



THE PHOENIX

GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER

President

Happy New Year! We welcome the new year of 2019 -- a year that is **new** in so many ways: the **new** Greater Detroit District and the **new** Michigan Conference United Methodist Women.

Welcome, all United Methodist Women members and local units to the Greater Detroit District United Methodist Women ("GDD UMW")! We, its leadership, look forward to meeting and getting to know new friends, and seeing old friends and getting to know them better. Together, may we accomplish and experience great things.

I encourage our district leaders to continue to faithfully attend Executive Board meetings, ready to listen and hear, think and share. I encourage each of them to faithfully execute the duties of their positions, and to continue to respect, assist and enjoy each other. I welcome them to assist me with reminders, guidance, and even corrections, so I also may successfully carry out the duties of my position.

During the Executive Board meeting before our Christmas dinner and party, we discussed goals for the GDD UMW.

Goal #1: Strive for excellent two-way communications, between leadership and units and churches; between units; and from women who aspire to membership. To send messages and newsletters to you, we need your names and contact information. There is a form on our website and in this issue of *The Phoenix* for each unit to record and forward to

Kristine Miranne (Co-Communications Coordinator) the names and contact information for their local leaders.

Suggestions were: Regular emails to local units and churches. Organize and plan for shepherding and visitations to local units, and to churches without a United Methodist Women unit. Have available the trifold cards with names of district leaders and their contact information at the Prayer Breakfast February 9 at Redford Aldersgate UMC, and at all subsequent district events. This information will be on a page in this issue of *The Phoenix*. If you want the trifold card to keep in your purse and/or next to your phone or computer, contact me and I will mail the cards to you.

Goal #2: Encourage and urge regular visits to the United Methodist Women websites, www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and www.michiganconferenceunitedmethodistwomen.org and visits to Facebook and other social media. We know there are those who do not have a computer. Those with a laptop, tablet, i-pad or a desktop computer, please encourage such members to use their church's computer, or to gain web access at the library or at a restaurant. You could invite them to your home to explore the web sites.

Goal #3: Recruit United Methodist Women members and revive United Methodist Women local units. This is a very important continuing goal. We must not give in or give up. That is not the United Methodist Women way. What can we do? Think, consider and

explore ideas. Be imaginative and creative. Get together to discuss, share, listen and consider. Research by contacting friends in other districts or even other states and the national office and staff. Those units with circles, consider interest groups. If there are interest groups in your church, perhaps add a circle or two?

Suggestions and answers may come from the United Methodist Women Michigan Conference Leadership Retreat January 25 and 26, 2019, in DeWitt, MI 48820.

Prayer will always be a source of answers to our challenges. I pray for us to accept the challenges, to find ways to share with other women in our churches. What do longtime and newer members like and appreciate about being a United Methodist Women member? I pray for those who have been and are members to be willing to change how things are done and consider changing how we are organized.

Be with us and lead us, Almighty God. Amen.

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Vice-President

Greetings! My, where has the year gone? It seemed to have skipped all of the other months and fast-forwarded to December. By the time this newsletter reaches you, it will already be a new year. So with that being said, I hope all of you had a wonderful blessed Christmas and will have a happy wholesome New Year.

We have had some exciting events this past year. Foremost, the United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 with its theme of "The Power of Bold" was awesome. It was celebrated in historic Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20. We had

unbelievable registrations from Michigan and we were recognized for the effort at the Assembly.

Speaker the Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel of Detroit Central United Methodist Church wowed us at our District annual meeting October 13, 2018. We want to thank the congregation of Trenton Faith United Methodist Church for hosting this event. We also thank the United Methodist Women members of Rochester St. Paul's United Methodist Church for graciously hosting our Elected Leadership Training November 10, 2018.

Please mark your calendars for District events listed below:

February 9, 2019 - Our Annual Prayer Breakfast at Redford Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Guest speaker is the dynamic speaker and vocalist the Rev. Anna Moon of Troy Korean United Methodist Church. Make sure you register your members. You will not want to miss this riveting event.

March 9, 2019 - Our Mission Workshop will be on the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Beverly Hills United Methodist Church will host. A panel will share a wealth of information with you on one of our nation's most disturbing topics today. The Rev. Dale Milford who champions a prison ministry will share his perspective and experience. Other qualified panelists will share as well. What a great time of learning and sharing awaits us.

Remember, you can always contact me (information listed below) regarding hosting a District event in your church.

Again, wishing everyone a great 2019!

Tina (Ernestine) Campbell

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Secretary

Back Up Against the Wall

I hope you all came into this New Year, as I did, with renewed hope, not helplessness; faith, not fear; concern, not worry, and love, not hate. The past year has provided us with enough causes to sustain us in our purpose as members of United Methodist Women throughout this year. We have many walls to tear down.

It is a reality that we are living in times in which everything seems in jeopardy: the water we drink, the air we breathe, the food we eat. Besides that, all of our values as people of God seem to have no voice at all in the turmoil that assails us from all sides. We must remember, however, that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28 NIV). God is in control. We have the Word of our true and living God to rely upon, which is the unshakeable foundation upon which we stand and which cannot be stamped on and ground into dust.

We all understand walls, of racism, sexism, and other “isms” in our society. We’ve all been behind the walls or in front of them, depending on one’s view. Walls have disallowed our natural freedoms. Some walls have afflicted peoples with oppression; other walls have caused peoples to suffer with a perception of privilege. We all know, therefore, what it is like not to be free.

We are frustrated knowing that strangers, who are supposed to be welcomed, are being turned away and sent back, and denied opportunity to be free. We hear every day of children being exposed to extreme emotional and physical torment as they are separated from their parents. Even though we may believe that the Lord’s curse is on the house of the wicked (Proverbs 3:33 NIV), it doesn’t feel

like it sometimes, because we see situations persisting. Still, we put our trust in God, and keep our eyes on the prize, as He reminds us, ...but he blesses the home of the righteous (Proverbs 3:33).

Jesus said, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you (St. Matthew 5:44 NIV). While you contemplate these instructions, remember that we can’t do our work except we follow those ways, knowing that we are examples of Christ. We know, too, why we are to be that example: ...that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun (emphasis added) to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (St. Matthew 5:45 NIV). Let’s keep our eyes on the good and the righteous. Some things are only in the control of God.

We are members of United Methodist Women, and we have the rights to love, bless, do good, and pray. These are rights that cannot be taken away, and they come with powers that cannot be subdued. Through all of what is happening around us and to us, God is enabling us to do perform these rights.

Wall has become a household word, with the negative connotations of barriers, prejudice, and hatred. We turn our backs to that wall, and we push back against those ills. With our backs against that wall, we call for justice and righteousness through love, blessings, good works and prayer, which we, as members of United Methodist Women, are empowered and honored to do.

Cynthia Lynette Bradford
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Treasurer

I am very proud to announce the Detroit Renaissance District UMW ended the 2018 year with a total Mission Giving of \$81,636. Since our goal was \$85,000, that means we accomplished 96% of our goal. We should be pleased, knowing our monies help and transform lives of women and children all around the world. For 2019 we continue to maintain \$85,000 as our goal. Let us strive for 100%.

For 2019 all checks should be payable to the Greater Detroit District UMW. I want to thank all the Unit Treasurers who attended the Leadership Training in November 2018. It was wonderful meeting you and putting a face to the many names. New things always come up in Leadership Training. All UMW Units should have a separate account from their church. We are all now under the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women with a new EIN number. If you are one of the churches that do not have your own account, please contact me. I will contact our new Conference Treasurer, Julia Paradine-Rice, and she will write a letter specifically for your church unit, that you can take to a financial institution to open a separate account. This will also apply to a new unit because many churches do not have a United Methodist Women unit in their church.

Lastly, you do not have to wait until September to send in your 5-Star Woman donation. You can submit it at any time.

Viola Jones
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Spiritual Growth

Today, remember that you have the opportunity to decide what direction you will take. To whom will you listen? Remember that God has promised blessings beyond anything

you can imagine. But receiving those blessings requires that you do things His way. Make the right choice!

You know, some mornings are harder to get up than others. But let's keep this truth in mind today: God can use empty places in our lives to draw our hearts to Him. He is the Great Love of our lives. He is the One who will never disappoint. And, He will help you through anything that you may bump up against today.

Now, that helps me to jump out of bed and get on with life. I hope it does for you, too!

Happy New Year from your Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Remember, the Lord is watching over us.

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Education and Interpretation

Praise the Lord for a New Year – 2019! A new year brings new possibilities, fresh, new perspectives and hope for the future. In 2019, we will celebrate 150 years of the United Methodist Women! As we look forward to continuing this legacy and great work, we can look back over our history and find attributes that sustained the movement. A sincere commitment to making a difference in the lives of women, youth and children. A willingness to offer selfless acts of kindness to everyone. A humble spirit imparted by God to care for his children. A persistent attitude that kept us moving forward in spite of obstacles. An abiding love of God that sustained us.

United Methodist Women are continuing the work and we have great tools to help us! Education is the “key” to making a difference. Learning and understanding our mission is the first step to success. United Methodist Women

provide a wealth of information through its website, local church meetings, district and conference meetings and the United Methodist Women's Reading Program. In my role as Education and Interpretation Coordinator, I am here to help you access all of the information available. I am available to attend unit meetings, speak at local programs, and answer questions as your resource person. It is my wish to engage with as many local units as possible and encourage you in your work.

I wish everyone a year that is filled with success, hope, love and faith. I pray for your strength and perseverance on the journey. Please feel free to contact me.

May God bless us all!

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Social Action

It was a pleasure seeing all of you at the UMW Detroit Renaissance District Annual Meeting at Trenton Faith UMC. Together we raised over **\$35,322** with our Ingathering projects. It was a blessing to see the tremendous work units are performing for women and children.

Many thanks to all units that participated in the District's Ingathering project by donating diapers and pull-ups for Coalition on Temporary Shelter (COTS) in Wayne County, Haven in Oakland County, and Turning Point in Macomb County. All three agencies were very thankful to receive diapers, pull-ups and a few Depends and sanitary napkins.

I know sometimes it is hard not to become upset with some of the social issues affecting our world today, including me. I just say, continue to pray and keep the faith.

Thanks for all you do!!

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Membership Nurture and Outreach

Hello, United Methodist Women members!! Happy New Year! Welcome, 2019! May you begin this year with boundless joy, a renewed spirit, and an abundance of God's favor. I hope everyone had a healthy, happy holiday and was able to get some rest. Rest is so important to our spiritual walk with the Lord. It allows our mind, body, and soul to renew and start with even more strength and focus.

I enjoyed seeing many of you at the District Annual Meeting at Trenton Faith UMC where we heard a powerful word from Rev. Jill Zundel. I also enjoyed attending our first joint Detroit and West Michigan Annual Meeting in Petoskey, Michigan, where we learned a lot about the School-to-Prison Pipeline and heard from Rita Smith, president of the North Central Jurisdiction.

Ladies, it's that time again! Census time! You all have done a phenomenal job with completing the census for the past two years, so let's keep up the momentum and get it done before the deadline. This year is focused on gathering information that will inform the National office and Conference and District leadership on local efforts in order to plan for growth, outreach and impact.

**Census Submission Deadline: Saturday
March 30, 2019**

You will need the following information to enter data in the Membership site at
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/census2018:

1. Church zip code or city
2. Church address
3. Unit type -- most will be local

4. Primary Language
5. Unit President's name, telephone number and email
6. Number of members as of January 1, 2019
7. New members added in 2018
8. Members lost by death or other reasons
9. Person reporting -- name and position, telephone and email
10. Further training on Facebook, digital/virtual circles?
11. Strategies used to increase membership
12. Questions on Mission Giving, Spiritual Growth, Charter for Racial Justice, demographics of your unit, resources needed, Climate Justice, National Mission Institutions, International Ministries

Finally, check all information, then click SUBMIT.

Don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions. I am happy to help in any way. Also keep in mind that new members must complete a one-time individual membership on the above website (click on the gold box that says "myumw"). After completing the membership log, a UMW Membership card will be issued.

Love, Peace, and Continued Blessings.

Susan Howze
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Secretary of Program Resources

Welcome to 2019 and our new year of READING. My name is Mary Hutzelt Beltzman and I am your new Reading Program coordinator. Following in Alberta Garrett's shoes is a large task and one I am excited to take on. Please remember first to read your **response** magazine. That will happen

differently this year since there will be only 6 issues instead of the 10 previously.

Remember, you can get it online if you prefer to read that way. You can always find the list of books for 2019 on the United Methodist Women web site:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org. Then look for the Reading Program. There you will also find the list of the 2015 – 2019 books that qualify for this year's reading.

Did you know that many of these books are available from your local library through their collection or the statewide lending program? So, you can read as easily as that. If you prefer to have your own books, they can be bought at bookstores, through Amazon, and from the Mission Resources center. There is a form for the latter on the website which will get them sent direct to you with their bill. This form will also be available at all District events. So many ways to read and such a wide range of books which I find very exciting and challenging toward growth in God's Word and the work being done all over God's world.

I look forward to meeting you at the District events and helping you in any way I can to find joy in reading. I find reading a book every other month makes it easy to complete the first level (Plan I). Just remember to choose one in each of the five categories. If you can read one every month, you can easily reach the second level of reading (Plan II).

I am available at any time by email or phone to assist you or answer questions. I look forward to hearing from you. If you find a book you want to write a review of, it can be published in *The Phoenix*. Now I need to run and get on with my reading.

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Co-Communications Coordinators

There are exciting times ahead. We are now a larger community of United Methodist Women units reflecting the new Greater Detroit District.

As Co-Communication Coordinators, we oversee the semi-annual publication of *The Phoenix*, the district's newsletter. We appreciate your timely and informative reports that are included in each issue. *The Phoenix* is also here to share your unit's activities and photos, to the benefit of us all. In addition, we try to highlight some of the social and economic justice work being done by United Methodist Women throughout the country and world.

We also send out fliers informing you of various UMW events and activities. We forward information from the district, conference and national offices of the United Methodist Women that help keep everyone informed.

We are always looking for ways to economize. With the increasing costs of printing and postage, we would prefer to do as much emailing as possible. In this spirit, please let Kristine Miranne know your email address. We will continue to send out *The Phoenix* by USPS to those without Email. We count on those of you with Emails to share updates and information with your units so that those without Emails will be informed. Let's make our communications lively, informative and spirit-filled!

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Nominations Committee

Greetings! I am the new Nominations Chair for the Greater Detroit District. I have met many of you reading this newsletter and I want to meet those of you whom I have not met. As Chair, I have several goals. I want to find more women who are interested in serving in a leadership capacity. Say "yes" and we will train you.



I also want to make it easier for you to participate. Our District is getting so large – maybe you can join the Team and participate via SKYPE or Zoom. The Greater Detroit District of United Methodist Women has a Facebook presence, so take a look at what we are doing. I will be meeting you, members of the Greater Detroit District, at our Leadership meetings, at Annual Conference and I will be scouring your web and Facebook pages with my recruitment cap on. But, don't wait for me to find you. Call or email me and let me know you want to join our Leadership Team. We will find a place for you.

In service for the greater glory of God,

Jeanette Harris
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North Central Jurisdiction

I bring you greetings on behalf of the North Central Jurisdiction. My name is Mildred Braddock. I serve on the Committee on Nominations. I am very happy to be with you today, to bring you exciting news of the Jurisdiction meeting to be held in the Dakotas Conference in 2020.

We will be gathering to elect new National Directors and a new Jurisdiction Team.

The dates for this event are June 26-28, 2020, in Sioux Falls, SD. We will gather at the Best Western Plus Ramkota Hotel.

I hope you will make plans to join us as we celebrate United Methodist Women.

Start making plans to attend. Come by plane, bus, or automobile. Keep a lookout for further information in the near future.

In my position, I am looking for persons who show leadership qualities, and would be willing to be considered as potential nominees to serve on the North Central Jurisdiction Team for 2021-2024. If you are interested in submitting your name, please talk to me about filling out a Potential Leader Form. A copy is included in this newsletter. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

We hope to see you all in Sioux Falls, SD, as we are calling you. Thank you.

Mildred Braddock
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Be sure to check the insert in this issue of The Phoenix for the updated 2019 GDD Leadership Team that provides names, titles and contact information.

News from UMW Units

We welcome any news from local units – please feel free to share your activities – photos are certainly welcome too!

Southfield Hope United Methodist Women

Wow! The United Methodist Women at Southfield Hope UMC have been quite busy

these past few months. Just see what they have been up to!

Southfield Hope United Methodist Church Hosts Mission u July 21, 2018

One of the most important responsibilities that we should practice daily is to express God's love to all we touch through mission. When we received the notification in 2017 that Southfield Hope U.M. Church would host the Detroit Conference United Methodist Women 2018 Mission u, plans and preparations immediately started. We would like to say "THANK YOU" for being a guest in our church home.

Here's what our guests had to say about the program:

"This has been a wonderful day of learning and putting closure to expectations. Lots of grace and patience were shown throughout the event. The members here at Hope have performed a phenomenal job in coordinating two large events (Mission u and Southfield Festival of Hope) on the same day. There was space to accommodate all the various activities. We never had the feeling of being imposed upon. Everything we needed was there at our fingertips. The Southfield Hope United Methodist Women were well prepared to serve, and with a smile, although we knew it was a challenging day for the unit. The breakfast, breaks, and lunch were timely and nutritious. There was an assortment of foods to oblige everyone's diet. Thank you, Hope, for a job well done!" Marchelle "Micki" Phelps, Detroit Conant Avenue UMC, Detroit Conference President.

"This was the most informative and educational session I have experienced." Alice Tucker, Beverly Hills UMC.

"Simply loved Rev. Faith Fowler's enthusiasm!" Claudette McMillian, Detroit Scott Memorial UMC.

"Most impressed by the missionary video. It makes you want to get involved." Patricia Bostic, Detroit Trinity Faith UMC, Detroit Conference Vice President.

"This is my first Mission u. I am empowered by what I can do in ministry. I will be looking to initiate ways to enrich the community through programs and activities." Alysia Rush, Detroit Scott Memorial UMC.

"I wish to thank Hope United Methodist Women for the hospitality extended to the conference attendees. We were greeted with smiles at the outside entrance, which continued throughout the various locations inside the building during our visit. This was a wonderful opportunity for women to share thoughts and experiences." Linda Brown, Detroit Trinity Faith UMC, Detroit Conference Nominations Committee member.

"This is the first time that I have attended a Mission u study. I am very excited by the number of opportunities available for me to get involved. I am delighted to see United Methodist Women members showing faith, hope and love in action." Cynthia Rossman, Brown City UMC, Lay Servant.

"Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place." Nellie Brown, Detroit Metropolitan UMC.

"Appreciated Rev. Fowler's discussion on money and the creative input into living out biblical concepts of jubilee." Rev. Mary LaVerne Jackson, Detroit Metropolitan UMC.

"Outstanding educational conference. Effective visuals showing that 10% of the people control 70% of the wealth. The average American

wealth is \$40, 000, which is the highest in the world." Pat Edwards, Clarkston UMC.

"Interesting how values on money varies by nationalities; why some people save money and some don't. Love the camaraderie and fellowship with United Methodist Women members!" Toni Grimmert, Rochester St. Paul's UMC.

"The compassion demonstrated on current issues impacting society displayed by Rev. Jan Brown's presentation glows of love with warmth and feeling. The emphasis on understanding the mission of the Church in the world through annual conferences." Emmie J. Hawkins, Southfield Hope UMC.

"I brought two new people with me to Mission u this year. I learned the impact of making quilts and sleeping bags for the homeless in Flint, MI. These studies are important and should be attended by more of us to learn about outreach, education, and the future plans of the United Methodist Women and the United Methodist Church." Jay Rossman, Goodrich UMC.

"I am very passionate on issues that involve children, especially Native American children and migrant children. Breaking children from their parents may create lifelong mental suffering. Removing children from their homes with no consideration for the importance of the child's culture and background which defines who they are. I will continue to be very involved in working with Michigan children and retaining their heritage." Nancy Cline, Saginaw Ames UMC, Detroit Conference Education & Interpretation Coordinator.

"The session on inequality was most informative. It was nice to see the principles of the United Methodist Church and its mission practiced." Loretta DeLoach, Southfield Hope UMC:

Southfield Hope United Methodist Women Co-host "The Tony Crosby Homeless Week"

The Tony Crosby Housing the Homeless program is a faith-based organization that provides shelter and hope to homeless families for a week in our church. Tony Crosby is the founder of the organization. During the week, the church is responsible for providing food, shelter, and transportation for our guests to get to work, school, and to activity centers for senior citizens.

Hope United Methodist Women members play an important role in ministering to our guests while lodging in our church. We are assigned a night to prepare and share a dinner with them. They receive a daily faith-based experience, as well as relaxing and fun activities to end the day (e.g., movies). We have provided staff to discuss educational and vocational programs along with other support services to redirect them onto a path toward meaningful and successful living. Many of our guests join our church during their stay.

2018-2019 Southfield Hope Ingathering Project

The Southfield Hope United Methodist Women chose Covenant House, Detroit, MI, as its 2018 Ingathering project. The unit purchased all of the pillows, while its members purchased additional items, like belts, towels, lotions and other articles to further supply the project's needs. We believe that we should meet God's people where they are, with what they need, both spiritually and physically. And while we're sharing our good deeds with you, we know that we can do nothing apart from God. We are grateful to be able to share His blessings with others. The items were delivered to Covenant House on August 9, 2018, where they were greeted with delight by the staff.

Here are a few photos from our project:



Hope UMW with their donations



Carol Cartwright, Hope UMW Vice-President

Southfield Hope United Methodist Church United Methodist Women Recognition Day

Southfield Hope U. M. Church recognized the United Methodist Women on Sunday October 14, 2018. Our pastor, the Rev. Dr. Benjamin Kevin Smalls, acknowledged our United Methodist Women unit. The members were received with a warm welcome by the congregation. As a special guest to help us celebrate our day, we were honored to have

the UMW Detroit Conference President, Marchelle “Micki” Phelps, take part in our 7:30 a.m. service.



Below are some memorable moments shared by United Methodist Women members.

“My local church is Conant Avenue Church where I started to work with UMW and where I have served in many positions over the past 28 years.

My experiences in many positions allowed me the opportunity to work on the process of awarding scholarships to non-member young women or to members, for the first time, to attend the 2018 United Methodist Women Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Thus, the Detroit Conference supported nine women to attend this important Assembly.

The Native American Scholarship was so memorable in part for its educational values and the importance of building and keeping relationships with all of our communities within the new United Methodist Women Michigan Conference. Sisterhood builds character.

This United Methodist Women Day allows me the opportunity to say “thank you” to the many women all over the world. The late Alma Edwards and Rosa Wynn from Conant Avenue Church were two women who loved the UMW and who introduced me to the Detroit Conference UMW in 1994. I feel much

gratitude to them.” Marchelle “Micki” Phelps, Detroit Conference President.

“I enjoy the Ingathering activities and other services to the community. Equality has always been a focus and a personal mission of mine above all other issues.” Roberta M. Saunders.

“The most memorable moment for me was in 2015 when our unit celebrated eleven distinguished, godly women, many of whom were United Methodist Women members, who advocated for peace, justice, freedom and healthcare.” Loretta N. Brown.

“Planning and organizing the Festival of Tables as a fundraising event for our unit. The tables were gorgeous, fellowship was warm, entertainment was enjoyable, food was delicious, profits exceeded our goal.” Carol Cartwright.

“I enjoy the camaraderie of being around other women and helping in outreach and Ingathering activities. Giving back in all forms is always important for me.” Kinyel Friday.

“Our works speak to our value and worth in the community. They exemplify and bring together a cohesive group of Christian women working together to do the will of God.” Diane Ferguson.

“To support projects that improve the lives of women and families all over the world. We universally understand that educational opportunities improve life-style disparities. Education ultimately gives these women and families independence to live and explore a better life.” Emmie J. Hawkins.

“The unit spotlights the many charitable contributions made to support the various areas of need in the community and worldwide. The UMW also supports civil causes” Emma Oliver.

“My most favorable and appreciated moment was when we took diapers and personal

products to women in Detroit. Their appreciation of our presence and our gifts will forever be memorable.” Rhonda E. Fowler.

“Our unit’s involvement with SKIP as a mission project during the Christmas season has been memorable: seeing the children’s faces light up with joy as they receive gifts, sharing in high interest activities, eating dinner together. Our members’ camaraderie with the parents and children is a supportive and important ministry.” Gloria Hardy.

“I was invited to become a United Methodist Women member by the late Florence Richards over 20 years ago. I have remained a member because of the work of this great sisterhood being rendered all over the world for women, children and youth.” Mandolyn Jones.

Southfield Hope United Methodist Women Leadership Training and Installation

The Southfield Hope United Methodist Women had six of its seven never-before-elected 2019 slate attend the leadership training at Rochester St. Paul’s U.M.C. November 10, 2018. They came away eager and excited about their learning experience. The training gave them a clearer understanding as to requirements of their leadership positions. During our monthly meeting, each trainee gave a synopsis of what they learned. They answered questions and enlightened our members on the structure, methodology and procedures of United Methodist Women.

The installation of these officers was held Wednesday November 14, 2018. All are keen to help our unit reach its 2019 goals.

- Rosemary Williams, President
- Emmie J. Hawkins, Vice President
- Rhonda Fowler, Treasurer
- Mandolyn Jones, Spiritual Growth,
- Susan Howze, Membership Nurturing & Outreach

- Dianne Cross, Education and Interpretation
- Roberta Saunders, Social Action
- Alberta Garrett, Secretary of Program Resources
- Communications Coordinator, Emmie J. Hawkins



New Hope UMW Officers

Thanks to Emmie J. Hawkins, Communications Coordinator for all the information and photos.

Metropolitan United Methodist Women

Rice Allen Fund

Our unit is blessed to have the Rice Allen Fund, a gift to our unit made in 1946 and established in honor of Dr. Merton S. Rice and Dr. Charles B. Allen. The Rice Allen board, comprised of elected Metropolitan UMW members, uses the funds for various local and international projects meeting our mission of putting faith in action to support opportunities and resources to help communities grow spiritually and become more deeply rooted in Christ.

In 2018, the Rice Allen fund disbursed \$41,975 to support the following projects:

- Children’s Center, Detroit
- Christian Education at Metropolitan UMC
- FOCUS Detroit
- Methodist Children’s Home Society
- Metro Kids Camp
- Mission(s) to Haiti: two separate projects

- Motor City Sundays
- Motown Mission

Membership Tea

We held our annual membership tea on Saturday, January 19th – just in time for the first major snow storm of the season! But we had a core group of women who braved the weather and came together for food and fellowship. Anne Rice explained the various components of UMW and shared some of our past activities. Jeanette Harris outlined the Rice Allen Fund that, although a part of our local unit, is a separate entity. We had visitors from Church Women United, an organization who regularly meets at Metropolitan. We discussed ways we can participate in joint service projects. See a few photos from the tea:



Carmen Ziegler shared information about the Days for Girls (DFG) project, an international organization working to increase access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating social enterprises, mobilizing volunteers and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigmas and limitations for women and girls. They are working to create a world with dignity, health, and opportunity for all. Their slogan is “Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.”

Carmen will be accompanying a group later this year that is heading for Haiti to distribute kits to 350 young girls and women who do not have access to feminine hygiene supplies. Teams work with local pastors to promote the training and to ensure that participants are able to receive the materials.



A Rice Allen grant is supporting this project that includes providing educational and training materials that have been translated into Creole. Funds will provide for a nurse interpreter, kits, training manuals, shipping

of materials and transportation costs tied to moving materials from the port in Haiti up into the mountain villages where the need is so great. Metropolitan members volunteer at the DFG site in Livonia to help sew and put the kits together.

Kristine Miranne
Secretary/Treasurer
Metropolitan UMW

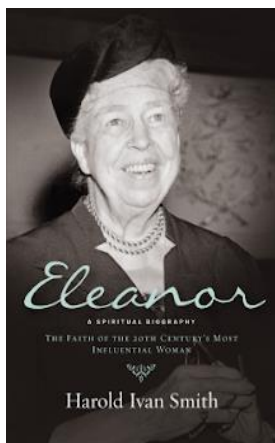
Book Review

As Secretary for Program Resources, Mary Beltzman outlined the program in her report

above. Be sure to take some time to review the UMW reading program website because the 2019 UMW Reading List is chockfull of wonderful selections within the various categories:

(<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>).

One title under “Leadership Development” is Harold Ivan Smith’s book, *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography*. Many of us know of Eleanor Roosevelt from her work as First Lady and a strong advocate for social and racial equity. The author delves into her Christian faith through her life experiences from her upbringing through the turbulence of the Great Depression and World War II.



Smith provides well-researched descriptions of what she believed and how she lived during turbulent times. He shares many anecdotes and quotes from Eleanor Roosevelt that further explain her attention to injustice and inhumane conditions that diminished beloved children of God.

For example, in 1938, when the Wagner-Van Nuys Anti-Lynching Bill came to the Senate floor for consideration, she sat in the gallery with African American observers throughout the seven days of deliberations, stating that she was “paying witness”.

After Franklin D. Roosevelt’s death, many assumed she would fade from public sight. However, she was even more active working with the United Nations on human rights and throughout the world. Many of us talk about living our faith, Eleanor Roosevelt who had the words: “Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace” framed on her bedroom wall lived her life as prayer in action.

Although I knew many things about Mrs. Roosevelt, I did not know about her personal faith and how it fueled her commitment to civil rights, women’s rights and international human rights. This is a slim volume and well worth the read!

Kristine Miranne

One Church Plan

The Congress of Bishops (COB) will be meeting in February 23 – 26 in St. Louis to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward. The 32-member Commission was authorized by the General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in the Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. Proponents of the plan believe that Christians can disagree about the practice of homosexuality and gender identity and still work together within one church. What the plan does:

- It changes the church’s official teaching on marriage and sexuality to affirm monogamous same-sex relationships. This is a change that affects all United Methodists everywhere, even if we disagree.
- It delegates to each annual conference the decision about what standards to impose on clergy regarding same-sex practices. Importantly, laity will have no voice in this decision; it will be strictly a decision of the annual conference clergy.
- It allows pastors to perform same-sex weddings if they want to without any repercussions.
- It delegates to each local church the decision of whether or not to allow

same-sex weddings to be performed on church property.

- It includes protections of conscience and forbids bishops and district superintendents from coercing or punishing clergy who disagree with them about same-sex weddings.
- It protects bishops from having to license, commission, or ordain someone whom they believe does not meet the qualifications for ministry, but it gets around that by bringing in another bishop who is willing to do so. And it does not protect bishops from having to appoint someone as clergy whom they believe does not meet the qualifications for ministry.
- It allows central conferences outside the United States to continue operating under the current provisions of the *Discipline*, but the whole church would affirm monogamous same-sex marriage.
- It changes the church's pension plan to accommodate clergy and congregations that might leave the denomination, but it provides no mechanism for congregations to leave with their property. <https://goodnewsmag.org/2018/07/w-hats-in-the-one-church-plan/>

You can listen to a series of podcasts by United Methodist bishops supporting the One Church Plan. To hear Bishop Bard, who is found on episode 9 of the 13 podcasts, go to: <https://onechurchplan.org/podcast>

Here is an excerpt of Bishop Bard's comments: "One of the best ways the church could be counter-cultural right now is to show the world how you can have disagreement without divisiveness. How you can have conversations about really difficult issues while respecting each other, being calm in the midst of anxiety rather than letting fear and anger get the best

of us. I would like to see the church be that kind of counter-cultural witness."

You can find the complete report, "Commission on a Way Forward's Report to the General Conference" on the website: <https://mainstreamumc.com/documents/WayForwardReports/COWF--p1-93-FullReport.pdf>

"Get Them Talking"

Starting in January, 2019, the United Methodist Church website (www.umc.org) will be posting monthly devotionals, suggested activities and resources to help families lead devotion, dinnertime, or anytime conversations about issues of faith. What follows is the first in the series:

Scripture Reading

"We remain pure. We understand completely what it means to serve God. We are patient and kind. We serve him in the power of the Holy Spirit. We serve him with true love." 2 Corinthians 6:6 NIRV

Reflection

The Bible teaches that one of the ways we can serve God every day is by being kind. Kindness is not something we do in big ways. Instead we show kindness in little things like thinking of others' needs, wants and feelings. It can be as simple as sharing something, being patient, or including someone in a game or conversation.

Sometimes being kind is difficult, especially to people who have been unkind to us. But God tells us that when we are kind, we are doing what he wants us to do.

Get them talking

- Who have been some of the kindest people in your life (teachers, family members, friends)?

- Tell about a time someone surprised you with their kindness.
- What are some things you could do to show kindness to others?

Prayer

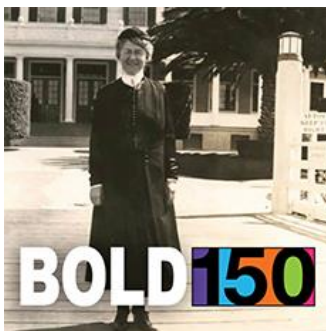
Dear God, remind me to think of others so that I can show kindness and serve you. Amen.

Activity

Brainstorm ways each family member can show kindness to one another, classmates, coworkers, and strangers. Be sure to include those who have been unkind to us in the past. Share your successes with one another each day.

Legacy Stories

For 40 years, United Methodist Women Deaconess Kathryn Maurer greeted immigrants arriving in America with a smile.



Starting in 1912, Maurer took the ferry every day to the Angel Island Immigration Center in San Francisco to greet immigrants, mostly from China, and help them adjust. Herself an immigrant and the youngest of nine children, she was a social worker who made sure the needs of the new arrivals, some of whom were detained for years, were met. She brought the families food and medical care, she taught them English, and wrote letters and appeals on their behalf.

Along with women like Alma Mathews in New York, Maurer made sure that those new to this country were met with a warm welcome. She devoted herself to comforting those who were lost, traumatized or met with disdain. She truly embodied faith, hope and love in action (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org)

Click on the link for a video that tells her story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hBjydPPd7Rw>

Economic and Social Justice Issues

United Methodist Women interpret the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

We have been challenging economic and social injustice for 150 years while working to improve the lives of women, children and youth nationally and internationally. Please find below an article about payday lending posted on the national website on January 2, 2019 (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Payday Lending

By Rev. Ebony J. Grisom, Director of the Ecumenical Poverty Initiative



How quickly the holiday season was here! Many families celebrated

the season by trying to live up to the adage, “eat, drink, and be merry,” while others continued to struggle to fulfill basic needs. Millions of people in this country experience crippling debt, but not the predictable credit card debt. Instead, they amass debt not discussed commonly: payday loans. **Over 12 million** people borrow payday loans, often without realizing that these loans carry triple-digit interest rates.

A payday loan is a “quick fix” short-term consumer loan where a lender will charge a high interest rate based on credit profiles. Also called check advance loans or cash advance loans, these loans are for immediate credit. Payday loan providers are usually small credit merchants with physical locations that permit on-site credit applications and approval, with some allowing online options. These small-dollar, high-cost loans are usually for amounts between \$50 to \$1,000.

The use of payday loans increased rapidly between 2008 and 2013, when traditional banks shut down 20,000 branches. Over 90 percent of them were in low-income neighborhoods where the average household income is well below the national median. Payday lenders rushed in to fill the banks’ space, which led to payday lendings’ growth to a \$40 billion industry. These loans are usually to pay for essentials such as mortgage, food, utilities and medical bills, and not leisure items as many believe. With this knowledge, lenders strategically place their facilities near hospitals, urgent care centers and funeral homes in communities of color.

A payday loan’s principal is typically a portion of a borrower’s next paycheck. The lender usually bases their loan principal on the borrower’s short-term income, so pay stubs from their employer must be provided. Wages are also used as collateral. Lenders are allowed wage garnishment if the loan is not paid off by a certain time, putting many families in jeopardy.

Payday loans are usually due in two weeks and are tied to the borrower’s pay cycle. Payday lenders have direct access to a borrower’s checking account on payday, electronically or with a postdated check. This ensures that the payday lender can collect from the borrower’s income before other lenders or bills are paid. The average payday loan requires a lump-sum repayment of \$430 on the next payday, consuming 36 percent of an average borrower’s gross paycheck. However, research shows that most borrowers can afford to pay no more than 5 percent and still cover basic expenses.

Approximately **12 million Americans** use payday loans each year. The average payday borrower takes out 10 loans per year and spends 199 out of 365 days in debt (not counting the extra day in a leap year). African-Americans are twice as likely to take out a payday loan than people of other races/ethnicities. People in households making between \$15,000 and \$25,000/year are more likely to take out a payday loan than others. Disabled and unemployed people are also more likely to take out a payday loan along with those who haven’t completed a four-year college education. Several studies find that women, many of whom tend to be single mothers, comprise the majority of payday loan borrowers. The business model is predicated on borrowers’ inability to repay the loan; most of the fees that support lenders come from borrowers who take out 10 loans a year.

In California, a payday lender can charge a 14-day annual percentage yield (APR) of 459 percent for a \$100 loan, with finance charges ranging up to \$18 per \$100 loan. Although most states have laws that limit interest charges to less than 35 percent, payday loans are able to take advantage of the many loopholes in state lending laws, allowing lenders to charge high interest rates. Lenders rely on borrowers not being able to pay back their loans. Many borrowers cannot pay the loan without reborrowing, piling on more fees

and interest, and ultimately more debt. Over 80 percent of payday loans are rolled over or reborrowed. This allows lenders to make 75 percent of their money from reborrowing while the consequences for borrowers are bankruptcy, delinquency on other bills, and bank account closures.

Although the Truth in Lending Act requires payday lenders to disclose their finance rates, most borrowers ignore the costs in an effort to make ends meet. This has called for many court cases to be filed against payday lenders. There is a need to create a fair lending market for consumers. Individual states govern the regulations of these laws and 15 states have already completely abolished payday lending due to its predatory nature.

Payday loans enable a cycle of debt due to high rates of interest and high repayment installments. In most cases, the borrower will be unable to repay the debt by the due date. Then another loan is acquired to cover the difference, putting them in a deeper financial crisis than they were already in.

Scripture admonishes us, "Do not rob the poor because he is poor..." (Proverbs 22:22). People of faith have reason for concern, but this same faith can move us to action. People of conscience and faith around the country brought their concerns to the ballot box. South Dakota passed a ballot initiative that capped payday loans at 36 percent in the 2016 election. In Colorado, despite the payday law reform bill that was passed in 2010, payday lenders continue to ensnare customers in a cycle of high-cost debt. Following the example of South Dakota, during this year's midterm election Colorado passed the same measure on its ballot initiative by over 78 percent.

Rather than wait for Congress to make federal changes, individual states are taking "We the People..." to heart and becoming the change that they want to see. You can do the same.

Posted or updated: 1/2/2019 12:00:00 AM

Websites Every United Methodist Women Member Should Know

We include these websites in each issue of *The Phoenix* because we think they are valuable resources. These are websites you should bookmark in your "favorites" list. There is a wealth of information within each one. Be sure to visit them on a regular basis so you can keep up with the great work of United Methodist Women!

National

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

Michigan Conference United Methodist Women

www.umwmichiganconference.org

Once you open the page, you can scroll down to Greater Detroit District.

New Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MichiganUMW/groups/>

Reading Program

<http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

MIConnect

<http://news.michiganumc.org/>

"Do Not Ask the Lord to Guide Your Footsteps if You are Not Willing to Move Your Feet."

Quote shared by Carmen Ziegler at Metropolitan UMW's membership tea.

2019 UMW Greater Detroit District Upcoming Events

Month/Date	Event	Location
February 9	GDD UMW Prayer Breakfast	Redford Aldersgate UMC
February 11	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
March 9	Mission Workshop	Beverly Hills UMC
March 11	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
April 5 – 6	GDD Spiritual Life Retreat	Lake Huron Retreat Center
April 6	MC UMC Keep Making Peace	University UMC, E. Lansing
April 8	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
May 13	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
May 30 – June 2	MC UMC Annual Conference	Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI
June 10	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
July 10 - 13	MC Mission u	Albion College
July 20	MC One Day Mission u	Southfield Hope UMC
August 15	One Day Mission u and H.O.M.E.	Lake Huron Retreat Center
August 16 – 17	MC Two Day Mission u	Lake Huron Retreat Center
September 9	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
October 14	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
October 19	GDD Annual Meeting	TBD
October 21 – 22	MC Mission u North	Gaylord First UMC
October 25	MC GDD UMW Leadership Training	Howell First UMC
October 26	MC Annual Meeting	Howell First UMC
November 9	GDD Leadership Training	TBD
November 11	GDD Executive Board Meeting	Beverly Hills UMC
December 9	GDD Executive Board Meeting and Christmas Party	Beverly Hills UMC



**United Methodist Women
North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team
Committee on Nominations**

Potential Leader Form

Please Type or Print

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Local Church _____ Conference _____

Age (Optional) _____ Race/Ethnicity _____

Languages
Spoken _____

Employed? Yes _____ Full-Time _____ Part-Time _____ No _____

Nature of Employment _____

Experience in United Methodist Women:

Local _____

District _____

Conference _____

Beyond Conference _____

Other United Methodist, Ecumenical, or community experience

Interests/Concerns_____

Skills (Ex: computer) _____

Able to be away from home/employment for:

Full Day _____ Weekend _____ Extended Time_____

Other significant
information_____

References:

1.Name_____ Position_____

Contact information (phone/email) _____

Person submitting this information:

Signed _____

Address_____

Phone_____ Email_____

Conference_____

Please Return this Form to the North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team

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