



# BIG WATERS BEACON

United Methodist Women-Big Waters District

Fall 2019

## BIG WATERS BOARD

President—Joyce Stobb

Vice Pres- - open

Secretary—Gloria Wesloh

Treasurer—Diane Bublitz

Social Action—Ruth Pfaller

Spiritual Growth—Tricia True

Membership, Nurture & Outreach-  
Vicky Clausen

Education and Interpretation-  
Mary Wiegand

Emma Norton Representative-  
Carolyn Garven

Communications—Mary Jane Reetz

Nominations Committee: Chair-  
Clarice Harmon

Members -Peggy Crooms , Audrey  
Bowes

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## *Greetings!!*

Fall is fast approaching and so is our Fall Gathering. The Executive Team is planning the annual business meeting and an interesting program. Katie Powell will be our guest speaker from the Joint Religious Legislative Collation. We are hoping many of you can join us at the Fall Gathering to be held at the Anoka UMC.

Big Waters District was responsible for the worship center at Mission u this year and Tricia True did an awesome job of getting it organized and set up. Big Waters District is responsible for hosting the UMW Conference Annual Gathering in 2021 so would any of our UMW from one of the larger churches please consider hosting this gathering and let the Executive Team know as soon as possible?

We are in need of an Emma Norton Representative as Carolyn Garvin has served her term of four years. If you are interested at all in doing this for the Big Waters District for two to four years, please let me know. It would be wonderful if someone in the area closer to the Metro would step forward and accept this position. Carolyn did an fantastic job for Big Waters and would be happy to answer any questions you ay have concerning this position. Please consider serving in this capacity.

We are still I need of people to fill some positions to fill on the Big Waters Executive Team. The nominations committee has been working hard to find willing people. Talk to your UMW groups and see if someone is available. We need a Program Coordinator/Vice Pres, a Communications Coordinator, and an Emma Norton Representative. Two people can serve as Co-Program Coordinators. The Executive Team is the greatest group of ladies to work with and they have helped me so much!

Our meeting dates and places are mostly set for 2020. We have started looking for meeting places for gatherings in 2021.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU IN ANOKA!!**

*Joyce Stobb*, President, Big Waters UMW



## **A MESSAGE FROM A PAST PRESIDENT, Gloria Wesloh**

Looking back on the past 14 years amazes me, where I have come from and where I've been!

In 2003 I was a retired elementary music specialist from the Anoka-Hennepin School District who had spent a week several summers in a row attending the School of Christian Mission at Hamline University. One day I received a call from a woman representing the nominations committee of MN Conference UMW. She said they thought I would be qualified to handle one of two openings they had for the next term of offices, either the communications coordinator or secretary.

I had not held any offices in the district and very few at the local level, I had worked with mostly elementary-aged children in my 32 1/2 year teaching career and related easily with them. I was not very confident about relating to adults partly due to my small size. I decided to accept the position as UMW Conference Secretary because I wouldn't have to talk/speak much.

One big benefit of my position was the officer trainings and leadership development that was available to me. I soon gained the confidence to go on to be the Northeast District UMW President for 1 year and then 3 years as the Big Waters District UMW President after the 6 UMW districts merged to become 5.

From 2012-2016 I served as the President of MN Conference UMW. I have wonderful friendships from all those years working with women from all over the state. I have conversed with national & regional UMW officers, attended 4 national assemblies in California, Missouri, & Kentucky, & Ohio. I have participated in Regional Schools of Christian Mission & Mission in Iowa, Missouri, and Fargo.

I have so enjoyed my connections with UMW that 2 years ago I volunteered to fill out the two years remaining in a Big Waters District UMW Secretary's position! There are several positions available on the Big Waters District UMW 2020 Slate of Officers and I encourage you to "*join the team*" because that's what it is, a friendly supportive community of women working together to advocate for women, children, and youth all over the world.

Yours in Christ,

*Gloria*

NOTE: If you don't know Gloria, you should get acquainted! She is a very special, loving and giving person in every way and she sets a wonderful example for all of us! Thank you for all your years of service, Gloria!

\*Contact the Big Waters UMW District Chair of Nominations Clarice Harman [darclharman@aol.com](mailto:darclharman@aol.com), Peggy Crooms [Peggyc12Ahotmail.com](mailto:Peggyc12Ahotmail.com), or Audrey Bowe 320-982-1280 if you are interested in becoming a member of the Executive Team.

## EMMA NORTON REPORT

Bishop Bruce R. Ough DK-MN Area of the United Methodist Church has commented, "The United Methodist Church is honored to have supported Emma Norton's mission for more than a century. We are proud to continue our partnership with Emma Norton as they continue to serve women and children.

**Emma Norton provides residential and scattered-site housing programs for adults and single-parent led families.** All clients must be homeless and have a documented disability diagnosis in one of the following categories: mental health, chemical dependency, learning disability or chronic health condition.

**At Emma Norton, clients experience support grounded in evidence-based practices that align with our core values of strengthening and empowering all, promoting interdependency and community, and being responsible and accountable.**

**Emma Norton operates under three primary best practices: Housing First, Harm Reduction, and the Sanctuary Model; each allows us to serve our clients in the best way possible!**

**Emma Norton provides a safe, supportive place for women and children to begin their journey home.** As a values-driven organization, Emma Norton impacts its clients every day through the provision of flexible housing and individualized support services. We commit to this work until everyone in Minnesota has a place to live and the support to call it home.



*Carolyn Garven*

## MISSION TODAY

Summer is sailing by...many county fairs have been held and the great Minnesota State Fair will soon be here. back to school

Sales are in progress for the 2019-2020 school year. I hope you have enjoyed this summer. My opportunity to attend Mission u was so rewarding. We studied WOMEN UNITED FOR CHANGE—150 YEARS and PRACTICING RESERRECTION– THE GOSPEL OF MARK AND RADICAL DISCIPLESHIP.. Women of the past and of today were and are so important to further the awareness, ease the conditions of women and children.

Each UMW unit is encouraged to complete the MISSION TODAY report form. It is time to report all the activities your unit participated during the year. Women are such an important part of our individual churches and do much to share the mission story with our actions. Send in your report prior to December 15, 2019, to me at the address below.

At the June Big Waters executive team meeting an important change was made for UMW Sunday (# 15 on the reporting form). Because materials are no longer provided on line for UMW Sunday your unit will receive credit for any planned UMW Sunday event. Although not a requirement, of course we'd love to hear what you've shared to provide ideas for other units.

Patience Gall, coordinator of the Reading Program pointed out that #17, #18, and #23 all refer to the this program. Please include this in your Mission Today report.

I will have report forms available at the Fall Meeting. You may return the form to me at the meeting, call me if any questions (218-485-8545), or return report form to me at a later date at: 93900 Twilight Lane, Moose Lake, Mn 55767. I look forward to hearing from you about the activities in your UMW unit.

Blessings,

*Mary Wiegand*, Education and Interpretation

## FROM THE MINNESOTA CONFERENCE—Important information on the Mission Today Reports!!

Even in early August, farmers and gardeners are thinking about the harvest. They go over what went well, problems, solutions and planning. As workers in the Lord's field and garden we need to evaluate our work, as well. The Mission Today report is one tool to help us.

The Mission Today report will be in the conference yearly mailing to unit presidents. It will be on a separate sheet of paper and included within the body of the "Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women 2020 Directory."

The report is designed to help units evaluate programs and determine ways to grow in service. As your unit plans for 2020, you could review and complete the 2019 report. Use the report to "expand concepts of mission" as you plan for 2020.

Send completed Mission Today reports to your district Education & Interpretation coordinator, prior to the BW District Fall Gathering if possible. Your E & I Coordinator is Mary Wiegand, 93900 Twilight Lane, Moose Lake, MN 55767 or [Mwiegand@isd577.org](mailto:Mwiegand@isd577.org) Peace,

Your sister in Christ,

Linda Brinstner, Education and Interpretation



## Social Action

I just returned from Mission U too and feel fired up to work for social justice! During the presentation we watched a video depicting how much wages have gone up in the last 40 years for those in the highest income brackets and down for those in the lower ones. They used people standing on steps of the Lincoln Memorial to illustrate the point with each step representing 5% of wage change. At the spring gathering I discussed some of the issues the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) lobbied for at the MN capitol to help low income folks.

I am happy to report that the MFIP (Minnesota Family Investment Program), which has not had a raise since 1986, will raise \$100 a month starting next year. We will have the pleasure of hearing more from the JRLC statewide organizer, Katie Powell, at our fall gathering. As a reminder, our Social Action issue priority for 2016-2020 is: Criminalization of Communities of Color (Interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline), Economic Inequality (living wage), Climate Justice (reduction of carbon footprint emissions of corporations and individuals), and Maternal and Child Health (Decrease maternal mortality).

At the fall gathering, we will have an opportunity to help with the last issue. We will have post cards available for you to send to your elected representatives urging them to fully fund the MN Mortality Review Committee Program (MMRCP) and support passage of SF #2294 which adds maternal morbidity to #145.901 and #4615.0800. Maternal morbidity can include conditions such as permanent paralysis, unconsciousness, symptoms of stroke and other disabilities resulting from giving birth. The U.S. is the only industrialized nation where the maternal mortality is rising, reports the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), we need to act now!

*Ruth Pfaller*, Social Concerns

## Nominations Committee Report

If you would like to experience a very rewarding spiritual growth journey and interesting camaraderie, the District Executive Team is for you.

The current members on the Big Waters Dist. Nominations committee are:

Clarice Harman 763-389-1845 [darclharman@aol.com](mailto:darclharman@aol.com).

Peggy Crooms 320-429-2131 [peggyc12@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyc12@hotmail.com)

Audrey Bowe 320-982-1280



JOIN US!

Below is the proposed slate of District Officers for 2020.

The positions needing to be filled are Vice/Pres. and Program Coordinator combination (two people if desired), Communications Coordinator, and Nominations Committee (Class of 2023).

If you or someone you know would be interested in more information about job descriptions, time commitments, length of terms, etc. please contact any one of us on the committee. We would be very happy to meet with you to answer your questions. Don't be shy!

We know there are people out there who would like to serve in a UMW capacity, but we just don't know who and where you are!

We hope you are having a great summer!

*Clarice Harman*, Chairman

## Big Waters District Proposed 2020 Slate of Officers

### To be elected to office for 2020:

**VP---Program Coordinator** TBD

**Secretary:** Karen Strobel 1<sup>st</sup> term 1<sup>st</sup> year 218-829-0958 C- 218-839-7413 [fritz-1234@charter.net](mailto:fritz-1234@charter.net)

**Education & Interpretation:** Carolyn Garven; 1<sup>st</sup> term 1st year 320-252-7737  
[cjgarven@charter.net](mailto:cjgarven@charter.net)

**Communications Coordinator:** TBD

**Emma Norton Representative:** TBD

**Chairperson; Committee on Nominations:**

Peggy Crooms; Class of 2020 320-429-2131 [peggyc@hotmail.com](mailto:peggyc@hotmail.com)

**Committee on Nominations:** Audrey Bowe: Class of 2021 320-982-1280

Mary Weigand; Class of 2022 218-485-8545 [Mweigand@isd577.org](mailto:Mweigand@isd577.org).

**TBD** Class of 2023

**WHO IS THE  
MOST AWESOME  
PERSON TODAY?**



## NOTE FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR:

Please print this newsletter out and share copies with your friends. We want everyone to know the education opportunities , missions and news! We have saved almost \$500/newsletter in printing and mailing costs since we have gone email. Please keep your Email up-to-date by letting myself or Shelley Knoblach, MN&O Label Order Processor [labelpromnumw@gmail.com](mailto:labelpromnumw@gmail.com) or 952-381-4490.

UMW Presidents– please ask your members if they want to receive the Big Waters Beacon and if so, please send me the new emails or addresses. There is no cost.

I have been the Communications Coordinator for 4 years now and my time is up. I have really enjoyed the job– its fun to put things together -like a jigsaw puzzle! Someone who likes to organize articles is needed to continue keeping UMW members informed. You don't need to write them. Please consider helping out with this mission. All you really need is a working knowledge of Word. I will be happy to help you get started!

*Mary Jane Reetz*



Remember: Communication  
is everything!!

## SPIRITUAL GROWTH

**At each Fall Gathering, we have a memorial service honoring the ladies who have left us in the past year. A flower is placed in a vase as each name is read. Please send a list of ladies who have passed on since last fall's gathering and enclose a check for \$2 per person to cover the cost of flowers.**

**Send list and check to: Tricia Truwe**

**6391 Cheshire Lane N.**

**Maple Grove, MN 55311**

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

**Ph 763-559-1279**

Please have names and money in by  
September 17, 2019

# MEMBERSHIP AND NUTURE REPORT - 150 YEARS OF WOMEN UNITED FOR CHANGE

150 years! One of the studies at Mission u in July was about the origin and history of United Methodist Women. We are a group of women who have merged over the years from many different denominations and backgrounds. The one common denominator throughout the dec ades is our passion and belief in social justice. We promote and fight for the rights of women, youth and children.

Each individual unit in our conference and throughout the world is connected with this one purpose. This is what draws us together and unites us. We gather in our local, conference, na tional and global units because we care about each other. We pray for each other and lend sup port and encouragement where needed.

Our membership is declining and we need to ignite a spark in others who share our common goals and beliefs. Do you have a friend or family member who has a passion for the welfare of women, youth and children? Is there someone you know who feels as you do about social justice issues? Are they concerned about the decisions the United Methodist Church will have to face in the coming months? What can we do to help fight homelessness, hunger, poverty, mass incar ceration, discrimination, etc? The list is endless and I know there are women in your congrega tions who feel as we do and would like to be a part of helping. We need to invite and bring them to UMW meetings and show them what a wonderful and powerful group we are. We can and do make a difference!!

*Vicky Clausen*

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## CALENDAR

## SAVE ON YOUR REFRIDGERATOR

### Meeting Dates and Places for 2020

- February 22nd Big Waters Executive Team meeting—Elk River UMC
- April 24th Big Waters Executive Team Meeting—Princeton Freshwaters UMC
- April 25th Big Waters Spring Gathering— Princeton Freshwaters UMC
- June 20th Big Waters Executive Team—TBA
- September 18 Big Waters Executive Team Meeting—Coon Rapids UMC
- September 19 Big Waters UME Fall Gathering-Coon Rapids UMC

Tentative dates for 2021- February 20th, Apr 15-16th, Jun 19th, September 17-18.

Please consider hosting one of these meetings. It's a great way to meet great women!!

Love to see you!



## REGISTRATION FORM FOR FALL GATHERING SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

### JOINT RELIGIOUS LEGISLATIVE COALITION

Guest Speaker– Katie Powell, JRLC Statewide Organizer

Meeting starts at 9:30 with Muffins with Emma

UMW UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING FORM \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL OF PERSON SUBMITTING FORM \_\_\_\_\_

How many will be attending? \_\_\_\_\_ (Please include a list of names!)

Any special needs, including dietary \_\_\_\_\_

I need child care: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Ages of Children \_\_\_\_\_

If bringing children, please bring a lunch and snacks along.

\_\_\_\_\_ Group registration payment enclosed (one check)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual registration payments enclosed

Cost: \$8.00 per person/\$9.00 walk-ins      Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ X \$8.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to ***Big Waters UMW*** and mail to:

Kim Harris

850 South St.

Anoka, MN 55303.

**Dare to Act/Live Boldly!**

**Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women  
ANNUAL GATHERING**

***Dare to Act/Live Boldly***

**Centennial UMC**

**1524 County Rd C2 W**

**Roseville, MN 55113**

**Saturday, October 12, 2019, 8:45AM-3:45PM**

**Registration and Lunch \$15**

**Registration and Emma Coffee will begin at 8:45AM and meeting will open at 9:30AM**

*Save this portion for reference*

Registration sheet required for each participant attending. Registration **Deadline: Oct. 1, 2019**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Street

City

ZIP

District \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_ First-time Attendee \_\_\_\_\_

Age Bracket: \_\_\_15-25 \_\_\_26-35 \_\_\_36-45 \_\_\_46-60 \_\_\_Over 60

Indicate any special needs, including dietary \_\_\_\_\_

\_I need child care: \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO Age of children \_\_\_\_\_

**Please bring a sack lunch for each child**

\_\_\_ Group registration payment enclosed (one check with a registration form for each person)

\_\_\_ \$15.00 individual registration fee enclosed

**Make check payable to: MN Conference UMW**

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed registration form(s) and payment, **by October 1, 2019**

## Lodging Facilities In Roseville, MN

### Country Inn and Suites

2740 N Snelling Ave,  
Roseville, MN, 55113  
651-628-3500

### Hampton Inn

2050 Iona Lane W  
Roseville, MN, 55113  
651-209-3000

### Home 2 Suites

2010 Iona Lane W  
Roseville, MN, 55113  
651-925-8600

All three hotels are within 5-6 blocks of church.



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