



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION

Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women

September 2020

Volume 25 Number 2

The Fresh Connection

From the Heart:



Greetings UMW Sisters,

This year has proven to be remarkably interesting. I hope you are all adjusting to COVID19 and all the changes. I personally have concentrated on habits of health and it was the best choice I ever made. I try to kayak for 45 minutes and walk five miles every day. This combined with eating healthy food, drinking 8 glasses of water a day (most days) and having a regular bedtime with 8 hours of sleep scheduled has had amazing results. I feel stronger and happier than I have for many years.

I feel a little out of touch with everyone. I want you to know I have thought of you often and prayed for all of you. I am especially sad that we needed to cancel all in-person events for the past several months because I would have loved to give you each a smile and a hug in person!

This is my last newsletter as your President. I cannot believe how quickly these almost five years have gone! Cindy Saufferer officially starts her term as President on October 10. This is an important day because we are also having our first ever Digital Annual Meeting. I hope ALL of you try to join us. All you need is a current email to register for the ZOOM meeting and receive materials for voting. If you don't have e-mail, please find a family member or friend who would be willing to register their email and communicate the information to you. You can also join the ZOOM meeting by telephone and voting materials will be available on the website www.mnconfumw.com.

The Minnesota Conference Team(s) have been meeting via ZOOM throughout the pandemic. Many of the districts have also met via ZOOM and my local unit has also done this every month. We even held a "Grandma Shower" for one of our members who is expecting her first grand baby in September. Thank you to all who have participated and for your willingness to learn new things to accomplish all the work we need to do for mission.

You can register online at <https://forms.gle/sMaH7dMm1c81G3W58> or by paper ...later in this edition of the Fresh Connection. I am the registrar so please mail registration to **Sandy Meyer 8724 Valley View Place, Chanhassen, MN 553317. Questions? Call me 952-270-1157**

I am so excited about the future of United Methodist Women! We are working to be even more inclusive of ALL. We can reach many more people via ZOOM than in- person meetings. Think about the time spent commuting to different places or maybe you cannot get around very well so can't attend at all. ZOOM offers a way to participate. I hope we will all embrace technology and thank God for the opportunities it provides! Until we meet again in person here is a BIG HUG from me to you. **Love, Sandy**

Making Things Happen in Uncertain Times

Membership Nurture and Outreach



If you are feeling like me these days, I am wondering how we can make UMW happen with all the precautions we must take during this time of the pandemic. I have face masks of different fabric, so I can choose one to go with my outfit. That is my way of having fun while taking precautions.

Have you had some interesting ways of gathering with your circle or local United Methodist Women's unit? Many have had Zoom meetings. If you have not tried it, this is a great way to get new women involved in UMW, those that are handy with the computer. Newly retired women often have such skills plus extra time to fill. The National United Methodist Women 2019 Census analysis suggested that creating new positions within your local unit or district is a way of adding vitality to your unit. Now is a good time to create those positions.

Some UMW groups have enjoyed outdoor meetings at church or at parks. Everyone can bring their own chair which makes it easy to sit at safe distances. My local unit is having an online silent action for a quilt made by one of our members. People send their bids to our group leader over a period of six weeks. Our church posted the event with a picture of the quilt on its Facebook page. Talk to your church about getting your UMW activities on your church web page or Facebook.... another way to draw new people in.

The 2019 UMW census report also found that 75% of all units used *response* magazine both to learn about the broader work of United Methodist Women, and for conversation starters. In the July/August issue, in an article called "Let Go," you will find a good conversation starter, complete with questions to generate discussion about changes, letting go, and the constant presence of God.

If nothing else, as we are stuck at home these days, we can educate ourselves about the current UMW social issues. I ordered two of the Mission u books and have started reading them: *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* (what an eye opener!) and *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*. Both books fit our times very well.

Yes, we need to change how we are "doing" UMW, how we are addressing issues of racial justice, living wage for all, just energy for all, and maternal and child health. Try inviting a young person in your church or family who participated in a recent protest march to share their ideas of "justice for all." This is a time to draw new people into your district or local UMW groups. Our social justice issues are what young women are interested in. Newly retired women have more time to get involved and skills to share. At the same time, we must continue to nurture the long time, dedicated women of our local units. I would love to hear what you have been doing to keep your UMW in touch with each other.

Send comments to Melinda Kohrt mnmnoumw@gmail.com

Let Your Light Shine

The 2020 United Methodist Women Annual Gathering will be held virtually on October 10, 2020.

We will meet 10AM-12Noon. Our focus will be Racial Justice along with our business meeting, election of officers, and installation.

All of the instructions for registering are in this issue and joining the meeting via zoom will be sent to you.

You can register online at

<https://forms.gle/sMaH7dMm1c81G3W58> or by paper later in this edition of the Fresh Connection please mail registration to **Sandy Meyer at 8724 Valley View Place, Chanhassen, MN 553317. Questions? Call Sandy at 952-270-1157**

Hope you can join us for this exciting new venue and great program. It is time for us to be together again and see everyone's beautiful face!

LDR will be held on October 24, 2020. The meeting will be held 10AM-12Noon virtually with more information to be sent to everyone later.

Diana Elckelberg, Conference Program Coordinator

Social Action

2021-2024 UMW Social Justice Priorities

The National UMW recently announced they will reduce the number of priorities this quadrennium (2021-2024) so that they can focus their time and energy deeper into two issues:

1. **Climate Justice**, with a particular focus on *Just Energy 4 All* campaign and
2. **Mass Incarceration/ Criminalization of Communities of Color**, with a particular focus on the *Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline* campaign.

In the announcement Mollie James-Vickery (Director of Mobilization and Advocacy for UMW) stated, "As we move forward in this moment, we do so with a great sense of intention and discernment. To be impactful, we are constantly assessing what is needed in this moment and where our strengths lie. Reducing the number of priority issues for this quadrennium enables us to focus the resources and time of members and national staff, go deeper into each of the issues we're engaging, and develop stronger local and national partnerships in these areas."

As United Methodist Women wind down their work on Maternal and Child Health and Economic Justice/Living Wage by year end, they are confident that the organizations they've partnered with over the past quadrennium will continue to advance justice and equity in these areas. Resources on these issues will continue to be available on the United Methodist Women website through 2022 for use by members. Priority work on Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color and on Climate Justice will continue to explore the economic justice and women's health implications in these areas.



100 Years of Women's Suffrage

August 26, 2020, marked the 100th anniversary of the day the 19th amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote. We honor the women's suffrage movement and recognize and lament that women of color did not benefit from its passage for years to come.

The history of voting rights in the United States, as our General Conference legislation says, has been fraught with practices of violence, intimidation and disenfranchisement of people of color. The board of directors has called United Methodist Women to take action against racism.

As a national election approaches, celebrate the work of our foremothers by voting, registering voters and working against voter suppression. To help you navigate your faith and values as you prepare to vote, United Methodist Women has endorsed *Democracy, Values and the 2020 Election: A Reflection Guide* by Faith in Public Life and Interfaith Power and Light. Get your copy at <https://bit.ly/DemocracyValuesElection>.

Questions about voter registration, early voting, or election day voting? www.mnvotes.org

Abundant Life For All: A Living Wage 4 All Series



This series of brief essays, reflections and frequently asked questions provides resources for going deeper into United Methodist Women's *Living Wage for All Campaign*.

As women of faith, we know that God promised us abundant life. As women of action, we work to ensure that promise is possible for everyone. The Abundant Life for All series helps us imagine and investigate the many components of an abundant life, such as: the biblical basis for living wage, the important relationship between labor unions and faith communities, the case for paid family leave, and more. You can download PDFs of the series by going to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/abundant-life-for-all>.

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

2019 Fall Gathering and Annual Meeting

Oct 11, 2019 Centennial UMC, Roseville, Minnesota

Prelude

Liz Weninger opened by leading the group singing, "We Are The Church", "Make Us One" and "A Place At the Table for Everyone Born."

At 9:45 we were welcomed by Diana Eickelberg, Program Coordinator and Sandy Meyer, Minnesota UMW President.

Worship

Worship began with Julie Adams, Spiritual Growth, leading us in a responsive litany on social justice. Teri Arnold, Treasurer had us sing "How Great Thou Art" as the offering was taken, followed by prayer.

Business Meeting

President Sandy Meyer called the meeting to order. Secretary *Shirley Goutcher* had people stand for roll call by district.

Treasurer Teri Arnold explained the Unaudited 2018 financial statement. The 2020 budget was presented, voted on, and passed.

Standing Rules changes were published 30 days prior. There was brief discussion and comment. Amendments were added for clarity.

The Standing Rules changes passed by a show of hands from UMW members present.

Faye Christiansen, Committee on Nominations chair, presented the Slate of Officers recommended by the Committee on Nominations. President: Cindy Saufferer

- Program Coordinator: Diana Eck
- Secretary: Linda Brinster
- Committee on Nominations Co-chairs: Becky Coleman and Shirley Durr

Faye explained that because Cindy is currently serving her last year on the UMW National Board, she cannot take the reins as President until mid-July 2020 after new Board members are elected at the 2020 North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) UMW. Sandy Meyer agreed to stay on in an interim capacity until that time.

The slate was approved by a show of hands from UMW members present.

The following candidates were presented for appointment:

- Committee on Nominations: Thalia Duffield (Class of 2022) and Janet Ewing (Class of 2023)
- Education and Interpretation: Pam Johnson

Kim Harris made a motion to approve these appointments and Liz Weninger seconded. Motion passed by a show of hands from UMW members present.

Joyce Prudden was chosen to be the MN Annual Conference's Commission on the Status and Role of Women representative to the MN Conference UMW.

Other appointments approved by the Executive Team:

- Shelly Knoblauch: MNO Label Processor
- Sophia Mahowald: MNO Officer Update Processor

Names presented to NCJ UMW as MN Conf UMW nominees for UMW National Board of Directors and Program Advisory Group:

- Sandra Meyer (Board)
- Shirley Durr (PAG)

We can present two names in each category. Two nominations were taken from the floor: Kim Harris and Sherry Scholljegerdes.

The Committee on Nominations will conduct short interviews during the lunch break and voting on these candidates will take place after lunch.

We were informed that Bishop Ough, who was scheduled to speak as part of the afternoon Program, had to leave and could not stay for lunch. **Shirley Durr made a motion to temporarily adjourn the business meeting. This was seconded by Sandra Adelmund and passed by acclamation.**

Program

At 11:00 Bishop Ough addressed us. He said that he was thankful for UMW children's ministry, climate care and racial justice. Women 150 years in mission is quite an accomplishment.

The Bishop talked about the Minnesota Conference's inclusive vision that passed at the 2019 Annual in response to the divisive "Traditional Plan" that passed at the 2019 Special General Conference. The Bishop Ough encouraged UMW to

stay with and live out the vision statement, which he said affirms our UMC mission to grow in love of God and neighbor, reach new people, and heal a broken world. The Bishop believes these imperatives are most fully expressed as an inclusive church. He also believes we cannot escape the biblical reality of the kingdom of God that “all means all.” Bishop Ough also urged us to stay engaged as we determine what God is doing in and through us, to rebuild our relationships and uphold one another in our spiritual journeys and to trust that God is doing something new in our midst.

Legacy Fund: Becky Coleman spoke about the Legacy Fund. Although our 150th year is passing, you can still donate to the Fund. One way to donate is by becoming a Legacy Builder. A Legacy Builder moves forward the mission of United Methodist Women by making a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more to The Legacy Fund Endowment.

Break for lunch

Program (continued)

Our Guest Speaker was Bridget Sabo from The Legal Rights Center, “a community-driven nonprofit law firm, specializing in adult criminal and juvenile delinquency defense, restorative justice practices and youth advocacy.” You can read more about them on their website: <https://www.legalrightscenter.org>

Most of Ms. Sabo presentation focused on their youth advocacy and juvenile delinquency defense. Her presentation ended with a few questions and lively discussion.

Announcements:

Sherry spoke about the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity postcard campaign. Postcards will be taken to legislators in mid- February. March of Dimes and Joint Religious Legislative Coalition partnered with us in this campaign that started in Southern Prairie and spread.

Sandy Meyer spoke about Emma Norton. Nov 14 is Give to the Max Day. April 23 is the Emma Norton Dinner Fundraiser. Cindy Waldt will continue having UMW circle meetings as Emma Norton.

Reopened Business Meeting

Faye presented the Slate that will go to NCJ UMW to elect candidates to the National UMW. Each nominee spoke for five minutes. Paper ballots were distributed and collected with the following results:

- Sandra Meyer (Board)
- Kim Harris (Board)
- Shirley Durr (PAG)
- Sherry Scholljegerdes (PAG)

Officer Recognition:

Officers were recognized for their service, with Special Mission Recognitions and Gifts to Mission.

Installation of Officers.

Cindy Saufferer officiated the installation of new and continuing officers on the 2020 MN UMW Executive Team. She lifted up Mary Gates and Elizabeth Everitt as MN UMW legacies who have served us over the decades and continue to be active participants and mentors.

Names and positions of all officers are listed in the 2020 Directory.

Shirley Goutcher
Conference Secretary

PROPOSED CHANGES TO STANDING RULES

Additions are underscored. Deletions appear in ~~strike through~~.

ARTICLE 1 – ELECTIONS

Section 2. The Committee on Nominations shall present the slate of nominees to the Executive Committee, and the Communications Coordinator shall present them to local units of the Minnesota Conference UMW through appropriate media; at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Gathering. Officers shall be elected at the Annual Gathering for a two-year term to take office January 1 of the following year, ~~alternating as follows:~~ To ensure continuity in leadership, these officers should be elected in alternate years.

~~In even numbered years:~~

- Treasurer
- Chairperson of the Nominating Committee

~~In Odd numbered years:~~

- President
- Secretary

The Committee on Nominations will also appoint the following officers as needed:

- Program Coordinator
- Spiritual Growth Coordinator
- Education and Interpretation Coordinator
- Social Action Coordinator
- Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
- Communications Coordinator
- Language Coordinator
- Resource Manager
- Historian
- ~~▪ Commission on the Status and Role of Women Representative ????~~
- Technology Coordinator

Each year, the Committee on Nominations will ask each appointed officer if she would like to continue her position for another year with a maximum of 4 years.

~~Membership Nurture and Outreach Label Processor, Membership Nurture and Outreach Officer Update Processor, and Directory Project Leader will also be appointed as needed by the Committee on Nominations but will have no term limits.~~

~~These~~ All appointed officers have the same privileges as elected officers and are members of the Executive Committee.

Recognizing that not all positions may be filled, additional positions can be filled at any time as needed upon approval of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 1 – ELECTIONS

Section 4. ~~All~~ These elected officers are eligible for re-election for one additional two-year term in the same office for a maximum of 4 years in the same office. ~~A with the exception of the~~ treasurer who can be re-elected for two additional two-year terms for a maximum of six years in the same office.

ARTICLE 2 – MEETINGS

Section 5. The following Conference and District officers are required to attend ~~the~~ annual Leadership Development Retreat in the fall leadership training: Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and Mission u Business Manager, Committee on Nominations, Program Coordinators, Mission Coordinators, Communication Coordinators, and Conference Technology Coordinator, and additional positions as determined by ...

ARTICLE 3 – FUNDS

Section 5. From the A&MD Fund, the Conference shall make the following provisions within the Conference:

- A. Upon election the Conference President will be given a President's Pin and the use of a Conference gavel. Upon completion of a two-year term the President shall be given ~~a sapphire~~ a pearl Special Mission Recognition (SMR). In addition, ~~an emerald~~ a ruby SMR shall be given for a retiring Conference President serving four years.
- B. Upon completion of a two-year term in office each elected Conference officer shall be given ~~a sapphire~~ a pearl Special Mission Recognition (SMR). A Gift to Mission shall be given in honor of all officers completing a second two-year term in office. In addition, if the treasurer is elected to a third two-year term, a Gift to Mission shall be given in her honor when that term is completed.
- C. The Dean of Mission u shall receive ~~a pearl~~ an emerald SMR upon completion of a two-year term in office. The Assistant Dean of Mission u shall receive ~~a Gift to Mission~~ a sapphire SMR upon completion of a two-year term in office.
- D. The Registrar of Mission u shall receive ~~a sapphire~~ a pearl SMR upon completion of a two-year term in office. The Assistant Registrar of Mission u shall receive ~~a Gift to Mission~~ a sapphire SMR upon completion of a two-year term in office.
- E. The Business Manager of Mission u shall receive ~~a sapphire~~ a pearl SMR upon completion of a two-year term in office and a Gift to Mission upon completing a second two-year term in office.
- F. Committee on Nominations shall receive ~~a sapphire~~ a pearl SMR on completion of a four-year term.
- G. Any officer ending ~~servng a partial~~ term less than two years shall receive a Gift to Mission.
- H. Upon the death of a sitting Conference officer or District president, a Gift in Memory shall be given to UMW National.
- I. An appointed Conference officer shall receive ~~a sapphire~~ a pearl SMR upon completion of a four-year term.

ARTICLE 4 – EXPENSES OF OFFICERS

Section 3. Reservations for lodging and meals for which the Conference pays will not be made for any person who does not make a reservation by the designated deadline. Except for sudden illness or death in the immediate family, persons who cancel after final figures are given to the host group, or who do not honor reservations they have made, will be expected to pay ~~their own expenses~~ any expenses incurred.

ARTICLE 4 – EXPENSES OF OFFICERS

Section 4. The Conference shall pay transportation to members of the Conference Executive Committee to required meetings at the Conference UMW established rate. The Districts shall also pay members of the District ~~Mission~~ Leadership Team at the Conference UMW established rate.

ARTICLE 5 – COMMITTEES –

Section 5. Program planning shall be done by a Committee composed of the Program Coordinator as chair, President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair of the Committee on Nominations or designated member of the Committee on Nominations, ~~four (4) Mission Coordinators, the District Presidents,~~ a District President, a Mission Coordinator, and additional persons as needed.

Submitted by the Standing Rules Committee: Shirley Durr (chair), Myrna Kuehl, Sandy Walls Meyer, Cindy Saufferer, Teri Arnold, Linda Brinster, Linda Kotschevar, Becky Coleman

Nominations Report Fall 2020

The Conference UMW Committee on Nominations works hard to identify and invite women into conference positions of leadership. This happens through informal conversations during district and conference events or visits with local UMW units, as well as direct conversations with women recommended for a particular position.

The Coronavirus pandemic has upended our process, just as it has upended all aspects of our lives. We have been unable to have those vital conversations. We are unable to present a nominee to be elected as treasurer or a full slate for appointments for other positions. Since our annual gathering will be virtual, we cannot accept nominations from the floor. HOWEVER, we can receive your nominations and suggestions through October 1 in place of those nominations from the floor.

To submit a name for nomination, you must secure the permission of the woman you are nominating and send her name with full contact information and address to the Committee on Nominations, either Shirley Durr (Shirley.durr@gmail.com) or Becky Coleman (BeckyC57@gmail.com). The Conference Executive Team will fill any vacant positions after the Annual Meeting October 10. working with the Committee on Nominations -- Thalia Duffield, Janet Ewing, and Barb Hanson as well as Becky and Shirley.

Slate of Officers to be Elected

- Open Position: Treasurer

Officers Recommended for Appointment

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Membership Nurture and Outreach

Resource Manager

Committee on Nominations:

Class of 2023: one position

Class of 2024: Mary Jane Reetz is recommended for appointment; one position open

Technology Coordinator

Officer Update Processor

Directory Project Leader: Teresa Riecke recommended for appointment

We have full job descriptions for each position that we can provide to anyone who is interested. While most positions include attendance at meetings, most of our meetings have options for virtual attendance. We've also included "thumbnail" descriptions below.

Treasurer: The woman in this elected position receives, remits, and disburses funds; and she prepares itemized financial statements and written reports at least quarterly. She also maintains and updates records of financial

transactions using accounting software and incorporating data from Vanco, our online payment platform, into those records. In addition, the treasurer chairs the Finance Team and working with District treasurers creates a budget. She serves as the contact person for District treasurers, providing resources and conducting training.

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: As a member of the Executive Team, this coordinator **works with the leadership to provide worship coordination for all MN Conference UMW events and devotions for MN Conference UMW meetings. She also organizes a Spiritual Growth Retreat every other year and also serves as contact person for District Spiritual Growth Coordinators, developing and/or curating spiritual growth resources to share.**

Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator: This mission coordinator promotes the collection of data regarding local and district UMW units and promotes membership cultivation at all levels. She also works with the Executive Team to become a supportive community, encouraging mentoring and valuing inclusion. Through various communication channels, she shares UMW-related achievements, milestones and activities.

Resource Manager: The responsibilities of this position are evolving since UMW no longer sells books. The Resource Manager continues to promote the UMW Reading Program as well as subscription and reading of Response magazine and other resources (including videos, podcasts, etc.) available through the UMW National Office.

Member of the Committee on Nominations: The woman in this appointed position works with the Committee to engage and invite women into leadership. She also assists in assessing and creating the slate of nominees and recommendations for the Executive Team and the membership.

Technology Coordinator: The woman in this position needs proficiency and experience with at least one slide presentation program and related technology, software, and hardware as well as familiarity with a variety of audio visual equipment and related systems. She also needs familiarity with or willingness to learn about at least one virtual conferencing platform. She collaborates with and provides support to the Program Coordinator and Mission u Team on issues related to technology needs at Conference UMW events and meetings.

Officer Update Processor: The woman in this appointed position should have some familiarity with databases (Excel spreadsheet or other software). She updates a database (name, position, address, phone, email, etc.) for Conference, District, and local unit officers. She also sends a brief activity report to the MN&O Coordinator and the President.

Church Women United of Minnesota Virtual Annual Meeting



Founded in 1941, Church Women United (CWU) is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women's movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. CWU engages millions of women representing twenty-six supporting denominations and participating Christian women. Church Women United will be celebrating its 80th Anniversary in 2021. Visit the website: www.churchwomenunited.net

ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, September 12 from 1-3 pm Registration deadline is September 1

ALL are welcome. Invite a friend!

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://forms.gle/kroHXGMMmovToVEc7>

For information how to join and/or to be added to the email list for meeting notices contact: Sandy Meyer 952-270-1157 sandrimeyer51@hotmail.com

World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women

Virtual Regional Seminar

Region 4 Midwest

Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Indiana

Saturday, October 10, 2020 Via Zoom

10:00 am – 1:00 pm CST

Mrs. Geraldine Walker, Chairperson

Dr. Sandra L. Gadson, North American President

THEME: Chosen People Called to Proclaim

Please wear something green



FEE \$10.00 Checks Payable to Daniel Chapel AME Zion Church or
CashApp: \$DanielChapel (state registration in memo field)

Mail Check to:
Mrs. Rise' L. Rankin
2808 Greenwood Road
Hazel Crest, IL 60429

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8208469943?pwd=eGVKZ25PWUczalBIODRVcFR0Ymsydz09>

Meeting ID: 820 846 9943

Passcode: 7N4rvJ

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,8208469943#,,,,,0#,,420262# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,8208469943#,,,,,0#,,420262# US (New York)

**World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
Registration Form (Please Print)
Deadline September 30, 2020**

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____

Telephone () _____ Email: _____

Region: _____

Please Circle one: AME AMEZ CME UMW MCCA OTHER

Amount Enclosed \$ _____



Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting via ZOOM Meeting Registration

Saturday, October 10, 2020 from 10 AM to noon

There is **no fee** to attend this meeting, but you must supply an email address to receive the invitation to the ZOOM meeting and materials for voting at the Business Meeting.

Please fill out the following information and mail it **BEFORE October 1, 2020** to:

Sandy Meyer
8724 Valley View Place
Chanhassen, MN 55317
Questions? Call Sandy at 952-270-1157

Please PRINT legibly

First Name _____
Last Name _____
Phone number _____
Email address _____
District Name _____
Local Unit Name _____
Local Unit Church _____
Local Unit City _____

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to connect with your UMW sisters from around the state. If you don't have email you are welcome to invite a friend or family member to register their email and then communicate all of the information to you. You can even access the ZOOM meeting by telephone!

From National United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women Announces 2020-2024 Board, Program Advisory Group

August 18, 2020, NEW YORK—United Methodist Women today announced the names of its new 25-member board of directors and a new Program Advisory Group for the 2020-2024 quadrennium.

Conference United Methodist Women delegates elected 20 new directors to represent their respective areas in virtual jurisdiction meetings convened in June after the physical meetings were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Five additional directors were selected by the extended governance committee of the outgoing board to enhance age and racial diversity of the board. A nominating committee from the outgoing board also named members to serve on the organization's Program Advisory Group for the upcoming quadrennium.

The new board and Program Advisory Group will be voted in at United Methodist Women's annual meeting in October.

Nominated officers for the new board are:

President: Ainise Isama'u | California Pacific Conference

Vice President: Cynthia Rives | North Texas Conference

Secretary: Bethany Amey Sutton | Greater New Jersey Conference

Chair, Finance: Heidi J. Careaga | Wisconsin Conference

Chair, Governance: Daryl Junes Joe | New Mexico Conference

The 20 board members elected in by United Methodist Women Jurisdiction meeting delegates for North Central Jurisdiction are

Ruby Anderson | Michigan Conference

Dawn Armstrong | Dakotas Conference

Krishna Heyward | Indiana Conference

Roxie Hutsell | West Ohio Conference

Alternates

Lynn Calvert | Iowa Conference

Camille McCaskill | Illinois Great Rivers

Program Advisory Group nominees for: North Central Jurisdiction are

Marchelle Phelps | Michigan Conference | *Jurisdiction President*

Rita Carter | Iowa Conference

Kim Harris | Minnesota Conference

Sandra Hodge | East Ohio Conference

Rita L. Smith | Northern Illinois Conference

Alice Staley | Illinois Great River Conference

For a complete list go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-announces-2020-2024-board-of-directors>

2021-2024 Handbook

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/2021-2024-handbook>

The **2021–2024 Handbook** offers guidance on how to organize in ways that help fulfill United Methodist Women’s Purpose and best use the gifts of members to meet the needs of our community in the world. It includes policies and guidelines, such as bylaws, specific roles and responsibilities of leaders, how finances are handled and ways to organize.

The complete 2021–2024 Handbook will be forthcoming after the General Conference 2021, digitally and in print, and will incorporate changes resulting from General Conference decisions.

Starting in the summer of 2020 the policies and guidelines are being offered **online only** to help you to organize and carry out your work effectively until the complete Handbook is published. Please check this page periodically for helpful resources.

2021-2024 Handbook:

 [Constitution and Bylaws](#)

 [Funding the Mission: Finance Policies and Directions](#)

 [Forms for Treasurers](#)

Black Lives Matter to God and Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women continues to grieve the extrajudicial killings of Black people in America. It has only been a few weeks since we [spoke out against the killing of Ahmaud Arbery](#), and in that time two more killings have shaken the country: the death of Breonna Taylor in her own home in Louisville and the death of George Floyd on a public street in Minneapolis. United Methodist Women grieves with the families of those who have been killed.

United Methodist Women condemns the culture of White supremacy and the racism it nurtures. We decry the criminalization of Blackness as it shows up in these most extreme, fatal cases *and* as it appears in the everyday harassment that disrupts everyday life—from coffee shop meetings to street corner catchups to, most recently, even solo birdwatching. Such racial harassment exhausts the mind, body and spirit of many in the family of God.

At times, United Methodist Women members and leaders have been complicit in this violence: When Ida B. Wells invited legendary lay leader Frances Willard to join in the antilynching movement, Willard said no, in a haunting refusal of solidarity under the false belief that lynching was “necessary” to protect White women. At other times, however, United Methodist Women—of all racial identities—have been inspirational leaders in the work of racial justice: 90 years ago, Jessie Daniel Ames helped found the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; Mary McLeod Bethune, in addition to an incredible legacy of educational leadership, also campaigned actively against lynching and other forms of racial violence; and in the mid-20th century it was United Methodist Women members who led the struggle for the denomination’s adoption of the Charter for Racial Justice even as their mission dollars helped finance bail funds for those jailed in the Civil Rights Movement. Then, as now, work for racial justice does not just come naturally; it is work against resistance, and therefore must be an active discipleship choice we make each day.

We are committed to choosing justice. We also realize that there is no easy fix. There exists no single, one-time action that can undo a multigenerational legacy of racist violence. But we at United Methodist Women commit to engaging in the ongoing work, guided by the promise that God's future is far brighter than the present moment.

To that end:

- **Mission Giving:** United Methodist Women National Office is making a special gift this week of \$21,000 to organizations demanding justice and accountability for the recent deaths of Arbery, Taylor and Floyd. We will be granting \$7,000 each to support **NAACP Georgia** in its work with Just Georgia, the **Louisville Community Bail Fund** organized by Black Lives Matter Louisville, and the **Minnesota Healing Justice Network**. We are grateful for the work of both emerging, next-generation organizations and long-serving civil rights groups. We hope that this gift inspires others in our organization to give, likewise, to the local organizations that are most effectively doing antiracist work in their own communities.
- **Witness for Justice:** United Methodist Women commits that we will continue to speak out against extrajudicial killings and the culture of White supremacy and racism that undergirds these killings. We will use our public voice to bear witness. We will seek to amplify the voices of others who have been speaking out and whose voices are underrepresented in media. We will do so via virtual means, as long as is

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necessary, and we will do so in bodily presence, whenever it is again safe to gather. We encourage all members to do the same.

- **Transformative Education:** United Methodist Women encourages members to engage in the work of ongoing antiracist learning, recognizing that—especially for White folks—ongoing antiracist learning and self-reflection is not a one-time experience but must be, instead, a sustained spiritual practice. If unsure where to begin, we recommend that you read and study *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, an important introduction to this work. This is a 2020 United Methodist Women Reading Program selection bonus book. You may also join a free, self-paced, [online class on the book](#), if you so choose.

We invite conferences, districts and local units to join this work in the ways that are most appropriate and fitting to their settings, committing to support and work in partnership with the local groups that are most effectively doing the work and leading the way.

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Bishop's Episcopal Address: 'A Light Rising in the Darkness'



By: Christa Meland

“Our world has changed. And our methods of doing ministry have changed...Being a leader in the church today requires a new imagination for what the church looks like and acts like. But what has not changed is our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ who are equipped and motivated to change the world.”

That's what Bishop Bruce R. Ough told more than 500 people gathered virtually during his final Episcopal Address to the Minnesota Conference on Aug. 29 (watch it [here](#)). In a very different kind of Annual Conference that took place amid the COVID-19 pandemic, United Methodists from churches across Minnesota came together to worship, celebrate what we have accomplished together, enact legislation, and be reminded what it means to be the light and live hope in a world filled with darkness.

Ough reminded those gathered remotely that in the midst of our being overwhelmed by disruption, death, disappointment, and despair amid COVID-19, the killing of George Floyd, and the unresolved division within our denomination, God speaks to us through the prophet Isaiah, who told his people exiled in Babylon, “Sing to the Lord a new song; sing praise to God from the end of the earth!” (Isaiah 42:10a).

The reason for striking up a “new song” in this liminal and divergent season is because God has already promised to deliver us, to never let us go, to hold us in the palm of God's hand, and to lift us up as on eagle's wings.

“The new thing God is doing in our lives, in our churches, in our denomination, in our communities demands a new song,” Ough told viewers. “A resurrection demands a new voice. The new creation demands we live the hope to which we have been called.”

For the complete story please go to

<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/bishops-episcopal-address-14229668>

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