



# BEACON

*A Newsletter for United Methodist Women of the Big Waters District*



## The Purpose of United Methodist Women

*United Methodist women shall be 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.*

## Cancellation of Fall Gathering

### Annual Business Meeting to be Held Via Email, Phone & Mail



Ordinarily, the *Annual Business Meeting* is held during our Fall Gathering to approve a new budget, elect officers for the upcoming year and approve the previous year's minutes. These are not ordinary times. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to extraordinary government responses. To meet public health guidelines, organizations like ours must suspend regular meetings. While we cannot meet in person for the indefinite future we must facilitate a way to take care of annual meeting business.

The District has decided to include a 2020 Annual Meeting Supplement in this newsletter and ask for **your vote to approve four items by email, phone or mail**. These items include: 1) 2021 Budget, 2) 2021 Pledge to Mission, 3) 2021 Emma Norton Goal and 4) 2020 Slate of Officers. All votes must be submitted by September 15, 2020. Please refer to the supplement at the end of this newsletter for business meeting materials as well as instructions for voting.

The only thing missing in this plan is the personal contact all of us are longing for right now. The smiles, hugs and fellowship we share at our gatherings is something we all look forward to this time of year. God willing, we will be back together and enjoying a "face-to-face" supportive fellowship at our Spring Gathering!

***Annual Meeting Supplement begins on page 10.  
Vote between now and September 15!***

## From Your Big Waters President

Joyce Stobb, District President



Greetings Big Waters UMW- please take a minute to read! This has been a very different time that we have had to adjust to. I hope this finds you all well and having a very good summer. Even though we had to cancel everything concerning our Fall Gathering there are a couple of things we are required to do. Our Fall Gathering would have been our annual meeting also and being such I have been informed we must have our election of officers for 2021 and vote on our 2021 budget and pledges.

In the back of this newsletter you will find an Annual Meeting Supplement with the list of Big Waters Executive Team Officers as nominated by the Nominations Committee. You will also find the 2021 budget as presented by Diane Bubnitz, our Treasurer, as well as the recommendations for the Pledge to Mission and the Emma Norton Goal. Please vote yes or no to me by email, phone, or mail on these four items by September 15<sup>th</sup> so I can get a report in to the Conference as soon as possible.

You will also find the minutes from the 2019 Annual Meeting and a YTD Financial Report for 2020. If you see any additions or corrections to the minutes please let me know and the minutes will be accepted as presented. If you have any questions on the Financial Report let our Treasurer know and that report will be accepted subject to audit.

Hopefully, all the other Executive Team committees have been able to provide a report, even though small as it may be, since we have been unable to have any gatherings this year. Let us look forward to 2021. This will basically be considered our 2020 Annual Meeting. My contact information is email: [joycestobb@gmail.com](mailto:joycestobb@gmail.com), phone: 320-369-4259 and address: 12846 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Milaca, MN 56353.

Thank you very much. God's blessings to you. Fear not, have faith, for we are all in God's hands.

**Joyce**

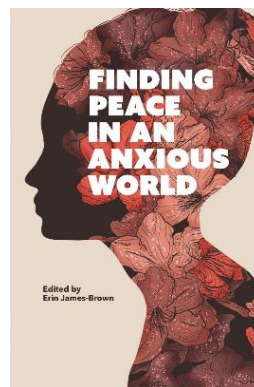
## Conference UMW to Hold Virtual Fall Annual Meeting & Leadership Development Retreat

Meet United Methodist Women at your computer for two upcoming Conference fall events. Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 10, from 10:00am – noon for the Annual Meeting. Join us on Zoom for a morning of music, worship, business and learning. Registration will take place by mail or online with agendas and business meeting information sent to all who register. A Zoom invitation will be sent out to all registrants in advance.

The Leadership Development Retreat will also be a virtual event this year but much shorter than usual. It will take place on Saturday, October 25. Be sure to check the upcoming September *Fresh Connection* for further information on both these events.

## Mission u Update

Myrna Kuehl, Mission u Dean



We were disappointed that Mission u had to be cancelled this year. The national office has posted some videos for our use in studying “Peace in an Anxious World”. A leader’s guide is also available on the website. There are also discussion questions at the end of each chapter in the book. Videos and a participant's

guide are available for free download on the UMW website. Go to:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world>

Both studies that were planned for this year will be offered at Mission u 2021 – July 16 through July 18. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

## Membership Nurture & Outreach

Vicky Clausen, MN&O Mission Coordinator



It's amazing to me how a book, written a few years ago, can be so relevant today. "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" is one of the study books to be used for Mission U this year. The Serenity Prayer and Proverbs were used as the outline. Anxiety

is the main theme and how to achieve serenity and peace through prayer. There are four chapters in the study using each line of the Serenity Prayer as the guide. It has been a wonderful reminder for me to let go of 'things I cannot change'. This was an important life lesson I learned as I struggled through many AIA non meetings over the years.

I'm sure we all had busy calendars at the beginning of March and suddenly everything stopped. We were told to self-isolate and wear masks and social distance when going out. Our calendars became empty and all socialization ended. We are a social people and being told not to gather with family and friends has been difficult for all of us. I miss hugs from my family when I'm able to see them and gathering with my friends. It did become easier when the weather became nicer and we could gather outside but stay 6 feet apart.

Four of us from our local UMW unit decided to meet on the patio at our church and study this book. It has been wonderful to get together, do this study and find how appropriate it is for these times. How has your local unit stayed in touch with each other? Do you have a telephone chain to check in with each other? Do you Facetime or use Zoom? Are you anxious about what is happening in our world? We need to stay connected until we can gather again safely. We need to be mindful of the struggles some may be going through during this time of isolation. One of my struggles has been loneliness and I'm sure there are many dealing with the same feelings. Call someone on the phone or Facetime them if possible. Get together somewhere outside for a visit. Let them know you care. We will get through this TOGETHER!

## Financial Update

Diane Bublitz, Treasurer

In a "normal" year we recognize *Five Star* units from the previous year at the Spring Gathering and were hoping to do so at our Fall Gathering which we now understand cannot safely happen. Instead I will be mailing certificates to unit presidents. The following units met the criteria for *Five Star* recognition: **Anoka, Asbury-Duluth, Bethel-Mound, Brainerd Park, Champlin, Community United-Monticello, First-Duluth, First-St Cloud Region, Forbes, Forest Hills, Freshwaters, Immanuel, Milaca, Moose Lake, Ogilvie, Osseo, White Bear Lake & Zion.** To qualify for *Five Star* status the unit must give to: Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering.

As of early August the Big Waters District has reached 24% or \$13,125 of our Pledge to Mission. Last year for the same period, we were at 45% or \$25,604 of the \$57,000 pledge and our final total giving was \$54,556.

Support for Emma Norton is at 47% or \$3,775 while last year for the same period we had achieved 57% or \$4,596 of our \$8,000 pledge. In 2019 we exceeded our goal for Emma Norton with total giving of \$8,455.

Due to the pandemic, we have had to cancel UMW activities, including the fund raisers we use to raise money for missions. Mission support is more important than ever as the virus has spread around the world and has impacted low income and minority communities especially hard. We all need to put on our creative hats to come up with innovative ways to raise money for our mission pledge. One idea is asking members and others to donate money equivalent to what they would have spent in time and money to create fund raisers.



<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150>

## Reading Program Resources

Patience Gall, Resources Manager

The Covid-19 virus prevented us from having our usual Spring District Meeting. If we had been able to hold it, twenty-two women would have received certificates for completing the reading program in 2019. These wonderful readers will still receive their certificates, but this year it will be by mail. I will send the certificates to the Program Resources Chairperson in the individual churches, and she can present them to our readers. This year Coon Rapids UMW led the pack with seven readers to be awarded their reading certificates. Congratulations to all of our readers!

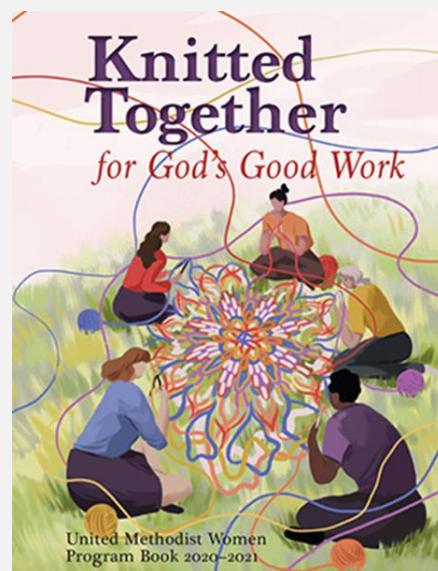
The individuals completing Plan I having read 5 books are: Avon Power, Asbury; Barb Boevers, Mary Jane Reetz, and Wilma Roberts, Brainerd Park; Maureen Johnson, Community Monticello; Vonda Atkinson, Gail Chalbi, Susie Dehne, Marylee Greeley, Myrna Kuehl, Nancy Mahowald, and Sophia Mahowald, Coon Rapids; Ruth Pfaller, Moose Lake; Patience Gall and Kandis Will, Osseo; Clarice Harman, Freshwaters; and Dorothy Stueve, St. Cloud First.

Plan II readers who completed 10 books in 2019 are: Patty Bennett, Caroline Carlson, and Judy Pearson, Asbury. Our Plan III reader who completed 15 books was Jan Akervid, Asbury. Finally, our Plan IV reader who read 20 books this past year was Mary Ann Rick, Immanuel Corcoran.

We hope you have been reading the 2020 books during the pandemic. You can read guilt free because you are sheltering in place in order to keep the virus from spreading further, and what better way to improve your mind during this time than reading a book! You may obtain your books at the public libraries, Mission Resource Center, Amazon.com, or your local book store. Do comparison shopping to purchase books. Amazon has some of the books formatted for Kindle as well. Your local library will likely have copies of some or all of the books on the list. Check the Minnesota United Methodist Women website in October or later for the list of 2021 books for next year.

The purpose of the reading program is to grow in understanding of our Christian faith and our involvement in local and global Christian mission. When your church members have completed the reading (Level I, II, III, or IV) for this year, send a list of the participants and their books read to: Patience Gall, 8123 Maple Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311, or my email address: [bpgall@comcast.net](mailto:bpgall@comcast.net). Completion certificates for 2020 will be presented to participants at our Spring Gathering in 2021.

### *United Methodist Women Program Book 2020-2021*



Knitted Together for God's Good Work explores how we as children of God are joined and linked together into the whole body of Christ. Even at times when social distancing or other obstacles may keep us physically apart, we are knit together in community to transform the world.

New This Year: To ensure that everyone can join together virtually for monthly study and bonding, instructions on how to use videoconferencing platforms are provided, along with suggestions on how to adjust program activities for these forums.

You can order your copy today by going to <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/> or call in your order and pay by check at 1-800-305-9857.



## Social Action Report

Ruth Pfaller, Social Action Coordinator

We've had quite a year so far; the pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the protests that followed. Just when the church and the nation need to confront the unequal use of power in law enforcement and systemic racism, we are stymied by trying to keep people safe from Covid19. Most Methodist Churches in Minnesota are finding a "new normal" in reaching their members and working together for justice matters.

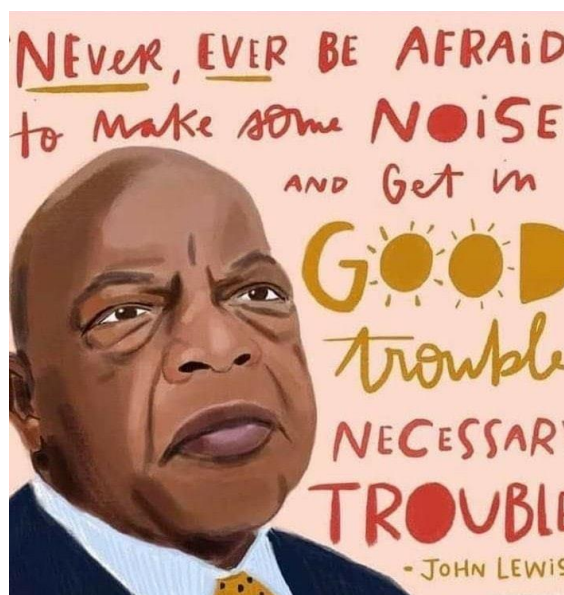
The National UMW has recently announced they will reduce the number of priorities this quadrennium (2021-2024) so that we can focus our time and energy deeper into two issues: **Climate Justice**, with a particular focus on *Just Energy 4 All* campaign and **Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color**, with a particular focus on the *Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline* campaign. As Mollie James-Vickery (Director of Mobilization and Advocacy for UMW) stated, "Our work on these issues consistently reveals the intersections with gender inequity, racial and economic injustice, placing us in a unique position to lead as the nation assesses the role of systemic racism."

Resources on our issues for this quadrennium (Maternal and Child Health and Economic Justice/Living Wage) will continue to be available on the United Methodist Women website through 2022 for use by members. United Methodist Women has a long-standing commitment to eradicating racism. We began this work over 100 years ago and regularly re-commit to anti-racist work to dismantle structural racism. We know that all people are beloved in God's eyes, and until they are loved in the eyes of all, our work continues.

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition's (JRLC) annual Day on the Hill was cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. We were directed to make calls to our legislators and the Governor's office in the final days of the June Special Session and had a major victory; the Legislature voted to increase provider rates for the Child Care Assistance Program, serving

Minnesota's low and moderate income families! The Legislature's second special session adjourned in the early hours of July 21st. The House and Senate reached agreement on a package of police accountability bills but failed to pass a bonding bill which would have allocated money for public housing. JRLC encourages everyone to exercise their right to vote!

Everyone please stay safe and hopefully we will be able to meet again in 2021!



### ***Black Lives Matter to God - Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women***

United Methodist Women National Office has made a special gift through Mission Giving of \$21,000 to organizations demanding justice and accountability for the recent deaths of Arbery, Taylor and Floyd. They have granted \$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**. United Methodist Women is grateful for the work of both emerging, next-generation organizations and long-serving civil rights groups. It is hoped that this gift inspires members in our organization to give, likewise, to the local organizations that are most effectively doing antiracist work in their own communities.

## MISSION AROUND THE WORLD

Carolyn Garven, Education & Interpretation  
Mission Coordinator



Women in the United Methodist traditions were profoundly impacted by their study of the doctrine of the kingdom of God. They understood it to be something that only God could bring about, but they also understood that the Creator wanted to use them in the process of making the world more like it should be for all people.

Their work benefited women and children who lived all around the world, but it also empowered the women at home. “And the feeling that they were entrusted with an important department of a great cause, which will prosper or fail as they prosper or fail,” wrote Patricia Hill in a January 1878 issue of *Woman's Work for Woman*, “has given them an inspiration, a steadiness of purpose, a business tact, and an executive ability, which have awakened admiration on every hand.” Their studies about the lands where missionaries served broadened women's cultural horizons. Participating in other societies developed and transmitted leadership skills.

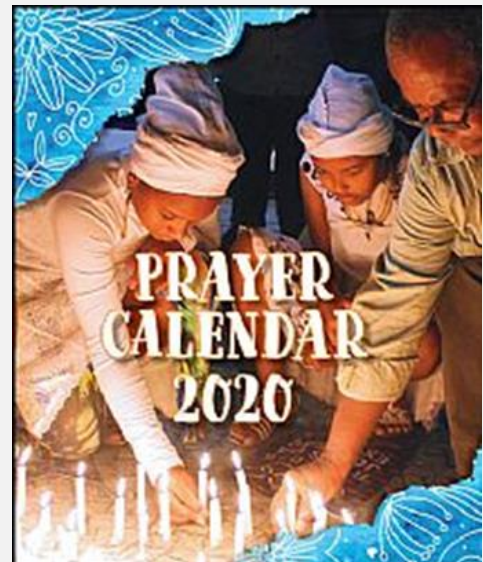
Acquiring leadership skills encouraged women to play a more public role within the context of the church at large. Membership gave women experience in creating effective organization structures and in managing large sums of money and in editing and publishing journals...journals dedicated women wrote, edited, and distributed to thousands upon thousands of society members. Through these magazines, readers felt they came to know the missionaries who were representing them in places where they could not go themselves.

Through the decades, the magazines remained an important means of communication. During the Evangelical United Brethren's existence (1946-1968)

two-thirds of the Women's Society of World Service members subscribed to *The World Evangel* edited by Mary McLanachan. Its content forged a vital link between the experiences of missionaries on the field and local congregations at home. It gave the name and identity of each missionary for the local churches. A later editor described the women's magazine as a kind of family record of real persons and their struggles on the mission field, persons we knew and loved.

Written by Ellen Blue, *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission*. United Methodist Women, 2019.

### *The United Methodist Women Prayer Calendar*



The 2020 Prayer Calendar explores light—the experience of God's light shining on and through us. It uses words and images to bear witness to God's light and to dramatize the various ways in which holy light brightens our individual and corporate dark places. The prayers help us to shine light on situations and sorrows in our world, challenging us to expose abuse and evil that leave many people in shadows of despair and fear.

Order one for yourself or your unit at <https://www.umwmissionresources.org/> or call in your order and pay by check at 1-800-305-9857.



## Committee on Nominations Report

Peggy Crooms – Chair, Committee on Nominations

One fine day you will look around,  
And Covid-19 will not be found,  
You will come out of your house and look around,  
You will realize you need to get involved,  
And you will see District UMW needs your help NOW!

Please consider getting involved with Big Waters District UMW. We need your talent and your caring hearts.

😊 Contact Peggy Crooms at [peggy12@hotmail.com](mailto:peggy12@hotmail.com) 320-429-2131 or Audrey Bowe at 320-982-1280.  
May God's blessings be upon you.

## 2020 OFFICER RECOGNITIONS

1. For completion of a first term in office a *Special Mission Recognition Pin* will be given to:
  - Ruth Pfaller – Social Action Mission Coordinator/1<sup>st</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year
2. For completion of a second term in office a *Gift to Mission* will be given in the name of:
  - Diane Bublitx – Treasurer/2<sup>nd</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year
  - Patience Gall – Resources Manager/2<sup>nd</sup> term, 2<sup>nd</sup> year
3. For completion of a four year term on the Committee on Nominations a *Special Mission Recognition Pin* will be given to:
  - Mary Wiegand – Class of 2020

## 2020 RETIRING BIG WATERS OFFICERS

A big thank you goes out to these retiring Big Waters officers for their hard work and dedication to our District Executive Team. Their combined time in office represents over 18 years of service to the District and Conference. Their commitment to United Methodist Women is much appreciated!



**Patience Gall** is retiring as the Resources Manager. Patience has also served as the District and Conference Treasurer.

**Mary Wiegand** is retiring as a Committee on Nominations member but will remain on the team as the Resources Manager. Mary has also served as the Education & Interpretation Coordinator.

**Tricia Truwe** is retiring as the Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator.

## Help Welcome New Residents to Emma Norton

### Move-In Totes and Welcome Baskets Urgently Needed



With the pandemic continuing indefinitely and the need for supportive housing increasing, we are moving forward with new intakes. Our program staff across all programs have let us know that this is their biggest need for our residents right now! Many people coming into our programs have few personal possessions due to the challenges of homelessness; by donating a Welcome Basket or Move-In Tote you can help us settle them into their new home, and start them off right on their journey of self-acceptance and empowerment.

#### **A Welcome Basket includes a laundry basket with the following:**

Flat and fitted twin sheets, pillow and pillow case, blanket (comforter, quilt, winter blankets), hand & bath towels, toothbrush and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap, deodorant, and a coffee mug. Some extra items that are also appreciated but not necessary include a lint roller, a 4x6 picture frame, lotion, and a journal.

#### **A Move-In Tote includes a large tote (recommended size: 44 gallons) with the following:**

1 roll paper towel, 1 box facial tissues, 4 rolls toilet paper, 1 container disinfecting wipes, 1 bottle multi-purpose cleaner, 1 bottle toilet bowl cleaner, 1 toilet bowl scrubber, 1 box of large garbage bags, 1 bottle laundry detergent, 1 bottle hand soap, 1 bottle dish soap, 2 sponges, 2 dish cloths, 4 plastic plates, 4 plastic tumblers, 4 sets of cutlery, 1 kitchen towel, 1 shower curtain, 1 package shower curtain rings, 2 hand towels, 2 washcloths, 3 bars body soap, 1 deodorant, 1 tube toothpaste, 4 toothbrushes, 1 floss, 1 bottle shampoo, 1 bottle conditioner, 1 box assorted bandages, 1 box rolled gauze, 1 roll medical tape, 1 box gauze pads, 1 box alcohol prep pads, 1 tube antibiotic ointment, 1 tube hydrocortisone cream, 2 lightbulbs, 1 blanket (twin or queen), 2 bath towels, 1 bed sheet set (twin or queen).

Donations can be shipped directly to ENR or please contact Victoria Virasy-Ertelt at [virasy@emmanorton.org](mailto:virasy@emmanorton.org) to make a plan for a safe drop off as no guests are allowed at ENR at this time.

## Emma Norton Opening Doors Gala



Thanks to the generous support and promotion given by Emma Norton's community, their inaugural digital fundraiser was a huge success! Over 300 people joined the event livestream, and over a hundred more have watched the Opening Doors Gala on YouTube since the event ended. Importantly, they surpassed their fundraising goal, and raised more than \$82,000! This will be critical to the funding of programs through this unprecedented year and beyond.

If you missed the Opening Doors Gala, you can still watch it on YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vgUuAcOTKzI>



# 100 Years of Women's Suffrage



August 26, 2020, marks 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 also 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? Go to [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org).

## CONTACT INFORMATION FOR BIG WATERS DISTRICT OFFICERS

**President** - Joyce Stobb - 12846 100<sup>th</sup> St, Milaca, MN 56353 - 320-369-4259 - [joyce.stobb@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.stobb@gmail.com)

**Program Coordinator** -

**Secretary** - Karen Strobel - 811 S 6<sup>th</sup> St, Brainerd, MN 56041 - 218-829-0958 - [fritz-1234@charter.net](mailto:fritz-1234@charter.net)

**Treasurer** - Diane Bublitz - 1514 Aspen Lane, St. Cloud, MN 56303 - 320-259-1939 - [dmbublitz@q.com](mailto:dmbublitz@q.com)

**Nominations Chair** - Peggy Crooms - 505 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Milaca, MN 56353 - 320-429-2131 - [pegqyc12@hotmail.com](mailto:pegqyc12@hotmail.com)

**Mission Coordinators:**

**Spiritual Growth** - Tricia Truwe - 8461 124<sup>th</sup> Lane N, Champlin, MN 55316 - 763-559-1279

[tricia.50@comcast.net](mailto:tricia.50@comcast.net)

**Membership Nurture & Outreach** - Vicki Clausen - 939 Cypress Rd #21, St. Cloud, MN 56303 - 320-230-6460

[vlcmaisel@gmail.com](mailto:vlcmaisel@gmail.com)

**Education & Interpretation** - Carolyn Garven - 624 Riverside Dr NE, St. Cloud, Mn 56304 - 320-252-7737

[cjgarven@charter.net](mailto:cjgarven@charter.net)

**Social Action** - Ruth Pfaller - 3631 Hillside Dr, Barnum, MN 55707 - 218-213-1841 - [ruthpfaller@gmail.com](mailto:ruthpfaller@gmail.com)

**Committee on Nominations:**

**Class of 2020** - Mary Wiegand - 93900 Twilight Lane, Moose Lake, MN 55767 - 218-485-8545 -

[mwiegand@isd577.org](mailto:mwiegand@isd577.org)

**Class of 2021** - Audrey Bowe - 1255 4<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Milaca, Mn 56353 - 320-982-1280

**Class of 2022** - Peggy Crooms - 505 4<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Milaca, MN 56353 - 320-429-2131 - [pegqyc12@hotmail.com](mailto:pegqyc12@hotmail.com)

**Class of 2023** -

**Resource Manager** - Patience Gall - 8123 Maple Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311 - 763-420-4603 - [bpqall@comcast.net](mailto:bpqall@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Editor** - Linda Kotschevar - 109 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave N, Waite Park, MN 56387 - 320-252-3827 - [jlkotsch@hotmail.com](mailto:jlkotsch@hotmail.com)

**Emma Norton Representative** -

# 2020 Annual Business Meeting Supplement

## Submitting Questions and Further Nominations

1. If you have any questions concerning the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes please direct them to District President, Joyce Stobb, no later than **Tuesday, September 8.**

[joyce.stobb@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.stobb@gmail.com) 320-369-4259

2. The 2021 Budget, Mission Giving Pledge and Emma Norton Goal come as recommendations from the Executive Team. If you have questions concerning the YTD Financial Report, 2021 Budget, 2021 Mission Giving Pledge or 2021 Emma Norton Goal please direct them to the District Treasurer, Diane Bublitz, no later than **Tuesday, September 8.**

[dmbublitz@q.com](mailto:dmbublitz@q.com) 320-259-1939

3. The 2021 Slate of Officers comes as a recommendation from the Committee on Nominations. If you have further nominations for the positions to be elected for 2021 please contact the Committee on Nominations Chairperson, Peggy Crooms, no later than **Tuesday, September 8.**

[peggyc12@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyc12@hotmail.com) 320-982-2250

## Your Vote of Approval is Needed On:

1. Do you approve the adoption of the 2021 Budget?
2. Do you approve the recommendation for the 2021 Pledge to Mission of \$45,900?
3. Do you approve the recommendation for the 2021 Emma Norton Goal of \$6,800?
4. Do you approve the Big Waters Slate of Officers for 2021?

## Submitting Your Vote by Email, Phone or Mail

1. If you approve of the four items to be voted on you can email, phone or mail in your vote.

2. Send your vote to District President, Joyce Stobb at [joyce.stobb@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.stobb@gmail.com), 320-369-4259 or 12846 100<sup>th</sup> Street, Milaca, MN 56353

3. All votes must be received no later than **Tuesday, September 15.**

# **BIG WATERS DISTRICT UMW FALL GATHERING MINUTES**

September 21, 2019

Anoka UMC

The day began with registration, fellowship, book browsing, and muffins with Emma. Gathering hymns were led by Vicki Clausen, accompanied by Gloria Wesloh.

Big Waters UMW District President, Joyce Stobb welcomed everyone.

Welcomes were given by the local unit president, Kim Harris & Anoka UMC Pastor Rachel Warner.

Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Trish Truwe, presented the morning devotions. This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen. The theme dealt with "What is faith & why is it so important to us." Hebrews 11:1 Faith is necessary for a relationship with God. Belief is a strongly held opinion about a world view & can change over time. Faith can only be received. Mary trusted in God. Abraham had faith that God would provide. Esther had faith when she appeared unannounced before a King & Moses had faith to follow God when leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

The business meeting of Big Waters District UMC was called to order by President Joyce Stobb.

Roll call was taken by Secretary Gloria Wesloh. Thirty-six women were in attendance from 11 churches.

The Secretary's report from the 2018 Fall Gathering at Stillwater UMC was approved as presented.

Diane Bublitz presented the Treasurer's Report. The recommendation for the 2020 Pledge of \$57,000 was presented and passed. The 2020 Emma Norton Goal of \$8,000 was presented and passed. December 13th is the deadline for fulfilling your pledges.

Joyce Stobb reported that there are no changes in the Standing Rules.

The Big Waters District Slate of Officers for 2020 was presented & accepted. New Officers: Karen Strobel - Secretary, Mary Wiegand - Nominations, Karen Garven - E & I

Joyce is seeking ideas to get more attendees for our meetings. Sending out a letter just about the gatherings, personal invites, bring some one with you, a complete description of meeting in newsletter then put in church bulletin, an invite on Facebook were some suggestions to increase attendance.

Patience Gall made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mary Wiegand seconded it. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gloria Wesloh - Big Waters District UMW Secretary

The offering of \$595 will have half going to UMW missions and the other half to JRLC. Muffins with Emma Norton totaled \$224.

## **SPEAKERS, REPORTS, ETC.**

Social Action Coordinator Ruth Pfaller introduced the guest speakers for the morning, Mary Bumgartner. & Ann Crisnic from JRLC. Part of what they do is advocacy training. Minnesota is one of a few states that has a Joint Religious Legislative Coalition. They have position papers on many different issues. The primary focus of Day on the Hill is to meet your representatives. (April 1st in 2020.). There is no state office overseeing poverty. Faith contacts have an incredible amount of power. The more you contact your legislators the more effective you are.

Linda Kotschevar, Conference Social Action Coordinator reported on the UMW postcard campaign (Social Action Priority). The Maternal Mortality Review Board in Minnesota is supposed to check & report on Mortality & Morbidity. The board is not active and it is not funded. A bill urging the state representatives & state senators to vote for funding is urgently needed. The postcards need your name & address & a personal message indicating that the US has the worse mortality rate of any developing country.

Program Resource Coordinator Patience Gall reported her job is shrinking. Right now there is a list of books for 2020 but no information about the books. Google UMW Reading Program after December 1st. For more information. Books can be obtained from Amazon. Patience gave a book report on the book Eleanor.

Mary Jane Reetz reported on Better, Waking Up to Be What You Can Be. The chapter she picked was based on Zacchaeus. He vowed to live his life differently after meeting Jesus.

Mary Wiegand E & I Coordinator highlighted the Mission Today Report. The reports are due now and are found in the middle of the UMW Directory. Kim Harris has UMW Services you can use. Report your reading on the Mission Today Report, too.

The Anoka UMW served a delicious lunch of chicken salad with chow mien noodles, croissants, grapes, veggies, and cookies.

Carolyn Garven reported that Emma Norton Services is also using scattered site-housing. Residents must be homeless & have a documented health condition. The women aren't allowed to fail. If something goes wrong they have consultants to help them. First housing is found then harm reduction is addressed. The sanctuary model is used where people feel safe. Tonya Brown was given an award for being the top non-profit executive director in Minnesota.

Vicky Clausen, MN & O Coordinator said only had 11 Big Waters UMW units filled out the census report. You have to go to the National Website to do it. Encourage your units to do that. Encourage your unit members to attend the District & Conference gatherings also.

Tricia conducted a memorial service for those women who have died since the last Fall Gathering. She had a white carnation for each deceased member and the units could take the flowers home.

Outgoing officers, Secretary Gloria Wesloh, E & I Mary Wiegand, Communications Coordinator Mary Jane Reetz, & Emma Norton Representative Carolyn Garven, were thanked for their service.

Linda Kotschevar, MN Conference UMW officer installed the Big Waters UMW Officers for 2020 and put in a pitch for a program coordinator.

A big thank you by Joyce Stobb was given to Kim and the Anoka unit, to Linda, for the installation service, for JRLC and to all who attended.

Closing Worship was the service of communion served by Pastor Warner & her young son.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gloria Wesloh - Big Waters District UMW Secretary,



## 2021 Big Waters District Slate of Officers

We have some empty positions. Please prayerfully consider taking one.  
Call or email Peggy Crooms at 320-982-2250 [peggyc12@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyc12@hotmail.com)

### Continuing in Office:

President: Joyce Stobb  
2nd term 2nd year  
12846 100th St., Milaca 56353  
320-369-4259 [joyce.stobb@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.stobb@gmail.com)

Secretary: Karen Strobel  
1st term 2nd year  
811 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Brainerd, 56401  
218-829-0958 [fritz-1234@charter.net](mailto:fritz-1234@charter.net)

Treasurer: Diane Bublitz  
3rd term 1st year  
1514 Aspen Ln., St. Cloud, 56303  
320-259-1939 [dmbublitz@q.com](mailto:dmbublitz@q.com)

Chairperson, Committee on Nominations:  
Class of 2022: Peggy Crooms  
505 4th Ave. SE, Milaca, 56353  
320-982-2250 [peggyc12@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyc12@hotmail.com)

Membership Nurture & Outreach  
Coordinator: Vicky Clausen  
2nd term 2nd year  
939 Cypress Rd.-Unit 21, St. Cloud, 56303  
320-230-6460 [vlemaisel@gmail.com](mailto:vlemaisel@gmail.com)

Education & Interpretation Coordinator:  
Carolyn Garven  
1st term 2nd year  
624 Riverside Dr. NE, St. Cloud, 56304  
320-252-7737 [cjgarven@charter.net](mailto:cjgarven@charter.net)

Social Action Coordinator: Ruth Pfaller  
2nd term 1st year  
3631 Hillside Dr., Barnum, 55707  
218-213-1841 [ruthfaller@gmail.com](mailto:ruthfaller@gmail.com)

Committee on Nominations:  
Class of 2021: Audrey Bowe  
1255 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. NW, Milaca, 56353 320-982-1280

### To be Elected for 2021:

Program Coordinator: Myrna Kuehl  
1st term 1<sup>st</sup> year  
1120 104<sup>th</sup> Ave. NE, Blaine, 55434  
763-784-2588 [myrnakuehl@comcast.net](mailto:myrnakuehl@comcast.net)

Resources Manager: Mary Wiegand  
1st term 1<sup>st</sup> year  
93900 Twilight Ln., Moose Lake, 55767  
218-485-8545

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: TBD

Communications Coordinator: TBD

Committee on Nominations:  
Class of 2023: TBD

Committee on Nominations:  
Class of 2024: TBD

Emma Norton Representative: TBD

# Big Waters District UMW Financial Report

## 2019 Budget, 2020 Budget and YTD, and 2021 Budget

	A	August 10, 2020		D	E	F
1		2019 Budget	2019 Final	2020 Budget	2020 Actual	2021 Revised Budget
2	<b><u>REVENUE</u></b>					
3	District pledge	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 54,555.47	\$ 57,000.00	\$ 13,680.00	\$45,900.00
4	Pledge to Mission		\$ 48,574.24		\$ 13,125.00	
5	Special Mission Recognition		\$ 1,120.00		\$ 120.00	
6	Gift to Mission		\$ 478.00		\$ 105.00	
7	Gift in Memory		\$ 690.00		\$ 205.00	
8	World Thank Offering		\$ 2,619.23		\$ 125.00	
9	Love Offering		\$ 1,074.00		\$ -	
10	Emma Norton	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,455.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 3,775.00	\$6,800.00
11	Miscellaneous Revenue					
12	Prayer and Self Denial		\$ 1,254.93		\$ 877.00	
13	Designated Other		\$ 550.00		\$ 300.00	
14	Flowers & Book Sales		\$ 37.00		\$ 40.00	
15	UMCOR		\$ 1,960.00		\$ 700.00	
16	Mission U		\$ 325.00			
17	District/Conference Registrations		\$ 443.00			
18	Legacy		\$ 100.00			
19	Total of miscellaneous revenue		\$ 4,669.93	\$ -	\$ 1,917.00	
20	TOTAL from Units- all categories		\$ 67,680.40	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 19,372.00	\$52,700.00
21	A&MD from Conference	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 5,600.00	\$10,080.00
22	A&MD from Conference Applied to Pledge		\$ (3,533.44)			
23	GRAND TOTAL Received	\$ 76,700.00	\$ 75,846.96	\$ 76,700.00	\$ 24,972.00	\$ 62,780.00
24						
25	<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>					
26	<b>OFFICER EXPENSE</b>					
27	Mileage, Lodging, Meals	\$ 2,950.00	\$ 1,815.31	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 287.20	\$ 2,200.00
28	Literature ( Handbooks, Mission u Books	\$ 400.00	\$ 250.60	\$ 400.00	\$ 410.84	\$ 400.00
29	Supplies (Paper, labels, etc.)	\$ 100.00	\$ 59.08	\$ 100.00	\$ 3.98	\$ 100.00
30	Postage	\$ 300.00	\$ 173.95	\$ 300.00	\$ 67.35	\$ 200.00
31	Financial Review	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
32	Copying	\$ 150.00	\$ 58.21	\$ 200.00		\$ 100.00
33	<b>MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT</b>					
34	Communications	\$ 800.00	\$ 323.26	\$ 900.00	\$ 106.88	\$ 400.00
35	District/Conference Meetings	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,025.50	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,780.00
36	Mission U Fees	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,095.00	\$ 4,000.00		\$ 4,000.00
37	Resources	\$ 200.00	\$ -	\$ 400.00	\$ 89.80	\$ 200.00
38	Bank Charges	\$ 50.00		\$ 50.00	\$ 74.26	\$ 50.00
39	Officer Recognition	\$ 100.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
40	Legacy Fund	\$ 150.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 150.00		\$ 150.00
41	Miscellaneous including flowers	\$ 200.00	\$ 33.25	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00
42	Dist. Gathering Focus Organization		\$ 862.40			
43	total expenses (admin and Mbr)	\$ 12,200.00	\$ 8,746.56	\$ 11,700.00	\$ 1,390.31	\$ 10,080.00
44	Unspent money returned to Conference		\$ 3,533.44			
45	Total sent to conference		\$ 63,566.96		\$ 19,332.00	
46	GRAND TOTAL EXPENDED		\$ 75,846.96		\$ 20,722.31	
47	Balance carried over to next year	\$500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
48						



# Big Waters District UMW Treasurer's Narrative Report

August 10, 2020

## Income & Expense Summary

One of the unfortunate impacts of the pandemic is that gathering in doors and in large groups spreads the virus. We have had to cancel UMW activities, including unit & district meetings and the fund raisers we are all used to doing to raise money for missions. Mission support is more important than ever as the virus has spread around the world and has impacted low income and minority communities especially hard. We all need to put on our creative hats to come up with innovative ways to raise money for our mission pledge.

As of early August the Big Waters District has reached 24% or \$13,125 of our Pledge to Mission. Last year for the same period, we were at 45% or \$25,604 of the \$57,000 pledge.

Support for Emma Norton is at 47% or \$3,775 while last year we had achieved 57% or \$4,596 of our \$8,000 pledge.

Expenses are down significantly as the only in person meeting was the Executive Board on February 22, 2020 in Elk River. Officer Expense and Membership Development are supported by Administration and Membership Development (A & MD) funds which are disbursed quarterly by the Conference to each district based on our budget for A & MD. The district treasurers agreed to forgo the third quarter payments due to healthy balances on hand. Currently the Big Waters District has \$4,209.69 of A & MD funds.

## 2021 Revised Budget Recommendation (see Financial Report, right hand column)

The District & Conference Treasurers met on-line July 16th to discuss the 2021 budget. The recommendation we arrived at is a 15% reduction in all three areas of the budget due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

For the Big Waters District the recommendation for the 2021 Budget line items are:

District Pledge \$45,900	\$11,100 reduction
Emma Norton \$ 6,800	\$ 1,200 reduction
A & MD \$10,080	\$ 1,120 reduction

Recommend approval of the 2021 Budget as presented.

A & MD expenses have been adjusted for the \$1,120 reduction. This should not be a problem as we have returned more than that amount in each of the last two years. Any unspent A & MD goes back to the Conference at the end of the year and is applied to the district's pledge.

We will hope and pray that we can do better than the goals set by this budget for our Pledge to Mission and Emma Norton.



**Big Waters United Methodist Women**  
First UMC of the St. Cloud Region  
1107 Pine Cone Road South  
Sartell, MN 56377

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

PERMIT NO. 337  
ST. CLOUD, MN 56301

## Big Waters 2020/2021 Calendar of Events



September 18	BW District Executive Team Meeting	Cancelled due to COVID-19
September 19	BW District Fall Gathering	Cancelled due to COVID-19
October 10	Conference Annual Gathering	Zoom Meeting
October 24	Leadership Development Retreat	Zoom Meeting
February 20	BW District Executive Team Meeting	Milaca UMC
April 16	BW District Executive Team Meeting	Freshwaters UMC, Princeton
April 17	BW District Spring Gathering	Freshwaters UMC, Princeton
June 19	BW District Executive Team Meeting	TBD
July 16-18	Mission u	Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
July 31	Mission u Too	TBD
August 7	Mission u Too	Minnetonka UMC
September 18	BW District Executive Team Meeting	St. Cloud First UMC
September 19	BW District Fall Gathering	St. Cloud First UMC
October 2-3	Conference Annual Gathering & LDR	Anoka UMC



