



Fall 2026, vol. 53 no. 2

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

UPDATES



Mission Giving 2026 Pledge to Mission Totals

Our Conference pledged \$155,000 to Mission for 2026. So far we have paid \$45,873 totaling 29.6% of the total pledged. How can you help? Besides your pledge, you can boost your giving by becoming a Rainbow Giver, purchasing GTM cards, SMR pins & increasing your Unit pledges. Contact your Unit treasurer for more information so we can meet our mission giving goal this year!



Assembly 2026

On the final morning gathering of United Women in Faith's Assembly 2026, nearly 3,000 worshipped, shared communion, and celebrated a weekend of learning, sharing, and spiritual growth in Indianapolis, Indiana.* The Florida Conference was represented by 65 members as shown in the picture. Our Conference donated \$2,000 to be used for the work of United Women in Faith on the National Level.

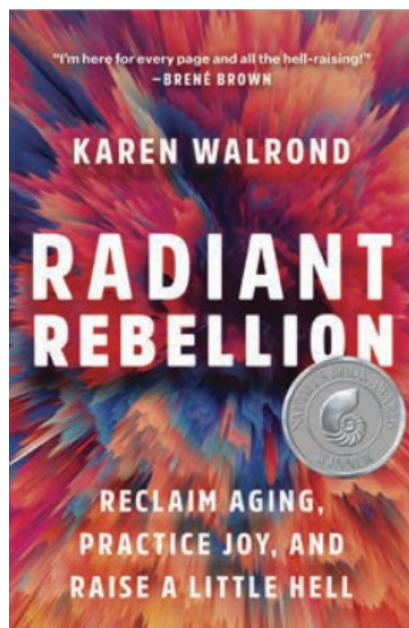
*According to UWFaith.org



Mission u

Mission u was successful with five adult classes with over 140 participants and a combined youth and children class. The Virtual Mission u had 33 participants, and the Study Leader provided 4 engaging sessions on "Experiencing Emmanuel". Go to page 3 to read more about the event!





2027 Reading Program

Leadership Development

What if aging is something to aspire to, not dread? What if together we could forge a radiant rebellion against the idea of aging as a season of decline?

Walrond does a deep dive into dimensions of getting older, including health, beauty, spirituality, connection, adventure, meaning, and purpose. Through conversations with social workers, neurologists, activists, and clergy, Walrond delves into why the dominant culture treats aging as a time of dwindling capacity.

She also embarks on experiments that help her rebel against convention. A resources section offers journal prompts and strategies for creating a handbook for your own radiant rebellion.

Love in action is
UNSTOPPABLE

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix, President
Florida Conference United Women in Faith



Greetings friends!

As summer ends, we look forward to a very busy fall season. Our districts are having their annual meetings in October, and the Conference Annual Meeting is Saturday, November 7th in Orlando. We will of course celebrate a special time to give thanks during Thanksgiving and then rejoice in celebrating the birth of Christ in December.

Yet even amid this busyness, we must remember to make time to nurture our spiritual growth. It is, after all, what fuels our sisterhood and our mission work. Prayer, Bible study, and engaging with others are the foundation of our United Women in Faith mission, "... to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities."

It's not always easy to develop and maintain "a creative, supportive fellowship," yet it is a supportive fellowship that makes a real difference and facilitates our being able to accomplish our purpose.

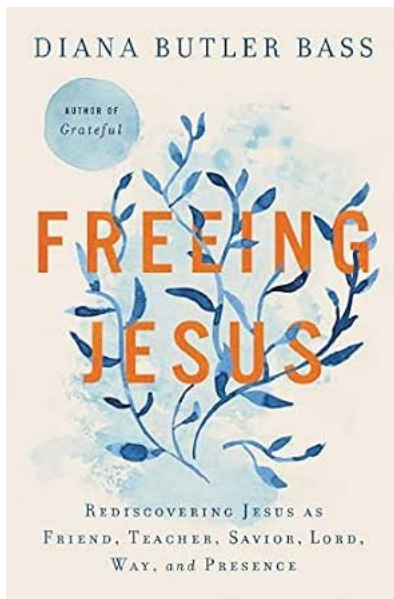
As members of United Women in Faith we are called to work together, to love one another, and to represent this wonderful organization in the best way possible. That means developing a passion for our work and for fulfilling our roles and responsibilities as members and leaders in a way that reflects that passion.

In the process, we renew a commitment to guide without crushing and correct without shaming. But we must also renew a commitment to listen deeply to one another and to be receptive to feedback so that we may grow personally, improve relationships with our neighbors throughout the world, and strengthen the United Women in Faith vision of turning faith, hope, and love into action. Knowing that the peace and presence of Christ guides and sustains us, we will continue to work towards having the love of Christ shine through us.

With a grateful heart,

Nora

INFLUENCE



2026 Reading Program Spiritual Growth

*How can you still be a Christian?

This is the most common question Diana Butler Bass is asked today. It is a question that many believers ponder as they wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind.

In *Freeing Jesus*, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence.

Freeing Jesus is an invitation to leave the religious wars behind and rediscover Jesus in all his many manifestations, to experience Jesus beyond the narrow confines we have built around him. It renews our hope in faith and worship at a time when we need it

*Content from: www.amazon.com/Freeing-Jesus

MISSION u Update by Dean Lorraine Mayfield-Brown



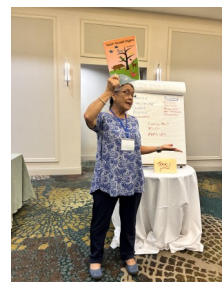
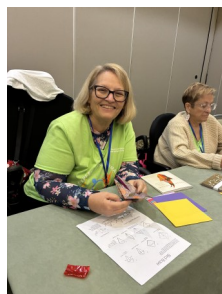
Mission u 2026, "Experiencing Emmanuel" was a successful and spiritually fulfilling experience for over 140 participants at The Westin Lake Mary Hotel. In addition to the five adult classes, and youth and children class, we offered healing worship and an invitation to engage in our Social Action Campaigns, and fun electives. Another highlight of Mission u were three presentations of our recent National Assembly in which over 60 Florida Conference members attended.

Our Virtual Mission u session, led by Rev. Juana Jordan, had 33 participants, including a Zoom group from St. Andrews United Women in Faith Unit which gathered 20 participants in their fellowship hall.

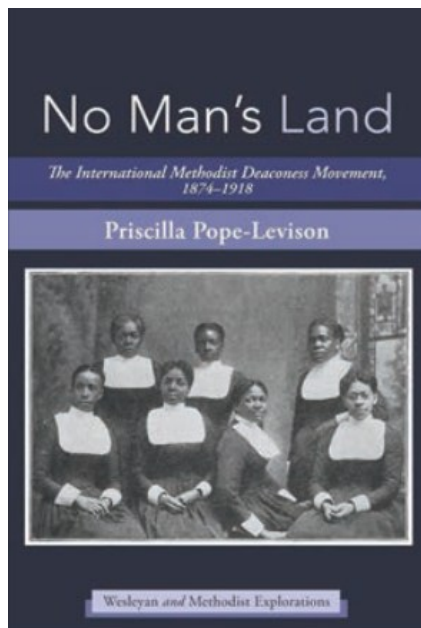
In our continued recognition and support of our National Mission Institutes, we heard for Cathy Stone, Executive Director of Cornerstone Family Ministries. She skillful tied our "Experiencing Emmanuel" study and women of the Bible with the founding of Cornerstone and its mission. Our Ubuntu project presented origami cranes, and financial support from the Mission Giving offering totaled \$1,439.

Come join us! **Save the Date: July 16-19th, 2027.** The Westin at Lake Mary Hotel. The Mission u 2027 is busy planning for the upcoming Mission u 2027. Its theme is "**Showing Hospitality: An Exploration of Christian Welcome**". In the adult curriculum, "**Drawing the Circle Wide: An Exploration of Christian Hospitality**" participants will explore with others what it means to pursue spiritual hospitality as it is presented in Scripture. Youth and Children studies will be offered.

Photos of study leaders, District Presidents, attendees including Elaine Henderson, H. Leigh Toney, Nadia Nunez, Lorraine Mayfield-Brown, Terry Fitzgerald, Mary Negron, Cathy Capo Stone, Line dancing, & making origami items. Courtesy of Lorraine Mayfield-Brown.



COMMIT



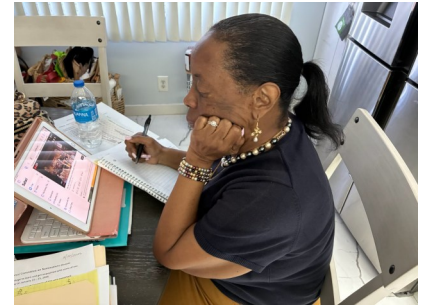
2027 Reading Program

Education for Mission

Award-winning author, historian, pastor, professor, and higher education administrator Priscilla Pope-Levison offers this groundbreaking study of the international characteristics of a remarkable yet largely forgotten women's movement—the Methodist deaconesses.

She offers vivid vignettes, striking photos, and intimate personal diaries to provide not just a historical overview, but an encounter with these women dedicated to serving those ground down by suffering, sickness, poverty, and addiction. As she notes, deaconesses carved out a precarious existence in no man's land—neither fully clergy nor fully laity—that nonetheless galvanized an international network of Methodist women.

Deborah Jenkins-Bailey Chair, Committee on Nominations



NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS



Marvia Sophia Aitkin

Committee on Nominations Class of 2028

Marvia is a member of Miramar UMC United Women in Faith. She's held several positions and leadership positions including past president. She is currently serving as co-leader for Program Resources in her local unit. Marvia is a Lay speaker, leader, and member of the Florida Annual Conference and serves as superintendent of Sunday School.

Marvia is employed by Miami Dade Public School, spending time with campers, and she enjoys being with children every summer at the Warren Willis Camp. Marvia's motto says, "Children are our precious future, and are precious in God's sight." Marvia has one daughter and lives in Pembroke Pines.



Hazel Cayaba Viloria

Deaconess Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Hazel is a dedicated teacher at Barton Elementary School in Palm Beach. She is committed to student growth and data-driven instruction. She graduated from Isabella State University, Philippines with a Master of Arts in Industrial Education.

Beyond the classroom, she is a deeply devoted servant of the church, serving as a deaconess in the Florida Conference for the East Central District.



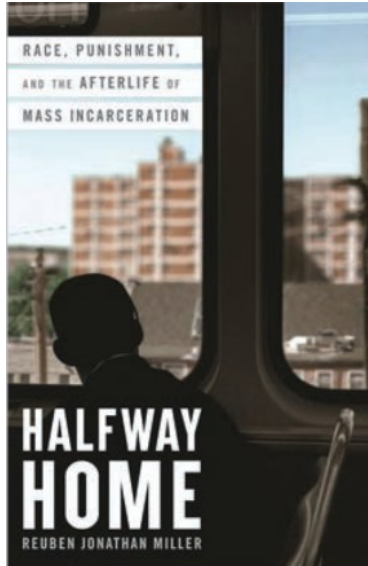
Jessica Rodriguez

Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

Jessica was raised in Puerto Rico in a long line of faithful Methodists, and KUMC has been my church home for 26 years. For the past six years, she has had the joy of leading KUMC's social media ministry across Instagram, Facebook, and YouTube, creating artwork and messages that share the Good News of Jesus and help grow her church community.

Professionally, Jessica has worked in the media and entertainment industry for more than 30 years. As a fully bilingual English and Spanish speaker, she looks forward to serving the United Women in Faith by helping translate and adapt materials into Spanish, extending the reach of our mission and sharing Christ's love with even more people.

IMPACT



2027 Reading Program Social Action

Chaplain and sociologist Reuben Miller spent years alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners, and their friends and families. What his work revealed: Life after incarceration is its own form of prison.

The idea that someone can serve a debt and return as a full-fledged member of society is one of America's most persistent myths.

Recently released individuals face legal and social limitations, resulting in off-limits jobs, apartments that cannot be occupied, and votes that cannot be cast.

The book is a poignant and eye-opening call to arms that exposes how the policies we've enacted prevent people from rebuilding their lives and how mass incarceration has fundamentally changed our democracy.

Faith, Hope, and Love in Social Action

By Edith Zewadski-Bricker, Social Action Liaison

For our focus on *Racial Justice*: *Mass Incarceration of People of Color and the School to Prison Pipeline*, Social Action recommends this National Office event:

The Alabama Solution

Join United Women in Faith members and friends to watch and discuss this award-winning 2025 film.

Live Screening: Tuesday, September 22 at 7 p.m.

On-Demand Watch Option: September 22 to 25

Zoom Discussion: Tuesday, September 29 at 7 p.m.

For our focus on *Climate Justice*, Social Action recommends:

<https://www.climate.us> - easy-to-find, trusted, and up-to-date climate information.

For Faith, Hope, and Love in Action, Social Action recommends:

Save the Date: Florida Children's Advocacy week: Tallahassee April 18-23, 2027

LEGACY UPDATE!

Contributions in 2026

\$5,815.27

Cumulative Contributions

\$351,445.10

As you prepare for your fall programs, please be sure to include a focus on the Legacy Endowment Fund.

You can get more information at <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>. Scan the QR Code to donate!



You may wish to make donations "In Honor of" as you recognize members who have committed their involvement to UWFaith throughout the year, and always "In Memory of" as you remember and dedicate a gift to them. Remember, you can do this via US mail or with online giving. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at pameladavis.umw@gmail.com.

GROWTH



2027 Reading Program Spiritual Growth

Many of us yearn for a deeper connection with God but struggle to find the time or space to cultivate it amid our busy lives. The daily stress of meeting responsibilities leaves us longing to connect with God and find rest for our souls. We crave intimacy with our Creator and the peace only God's presence can give.

This book invites you on a journey toward a more embodied and present spiritual life. Carefully crafted guided prayers and meditations provide an accessible way for us to quiet our hearts and enter God's presence, engaging all our senses.

Unstoppable Learning



Boldly live your faith. Connect to something bigger.*

Seeking to deepen your faith and spiritual awareness? At our heart and in our soul, United Women in Faith is a driven organization filled with opportunities to nurture yourself and enrich your life.

The 2027 Reading Program is now live! Learn more [here](#) and visit uwfaith.org/read to download your free 2027 Reading Program catalog.

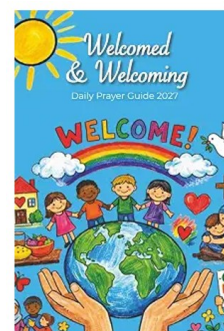
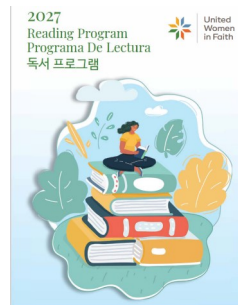
UWFaith Digital Open House: Learn about our platform for resource and community. Tuesday, September 15, at 8 p.m. ET.

Women and General Conference Webinar: Join United Women in Faith and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women on Wednesday September 23 at 1 p.m. ET or Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m. ET to learn more about General Conference, what it means to be a delegate, and why we need women in the room.



2027 Resources: The 2027 Daily Prayer Guide and Program Resource print versions are now available! Find your 2027 print resources at this [link](#).

Both resources feature a new lightweight book-style format that makes it easier to slip in to your bag and store on your bookshelf. The updated design also helps us be good stewards of our resources by lowering production prices so more mission dollars can be invested directly in programs and ministries. The same resources, with new design! Also stay tuned for the digital versions of these and other 2027 resources.



*All content on this page is from the United Women in Faith website. UWFaith.org

Unstoppable Leadership



United
Women
in Faith

The Conference Leadership Team is made up of all District Presidents and 13 other leaders that include the following:

Dr. Nora Hernandez Hendrix—President

Veta Daley—Vice President

Janie McMillan—Secretary

Natacha Etienne Joseph—Treasurer

Mary Van Tol—Communications Coordinator

Deborah Jenkins- Bailey—Chair CON

Kerlyne Charles-Jeune—Haitian Outreach Coordinator

Jessica Rodriguez—Hispanic Outreach Coordinator

Christine Schneidman—Rising Women Liaison

Pam Davis—Legacy Liaison

Edith Zewadski-Bricker—Social Action Liaison

Deaconess Hazel Viloria—Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Lorraine Mayfield-Brown—Dean, Mission u

Committee On Nominations

Class of 2027, Chair, Deborah C. Jenkins-Bailey - South East

Class of 2026 Paulette Monroe - East Central

Class of 2028 Marva S. Aitken - South East

Class of 2028 Julie Ramga - Gulf Central

Class of 2029 Shari Gillis - Gulf Central

Class of 2029 Dreena Robinson - South East

Our Florida Conference is made up of **SIX Districts** as shown on the Florida map.

District Presidents include the following:

Janet Blume—East Central

Shirley Erwin—Gulf Central

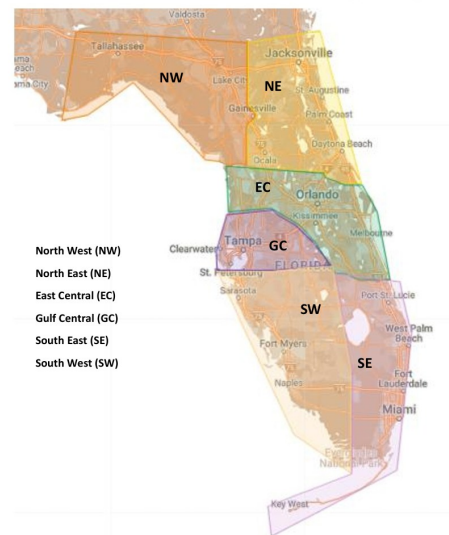
Mary Negron—North East

Dr. Gwendolyn Dixon—North West

H. Leigh Toney—South East

Beverly Emonds—South West

FLORIDA CONFERENCE DISTRICTS



Our Purpose

We are 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.

faith

action

sisterhood

Upcoming Events and Due Dates

♦ Social Action Event on Zoom

September 8, 6:30 P.M.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83866455406?pwd=8YtgLHSPAeTGVRudz8448ULOTvMdWk.1>

♦ Newsletter Name Contest

September 15

♦ Conference Annual Meeting

November 7

9:45 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

St. Luke's UMC, Orlando

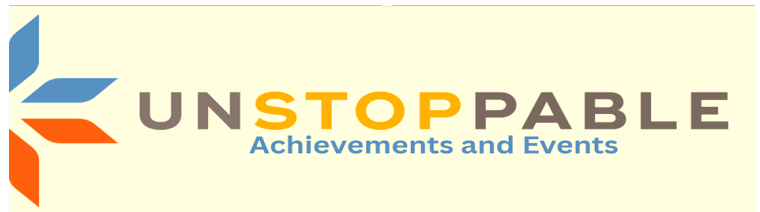
♦ Forms due October 15

All Forms for Awards including Mission Study, Mission Today, Racial Justice, Reading Program, and in memory members

Districts must submit to Conference Secretary, Janie McMillan

♦ 3rd Quarter Pledges October 5

♦ 4th Quarter Pledges Dec. 10



United Women in Faith
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

WE WANT Your Ideas!

HELP US RENAME THE NEWSLETTER FORMERLY KNOWN AS GENESIS!

The Communications Committee decided we will change the name of our newsletter formerly known as “Genesis” to a new name that will engage our membership in a new and exciting way.

We are asking **YOU** to help us!

RENAME THE:
✓ Genesis (Newsletter)

SEND YOUR SUGGESTIONS TO ME BY SEPTEMBER 15TH

EMAIL YOUR IDEAS TO:
maryvantoluwf@gmail.com

♥ Your input matters!

WINNING NAME RECOGNITION!
The person who selects the winning name will be featured in a short article in the inaugural issue of the rebranded newsletter.

Let's choose a name that inspires, informs, and brings us together! ♥

YOUR VOICE. • YOUR IDEAS. • OUR COMMUNITY. Let's make it **GREAT!**

Links:

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

District Websites: <https://flconfuwf.org/conference-leaders>

For questions or to subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter contact editor at communications@flconfuwf.org