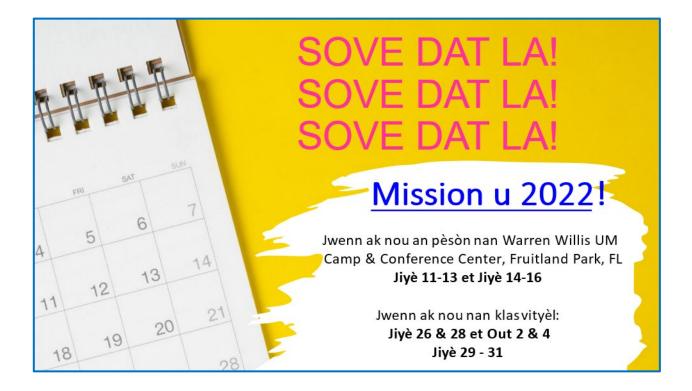
Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy







Who Can We Be Together? Building Communities of Hope and Joy





We've missed you! We want you to come back to Mission u 2022!

Here's 10 reasons to Come Back Together!

- 1. Back to learn
- 2. Back to share and inspire
- 3. Back to support
- 4. Back to pray
- 5. Back to sing
- 6. Back to give hope
- 7. Back for fellowship
- 8. Back for action
- 9. Back for mission opportunities
- 10.Back to celebrate mission education in the Florida Conference!

We hope that you make plans to come back to our beautiful site at Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center near Leesburg for two, in-person events:

- July 11-13: an early week event with classes for adults only;
- July 14-16: a weekend event with classes for adults, children and youth along with language classes in Creole, Korean, and Spanish.

We will have two virtual events via Zoom:

- July 26, 28, August 2, and 4: Tuesday evenings;
- July 29, 30, 31: Weekend event;

Just come and just us for new adventures, new studies, new opportunities to engage in mission as together, we come back to make a difference in the lives of families, children, and youth. Scholarships will be available! See you back in 2022 at Mu!

Pam Davís, Dean Florída Conference Míssíon u

Florida Conference United Methodist Women Leadership Team 2022

President Dr. Judith Pierre-Okerson

Vice President Shelley Davidson

Secretary Mary Van Tol

Treasurer Donna Spear

Secretary of Program Resources Jacqueline Brooks

Committee on Nominations Chairperson Ester Kim

Language Coordinators: Haitian Natacha Etienne-Joseph

Hispanic Maria Escobales

Dean, Mission u Pam Davis

Social Action Liaison Edith Zewadski-Bricker

National Organization Director Magdala Edmond

National Organization PAG Member Jennifer Noel

Vice President, SEJ Leadership Team Kay Roach

Florida Conference United Methodist Women Leadership Team 2022

District Presidents:

Atlantic Central Kim Wendt

East Central Anne Winn

Gulf Central Shari Gillis

North Central Jane Darling

North East Mozelle Thomas

North West Cathy Mospens

South East Dr. Nora Hernandez-Hendrix

South West Veta Daley

Cabinet Liaison Rev. David Allen

Committee on Nominations:

Class of 2022 Annette Samuels, Annie Woods

Class of 2023 Ester Kim, Paulet Royes-Neale

Class of 2024 Mary Reed, Thomasina Ford

Class of 2025 Gail Donley As I relinquish my position as NW district president, I feel grateful and humbled to have been allowed to serve in this role. While Covid put a twist into some hopes for our district, I am still proud of the NW ladies for all they accomplished.

Allow me to introduce you to our incoming president, Cathy Mospens. Many of you may know her from past involvement as NW treasurer and her years of working with the children at mission U. I am certain she will give 100% to the position and with the NW team continue the valuable mission projects we know and love.

I wish the entire UMW community continued success and growth as things get back to more normal. God bless.

Lynn Lovallo, NW President



Holiday Greetings to all from the South West District United Methodist Women! For the past four years I have had the pleasure of serving as President, and it has been a wonderful experience for me. As I look back to 2018, I can remember all the officers and coordinators except one were either new on the team or taking on new positions. We struggled the first few months to learn our duties and build a working relationship. There were many ups and downs, but we stayed strong together and made things work.

Just when we were finally getting things together, in March 2020, the pandemic started, and we had to learn how to do things virtually. I just want to say thank you to all my team members who persevered and learned how to use Zoom and how to present programs that were informative, encouraging, and enjoyable for our District members. While some members were unable to connect virtually, we had numerous phone calls, emails and newsletters mailed to them. We set our financial goals high and although we were unable to meet our pledge, we reduced our spending tremendously, so were able to stay hopeful that our missions were being supported.

In October, we elected our new president, Veta Daley, who has many years of experience in United Methodist Women. She retired to Lehigh, from New England and has revitalized her local unit by encouraging them to attend District and local unit functions. We have had many phone conversations, emails and Zoom meetings, and I can't wait to meet her in person at the Goals and Evaluations gathering on December 4 We also have a teenager, Ruth Fleurimond, as our Spiritual Growth Coordinator this year and look forward to her young perspective views as she leads us with prayers and devotions. We are also blessed with Dr. Lulu Lopez as our new secretary who is looking forward to serving as well! My hope is for the team to embrace these three women and give them all the help they will need to continue to fulfill the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

Mary Van Tol, SW District President

Florida Conference United Methodist Women 2022 & 2023 Goals

Goal 1 Establish, and advocate for, Social Action as a Conference-wide priority

Strategies:

- 1. Encourage the appointment of District Social Action Coordinators
- 2. Publish a Social Action article in every issue of the Florida Conference UMW newsletter
- 3. Promote the publication of Social Action articles and resources in the Districtnewsletters

Goal 2

Provide opportunities for training of Conference and District Leadership Team members and Committee on Nominations members

Strategies:

- 1. Implement training for Florida Conference UMW Committee on Nominations members
- 2. Conduct training by the Florida Conference UMW Committee on Nominations for allmembers of the District Committees on Nominations
- 3. Plan for members of the Florida Conference UMW Committee on Nominations to attendDistrict Leadership Team meetings when possible

Goal 3

Engage in outreach to young women across the Florida Conference in order to increase their participation in the UMW purpose

Strategies:

- 1. Create several focus groups of young women in various areas of the State in order tocollect feedback from them to help determine their interests and effective ways to engage them in UMW
- 2. Align with National UMW efforts to reach out to young women
- 3. Identify several active UMW young women to plan appealing events and invite other young women who are not currently active

Goal 4

Encourage increased participation of youth and young women in Mission u

Strategies:

- 1. Provide programs at Mission u events that appeal to youth and young women
- 2. Offer scholarships specifically for young women

Goal 5

Provide opportunities for all UMW members to improve their technology competencies

Strategies:

- 1. Present virtual training programs for members of the Florida Conference UMW
- 2. Facilitate in-person training programs throughout the Conference
- 3. Introduce members to resources that are available to strengthen individuals' technologyskills

Florida Conference United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women of The United Methodist Church 450 Martin Luther King, Jr. Ave Lakeland, FL 33801

Contact: Leah Pittard United Methodist Women's Communications Committee rockpitt38@gmail.com

December 2021 Genesis



Make It Happen!

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FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2022 CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP EVENTS

March 12	Haitian Convocation	Ft. Pierce Haitian United Methodist Church	
May 20-22	Assembly	Convention Center - Orlando	
June 9 – 11	Florida Annual Conference	Lakeland	
July 11-16	Mission u Event – in-person	Warren Willis United	
		Methodist Center – Fruitland	
July 26 – August 2	Virtual	Park	
		Via zoom	
	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	Warren Willis United	
September 9 – 11		Methodist Center – Fruitland	
	Keiteat	Park	
November 19	Conference Annual Meeting	To Be Determined	
December 4	Advent Retreat	Via zoom	
Pray for the planning of these events and your being a part of them!			

Thank you for allowing me to be the Genesis Editor for these last six years! LRP