



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.

Wrapping up 2019 – A Year End To-do List!

December is the time of year for lists! We make lists for gifts, cards, menus, groceries, decorating and cleaning. If we didn't have our lists, we would never get **everything** done. December is also the time of year to make our yearend UMW to-do list. New directories need to be made, budgets approved, pledge money sent in and then there are those pesky Conference and District **REPORTS**.



That's what this special edition of the Beacon is all about – to help you with your UMW to-do list. Grab a cup of coffee, take a deep breath and browse through your copy of the Beacon.. You will find information on what the reports are, how to fill them out, deadlines and who to send them to. The Christmas season is a busy time of year but with a little planning you'll make it through with flying colors!

A special thank you to each of you for all you've done this past year to turn faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth around the world.

Be sure to have a blessed Christmas as you celebrate the coming of God's special gift to each of us, his son Jesus Christ.



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Officer and Member Updates

In October you should have received a request to update the list of officers in your local unit. This request was sent to all unit presidents by Sophia Mahowald, Conference Officer Update Processor, asking you to add the names of new officers in your UMW unit. This request would have arrived in your postal mailbox or via email.



The list should also include women in your unit who wish to receive the conference *Fresh Connection* and our district's newsletter. Adding email addresses would be helpful! Please contact Sophia Mahowald if you need assistance: 612-382-4778 or scmahowald@gmail.com

Thank you in advance for your promptness in returning these revisions as soon as possible. Updating the mailing list for the *Fresh Connection* and *Big Waters Beacon* is such an important part of keeping everyone in touch!

2019 Minnesota UMW Census

Your help is needed to count the women who support United Methodist Women in Minnesota by reporting the number of women who participate in your local UMW unit. Whether your numbers are small or large, each local unit is important!

One person from each church should submit the UMW census report on-line; any one can fill out the form if there is no president in your local unit. If you are not a computer user, please ask your church office to assist you or contact Melinda Kohrt, Conference Membership Coordinator, for help: 952-934-9325 or mnomnumw@gmail.com

The form is available now at the following link: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2019

Please submit by March 30, 2020.

2019 Mission Today Form

Let us know how your unit is doing *mission today* by filling out a Mission Today form! Use the form to report what sorts of mission related activities are part of your local UMW experience. All of you are doing mission so we'd love to hear what you're up to. The form lists 27 mission actions that your unit has probably completed without even realizing it. If you have a membership of 15 or less, you need to complete at least 4 actions and if your membership is 16 or more, 8 actions must be completed. These actions include things you do in your congregation, community, nationally or globally. When you submit a Mission Today form your unit will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition.

You can find a copy of the form in your 2019 MN Conference Directory. A copy has also been included as an attachment with this mailing. ***Please return your completed form to Carolyn Garven, District Education & Interpretation Coordinator, at 624 Riverside Drive NE, St. Cloud MN 56304.***

Please submit by December 15, 2019.

Reading Program Report Form



The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books. From captivating novels to urgent messages about issues, there's something for everyone. The books are divided into five categories and are available for people of all ages and reading levels.

If you have completed one of the four plans over the past year, please fill out the Reading Program Reporting Form. When you submit your form, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition. A copy of the form has been included as an attachment to this mailing. ***Please return your completed form to Patience Gall, District Resource Manager, at 8123 Maple Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311.***

Please submit by January 31, 2020.

2019 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 40 years of service to the district and conference. Their commitment to United Methodist Women is much appreciated!

Clarice Harman has served as secretary and committee on nominations member and chair.

Gloria Wesloh has served as district secretary, district president, conference secretary and conference president.

Mary Jane Reetz has served as committee on nominations member and chair and communications coordinator.

Carolyn Garven is retiring as our Emma Norton Representative but will remain on the team as education and interpretation mission coordinator. She has also served as a committee on nominations member and resource manager.

Mary Wiegand is retiring as our education and interpretation mission coordinator but will remain on the team as a committee on nominations member.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR BIG WATERS DISTRICT OFFICERS

President - Joyce Stobb – 12846 100th St., Milaca, MN 56353 - 320-369-4259 - joyce.stobb@gmail.com

Program Coordinator – Open

Secretary - Karen Strobel – 811 S. 6th St., Brainerd, MN 56041 - 218-829-0958 - fritz-1234@charter.net

Treasurer - Diane Bublitz – 1514 Aspen Lane, St. Cloud, MN 56303 - 320-259-1939 - dmbublitz@q.com

Nominations Chair - Peggy Crooms – 505 4th Ave. SE, Milaca, MN 56353 - 320-429-2131 - peggyyc@hotmail.com

Mission Coordinators:

Spiritual Growth - Tricia Truwe – 6391 Cheshire Lane N, Maple Grove, MN 55311 - 763-559-1279

tricia.50@comcast.com

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

vlcmaisel@gmail.com

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

cjgarven@charter.net

Social Action - Ruth Pfaller – 3631 Hillside Dr., Barnum, MN 55707 - 218-213-1841 - ruthpfaller@gmail.com

Committee on Nominations:

Class of 2020 – Nominations Chair

Class of 2021 - Audrey Bowe – 704 1st St. E, Milaca, Mn 56353 - 320-982-1280

Class of 2022 - Mary Wiegand – 93900 Twilight Lane, Moose Lake, MN 55767 - 218-485-8545

mwiegand@isd577.org

Class of 2023 - Open

Resource Manager - Patience Gall – 8123 Maple Lane, Maple Grove, MN 55311 - 763-420-4603 - bpgall@comcast.com

Newsletter Editor - Linda Kotschevar – 109 3rd Ave. N., Waite Park, MN 56387 – 320-252-3827 - jlksch@hotmail.com

Emma Norton Rep. – Open

Mission Giving Contributions Due December 14th



First, a reminder the deadline for 2019 contributions is **December 14, 2019**. Contributions received after that date will count towards 2020 not 2019.

As of the end of October, Big Waters District has only reached 58% of our pledge to mission or \$33,202 given compared to our goal of \$57,000. Also, only 7 units have achieved 5 Star status by giving to all 5 categories that make up our district pledge.

We are doing better in meeting our Emma Norton pledge, \$5,905 given compared to our pledge of \$8,000 or 74% of our goal has been met.

Hopefully your local unit has funds and plans to give to Mission Giving and Emma Norton. If I can be of help, please contact me: Diane Bublitz, dmbublitz@q.com, 320-259-1939, 1514 Aspen Lane, St. Cloud, MN 56303.

Become a 5 Star Unit

Your unit can be a part of the ever-growing mission of United Methodist Women by contributing to the five channels of Mission Giving. The five channels are: 1) Pledge to Mission, 2) Special Mission Recognition Pin, 3) Gift to Mission Card, 4) Gift in Memory Card and 5) World Thank Offering. The district treasurer keeps track of your unit's contributions to each of these categories throughout the year. When you have given to all five channels your unit becomes a Five Star Unit and will receive a Certificate of Recognition!

Please submit contributions by December 14, 2019.

Big Waters Calendar of Event

February 22	BW District Executive Team Meeting	Elk River UMC
April 23	Emma Norton Services Opening Doors Dinner	St. Paul
April 24	BW District Executive Team Meeting	Freshwaters UMC, Princeton
April 25	BW District Spring Gathering	Freshwaters UMC, Princeton
June 20	BW District Executive Team Meeting	TBD
June 26-28	UMW North Central Jurisdiction Meeting	Sioux Falls, SD
July 17-19	Mission u	Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
July 25	Mission u Too	Faith UMC, Waseca
August 1	Mission u Too	La Puerta Abierta, St. Paul
September 18	BW District Executive Team Meeting	Coon Rapids UMC
September 19	BW District Fall Gathering	Coon Rapids UMC
October 10	Conference Annual Gathering	Riverside UMC, Park Rapids
October 24-25	Leadership Development Retreat	Kelly Inn, St. Cloud

