

Conference Communicator



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

Western Pennsylvania Conference
United Methodist Women
Spring 2021 Newsletter

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Check Us Out Online!



@WPaUMWomen

Western PA UMW Stories

<https://www.wpaumc.org/umwBlogs>



@wpaumw

Western PA UMW Website

<https://www.wpaumc.org/UMWomen>

President's Letter

Where do I start? Covid? Virtual everything? Not seeing anyone face-to-face?

How about this – **BREATHE!** One of the forms of meditation that we learned in the virtual study “Finding Peace in an Anxious World” was simply breathing. Take a slow breath in and then let it out slowly. Not only is this a good form to use for meditation when you concentrate on your relationship with God while you breathe, but it is also a good way to relieve tension and relax when you focus on taking those slow breathes in and out.

We are being faced by many challenges at this point in our journeys, work, family, UMW, church, staying safe, and the list goes on. We need to breath and take things one step at a time as we care for ourselves so that we can care for others. Something that our National UMW General Secretary, Harriett Olson said recently is that there is “no GPS” (or road map) “for this journey”. None of us have dealt with all this before. We must work together to learn new things and make progress in all the areas of our lives.

One of the biggest challenges we face is how we do UMW. How do we meet? How do we do fund raisers for our mission work? How do we stay motivated to press on with so many challenges? First – BREATHE! Then work together to get things done. We may not be able to meet in person, but we can still talk on the phone, write to each other, pray for each other and work together to find ways to do the work of UMW. I know of one unit that raffled off a handmade quilt and used the proceeds for mission. Many of us are cooking more so maybe now is the time to put together a new cookbook of all those favorite recipes. Start a Facebook group that is by invitation only so that your unit can keep in touch that way or instead of meeting in person as a unit meet on Zoom. There are ways to do this work, but we have to be willing to do it in different ways.

As you know we were not able to fill all the offices on the Conference level this year, so we are working as a team to keep things moving along. I have included in this newsletter a list of Conference Officers and I am your contact for all the vacant offices. I will not be doing all of it myself, but I will make sure that the work is done.

We will also be working on the National Priorities this year which include an emphasis on racial justice. I have included a copy of the Charter for Racial Justice in this newsletter. Please read it and work on making it a reality in your local unit. Let me know what you are doing and how I might be able to help.

Remember to *BREATHE!*

Grace, peace and prayers,

Linda Thayer, President
724-882-6174
Lsthayer@gmail.com



Treasurer's Letter

Greetings!

It is a cold, snowy January day as I write this message to each of you. And I hope when you read this, maybe you will be able to see some daffodils!!! Maybe that is wishful thinking right now, but we know they will come. They are faithful like the God that we serve. Faithful.

What a challenging year 2020 has been. Each of us has our own story to tell, but many of our stories are the same. God gives us joys, trials, challenges, rewards, wisdom, and so much more. And those things help us grow. And we know that God is always with us. Through it all.

With so many local units not meeting in person, I am pleasing to say that we met 73% of our goal for our annual giving. Some districts came very close to obtaining their goal. And some not so much. But we are able to share our gifts and talents in many ways, maybe yours was the gift of "connection" last year. Those phone calls to check to see if others were doing ok or if they needed anything were important. Thank you to the local units who persisted in giving. Thank you to the districts who reached out in special ways, maybe not holding Mission Study or Annual Day, but staying connected to those who needed them in new ways.

As I continue to be your conference treasurer, I also have agreed to be the treasurer for Mission u. Mission u is a time to learn, relax, connect with others and connect with our God. So my biggest request of you District treasurers, is please continue to send your checks to me along with your forms either monthly or at least quarterly. And District treasurers and local units, make separate checks payable to Mission u. I do need to keep separate accounting. Each local unit is asked to support Mission u with an annual \$40.00 donation to help keep registration costs more affordable.

For a couple months in late fall, my church did meet inside our sanctuary. In children's moments, the pastor asked the children what they were thankful for this Thanksgiving season. My grandson said he was glad we do not need to wear masks in our homes. Amen, Davis!!! In 2021, we are hoping to meet in person and enjoy hugs, smiles and no masks. Appreciate little things more. As we plan now for our events this year, pray that our world will seem to be a more peaceful place. A safer place. I think that would bring a smile to God's face, like daffodils bring a smile to my face.

Linda L. Murdock
H. 814.382.3877
C. 814.720.0573
lindalmurdock@gmail.com



Spiritual Growth

Breathe

Breathe.

Breathe... Take a deep breath... Count your breaths... Just breathe...

Breathing is natural. Except when it isn't.

Stress takes our breath away sometimes.

Deep breathing can calm us, help us control feelings, It helps us stay fully alive.

Breathe on me breath of God.

Breath prayers are great because they can be done at anytime or place and no one knows!

Breathe on me breath of God. Fill me with life anew.

A favorite breath prayer for me is one I learned from Joyce Rupp. "Fill me, Use me"

Our cups can only be filled when they have been emptied.

Breathing in, I am filled with all the good things God is.

Breathing out, I pray to be used.

Genesis 2:7 – The Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew breath into his nostrils.

Breath is life.

Breathing is an act of hope. We take one breath and then another

Ezekiel 37:14 – I will put my breath in you and you will live.

Intentional breathing can quiet a troubled mind. Sometimes we are so stressed we can't find words, much less a structured sentence,

Romans 8:26 – God's Spirit within us is actually praying for us in those agonizing longings which never find words.

Breathe on me breath of God, that I may love the way you love

Breathe on me breath of God, until my heart is pure

Breathe on me breath of God, till I am wholly thine

Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Psalm 150:6

Sara Nute Dickey

412-327-0122

sarich@aol.com



Membership Nurture And Outreach

Last year we had a pretty complete census report – thanks to an extraordinary effort by District presidents and MNOs. As we move into 2021, changes are happening across our country, and a vaccine gives us hope against the pandemic that has been ravishing us. It's time to re-group – to once again make a concerted effort to check on each other because we are a caring community of women.

This year the National Office affirms that the census is also a survey as they try to determine the numbers of United Methodist Women across the US, but also what we need from them. For some, this is a more frustrating on-line experience because the survey requires an answer for every question, most by choosing an answer from a drop-down menu. It's a bizarre look back at a year when most local units were not meeting in person or virtually. They were just trying to survive.

PLEASE DON'T STRESS. We can get through this together. District Presidents and Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinators (and I) can help you. But you have to help us. I know everyone is tired of receiving robo-calls and unsolicited phone calls. So, if we don't recognize the number, we don't answer the phone. For the next month, if you have not completed the UMW Census/Survey, please answer your phone. Just hang up if it is a robo-call. However, it may be your District President or MNO. They want to help you complete the Census/Survey.

If you want to be pro-active, give me or your District President or MNO a call at your convenience if you want our assistance. (Diane Miller – 814-498-2308). Deadline for completion of the Census/Survey is **March 30, 2021**.

Please urge your unit president to either complete the census herself or ask another of your members to do this or let someone on your district team assist you. Things are going to get back to a new normal. What we want is for this normal to be even more caring because of what we have endured in the past year. First and most important – find out how your members are doing. The survey/census is a good excuse to connect with women.

As Conference MNO – my offer of help to you:

- As you set up your district meetings – or even local meetings - if you want to Zoom and need someone to set this up, let me know. I've now acquired the Zoom license that allows me to set up meetings. If you've got questions, let me know as I've also learned a lot mostly by analyzing my mistakes, since I've become my husband's tech person. (He's come out of retirement and is pastoring the two churches of our charge. A small group of us worship in person, masked and distanced. We actually have over twice as many people at my home church who Zoom in than come to the church in person.)
- If you are having a district meeting by Zoom, let me know. I'll try to join you.
- If you run into a problem completing the census/survey, let me know and I'll ask the national office the appropriate questions. They answer my questions right away. That's helpful!

Diane Miller
814-498-2308
diane.miller2747@gmail.com



Which of the following office(s) on the Conference UMW Leadership Team would you most like to serve if given the opportunity? (Check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture and Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Interpretation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources |

What qualifications do you feel that you have for your office(s) of choice?

Which of the following committees might you like to serve on?

(Check all that apply)

- Elizabeth A. Bradley Nominations Charter for Racial Justice

Communications

Do you use email? _____ (Yes or no) Do you text? _____ (Yes or no)

Do you use Social Media like Facebook or Twitter? _____ (Yes or No)

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment?

Full day _____ (Yes or no) Weekend _____ (Yes or no) Extended _____ (Yes or no)



Become a Legacy Builder

An exciting new phase of the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign has begun, called Legacy Builders. A Legacy Builder moves forward the mission of United Methodist Women by making a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign in honor of United Methodist Women's 150 years in mission and its 150 years to come. [Learn more, and become a Legacy Builder today!](#)



LEGACY BUILDER

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 23

UMW DAY OF GIVING

NOMINATIONS

The Committee on Nominations is essential to any organization in order for it to continue. We need HELP immediately because the Conference Leadership Team is in need of several officers: Vice President, Secretary, Program Resources, Education & Interpretation, Communications, and Nominating Committee members.

VP position is for you if you are someone interested in planning programs.

The **Secretary** position is for you if you are an organized person who likes to take minutes of meetings.

The **Program Resources** positions deals with the UMW reading program, so if you love to read we would love to hear from you.

Education & Interpretation is a position which helps educate everyone about UMW, so if you are a teacher, retired or otherwise, let me hear from you.

Communications is an important person to keep UMW informed of all that is happening in our Conference.

If any of these positions appeal to you please contact me as I would love to give you more information. The committee would love to fill these positions immediately so our president will not be overloaded. If you're a woman in a local unit who thinks you can't do any of these jobs, think again! We have training and job descriptions to help you and would be glad to welcome you. Because of the pandemic the Leadership Team is meeting via Zoom so you need access to a computer to join our Team. It is very difficult for the nominating committee to find new officers when we cannot see or talk to women in person since there are no in person meetings being held at this time. We need your help to point us toward those who are interested in serving. Please contact me with thoughts, ideas, and/or questions as I'm most anxious to hear from anyone who is willing to help.

Joan Bradley
ogremtb@aol.com
412-364-1609



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Ruth M Smith Center – and More

I know a son who requested donations to the Legacy Fund in lieu of flowers when his UMW mother died. I have a friend who now lives at Wesbury and tithed 10% of what she inherited from her mother. I know others who have left bequests that have made both a witness and an impact.

This poem was written by two Board members of the Ruth M. Smith Center (a National Mission Institution) to honor a United Methodist Woman who supported the Smith Center with a bequest. That gift enabled the Smith Center to pay off its debt, replenish its emergency fund, and regain a sense of hope for the future. There are wonderful people who don't go into the mission field or work in a mission facility, but who find ways to support a ministry and mission—as with an inheritance, a testimony even in death.

“A Humble Life”

By S. McKee and L. Sibley

I was never much to look at,
Not too brilliant or a wit.
Like most I was just average,
But I didn't mind a bit.

I was raised by Christian parents
Who loved with all their heart.
They taught me to be generous
And with earthly treasures part.

I didn't get rich or famous,
But that suited me just fine.
God met all my earthly needs,
Friends and family were sublime.

And then I stood in heaven,
All tears were wiped away.
While God reviewed my life,
The good and bad I did each day.

God really liked my helping
And giving to the poor.
I was shown the lives I'd changed
And wished I'd given more.

It's great to be in heaven,
And God points out each day.
That what I gave on earth
Still helps lost souls find their way.

One day God let me glimpse
The Center listed in my will.
The workers were so caring,
And the clients' problems nil.

The Center named Ruth M. Smith
Was glowing with good cheer.
It was obvious to all who saw
That love resided here.

God winked at me and smiled,
“My Dear you were the one
Who turned this place around.
Well done, well done, well done!”





Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global

**Adopted by the 1980 General Conference of
The United Methodist Church**

Because we believe:

1. That God is the Creator of all people, and all are God's children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental and political exploitation;
5. That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sister and brothers of other races in thought, in word and in deed;
6. That in our common humanity in creation, all women and men are made in God's image, and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;
7. That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured;
8. That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships, and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures and practices of both church and state;

We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed, and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.

Continued on next page

Therefore,

as United Methodists in every place across the land, we will unite our efforts within the church to take the following actions:

1. Eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the total ministry of the church, giving special attention to those institutions that we support, beginning with their employment policies, purchasing practices, environmental policies and availability of services and facilities.
2. Create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with the existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together.
3. Increase efforts to recruit people of all races into the membership of The United Methodist Church and provide leadership development opportunities without discrimination.
4. Establish workshops and seminars in local churches to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community.
5. Raise local churches' awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment, medical care and environmental justice for all members of the community, and to create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines.
6. Work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people such as through support of the ratification of United Nations covenants on human rights.
7. Support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community.
8. Facilitate nomination and election processes that include all racial groups by employing a system that prioritizes leadership opportunities of people from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing legacy of racial injustice, and use measures to align our vision for racial justice with actions that accelerate racial equality.



Social Action

As United Methodists, we believe that God has given us principles for how to live in a community. Central to Jesus' teachings, life, death, and resurrection is the Great Commandment: we must love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:35-40; Mark 12:28-34)

“We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disability; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.”

— [United Methodist Social Creed](#)

Much of the Bible is devoted to figuring out how to follow this commandment. Nearly all of Church history is filled with devout Christians struggling — with failures and successes — to live out this commandment. What does it mean to love God? What does it look like when we love our neighbor?

What we believe about the nature of God and the nature of humanity also informs our understanding. Scripture tells us God created humankind in God's image. What does that mean for how we treat each other?

We must take these questions seriously as followers of Christ.

We believe that in loving both God and neighbor, we must pursue God's command of justice, liberation and flourishing for all people. We must work for the civil and human rights of every person.

Katie Peterson, Social Action Coordinator
(906) 630-1519
Ktpete@gmail.com

The Mission Barn

UMCOR hygiene kits are available for local food pantries, shelters, and agencies - to continue to assist people in staying safe and clean. Please email Katie at missionbarn@gmail.com for more information on how to receive these in a timely manner.

We are also continuing to collect supplies, kits and money for both Hygiene and Cleaning kits. The items can be found at umcor.org for each kit.

If you would like to volunteer with us - please email me.

Katie Peterson,
Deaconess, Missionary Social Action Coordinator
906-630-1519
missionbarn@gmail.com



Elizabeth A. Bradley Mission Fund

The Fund allowed us to distribute \$68,021.49 in grants this year! You can see the breakdown below. This is my last year on the committee, and I have to say it was fun. It is fun to give away money to programs that are doing such good things and doing so in line with the Purpose of UMW.

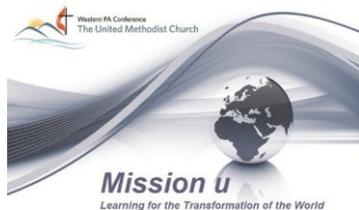
<u>District</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>2021 Award</u>
Franklin	ABC Life Center (The Life Center, A Better Choice)	Facility Growth Project	\$5,000.00
Erie	All God's Children Ministries, Inc.	Ramps of Hope	\$5,000.00
Connellsville	Asbury UMC, Uniontown	Asbury Preschool Improvement	\$3,700.00
Franklin	Clarion Christian School		\$2,500.00
Butler	Eastbrook Mission Barn	UMCOR (ramp program)	\$3,000.00
Erie	Erie UM Alliance	Homeless to Home	\$5,000.00

	Ruth M. Smith Center	Personal Care Home	\$33,821.49
	UMW Scholarship Fund		\$2,000.00
	Mission Ambassador Program		\$2,000.00
	Children's Mission u		\$2,000.00
	Youth Mission u		\$2,000.00
	Middle School Mission u		\$2,000.00
TOTALS			\$68,021.49

Kathy Gordon, Chair
 Elizabeth A. Bradley Mission Fund
 412-427-0529
kjgordon02@gmail.com



Mission u Update



Greetings to all! Especially to past attendees of Mission u, those who would like to attend, and those who simply like to learn and grow. Last year was new territory for many of us in our attempts to learn and grow. Churches, schools, and other organizations had to find new ways to reach people. It has been a big change for all, and a learning curve. Mission u was able to offer one online study with Rev. Lisa Grant on Finding Peace in an Anxious World over the summer. Barb Hess and Karen Martin are offering the same study online as I write this.

The Mission u committee has made the tough decision to not hold any in person events in 2021. While we all would like nothing better than to be able to sit and talk and share a meal and worship experience, we just do not feel it is safe for all yet. And rather than having to change plans mid-stream we have decided on a plan we can put in place and leave in place.

While the details are still being worked out, I wanted to let everyone know what to watch out for in the coming months. There are 3 studies that will be offered online at some point in the coming year.

1. "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" will be offered at least once more.
2. "Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship" is a new Spiritual Growth study that is in the works. Plans are to offer it twice in the coming year.
3. "Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools" is a new Social Issue study in the works. Again, plans are to offer it twice in the coming year.

So, how do you keep informed on these upcoming offerings? There are a few ways.

- Conference website. If you click on the "Missions" tab, there is an entry for Mission u.
- Facebook. Search for "WPA UMC Mission u" or "United Methodist Women – Western Pennsylvania Conference". "Like" the page to receive updates to them.
- I am building an email distribution list to keep people informed. If you would like to be added to that list email me at kjgordon02@gmail.com . Please put "Mission u registration" in the subject line so I don't miss it!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Here is to success in a new year – even if it isn't the way we wanted!

Kathy Gordon
Dean of Mission u

412-427-0529

kjgordon02@gmail.com

Please Read This Page Prior To Completing The Following Application

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FOR CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS

Any United Methodist student of the **Western Pennsylvania Conference** who plans to enter a full-time, church-related vocation and who is in need of financial assistance to further their education may apply. The student may apply for their **junior or senior year of college; graduate school year or seminary study.**

QUALIFICATIONS: Financial assistance shall be given only to United Methodist students of the Western Pennsylvania Conference who:

1. Are fully dedicated to service in the United Methodist Church in a full-time, church-related vocation.
 2. NEED financial assistance: **TOTAL income may not exceed \$24,000 if single or \$30,000 if married. An allowance of \$3,000 is made for each dependent.**
 3. Have satisfactory academic grades.
 4. Have been active in their local church and community.
 5. Have the personality and other qualifications needed to do full-time Christian work.
 6. Are approved by the Scholarship Committee of the WPA United Methodist Women.
 7. The WPA Board of Ordained Ministry also must approve seminary students.
- One person may receive a total of four grants, but only one per calendar year. Applications with supporting documents must be in the hands of the committee chair by April 15 for Fall Term and Oct. 15 for Spring Term. Notification letters to applicants will be sent by early June or December depending on the term.

BACKGROUND

The Scholarship Fund began in 1963. Since then it has aided several hundred recipients in completing their seminary or other upper-level schooling.

The Scholarship Committee is composed of four executives of the WPA-UMW. The committee determines to whom the money is given and the amount of the gift. The money is intended to supplement the financial resources of the student and encourage his or her education. **It is to pay for books and/or tuition.** In the past 50 years, the committees have approved grants of \$500 - \$2,000 twice a year.



**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE
UMW SCHOLARSHIP FUND for CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS**

Note: Read the qualifications on the first page

NAME _____ DATE OF APPLICATION _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

STUDENT ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

SINGLE ____ (FILE OUT SETION II) MARRIED ____ (**FILL OUT SECTION III**)

SECTION II

NAME OF APPLICANT'S PARENTS OR
GAURDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____

NUMBER SIBLINGS ____ NAMES _____

SECTION III

NAME OF APPLICANT'S SPOUSE _____ CHILDREN'S
AGES _____

IS SPOUSE EMPLOYED? _____ EMPLOYER NAME _____

ADDRESS OF
EMPLOYER _____

INCOME _____

SECTION IV APLICANT'S EDUCATION

YEAR OF GRADUATION (HIGH SCHOOL) _____

NAME OF COLLEGE _____ YEAR OF GRADUATION _____

NAME OF SEMINARY _____

PRESENT CLASS/YEAR IN SCHOOL _____ EXPECTED GRADUATION DATE _____

ACCUMULATED GRADE POINT AVERAGE _____

ADDITIONAL TRAINING OR EDUCATION TOWARD VOCATION _____

ARE YOU PRESENTLY EMPLOYED? _____ TOTAL AMOUNT OF INCOME _____

***IF SPOUSE IS EMPLOYED TOTAL OF BOTH INCOMES _____
(There are income limitations – read the first page of the application)**

SECTION IV CONTINUED

NAME OF YOUR EMPLOYER _____

ARE YOU FINANCIALLY INDEBTED FOR YOUR EDUCATION AT THIS TIME? _____

SOURCE OF FINANCIAL AID _____

AMOUNT _____

HOME CHURCH _____

ADDRESS _____ DISTRICT _____

WHAT CHURCH RELATED VOCATION ARE YOU PURSUING?

HAVE YOU BEEN APPROVED BY YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT? _____

DO YOU PLAN TO RETURN TO THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE FOR APPOINTMENT OR EMPLOYMENT? _____

PLEASE LIST THE FOLLOWING PERSONS WHO WILL SEND THEIR LETTERS OF REFERENCE DIRECTLY TO THE CONFERENCE UMW MISSION COORDINATOR OF EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION:

1. YOUR PASTOR _____

ADDRESS _____

2. DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT _____

ADDRESS _____

3. PROFESSOR _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE USE THIS SPACE FOR ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT HAVE.

(ENCLOSE AN ESSAY EXPLAINING YOUR GOALS AND NEEDS; WHY YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THIS SCHOLARSHIP.)

No application may be considered after these deadlines:

For the Fall Semester, April 15

For the Spring Semester, Oct 15

Send completed application and essay to:

**Linda Thayer
197 Abel Heath Lane
Franklin, PA 16323
Lsthayer@gmail.com
724-882-6174**

Western Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women 2021 Leadership Team Slate of Officers

	* Indicates to be elected	TBN – To be Nominated	
President	Linda Thayer 197 Abel Heath Lane Franklin, PA 16323	724-882-6174 Lsthayer@gmail.com	1 st year. 2 nd term
Vice-President	Linda Thayer (Contact Person) see above		
Secretary	Linda Thayer (Contact Person) see above		
Treasurer	Linda Murdock 15393 State Route 285 Conneaut Lake, PA 16316	814-382-3877 (H) 814-720-0573 (C) Lindalmurdock@gmail.com	2 nd year 1 st term

MISSION COORDINATORS

Education & Interpretation	Linda Thayer (Contact Person) see above		
Social Action	Katie Peterson 716 Neal St. New Castle, PA 16101	906-630-1519 Ktpete@gmail.com	1 st year 2 nd term
Membership Nurture and Outreach	Diane Miller 140 Boone's Way Kennerdell, PA 16374	814-498-2308 (H) 814-706-93571 (C) Diane.miller2747@gmail.com	1 st year 2 nd term
Spiritual Growth	Sara Nute Dickey* 611 Friendship Circle Pittsburgh, PA 15241	412-327-0122 Sarich@aol.com	1 st year 1 st term

OTHER Officers

Secretary of Program Resources	Linda Thayer (Contact Person) see above	
Communications Coordinator	Linda Thayer (Contact Person) see above	
Dean of Mission u	Kathy Gordon 770 Grandview Road Ellwood City, PA 16117	412-427-0529 (C) Kjgordon@zoominternet.net
Assistant Dean of Mission u	TBA	

WPA CONFERENCE OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Class of 2021	Joan Bradley (Chair) 196 Wallingford Dr. Pittsburgh, PA 15237	412-364-1609 Ogremtb@aol.com
Class of 2022	Mary Hart 226 Malden Road Brownsville, PA 15417	724-785-7976 (H) 724-263-2090 (C) Twoharts2@icloud.com
Class of 2023	Maureen Coon* 2107 Coventry Dr. Allison Park, PA 15101	412-492-0376 (H) 412-334-5990 (C) Maureencoone@verizon.net

ELIZABETH A. BRADLEY MISSION FUND COMMITTEE

Class of 2021	Susan Roboski (Chair) 1623 Lillibridge Road Port Alleghany, PA 16743	814-642-7940 Susan.spirithouse@gmail.com
Class of 2023	Joan Bright* 463 Edwards Street Johnstown, PA 15905	814-262-5120 (C) 814-255-5079 (H) Joanbright07@gmail.com
Class of 2024	Patti Thomas* 24 Glenwood Drive Oil City, PA 16301TBN	814-677-6075 Mrspthomas1961@gmail.com

By Virtue of Their Office

President	Linda Thayer	
Treasurer	Linda Murdock	
Education and Interpretation	TBN	
Nominations Chair	Joan Bradley	

COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Class of 2021	TBN	
Class of 2022	TBN	
Class of 2022	Ruth Soko 614 Second St. California, PA 15419	(323) 994-8165 ruci.soko@gmail.com
District President	TBN	

By Virtue of Their Office

President (Chair)	Linda Thayer	
Social Action	Katie Peterson	
Nominations Chair	Joan Bradley	



February is Black History Month—a time to reflect on the history of Black Americans and honor the individuals and groups who have worked tirelessly toward racial justice. Black women are a crucial part of United Methodist Women's history, present and future. Recommit this month to the work of racial justice. Visit [United Methodist Women's website](#) for resources and stories.

MISSION TODAY

Criteria for Local Organizations in Western Pennsylvania Conference

Spiritual Growth

1. Use the Prayer Calendar (you choose)
 - a. Pray for a Missionary whose birthday is the day of your meeting
 - b. Send a card on their birthday or anytime
 - c. Pray for a mission site, look up the country on a map, check the Internet for information, and have a member do a report
2. The Organization will use at least two programs from the Program Book during the year
3. The Organization will be a 5-Star Unit, contributing to all five channels of mission giving
4. Have a Call to Prayer and Self Denial Service

Education and Interpretation

1. At least one member or Organization shall subscribe to *response* magazine
 - a. Use *response* some way in your meeting
 - b. *response* moment or Power Point on an article
 - c. Use *response* as a program
2. The Organization will make and meet its pledge to mission
3. The Organization, circle or subgroup will conduct or participate in at least one mission study each year
 - a. A subgroup would include: entire church, Youth group (YF or SS Class), Children's groups, etc.
4. At least one person shall participate in the Reading Program

Membership Nurture and Outreach

1. At least one member of the Organization, or sponsored by the Unit or Church, will attend the Mission u Adult School, Youth School, Children's School, Mini Mission u or a virtual study offered by the Conference UMW.
2. At least one member will attend their District or Conference meeting (in person or virtually)
3. Members will write or send cards to five persons listed in the Prayer Calendar
4. Recruit at least one additional member during the year

Social Action

1. The Organization will implement the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one way during the year (possibilities are listed on the back)
2. The Local Organization will support financially or in-kind The Ruth M. Smith Center
3. The Organization will participate in the Campaign for Children Phase-III in at least two ways (possibilities are listed on the back)
4. Write to your elected officials on items that relate to Women, Children and Youth
5. Organization will have a program or event on Environmental Justice.

Emerald Organization: one item from each category

Ruby Organization: two Items from each category

Diamond Organization: three items from each category

PLEASE CIRCLE THE ONES COMPLETED IN EACH CATEGORY

MISSION TODAY

THESE ARE SUGGESTIONS: To complete the Mission Today List.

CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

- a. Have members read books and articles about other races and cultures
- b. Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units
- c. Recruit women of color as members of and officers of the Organization
- d. View a DVD on a racial justice topic.
- e. Write to elected representatives to support legislation concerning issues such as immigration, affirmative action, low-income programs, civil rights, human trafficking, etc.
- f. Use the handbook, "United Methodist Women Resources for Racial Justice"

CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN

- a. Help sponsor a church or community program related to children and youth needs
- b. The Organization will co-sponsor, with the local church, a Children's Sabbath. (This is a worship service highlighting the needs of children.) All materials are online at www.childrensdefense.org
- c. Get involved with children in mentoring, tutoring, or "Big Sisters" program
- d. Write letters, e-mail or call your Congressional representative and/or other government officials regarding children's issues.
- e. Visit your local schools
- f. Attend a school board meeting
- g. Learn how our schools are funded

Revised: 01/21/2021

WPA UMW MISSION TODAY CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

Local
Organization /Church _____ District _____

City _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____

Check one: Emerald _____ Ruby _____ Diamond _____

Date (year) to be placed on certificate: _____

Complete and mail to your District Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator (or President if E&I position is vacant).

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 MISSION STUDY CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

The requirements for a Mission Study certificate are as follows: A local, youth group or children's group holds a study of not less than four (4) hours on a recent Mission u study. Use of the text listed for the study is required and use of applicable audio-visual resources is desirable. In this conference, the Mission Ambassadors and Mission Coordinators for Education and Interpretation are additional resources. **Twenty five percent of the average attendance of your local organization or group should attend the study.** You may also count those who attended Mission u. Mission studies for certificates for 2021 are:

- 2018 Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living
Missionary Conferences of the UMC in the United States
What About Our Money? A Faith Response
- 2019 Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship
Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission
What About Our Money?
- 2020 Finding Peace in an Anxious World
- 2021 Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship
Finding Peace in an Anxious World
Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

Western Pennsylvania Conference United Methodist Women Mission Study Certificate Application

Local
 Organization/Church _____ District _____
 City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
 Study _____ Date Completed _____

Please indicate your method of completion (number of sessions, videos used, setting, etc.). Submit this application following the event, but at least by January 15, 2022 to your district Education & Interpretation Mission Coordinator (or President if E&I position is vacant)

Revised 1/21/2021

Conference Communicator
First United Methodist Church
102 Liberty Street
Franklin, PA 16323
(814) 432-8161

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. Postage Paid

Franklin, PA 16323

Permit No. 294

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Spring 2021

We're Not Cheap — Just Good Stewards

Trying to be good stewards and connect in the best ways possible with United Methodist Women is challenging. Our conference mailing list contains over 500 people. Sending this newsletter by mail is expensive. However, many people prefer a "paper copy" or are unable to easily use the Internet. We are sending out the Conference Communicator digitally, and via snail mail for those who don't want to receive it digitally.

What do you prefer? Please call, send a note by mail, or send an email to Linda Thayer responding to the following questions...

1. Do you wish to receive the Conference UMW Newsletter twice a year?
2. Are you willing to receive the Conference Newsletter digitally?
E-mail Address?
3. Do you prefer to receive a paper copy in the mail?

Thank you...

Linda Thayer
197 Abel Heath Lane
Franklin, PA 16323
724-882-6174
lsthayer@gmail.com.



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION