



United
Methodist
Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women

February 2020

Volume 25 Number 1

The Fresh Connection

From the Heart

Greetings UMW Sisters,

As we enter a new year and a new decade, we have new challenges before us but also continued challenges from the past. I don't want to dwell on the current issues in the United Methodist Church. I just ask that we all stay open minded and informed and continue to pray during these difficult times.

I have been thinking about how we practice the Gospel of Mark and radical discipleship. How do we keep looking for who is left out, who is excluded, who is marginalized, who is being silenced or unwelcomed? Who as United Methodist Women do, we need to advocate for? Who do we need to invite to the table? Please be sure to read the article from the nominations committee chair and consider joining a district or conference team or encouraging someone you know who is passionate about a cause.



All women are welcome to attend United Methodist Women events. We have numerous opportunities to be spiritually fed, promote social justice, and advocate for our sisters around the world. I'm super excited about the Charter for Racial Justice Committee goals for 2020. Let me share them with you: We need to do more than just learn the history of the Charter for Racial Justice. We need to connect to what is happening now and connect more with other UMW issues.

1. Focus on education to help UMW members understand

- Implicit bias
- Racism & White Privilege (What's the difference?)
- Racist (What does it really mean?)
- Micro aggressions and toxic niceness

2. Engage in self-examination:

- individually
- local unit and church
- district
- MN UMW

3. Take action: To be determined by what is learned from #1 and 2

I hope you will attend your district meetings. Why not invite a friend and bring her with you? The best way to share this great organization is to personally invite someone and bring them with you. Some of the best conversations I've had happened during the car ride to a UMW meeting. Show radical hospitality by inviting someone, registering them and driving them to the meeting! You both will be truly blessed!

We are in a transition year in 2020. I will be continuing as your president until the end of July and then your newly elected president, Cindy Saufferer will take over. She is currently a UMW National Director and not allowed to hold two positions at the same time so as immediate past president I agreed to continue as an "active" advisory member until the end of July. I am truly blessed with a fantastic team that makes continuing in this position a joy.

My hope is that as United Methodist Women we always practice radical hospitality.


My hope is that all our encounters will show our love for Christ and be an example of what he taught us. Love the Lord with all your heart, mind and soul and love your neighbor as yourself.

Love,
Sandy



2019 Census

United Methodist Women 2019 Membership Census Deadline: March 30, 2020

 It is time again to stand and be counted. Whether your United Methodist Women's group is large or small, please go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/> look for the green box and fill in the census questions at the bottom of the page. Scroll down, and start with your church's zip code, choose your church from the list, and many of the answers will fill in automatically. Before you start, have in hand your membership count at the end of 2019 (whether small or large), and the name and contact information for your unit's president. Don't forget

to press SUBMIT at the end of the census, to make sure it gets recorded. Do it today, before you forget! If there is not a president in your group, find someone else to go on-line and fill out the form. You will be glad you did after all our Minnesota numbers are reported and tallied.

The first part of the census website gives the results of the 2018 census. This gave the National United Methodist Women ideas of what the needs are of UMW groups around the country. Reading through the information might give you tips of how to grow your own unit.

Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator.
Melinda Kohrt

Legacy Builders Update

During the 150th anniversary year of United Methodist women, Minnesota UMW members stepped up! The 2019 Legacy Fund giving totals have not been announced, and we will report them as soon as we know. I believe that when those numbers arrive, they will show that since 2015, Minnesota has contributed \$100,000 toward the \$60 million national goal for the Legacy Fund. (I could be wrong, of course; we'll see!) Thank you, thank you, thank you for your giving as individuals, as circles and as units. Thank you for honoring other women for their service to women, children and youth through a Legacy gift.

Nationally, we seem to be on track to be at the half-way point in meeting the goal for the Legacy Fund. That means our work is not yet done. I encourage you to continue your generous giving – on the March 23 Day of Giving, as part of your UMW budget, through a major gift or by naming The

Legacy Fund as a beneficiary in your will or insurance policy.

Another way to support the Legacy Fund is to become a Legacy Builder, pledging to contribute \$18.69 monthly (or more). You can also choose to make gifts on a quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis. It is a way for members to participate in a sustainable and regular way of giving to the campaign that moves us closer to the \$60 million goal.

It has been an honor to serve as the Minnesota Legacy Liaison for the past five years. I've enjoyed the conversations we've had and the presentations and skits. I'm stepping down, and Sandy Meyer is now the Legacy Liaison. You can contact her at presmnumw@gmail.com. She has pins, contribution

envelopes, games and handouts and will answer questions you have about the Legacy Fund. You can also find information at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home.

-- Becky Coleman

What About the UMW?

United Methodist Women in Action

"For 150 years this organization (United Methodist Women), in its various expressions, has been about the healing and the strengthening of God's people across this planet." Rev. Javier Viera, Vice provost and dean of Drew Theological Seminary shared this during his message to the United Methodist Women Board of Directors fall 2019 meeting. The incredible thing is, You, Minnesota are a part of the healing and strengthening!

We begin by saying thanks be to God for 150 years in God's mission and Thank YOU Minnesota for making our anniversary celebration a success—through storytelling, special events and your generous giving to the **Legacy Endowment Fund**. We're coming into the home stretch of laying this foundation to support mission through Legacy Builders. Please join me in supporting mission for our next 150 years by becoming a **Legacy Builder**!

2019 was a monumental year for United Methodist Women, the Church and our nation. It has been a year that's cried aloud: "**Women still need to organize for mission!**" If the past 150 years have taught us anything, it's that women **ORGANIZED FOR MISSION are essential for the Church to BE the Church**. It is abundantly clear that God continues to look to women committed to turning their faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth along with neighbors on hard times and who have been pushed aside. We are being called to organize for mission **FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS**. We are here to continue the mission regardless of what decisions are made in the wider church.



***Pictured above:** Minnesota UMW officers at LDR who have contributed to the Legacy Fund. Pictured on the far right with her back to the camera is Deaconess Kim Harris's granddaughter, Haven, the future of UMW. The Legacy Fund is a National UMW Endowment Campaign celebrating the legacy of the courageous women who founded this mission movement in 1869 (150 years ago), as well as the legacy that today's members will leave for future generations of United Methodist women who will carry the mission of faith, hope, love in action forward for years to come.*

UMW is **innovating programs** to respond to the changing times and needs of current members and the many women who will be joining this mission journey. **Spiritual growth, leadership development, transformative education** alongside **service and advocacy** are part of our identity as United Methodist Women. Increasingly, you'll be experiencing these core values integrated into all of our programs to enhance membership as we prepare for mission action.

You impact God's world for good turning your faith, hope, and love into action through your **Mission Giving**. This **quadrennium**, United Methodist Women has allocated more than **\$30 million** for member development programs, support for more than 90 National Mission Institutions and projects, and international ministries and scholarships, as well as continued work on the priority issues.

In **2018 alone, National Mission Institutions** that are community centers and residential programs **reported serving 205,042 persons**. Several of the National Mission Institutions in the southern U.S. border towns are serving the immigrant women, children and families seeking asylum in the United States when they're released from the detention facilities. Several National Mission Institutions located in other parts of the country are exploring certification to house some of the children who've been separated from their families until they can be reunited.

Your Mission Giving matters in the United States and internationally supporting mission partners in nearly 100 countries this quadrennium. The

international presence is driven by the work of our Regional Missionaries who partner with Methodist and United Methodist Women organizations in 21 African countries, 24 annual conferences of the Philippines, 12 countries in the Caribbean, and 10 countries of Latin America, through program and mission leadership.

Education continues to be important as we focused on member education and actions surrounding our priorities of **A Living Wage, Climate Justice, Ending the School to Prison Pipeline, and Maternal and Child Health** through letter writing campaigns and workshops. **Thank you** to all in **Minnesota** who sent postcards to your legislators in support of funding for the **Maternal Mortality and Morbidity** Review Board.

Also, in 2018, 24 United Methodist Women members were consecrated from 19 conferences as deaconesses. Deaconess Home Missioners are laywomen and men with a passion for God and a commitment to full-time ministry in service vocations such as parish nursing, social services, photojournalism and Christian education. In Minnesota, we currently have 4 Deaconesses and 3 candidates for Deaconess Home Missioner.

United Methodist Women prepares women for **leadership** for such a time as this as many members boldly stepped up to leadership this year throwing their hats into the ring as candidates for the **2020 General Conference** of the United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Women will be bringing four pieces of legislation to the 2020 General Conference for adoption:

- **Children's Sabbath.** Adds the third Sunday in October to the church calendar as the United Methodist Church's U.S. observance of Children's Sabbath.
- **The Girl Child.** Calls the church to engage in advocacy to rectify conditions that limit girls from reaching their fullest potential in healthy environments.

- **The Status of Women: Towards Realizing Human Rights for All Women.** Calls on the church to work for women's global equality in education, health, violence against women, etc.
- **Voter Rights Protection in the U.S.** Calls attention to the disproportionate impact of voter suppression and for all communities to have access to full and equitable rights in the voting polls.

Once again, quoting Rev. Javier Viera:

"In this broken and fractured world, has there ever been a more important time for you to do the work and to live the mission you've been called to? I don't think so. We need you right now, we need your message of empowerment and healing, of grit and resilience, of transformation and liberation, of faith, hope and love."

Thank you, United Methodist Women, for all that you do. For turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth today. Tell **your** story.

Cindy Saufferer National Director



Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R Farmer, Spotlight PR.

Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. To register go to:

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

- **Thursday, February 20 at 6:00 pm ET: Faith Talks: Paid Family Leave**
- **Thursday, April 16 at 2:00 pm ET: Faith Talks: General Conference & changes in the UMC**

We Need You



Working together to build a team

As we move into the next 150 years of United Methodist Women, we need fresh ideas and new leaders! The Conference Nominations is looking for women who are interested in developing skills, learning new things and working with a great team of women. As an organization, we are committed to this kind of development; if you are appointed or elected to a position, it is not forever! Most positions are for a year at a time, up to four years. Training and support is provided.

The Conference Committee on Nominations is looking for new leaders to begin in a variety of positions in 2021. Some positions are very visible; others are behind the scene. Some positions involve travel within the state, working with the executive

team to plan events like the Annual Gathering and Mission u. Some require specific skills such as understanding and working with budgets and financial models, desktop publishing or a broad range of computer and audiovisual skills. All leaders must be willing to support the Purpose of United Methodist Women.

If you are interested in serving at the Conference level or have questions about what is involved, please feel free to contact any member of the Committee on Nominations. We want to have conversations and learn about your interests and gifts. If you know women who would be good additions to the team, send us their names, and we'll be happy to talk with them.

Co-chairs, Committee on Nominations
Becky Coleman and Shirley Durr,

Con3mnumw@gmail.com and
con5mnumw@gmail.com

Barb Hanson, bhanson5474@gmail.com

Thalia Duffield, thaliakduffield@gmail.com

Janet Ewing, Janete9@charter.net

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](#).

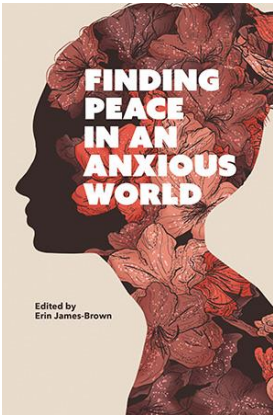
As women of faith, we know that God promised us abundant life. As women of action, we work to

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. For more information

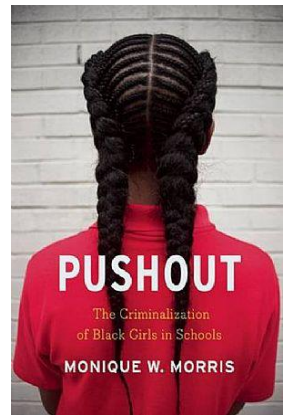
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/abundant-life-for-all>

2020 Mission u and Mission u Too

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Learn how to use the *Serenity Prayer* as a guide to help find your way through anxiety, worry and fear towards God's peace that passes all understanding. Learn about the school-to-prison pipeline, school-to-confinement pathways and school pushout through the words and stories of dozens of young people from across the country, historical information and careful reflection.



Be inspired. Be challenged. Respond to God's call.
Continue the powerful legacy of compassionate service and passionate advocacy.
All are welcome!

Mission u July 17 – 19, 2020 Kelly Inn, St. Cloud	Mission u Too July 25, 2020 Faith UMC, Waseca
Studies are:	Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety
Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety	
and	August 1, 2020
Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools	La Puerta Abierta UMC, St. Paul
Cost: \$375 Double Room \$475 Single Room \$265 Commuter (no breakfast)	Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools
	Cost \$30
NOTE: Study books will NOT be available at Mission u or Mission u Too. Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety is available through the UMW Resource Store online, www.umsmissionresources.org . Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools is available through Amazon and Kindle.	

Mission u Scholarships offered for 2020



The Minnesota Conference of United Methodist Women provides interested women an opportunity to attend Mission u through our Mission u Scholarship Fund. Getting women interested in mission at an early age and at new life stages is one way to insure the vitality and growth of an educational, mission-minded membership.

The Mission u Scholarship Committee is seeking women who yearn to attend Mission u but cannot afford the cost and encouraging them to apply for a Mission u scholarship.

The scholarship would cover partial or full cost of Mission u; however, study books and transportation

are not covered. The amount of the scholarship will be based on individual need, funds available, and the number of applicants.

Please complete the application and/or urge women you know to apply. Each applicant must include a brief written statement (two or three sentences) explaining why she wants to attend Mission u and participate in Mission u activities.

The Mission u Scholarship Committee will send notice of award to individual applicants and to the Mission u registrar. Applicants are responsible for registering online by the deadline.

Applications should be mailed to arrive before May 26, 2020 to Shirley Durr, Mission u Scholarship Committee, 3659 Snelling Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406. **OR** emailed before 26, 2020 to shirley.durr@gmail.com.

If emailing an application, please indicate "Mission u Scholarship" in the subject line. Application on last page of this newsletter.



"You are who you are through this gift and call of Jesus Christ." Romans 1:6

**United Methodist Women North Central Jurisdiction
Quadrennial Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD**

June 26-28, 2020

umwnic.org/ncj-umw/

Ramkota Hotel 3200 W. Maple St. Sioux Falls, SD 605-336-0650

Single/Double Occupancy \$114.99 per night; Cutoff date May 26, 2020; Ask for UMW-NCJ event

Registration fee \$220 until December 1, 2019; After \$260 until May 15, 2020 (includes 5 meals)

Registration and further details at UMWNCJ.org

*Election of Directors *Workshops *Ubuntu Experience *Mission Project *Legacy Celebration

*Leadership Development *Spirituality *Talent/No Talent Show *Fellowship and much more!



Harriett Olson
UMW CEO



Shannon Priddy
National President



Rita L. Smith
NCJ President



Bishop Tracy S. Malone
Key Note Speaker



Rev. Dr. Michele Watkins
Bible Study Leader

General Commission on Religion and Race



GCORR presents a free online course *Implicit Bias: What We Don't Think*

We Think

Based off of the popular [Implicit Bias Workbook](#), GCORR has created an online course for anyone who is interested in learning and teaching others about implicit bias.

We invite pastors, teachers, and anyone who is interested in learning and teaching others about implicit bias to take this free on-demand online course. This course is designed for you to take at your own pace and includes bonus content specifically for preachers.

The learning engagements included in each section allow for individual work, group work, and optional sermon preparation. All of the learning engagements recognize and lift up the reality that context is known best by those on the ground. Thus, while this course provides multiple entry points for learning about, thinking through, and transforming action regarding implicit bias, it does not contextualize the information for you. *Implicit Bias: What We Don't Think We Think* honors the contextual wisdom that you and others will bring to this material. Each exercise is an invitation to the sacred journey of discovering with your church and community how God is leading you to use this material faithfully within your context. You can find the online course go to <http://www.gcorr>

Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC)

Day on the Hill April 1, 2020

Locations:

Starting Location -- InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel, 11 E Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55101

Ending Location -- Minnesota State Capitol Complex, 75 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard, St Paul, MN 55155

Parking:

Parking is available at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront Hotel. Additional nearby parking options include:

- Landmark Towers Parking Ramp - 336 N Market St, St Paul, MN 55102
- Capitol City Plaza Parking Ramp - 50 4th St E, St Paul, MN 55101
- Kellogg Square Parking Ramp - 111 E Kellogg Blvd, St Paul, MN 55101
- Victory Ramp - 344 Wabasha St N, St Paul, MN 55102
- Lawson Ramp - 11 W 5th St, St Paul, MN 55102

Buses will be provided during the event to and from the State Capitol Complex and the InterContinental Hotel.

Both starting and ending locations are nearby to the light rail Green Line. The InterContinental Hotel is located three blocks from Central Station and the State Capitol is located one block from the Capitol/Rice Street Station, only three stops apart.

If you would like to walk or bike between event locations, the locations are approximately one mile/20 minutes apart.

Keynote Speaker - Most Reverend Archbishop Bernard Hebda

Archbishop Hebda's commitment to service and justice has been a key component of his ministry, spanning parish priesthood on the south side of Pittsburgh; Director of the Newman Center at Slippery Rock University; Pontifical Council for Legislative Texts at the Vatican; and Bishop and Archbishop roles in the Diocese of Gaylord, Michigan, and the Archdioceses of Newark and St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Transportation Options:

With a BA from Harvard in Political Science and a law degree from Columbia University, legal experience at an international law firm based in Pittsburgh, and years of seeing the impact of policy decisions on individuals and families, Archbishop Hebda is a strong advocate for justice and human dignity.

Theme: Serving the Common Good

Our 2020 Day on the Hill theme comes from a quotation from Pope Francis:

“Politics [...] is one of the highest forms of charity, because it serves the common good.”

In 2020, hundreds of people of faith will come together to serve the common good!

Join faithful advocates from across the state on April 1, 2020 to reflect on why we make our voices heard, to plan for continued actions in our home communities, and to advocate for meaningful change in the state of Minnesota.

Becoming a Deaconess or Home Missioner

Deaconesses and home missionaries are approved through a process established by United Methodist Women, consecrated and commissioned by a bishop at settings approved by the board of directors of United Methodist Women. They shall have a continuing relationship to The United Methodist Church through United Methodist Women.

Deaconesses and home missionaries are available for service with any agency or program of The United Methodist Church. Deaconesses and home missionaries may also serve in United Methodist Church agencies or programs, provided that approval is given by United Methodist Women in consultation with the bishop in the receiving area. (¶1913.4, 2016 *Book of Discipline*)

Discernment Events for Deaconesses and Home Missioner Ministry

During a period of discernment, we listen for the call of God on our lives. The Deaconess-Home Missioner Discernment event is an opportunity to explore God's call to vocational ministry as a Deaconess or Home Missioner of The United



Methodist Church. During these 2-3 days we explore scripture, hear and share call stories, and learn what it takes to be in relationship as a Deaconess or Home Missioner, all in a retreat-like setting.

Discernment Events are held at various times and locations throughout the year (see below). Space is limited.

Interested in attending a discernment event? Please complete the application below. If not interested in attending a Discernment Event but would like additional information, please e-mail us at: deaconess@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Requirements:

- Ability to travel to event (housing and meals are provided) *
- Membership in The United Methodist Church
- Discerning a call to lay ministry
- Completion and approval of discernment event application

*The Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner is committed to eliminating financial barriers. Please contact our office for more information.

Upcoming Discernment Event

Chicago, IL: Sept 25-27, 2020

APPLICATION DEADLINE: August 15, 2020

Emma Norton Services

Emma Norton Services (ENS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization actively combating poverty and positively impacting more than 250 people annually.

ENS partners with women, children and families who are homeless and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities. Without having to worry about the basic need of a safe, secure place to live, women and children can utilize and focus on supportive programs, life skills, services and opportunities available to accomplish their goals.

ENS fosters stability and encourages personal growth at two locations:
Emma Norton Residence in the heart of downtown St. Paul is home to 50 individual women

Emma's Place in Maplewood is home to 13 single parent families with three or more kids
Housing is permanent, the women and families we serve may reside at Emma Norton Residence and Emma's Place as long as they desire.



Opening Doors Dinner 2020 will be held on April 23, 2020 at the InterContinental Saint Paul Riverfront. We are currently seeking event sponsors and silent/live auction donations. If you are interested in being an event sponsor or making a donation, please contact Shawna Nelsen-Wills at snelsen@emmanorton.org.

Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)

Challenging the UMC for the full and equal participation of women in the total life and mission of the Church

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women advocates for full participation of women in the total life of The United Methodist Church.

We're helping the church recognize every person – clergy and lay, women and men, adults and children – as full and equal parts of God's human family. We believe that a fully engaged and empowered membership is vital to The United Methodist Church's mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

2020 Annual Gathering

Greeting to all UMW Sisters!

Please mark your calendars for our Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting October 10, 2020, at Riverside United Methodist Church, Park Rapids, MN. What a beautiful time of the year to take a weekend drive north to join your northern sisters and enjoy the colors along with the fellowship of UMW. Our planning has begun and will share some of the details in the next Fresh Connection.

ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER 10, 2020, RIVERSIDE UMC, PARK RAPIDS, MN

Blessings Sisters in Christ,
Diana Eickelberg, Program Coordinator
Deickelberg1@gmail.com

Mission u \$cholarship Application

Please return by May 26, 2020

Date _____

Applicant _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

Local UMW/Church _____

Has applicant attended a Mission u before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Has applicant attended a Mission u Too before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

COST	MISSION U \$375.00	MISSION U TOO \$30.00
Personal Funds toward Registration		
Assistance from Local UMW		
Other Financial Assistance		
SCHOLARSHIP REQUESTED		

The amount of the scholarship will be based on individual need, funds available, and the number of applicants.

Don't forget to include your written statement with this application. Two or three sentences is sufficient but you can write as little or as much as you want.

The Fresh Connection

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Faith, Education and Community in Motion

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