



AUGUST, 2021

Comment

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, and your neighbor as yourself.”

A Newsletter for United Methodist Women of the North Star District (NSD)

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.



A Sustainable UMW-the WHY!

During a period of reflection (this happens often), I was thinking about “how do we sustain ourselves as a North Star District Team”. The primary answer I came up with was our **local church units**.

The Local unit:

- Keeps the UMW mission message active within their local church community.
- Provides funds for mission through their Pledge to Mission and Emma Norton goal contribution etc., etc.
- Contributes UMW knowledgeable recruits for local officer positions as well as District and Conference Team Members.

As we celebrate another year of service at our upcoming Annual meeting, **we need you!**

- If your church doesn't have a UMW unit, please start one. If you have recently closed your unit, look for opportunities to “**get going**” again or consider participation as an individual. Every United Methodist Church is to have an active UMW group within their church.
- The Pandemic has brought out creativity in us that has made it possible to at least carry out some mission activities which will help meet our Pledge to Mission and Emma Norton goal. Consider making an individual contribution over and above your other efforts for this year.

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NSD Calendar

September 10, 2021

NS Executive Meeting
via Zoom

September 11, 2021

NS Annual Gathering
via Zoom

October 2, 2021

MN Conference UMW
Annual Meeting



To everything
there is
a season
and a time
to every purpose
under the
heaven

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

Continued from page 1

- You will notice in this newsletter that a number of District positions remain unfilled. Please contact Karol Lehman, our Nominations chair right away to see how you can serve in this way.

Now to the WHY:

- Perhaps you joined UMW because your mother or someone else in your family was a member and you are living your WHY in their memory.
- Perhaps you joined because someone invited to you a meeting and you found a “sisterhood of women” you could identify with.
- Perhaps you wanted to be involved in mission, uplifting the needs of women, children and youth and that is your WHY.

Whatever your WHY is, please talk to others about it. IT IS THE BEST KEPT SECRET OF UMW.

Hope to see you at the Annual meeting September 11, 2021 via Zoom.

Marion Hansen, North Star President

OUR SPEAKERS AT THE FALL ANNUAL GATHERING ON SEPT. 11

Emily UMC has a Covenant Relationship with Rev. Yang, but that is not all they do. Two of their members, Dan and Judy Klement have traveled to and all around Laos, learning about United Methodist ministry there, including church planting, digging wells, teaching ESL, vocational training, micro-businesses, and women’s leadership development. Over the years, the Klements’ personal connection to those in Laos was developed, nurtured, and strengthened as various missionaries came to visit their congregation, speaking about their ministry’s successes, goals, and dreams. There is nothing like a personal connection! Dan and Judy now both serve on the Laos-Minnesota Conference Partnership team, and they can’t wait to go back to Southeast Asia.

We are anxious to hear about their adventures as missionaries in Laos during our ZOOM Fall Gathering.



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR NORTH STAR DISTRICT OFFICERS

President **Marion Hansen** – 28287 Co Rd 23, Sebeka, MN 56477 – 218-837-5054 – marionha@wcta.net

Program Coordinator **Vacant position** – CAN YOU HELP?

Secretary – **Marsha Mower** – 7626 White Overlook Dr., Breezy Point, MN 56472 – 217-412-8797– m.mower@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer – **Litta (Le) Sears** – 1392 24th Street SW, Pine River, MN 56474 – 218-839-6171 – sears.litta@gmail.com

Nominations Chair – **Karol Lehman** – PO Box 146, McGregor, MN 55760 – 218-310-1578 – lehmankarol@yahoo.com

Nominations – **Vacant position** – CAN YOU HELP?

Spiritual Growth – **Vacant position** – CAN YOU HELP?

Social Action – **Vacant Position** – CAN YOU HELP??

Education & Interpretation – **Vacant Position** – CAN YOU HELP??

Emma Norton – CAN YOU HELP?

Resource Manager – CAN YOU HELP?

Communications – **Angie Barnhart** – 24145 435th Ave., Aitkin, MN 56431 – 218-678-3344 – cartoonC@juno.com

Historian – **Susan Clark Harris** – PO Box 362, Aitkin, MN 56431 – 218-838-2579 – sclarkharris@mlcwb.net



SAVE THE DATE!

North Star District
UMW Fall Gathering
in the convenience
of your own home .



Register by September 5.
See info below and on page 2.

ANNUAL FALL MEETING: REACHING OUT!!!

September 11, 2021 9:30am-12noon via Zoom. (I am hopeful that this will be our last zoom meeting so be thinking about hosting the Spring or Fall meeting in 2022 contact marionha@wcta.net)

To Register: email Le Sears, our District treasurer using the same email address you'll be using the day of the program. The zoom link will be sent to you using this email.

To send an offering: Send to our Treasurer, Le Sears made out to North Star District. Let her know if you want it applied to the Pledge or Emma Norton goal or a portion to both.

Program: Our program will focus on Mission. Our UMW and UMC missionaries along with others have continued to carry out their respective ministries during the Pandemic in less than desirable conditions. A current listing of those serving is located in our Prayer Calendar.*

Marion Hansen, North Star President
marionha@wcta.net

* One good way to follow the UMW Prayer Calendar (without having to purchase the actual book) is to follow the calendar facebook page:

www.facebook.com/umwprayercalendar

Here they publish the Mission Focus for the day, missionaries birthdays, and Bible readings for the day.

*Humor. Hope. Help.
Good for the Heart!*

Minnesota Conference UMW invites you
to an Evening with Jane Rubietta

This is a FREE event presented by the MN Conference.

Thursday, September 23, 2021 from 7-9 PM
in-person at Lake Harriett UMC
4901 Chowen Ave. S.
Minneapolis, MN 55410

OR via ZOOM

Weary of worry and its tagalongs, anxiety, discouragement, and exhaustion? Jane Rubietta invites you to leave behind your heavy heart and learn to truly live again. Join us and experience joy and rest in the moment-by-moment pleasure of a God who delights in you—and has all your tomorrows under control. You will laugh and you might cry but you will leave knowing you are delighted in--and with an arsenal of unusual helps to worry less. And really live.

Jane Rubietta speaks internationally, and is an award-winning author with 21 books to her credit, four on the UMW reading program *Worry Less So You Can Live More*, and *Heartbeat of a Mother* most recently. A UM Clergy spouse and the mother of three (tall) grown children, Jane's hilarious and filled with hope. You'll think she's been reading your journal because she gets you.

Then she just loves and blesses you.

To register for this happy and hopeful event, send your name, email address, phone #, district name, local unit name, local church name, local church city to:

Sandy Meyer
8724 Valley View Place
Chanhassen, MN 55317

Be sure to indicate if you will be attending in person or on Zoom!

Registration Questions?

Contact Sandy at 952-270-1157 or
email her at regmnumw@gmail.com

To learn more about Jane Rubietta go to:
<https://janerubietta.com>

"You beautifully facilitated a wonderful time...my heart has been touched; my spirit lifted; my soul inspired and renewed." quote from an attendee



NOMINATIONS

HELLO, North Star District UMW Members!

In May 2021 I mailed out letters to all NSD churches. Did you find yours at your church? As Fall is approaching, I pray this news letter finds everyone well.

Listen! What is God leading you to do next year?

Listen! Is God leading you or anyone you know in the church or community to volunteer on an Executive Mission Team?

We are in need of NSD officers for our Executive Team! Can you help with any of these vacancies?

ELECTED OFFICERS FOR 2022

• **THE PRESIDENT POSITION will be vacant.**
We are in need. Can you help?

• Continuing in their present positions:

Secretary: Marsha J. Mower

Treasurer: Litta (Le) Sears

Chairperson, Nominations: Karol Lehman

• Nominations accepted for Vacant Appointed Offices at the Fall Gathering

Program Coordinator - Vacant

Spiritual Growth - Vacant

Social Action - Vacant

Education and Interpretation - Vacant

Membership Nurture and Outreach - Vacant

Resource Manager - Vacant

Communications - Angie Barnhart

Historian - Susan Clark Harris

Emma Norton Representative - Vacant

Nominations Team - Four Vacancies

I'm waiting to hear from you! Please email, call or mail me your candidate's contact information if you know of anyone who would be wonderful at any of the above positions. I'll do the calling to ask them. You may also nominate candidates during our Zoom meeting on Sept. 11.

We pray that God will lead you to using your talents for Him. Thank you and God bless you!

Karol Lehman, NSD Nominations Chair

FYI: Three hardcopies of the **Comment** are sent to each of the churches in the North Star District. Do you know someone who would like one? Please ask at your church where the copies are and if you can, distribute them to women who'd like one. **THANKS!!**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Caring for the Soul

Self-care and Spiritual Nourishment are as important as breath to the body. **We need each other!**

• Perhaps your unit can help support a Sunday School program or VBS financially and/or direct help. Helping children feel valued and supported is great for their soul and yours.

• Perhaps there is a community program, camper scholarship or other activity that supports children and youth that you can participate in. Community groups are always looking for partners.

• Were you ever a young mom? Mom's today have a lot more to deal with. Perhaps there is a mom or family that you can lift up in some way.

Self-care and nourishment happen when we come together as a 'sisterhood of Grace' to help and support each other. Where can you make a difference today?

Marion Hansen, North Star President

marionha@wcta.net

PROGRAM RESOURCES

It's not too late!

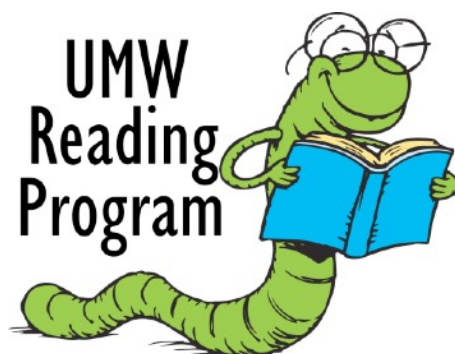
If you have been participating in the **2020 Reading Program or haven't yet applied for Mission Today recognition etc.** we can still recognize your efforts.

Please send your information to Marion Hansen at marionha@wcta.net

If you'd like to start on the reading program and read digital books go to:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/eiek/kvxc/#p=18>

for the latest 2021 - 2022 book list





TREASURER

Your unit's total pledge/giving for 2021 must be paid on or before a December 13th deadline in order to qualify for the 5-Star recognition given to those units who fulfill all 5 'stars': Pledge to

Missions, Special Mission Recognition, Gift in Memory, Gift to Mission and World Thank Offering. This is easier than you think to achieve and if you need any additional information please let me know. All giving after the deadline will be attributed to 2022.

2021 Revenue and Expense as of 6/30/2021

- Mission Giving is \$10,840 (budget is \$29,750)
- Emma Norton Services is \$3,405 (budget is \$7,225)
- A&MD Expenses are \$401.70
- Other Giving is \$1,158

Many of you have not been able to meet this year or have not been able to conduct fund raisers, but I encourage all units to send me your giving in all areas, in what ever amounts you are able.

The form on the right is for your convenience in sending your 2022 District pledge.

2022 Preliminary Budget Proposal This will be acted upon at the Fall Gathering

- Mission Giving Budget proposal is \$29,750
- Emma Norton Services Budget proposal is \$8,000

Litta (Le) Sears, NSD Treasurer

Our UMW 2022 District Pledge

Unit/Church: _____

Treasurer: _____

Address: _____

Treas. Phone: _____

Treas. email: _____

Pledge to Mission: \$ _____

Goal for Emma Norton Services: \$ _____

Mail or Email to:

Litta (Le) Sears, NSD Treasurer

1392 24th Street SW, Pine River, MN 56474

email to: sears.litta@gmail.com

Subscribe to the free online
'COMMENT' newsletter of
North Star District of UMW
go to cartoonc@juno.com

or find it on the Minnesota Conf. website:
mnconfumw.com

Subscribe to the free online newsletter
'FRESH CONNECTION'
Minnesota Conference of UMW
go to mnomnumw@gmail.com



In Memory of our Dear UMW Sisters who are with Christ.

At our Fall Gathering we will be having a service to recognize UMW Women who are no longer with us. In this short service we will remember those who have passed away between the dates

of **September 1, 2020 and September 1, 2021.**

You may also recognize those not previously recognized. Please send the names of women in your unit who you wish to remember to Marion Hansen via email: marionha@wcta.net



JOIN YOUR UMW SISTERS ON FACEBOOK! SEARCH FOR:
Minnesota United Methodist Women

Minnesota Conference UMW Annual Meeting and Leadership Development

2021 ANNUAL GATHERING/CELEBRATION

OCT. 2, 2021 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm

Anoka UMC • 850 South St. • Anoka, MN 55303

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

Cost: \$15 for in-person meeting.

No cost for ZOOM attendees, but an offering is encouraged and appreciated.

You can pay online at:

<https://www.mnconfumw.com/mission-giving>

OR send a check payable to MN Conference and mail to:
Linda Oberg, 715 E. Larpenter Ave., Unit G,
St. Paul, MN 55117

2021 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT RETREAT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

(LDR), for all district officers will be held following the Annual Meeting starting at 6pm on October 2, and concluding at 1pm, Sunday, October 3.

A complete schedule will be sent later but save the date and time. Expenses are paid by Conference UMW.

SOCIAL ACTION

Our Climate Commitment to Net-Zero Emissions

The July/August edition of Response Magazine, page 36 published our commitment to "Reconcile with Creation". You will see that 11 different organizations (including UMW) lifted up their support.

Looking for something to 'study' or a 'fresh project to begin', consider having a program in your church with discussion using this document as the source and then build an action plan for your local church/community.

Action ideas might include:

- Establishing a recycling program in your church/community.
- Participation in or hosting local clean-up efforts
- Providing educational materials
- Etc., etc.

I would love to hear about what you come up with.

Marion Hansen, North Star President
marionha@wcta.net



Emma Norton

The Journey Home Begins Here

Emma Norton happenings: (Emma Norton.org)

Did you know:

- That a new Emma Norton Residence will soon be built in St. Paul.
- In 2020 Emma's Place underwent a major renovation with a new playground planned for 2021.
- Read about their "trauma informed" approach utilized in all aspects of care at Emma Norton that acknowledges the widespread impact trauma has on a person and a families life.
- Click on 'engage' to see how you can help.

Please send your donations to Le Sears so they can be added to the North Star District Emma Norton Goal.

Marion Hansen, North Star President
marionha@wcta.net

COMMUNICATIONS

Have you noticed the difference?

The difference is, if you've read some of this newsletter AND if you've been paying attention, you've noticed that almost every article is written by Marion Hansen. Why? Because of the vacancies in our roster of officers. Marion is almost single handedly holding this whole thing together and she needs to step down next year because she has fulfilled her allowed term of office. Look at Pages 2 and 4. You can clearly see how short handed we are. It's discouraging to see this happen but we'd have to be blind not to understand that most UMW members are up in age and unable to help even if they wanted to. The mission of UMW is clear. We are to know Christ and expand the global mission of the church.

"With God nothing is impossible", Luke writes in Chapter 1 of his Gospel. Tough times have happened before and with boldness we must pray "Help us, Lord!" So we ask that you keep the UMW North Star District in your prayers. Promote our mission with other women who may be interested in the work of helping women and kids.

In the words of Joseph M. Shrive in 1855:

"Have we trials and temptations?

Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged –

TAKE IT TO THE LORD IN PRAYER."

What a friend we have in Jesus!



Angie Barnhart, Communications North Star District UMW