



# The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women

**November 2021 Edition**

## ***A note from your President***

As we get ready to close out 2021, it is always good to think of the positive things that have happened. The Greater Southwest District UMW were able to have their Spiritual Growth event on Zoom with Mary Blashill leading it. Those that attended really felt it was what they needed to hear and gave them hope. Thank you Mary. In June we held our Mission evening event on Zoom with some units gathering members together in church facilities to participate as a group. Micki Phelps and Sharon Appling were our speakers on "Loving Our Children" Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline. This gave us an understanding of what is happening in our schools to girls of color and what we can do to change it. Mission u had to be held on Zoom but at least we were able to attend this year. Then came the fall and our District Annual Celebration was in person!!! It felt so good to be in fellowship with other women in person. I know it was hard for some of you to have to wear "real clothes", not your sweats or pajamas, you looked very nice by the way!

The leadership team met the first Saturday in Nov. and began to plan for 2022. Our intentions are to be meeting in person but we will always have a plan B and now that we are becoming more proficient on Zoom it will make it easier. We will publicize the dates, times and locations as soon as they are confirmed. Check in the District UMC newsletter that comes out from the District office. Thank you Mandana for your strong support of UMW. Dates will also be in the Compass, our District UMW newsletter. The only confirmed event thus far is our Mission Evening event and that will be June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at Climax UMC from 6:30-8:00 pm with dessert being served (maybe strawberries will be ready by then).

We have tried to listen to your concerns and suggestions in planning for 2022. Shorter meetings and eliminating full meals have been suggested. Since our district has increased in size we are always trying to find host churches that are more centrally located but that is not always possible. If your church would be willing to host, please let me know. We don't want to discourage anyone from attending or participating in any event.

This is just a reminder that for this quadrennium, our emphasis as United Methodist Women is on 1) Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline and 2) Climate Change. Go to the United Methodist Women's web site and under the Reading Program you can find some books on these issues.

Have fun planning your 2022 events. Be sure to let us know what is happening with your unit. I would love to come for a visit and I look forward to seeing all of you at our district events.

In Christ's Service

*Linda Burton-Collier*

## ***A note from Program Resources:***

Greetings, new and current friends! My name is Laura Marlowe and I have been a member of the Climax UMW for approximately 16 years and I've been the president of our Mary Martha circle and now our combined circle for most of that time. I grew up in the Climax United Methodist Church and my parents still attend and now my oldest son and his family are also members. I was an elementary teacher in the Battle Creek Public Schools for 34 ½ years before retiring at the end of 2013. I have been married to my husband, Mark, for over 43 years and we have three children and four grandchildren.

If you asked any of my family members what my favorite thing to do is they would all agree that I love to read!! My friend, Jane Knapp, introduced our group to the UMW Reading Program and I started buying and donating books in 2014. I especially enjoy the children and youth books. (Probably has something to do with all those years of teaching young students.)

I plan to share with you over the next year what resources are available, where to find them and ways to encourage and excite you and your local UMW group to become involved in the Reading Program if you are not currently taking advantage of the program.

To get you started, check out the UMW Reading Program website for books, podcasts and movies that you can access to learn more about the topics that we are all focused on as United Methodist Women! <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

HAPPY READING, LISTENING AND WATCHING!!

## ***READING PROGRAM PLANS***

**Plan I:** Read 5 books a year, one book from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth and regular reading of Response magazine.

**Plan II:** Read 10 books a year, two books from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth and regular reading of Response magazine.

**Plan III:** Read 15 books a year, two from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, plus 5 additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response magazine.

**Plan IV:** Read 20 books a year, two from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, plus 10 additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response magazine.

**Plan V:** Read 25 books a year, two from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, plus 15 additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response magazine.

Selections can be from 2016-2021 Reading Lists if not included in previous reports. Bonus books and Faith Talks count as 2 books.



## ***Help Us Strengthen & Build the District Team!***

As Covid restrictions are lifted, perhaps your UMW units are beginning to meet in person once again. What a joy that is! An item I would ask be part of your agenda is the vacancies on the District Team: Vice President, Secretary, Membership Nurture & Outreach, Social Action and Education & Interpretation . We will also have a couple of vacancies on the Committee on Nominations. Women who are serving in any of these positions in their local unit would be a great candidate as they already have experience in the position. While serving on the District Team, you can still hold that position in your local unit. Please prayerfully consider deepening your commitment to UMW by stepping up to one of these positions.

**Vice President:** Fills in for the President when she is absent from meetings. She also coordinates district events with the help of the leadership team.

**Secretary:** Keeps records of meetings; communicates information to groups; shares fiduciary responsibility with treasurer.

**Membership Nurture & Outreach:** Maintains membership lists, develops ways to attract, welcome and maintain new and current members.

**Social Action:** Bring justice issues of concern to women, children and youth to the attention of the units; facilitate advocacy action planning; promote the United Methodist Women social justice priorities.

**Education & Interpretation:** Leader holds primary responsibility for interpreting the impact and importance of Mission Giving as an act of faith and commitment. Leader empowers women to understand, interpret and participate in United Methodist Women's mission with women, children and youth, and outreach of the church, as well as engage in raising funds for mission and outreach.

All positions are elected 1-year, with a maximum of 4 years in that position.

Training for these positions is provided by the District. Fees for attending Mission u, District Annual and MI Conference Annual are paid for by the District. Mileage to District Team meetings is reimbursed.

Interested parties may contact the District Chair of Committee on Nominations, Cheryl Proctor, at 517-741-3125 or via email at seldominn\_1@juno.com.

***Thank you!***



### ***A note from our Treasurer:***

**REMINDER:** Our fiscal year ends December 31, 2021 and if your unit is still planning on sending in remittance for mission pledges or other recognition, please get it to me by December 10, 2021 in order to be credited for this year. Thank you for your continued giving during this difficult time.

Mary Howard, Treasurer  
Greater SW Michigan District UMW  
PO Box 114  
Hopkins, MI 49328

## 2021 Local Membership Census Form Greater Southwest District

Local Unit Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit President: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Information reported by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members as of January 1, 2021:	
Number of new members added in 2021:	
Number of members lost by death or other reasons:	
Total members as of December 31, 2021:	

**Unit type:** Please circle the type of unit you are: (circle one)

Local      Cluster/charge      District      Online

**Instructions:** Please fill in the membership numbers for your local unit in the chart above. Also circle the type of unit that best describes your gatherings.

When your form is complete, please send it to the address listed below by February 15, 2022.

**Please mail completed forms by February 15, 2022 to:**

Cheryl Proctor  
104 Tuttle Park Drive  
Sherwood, Michigan 49089  
(517) 741-3125

**Or e-mail:** [seldominn\\_1@juno.com](mailto:seldominn_1@juno.com)

### **Mission Challenge for 2022**

The Mission Challenge project for 2022 has been chosen. Next year's project will be the One Handle Cloth Bag. Directions for making the bag can be found on the Midwest Mission Distribution Center's website: [www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org). The unit who completes and turns in the most bags will be honored at the District Annual Celebration in September 2022. Let's get to sewing!

## 2022 LOCAL UNIT OFFICERS IN GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT

Unit (Church) \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Meetings Held: Day \_\_\_\_\_ week of month \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete & return by Feb. 28, 2022**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE**

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE	E-MAIL
President				
Vice-President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Spiritual Growth				
Education & Interpretation				
Social Action				
Membership, Nurture/Outreach				
Prog. Resources				
Communications Coordinator				
Nominations Chair				
Other				

\_\_\_ We would like to learn more about hosting a District UMW event at our church.

\_\_\_ We would like to have a District representative visit our church to discuss UMW.

\_\_\_ We would like to start a UMW unit. Please contact:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ We do not have a UMW unit at our church. Contact person & #:

\_\_\_\_\_

Comments or suggestions for upcoming District events: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send completed form to Beth Mitchell, 3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo 49004**

**Or e-mail [barmitch55@gmail.com](mailto:barmitch55@gmail.com)**

## GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR 2022

**President: Linda Burton-Collier (2019)**

(269) 793-7340

[lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com](mailto:lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com)

2574 127<sup>th</sup> Ave., Allegan, MI 49010

**Vice President: OPEN**

**Secretary: OPEN**

**Treasurer: Mary Howard (2021)**

(269) 757-3011

[maryhowa@att.net](mailto:maryhowa@att.net)

PO Box 114, 209 Grant Street, Hopkins, MI 49328

**Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Mary Blashill (2020)**

(269) 767-6060

[maryblashill@gmail.com](mailto:maryblashill@gmail.com)

07509 M-43, South Haven, MI 49090

**Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator: OPEN**

**Education & Interpretation Coordinator: OPEN**

**Social Action Coordinator: OPEN**

**Program Resources: Laura Marlowe (2021)**

(269) 929-7393

[mmarlowe33@att.net](mailto:mmarlowe33@att.net)

8018 Fawn Meadow Trail, Galesburg, MI 49053

**Communications Coordinator: Beth Mitchell (2020)**

(269) 343-6806

[barmitch55@gmail.com](mailto:barmitch55@gmail.com)

3813 Rockwood Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49004

**Committee on Nominations: Cheryl Proctor**

(517) 741-3125

[seldominn\\_1@juno.com](mailto:seldominn_1@juno.com)

104 Tuttle Park Drive, Sherwood, MI 49089

**Donna Smith (2019)**

(269) 565-0598

[smith42f@gmail.com](mailto:smith42f@gmail.com)

304 Beckett Park, Battle Creek, MI 49015



A large graphic with the words "TURN IT UP!" in white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is set against a blue circle that is partially overlapping a maroon shape, all within a maroon banner.

## ASSEMBLY 2022

MAY 20 – 22, 2022  
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER

[WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG](http://WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG)

Come to Orlando to care for your spirit, worship with your sisters and celebrate the positive impact women create in the world.



### WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

In 2022 we will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in our communities and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this we will **TURN IT UP!**

At ASSEMBLY 2022 we will **TURN IT UP!** for spiritual healing and renewal. We will **TURN IT UP!** for rebirth in a new time. We will **TURN IT UP!** for women leaders. We will **TURN IT UP!** for justice for women, children and youth. And it all begins with you. Will you **TURN IT UP?**

### PRICE

Assembly is a great value at the early registration fee of \$330. Few other faith-based conferences offer the following for such a low fee:

- Soul-stirring worship infused with music and performing arts
- Impactful workshops and riveting Town Hall meetings with important leaders
- Action opportunities and an Experience Hall with interactive experiences

### SAVE FOR ASSEMBLY

**Start now!** Calculate the costs as broken out below for your location, then divide by 12 for a monthly savings amount. Now it doesn't seem so daunting. The unforgettable experience of Assembly will make it worth every dollar.

**Early Registration fee: \$330** (available Sep 1 – Nov 30, 2021, which includes lunch on Friday and Saturday)

**Hotel expenses: \$158 – \$203** per night for up to four people ( double / double room )

- Travel expenses
- Meal expenses:
  - Friday and Saturday — breakfast and dinner
  - Sunday — breakfast

[WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG](http://WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG)



Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women  
3813 Rockwood Drive  
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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**The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women:**

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

**IMPORTANT 2022 DATES**

**Assembly 2022 - May 20-22 - Orlando, Florida**

**Greater Southwest District UMW Annual Celebration**

**September 24 (location pending)**

**Conference Leadership Training for District Officers**

**October 21 at Westwood UMC in Kalamazoo**

**Conference UMW Annual Celebration**

**October 22 at Westwood UMC in Kalamazoo**