



Spring 2023; vol.50 no. 1

FL conference Website: https://flconfuwf.org

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:**

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

Vice-Presider Vacant

Secretary: Mary Van Tol maryvantol.umw@gmail.com

Treasurer: Donna Spear donnaspear.umw@gmail.com

Sec. of Program Resources: Jackie Brooks jbrooksumw@gmail.com

Committee on Nominations Chair: Ester Kim esterkim.umw@gmail.com

Dean, Mission u 2023: Linda Parrish lindaparrish.umw@gmail.com



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

### WHAT LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Artist Tina Turner, in her popular 1984 lyric, asked "What love got to do, got to do with it?" The answer to that question is simple, at least for those who claim to follow God's example of radical love. The love that does not seek to condemn the world, but to breathe life anew in the world so the world may be safe! "What love got to do, got to do with it?" The answer is: love has 'everything' to do with it! In the Message version of 1 Corinthians 13:13 we read "But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love."

Love extravagantly means to love without any moderation, to love no matter what. We need this reminder now more than ever as members of local United Methodist congregations and local United Women in Faith groups are being divided over disaffiliation. We need to remember to love extravagantly when longtime friendships and sisterhood are being put to the test, so we do not cause them to go farther apart. The time to demonstrate the power of extravagant love is NOW! Amid the fragmentation, the uncertainty, the anxiety, we know love will prevail, despite our differences, if we make God's mission our priority.

"What love got to do with it?" Love has 'everything' to do with it! We received the mandate from Jesus to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. In response to that mandate we, United Women in Faith members, vow to turn our faith, hope, and LOVE into action to make the world a better place for all God's creation. We serve, we give, we advocate, we protest, we march because we want our neighbors, our community, our nation, and the world to experience Christ's love in a tangible way. The theme for both our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat and the Conference Annual Meeting this year is "Answering the Call to Action Today." Our action, as Christians and as Check out the two National Mission Institutions in Florida:

https://www.wesleyhouse.org/





members of the United Women in Faith organization, is rooted in love. We must give priority to that call no matter what challenges we may face. As the Church of Jesus-Christ, our response should always be "Here I am Lord, send me." Rev. Juana Jordan will facilitate the retreat September 8-10, 2023, and Elizabeth Lee from the National Office will be the speaker at the annual meeting November 4<sup>th</sup>. I am delighted that these two servants have responded to the call to lead us through the theme. Please do add those two important dates to your calendar. You will be hearing more about them in a later edition of Genesis, on our website, Facebook page, and through your district newsletters.

I want to take this opportunity to wish each and everyone of you a fruitful and blessed year in your pesonal lives and all your local and district UWFaith activities! No matter what anxious and painful conversation is hapenning or not happening in your local church or around you, always remember to love extravagantly as love got 'everything' to do with who we are in Christ Jesus.

Judith P. Okerson

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

For more information about Children's Week,

go to <u>https://childrensweek.org/events/</u> celebration-of-the-hands-2023/



On-line registration will be available on April 1. FL CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH -MISSION u <u>ADULT REGISTRATION FORM</u> Please fill out carefully and completely Please print legibly July 14-16, 2023 - In person event The Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North 2974 International Parkway Lake Mary, FL 32746 Phone: (321) 249-8022

Zip:

City:

Youth/Children's registration forms can be found at flconfuwf.org after April 1.

(Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr. Rev.) M	Vame:
Phone:	
Address:	
City:	

City:	State:	
District:	Name of Church:	

Email:

Do you hold an office in U.W F.?						
If yes, what office and is it for the unit, the district, or the conference?						
Please circle all that apply:						
	First-Time Attendee	Member UWF	Attending College/University	Pastor (not ordained)		
	Laity	Missionary	Clergy	Deaconess		

Age\_\_\_\_\_ Ethnicity (Caribbean, African American, Hispanic, etc. )\_\_\_

**To All Mission u Attendees:** Your Mission u Committee has been asked to provide your name and contact information to UWF National so they can promote greater engagement and share about other UWF programs. The data provided would be your full name, address, phone number, email address, local church, and UWF District. If you **do not** wish to receive information about additional program opportunities from United Women in Faith and **do not** give your permission for the registrar to share this data with the National Office, please initial here:

Indicate your first and second choice for study group leader or check here if you have no preference.

\_\_\_\_\_ Deaconess Ester Kim \_\_\_\_ Dr. Larry Rankin \_\_\_\_ Mrs. Praveena Balasundaram

\_\_\_\_\_ Dr. Lorraine Mayfield-Brown

Rev. Timothé Jacques (Creole) Rev. Patricia Peña (Spanish)

We will do our best to put you in your preferred class, but sometimes it just isn't possible.

Our mission project this year is to assemble menstrual kits for the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Each district has been asked to bring one of the items. Contact your district president or Linda Parrish (321-266-7737) for specific information.

**Disclaimer:** By attending in-person Mission u, you are acknowledging that an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. Further, you and any guests voluntarily assume all risks related to exposure to COVID-19 and agree not to hold the Florida Conference United Women in Faith, Mission u or volunteers liable for any illness or injury. Please be prepared to wear a mask to our gatherings. Initial here to acknowledge this disclaimer:

The study book is a combination of leader's guide and participant's guide. There will be a limited number available at the Mission u event or you may order yours directly from https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping\_product\_detail.asp?pid=53539.

If you want to order a Mission u t-shirt, indicate the size: S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL. Cost is \$15 each. Please include payment along with your registration fee.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

 Emergency Contact:
 Phone Number:

Allergies, medical concerns, health/dietary needs:

MAIL registration and a check for \$140 (\$155, if ordering a t-shirt) to Debbie McKinnon, 4518 Andrew Jackson Way, Tallahassee, FL 32303. Contact her at mckinnon.noah@comcast.net or 850-556-2156 if you have questions. Make your check payable to Florida Conference United Methodist Women Mission u. You may abbreviate!

### **Fee Summary**

\$140 – registration fee. Payable when you submit this form.

15 - for t-shirt.

Please be aware that there is a separate charge for the hotel – you will pay this directly to the hotel.

### **Conference Team Members, including District Presidents, CON** members, Mission u committee members, including CON members, study group leaders, and scholarship recipients:

\_\_\_\_\_ I accept a double room. My preferred roommate is

I prefer a single room and will send a check for \$122 to the Mission u registrar.

Date of arrival \_\_\_\_\_\_. Date of departure \_\_\_\_\_. I accept that I will pay the Mission u registrar \$122 if I arrive a day early (July 13<sup>th</sup>), and \$122 if I stay a day after the event (July  $16^{th}$ ).

### Other Mission u attendees are responsible for making their own hotel

reservations directly with The Westin Lake Mary. A special rate of \$122.00 plus tax/night is being provided for both single and double rooms. This special rate also applies to one night prior to Mission u and one night after Mission u (July 13<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>), for those who would like an extended stay. The deadline for reserving hotel rooms is Friday, June 23, 2023. For hotel reservations at this special rate for Mission u, the following link must be used:

Book your group rate for Florida Conference United Women in Faith 'Mission U' or by calling the hotel at (321) 249-8036. Here's the web site address in case vou need to type it in: https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservationlink.mi?id=1671046169543&kev=GRP&app=resvlink

### How to apply for a 2023 Florida United Women in Faith Mission u scholarship

The Florida Conference United Women in Faith (UWF) is awarding a limited number of whole and partial scholarships to adults, youth and children who will be attending **Onsite Mission u July 14-16** at the Westin Lake Mary, Orlando North hotel. A whole scholarship for Onsite Mission u includes both registration and hotel fees; a partial scholarship pays for registration only. A scholarship for **Virtual Mission u (July 18, 20, 25 and 27)** via Zoom covers the cost of registration.

The **deadline for submitting your scholarship application** for both onsite and virtual Mission u events is **May 15, 2023**. You may obtain a 2023 Mission u scholarship application form from your UWF District President or any member of the scholarship committee.

Please note that **you must receive notification that you have been awarded a scholarship before you can register for Mission u.** Once your scholarship is approved, you will be contacted and receive information on how to register. If your scholarship is not approved, you can register any time up to the registration deadline (June 9 for the onsite event; July 4 for the virtual event).

Mission u scholarships are awarded by the Mission u Scholarship Committee. Priority will be given to first time Mission u attendees.

Please email or mail your signed scholarship application to: Sharyn Ladner, UWF Scholarship Committee Chair <u>sharynladner.umw@gmail.com</u> • Phone: mobile: 305-401-6467; home: 305-443-1122 929 Majorca Avenue, Coral Gables, FL 33134-3639

Join us at Mission u as we explore the good news and what it means for our lives!

Sharyn

### The Committee on Nominations welcomes you!

We are looking for a few good women to be nominated to the Conference Committee on Nominations (4 year term), the National Board of Directors (4 year term), or Program Advisory Group (4 year term). Please contact CON Chair, Ester Kim at <u>esterkim.umw@gmail.com</u>, if you feel the desire to serve during this time of great growth and potential as United Women in Faith. You can put your own name forward – don't' be shy!



Did you know the **Reading Program** has a special group on United Women in Faith Digital? The Reading Program has a group called Reading Enthusiasts, open to anyone on United Women in Faith Digital. Here, members can discuss books they are reading, learn about volunteer opportunities, and get invited to special webinars, or author talks, focused on books in the Reading Program. Space for these events is limited and does fill up quickly, but you are always encouraged to <u>register</u> and attend. Go to <u>https://uwfaith.org/resources/reading-program/</u> for information about the reading program.



For more than a century, Rosa Valdez Learning Centers have been dedicated to providing economically disadvantaged children and families with an enriching learning environment that is safe and of the highest quality. Thanks to generous donations from Cornerstone Family Ministries, almost 15,000 students are supported annually by scholarships - and we're thrilled to reveal our newest addition: the second Rosa Valdez Learning Center & Lab School at Oak Grove UMC!

Mark your calendars for May 6, 2023! CFM presents its 43rd Annual Hybrid Wonder Walk at Hyde Park UMC. Not able to join in person? No worries - virtual teams are invited and encouraged to find a peaceful spot of their own while joining the live stream event as we pray together for our families, students and teachers worldwide. To register, become part of a group coordinator or sponsor an item from the upcoming virtual auction visit www.cornerstonefamilyministries/wonderwalk OR contact Jeanette Hordge-Smith directly via email (jhordgesmith@cornestonefm)or call 813-253-3853 ext 301

Cornerstone is also committed to supporting the health and wellbeing of children in our communities sponsoring over 140 Child Care Centers through their partnership with CFM and the USDA Child Care Food Program. These centers are located across five counties, ensuring that kids have access to nutritious meals each day!

Ultimately, the mission of Cornerstone Family Ministries is to make a lasting and positive impact in the lives of economically disadvantaged children and their families in our community by nourishing young bodies, developing young minds, and fostering hope through Christ...One Child at a time.

Jeanette Hordge-Smith, Director Community Engagement and Support Cornerstone Family Ministries c: 813-523-9301 o: 813-253-3853 ext 301

www.CornerstoneFamilyMinistries.org Follow Cornerstone On: Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn



<Outlook-s2px1wzy.jpg>

### \$\$ Treasurer Talk \$\$ By Donna Spear, Treasurer, Florida Conference United Women in Faith



### Mission Giving Update

Florida Conference United Women in Faith contributed \$251, 955 (77.5%) toward our 2022 Mission Giving Pledge of \$325,000. Please continue to support our events and missions through your giving!

### Be a Rainbow Giver in 2023!

Set a goal for yourself. Rainbow Givers are individuals who give in all 5 channels of giving:



- 1) Make and keep your Pledge to Mission.
- 2) Give a Special Mission Recognition pin to someone who works on behalf of women, children, and youth
- 3) Give a Gift to Mission. Send a card if you like.
- 4) Give a Gift in Memory. For someone who has passed away, recently or in the past.
- 5) Contribute to World Thank offering.

See your local unit or district treasurer for more details!



### Day of Giving

Embrace the future for women, children and youth by giving to the <u>Legacy Endowment</u> <u>Fund</u> on the Day of Giving, **March 23**, and join your sisters from across the country. Why March 23? Because on that date in 1869 a group of eight bold women founded the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, a forerunner of United Women in Faith.

Ways to give -

Online: uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund

Phone: 800-278-7771 (8am-5pm, Mon-Fri)

Text: "ACTION" to 20503

**Check:** United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy, 475 Riverside Drive, STE 1500, New York, NY 10115 (Write "day of Giving" in the memo section)

Support Mission Giving for our present, and Legacy Fund for our future!

### Call to Prayer and Self-Denial

Gifts to "A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" in 2023 will directly support United Women in Faith's racial justice work. Please see <u>uwfaith.org</u> for more info!



### FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH 2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 11	Haitian Convocation	Ft. Pierce UMC
March 26-31	Children's Advocacy Days	Tallahassee
April 22	Love In Action: Our Charter for Racial Justic	ze Zoom
June 7 – 10	Florida Annual Conference – UMC	Lakeland
July 14-16	Mission u Event – in person	ТВА
TBA	Mission u Event – virtual	Zoom
September 8-10	Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	WWUMCC, Fruitland Park
November 4	Conference Annual Meeting	ТВА

#### other duties that are important to do that support your leadership teams. The United Women in Faith bylaws state that minutes should be kept for easy access for four years and have four

previous years in storage. Other things to keep are program directories, event agendas, event photos, and anything of a historical nature for your group. Letters of resignations and other important letters or notices should also be kept for the same time period. These may be digital or hard copies or both!

or Unit. While taking minutes and sending them out to your members is a given, there are

District secretaries should send a copy of all district officers with their contact information once your Annual Meeting takes place along with your Annual Meeting minutes to me, your Conference Secretary. Local Unit secretaries should send the same information about your local unit leaders to your District Secretary as soon as they are elected as well. Most importantly, changes and updates to leadership teams should be reported as they happen so information can be sent to the right people who need it to keep everyone informed. If anyone has any questions about other secretarial duties, please don't hesitate to contact me and I will do anything I can to help. I leave you with this prayer I found online:

"Dear Lord, help me to do my work well, to have the memory of an elephant and by some miracle to be able to do five things at once: answer four telephones while typing a letter that must go out today." Author unknown

### Mary Van Tol, Conference Secretary

Email: maryvantol.umw@gmail.com Phone: 239-271-0161

### Please join us for our UWF (formerly known as UMW) Northeast District Event "A Day Apart" Theme: Let's Move Forward with the Help of the Holy Spirit Speaker: Amy Buggle

- Date: Saturday, March 11, 2023
- 10:00 am-4:00 pm (Doors open at 9:30 for registration) Time: Lunch provided
- Wesley Fellowship UMC Place: 5400 Pearl Street, Jacksonville, FL 32208

Don't miss this time of fellowship, learning, and fun All are welcome.

### **Secretary Notes**

Greetings and congratulations to all new and returning Secretaries! You have an important role in your District



## Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting

### WHERE: Chattanooga, Tennessee WHEN: April 19-21, 2024

Registration opens September 2023

Early Regisgtration: \$210 (thru December 2023) Late Regisgtration: \$240 (after December 2023)

THE TABLE IS OPEN TO EVERYONE - NO NEED TO BELONG TO UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH, SO BRING A FRIEND!

### **MISSION GIVING**



SAVE YOUR DOLLAR BILLS..... with a "J" on them for "Jesus" and "Jurisdiction" AND "G" for "God".



For additional information, go to our website at: www.sejuwf.org

#### **Social Action**

### Edith Zewadski-Bricker, Social Action Liaison to the Conference Leadership Team

### God be with you as you press on toward the goal. (Philippians 3:12-16)

Actually, God is always with us, but are you with God? Take a step back from the noise and busy-ness in your life to get a proper, broader perspective... a justice perspective maybe? perhaps a global perspective? and always a spiritual perspective. Can you see yourself through God's eyes? Have you read <u>So You Want to Talk About Race</u>? Have you read <u>White Fragility</u>? Do you recycle, conserve energy, and advocate on behalf of the environment? The best resources I know to help us see ourselves in the big picture can be found at: <a href="https://umwomen.wufoo.com/forms/klskpqlx0ey2xr3/">https://umwomen.wufoo.com/forms/klskpqlx0ey2xr3/</a>

#### Study to show thyself approved unto God... - II Timothy 2:15a

United Women in Faith dispel ignorance. We have much to learn and unlearn to keep our brothers and sisters from harm...emotionally, physically, and financially...especially harm that we ourselves inflict on our siblings through our own ignorance. A recent Bible study asked, "Does ignorance absolve us from sin?" Fortunately, Jesus has intervened for us, "Lord forgive them for they know not what they do." Experiencing this grace makes me want to be more mature and less ignorant. How about you? Soooo...

### Won't you ... zoom in to

Love in Action: The Charter for Racial Justice Policies April 22, from 6:30-8:00 PM?

### Will you:

1-See that every member in your unit has a copy of the "Charter for Racial Justice" located in the Toolkit at the link above,

2-Email an invitation/flyer to everyone on your contact list, and

3) Register at: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lovein-action-the-charter-for-racialjustice-policies-tickets-529499516307! Registration opens March 19, 2023



### LOVE in ACTION: The Charter for Racial Justice Policies

Because we believe Love in Action can change the world, you are invited to a VIRTUAL event on the Charter for Racial Justice Policies!

#### Saturday, April 22, 2023 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

#### Deaconess Clara Ester will be our Guest Speaker



Clara's interest in social welfare and justice was fueled at an early age by her relationship with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She was highly active in the Civil Rights struggle in Memphis, TN. and worked with several other projects throughout the south. She was one of the youth organizers for the Second Poor People 's Campaign in Marks, MS.

The Cornerstone Kids will be an added inspiration.



The event is open to all who have a heart for Social Justice

Register at:

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/love-in-action-the-charter-for-racial-justice-policies-tickets-529499516307

Registration opens Sunday, March 19, 2023, and closes Saturday, April 15, 2023

#### WORD SEARCH

This Word Search contains names, events, and dates pertaining to the *Love in Action: The Charter for Racial Justice Policies* event. Email your findings to <a href="mailto:empmom@aol.com">empmom@aol.com</a> The first three units to find all 5 phrases, 4 people, 3 dates, 1 time, and 4 words will be awarded a prize on April 22 on Zoom!



### SOUTH EAST DISTRICT CHERISHES THE BELOVED COMMUNITY

In December, the South East District held its annual "Celebrating the Beloved Community" event. Although it was held virtually, the spirit of Christmas was present, and we were blessed with a beautiful program and very special guest speaker. There were several scripture readings about the coming of Christ, the Lord, and we enjoyed lovely musical selections and participated in a very meaningful "Hanging of the Greens" responsive reading.

Members of various local units shared their own Christmas customs and special poems and skits. And our guest speaker was Dr. Lisa Miller, best-selling author and professor in the Clinical Psychology Program at Teachers College of Columbia University. Dr. Miller's latest book, <u>The Awakened Brain</u> focuses on her years of research investigating the relationship between spirituality and mental health. Her groundbreaking exploration of the neuroscience of spirituality reveals that humans are universally equipped with a capacity for spirituality, and that our brains become more resilient and robust as a result of it. Dr. Miller's research and presentation remind us that we are meant to be in relationship with God, and that relationship strengthens and guides us. What a blessing!



# The Future Is Now 2 Day of Giving, March 23, 2023

United Women in Faith

Step forward with faith, hope, and love in action by giving to The Legacy Endowment Fund on Day of Giving, March 23.



### WAYS TO GIVE

- Online at: uwfaith.org/dayofgiving
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am-5 pm EST, Mon.-Fri.)
- Text: "ACTION" to 20503

#### By check to: United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy 475 Riverside Drive, Ste 1500 New York, NY 10115 Write "Day of Giving" in the memo section.



### Together, we are building our legacy!

Scranton Women's Leadership Center will generously match \$100,000 of gifts received on Day of Giving 2023.



The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Women in Faith

For more information go to <u>uwfaith.org/dayofgiving</u>.