

## *From our President*

### **MANY GIFTS, ONE SPIRIT — NINE DISTRICTS, ONE CONFERENCE**

It has been a busy month, actually, the past 18 months. Your Conference Mission Team has been busy at work — working together with the Detroit Conference Mission Team. A Steering Committee of both conferences has been meeting since March, 2017, towards this final merging of our two conferences. And, as of July 1, 2018, we are officially the MICHIGAN CONFERENCE. ALL 9 districts are NEW!

Everyone who has worked on all the changes and the plans have had only what is best for everyone in mind. The work has been challenging. It has been confusing. But, hopefully, we will all reap the rewards of all the effort.

I hope all of you have made the connection with the new district you are now part of. I know that all the new districts have been meeting to do the work necessary to be organized as a new district. The District Annual meetings this fall are the **FIRST Organizational meetings and Celebrations** of each new district. *The dates and locations had to still follow what the old districts had basically planned from last year — logistics and timing were important.*

I hope ALL of you have connected with when and where your new district gathering will be — AND, plan to ATTEND it!! I encourage you all to “not stand on formality!” Please do not wait to be invited. Please take some initiative. Do not take whatever happens personally. We are ALL in this together — after all, WE are United Methodist Women. We are the leaders in so many ways. We are the role models. We need to be the examples to follow.

I do understand that there is much confusion, primarily the financial piece. Legally, the current district names will remain in place until Dec. 31, 2018. Currently, all money transactions need to happen through the current district names and treasurers. All local units, need to still send their Pledge and ALL giving, through their current District treasurer. Legally, all current districts and

names will be officially changed as of Jan. 1, 2019. Most importantly, please remember that *ALL of our money and giving goes to the same place!! We are ALL in mission together!*

Our two United Methodist Women conference teams and Steering Committee, have been complimented repeatedly, by MANY other leaders in our conferences, for taking the initiative to get OUR work done towards the goal of merging and being so pro-active.

I loved seeing all of you who were able to attend the National Assembly recently in Columbus, OH. It was a LONG bus trip, for those who traveled that way, but what a great way to connect with our sisters across the conference. And, I loved seeing all of you who were able to attend the Annual Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort. AND, I look forward to seeing ALL of you at your NEW district Annual meeting this fall.

I just finished reading the current issue of the Church Women United newsletter, via our own Julia Deemer. I’m going to “steal,” oops, borrow, a line of scripture from that material. Their new theme is “A New Beginning.” That is so true for all of us, too! From Lamentations, 3:22-23, “Surely the kindness of the Lord never ceases and His mercies never fail; they are new every morning. Great is thy faithfulness.”

My blessings  
to you ALL  
each day,

*Linda Darrow,*  
**President**  
(West  
Michigan  
Conference  
United  
Methodist  
Women)



## **2018 Conference Team**

**President:** **Linda Darrow (2017)**  
232 N. Cooley St., Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
989-763-8750 [darrowlinda@gmail.com](mailto:darrowlinda@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** **Shirley Chappell (2016)**  
719 S. Griffin, Grand Haven 49417  
616-846-4197 [shirley2billchapel@att.net](mailto:shirley2billchapel@att.net)

**Secretary:** **Beth Mitchell (2017)**  
3813 Rockwood, Kalamazoo 49004  
269-343-6806 [barmitch55@gmail.com](mailto:barmitch55@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** **Julia Paradine-Rice (2014)**  
4114 Sanctuary Dr., Alma 48801  
989-576-0675 [juliapr@charter.net](mailto:juliapr@charter.net)

### **Mission Coordinators:**

**Spiritual Growth:** **Simmie Proctor (2014)**  
73486 8th Street, South Haven 49090  
269-637-6053 [simmiepr@hotmail.com](mailto:simmiepr@hotmail.com)

**Education & Interpretation:** **Sue Stickle (2016)**  
10970 Dutch Settlement Rd, Marcellus 49067  
269-646-9425 [suzannestickle@gmail.com](mailto:suzannestickle@gmail.com)

**Social Action:** **Randie Clawson (2015)**  
384 Lind Drive, Traverse City 49696  
231-929-7808 [randieclawson@gmail.com](mailto:randieclawson@gmail.com)

**Membership Nurture/Outreach:** **Pat Snyder (2016)**  
807 S. Sheldon St., Charlotte 48813  
517-231-1301 [dpsnyder807@peoplepc.com](mailto:dpsnyder807@peoplepc.com)

**Program Resources:** **Connie Swinger (2015)**  
255 Brown St. SW, Grand Rapids 49507  
616-452-3532 [connieswinger@att.net](mailto:connieswinger@att.net)

**Communications Coordinator:** **Amber Hassler (2018)**  
269 Cayo Dr, Buckley 49620  
231-642-7224 [upnorthtwinmom@gmail.com](mailto:upnorthtwinmom@gmail.com)

**Appointed:**  
**Be Just Be Green Coordinator:** **Clarice McKenzie**  
Clark Home  
231-745-3256  
[cjmckum@gmail.com](mailto:cjmckum@gmail.com)

### **Committee on Nominations:**

**Chairperson:**  
**Sue Emmons (2017)** 4-year term  
2226 Anderson Dr. SE, Grand Rapids 49506  
616-308-3802 [sre.peace@yahoo.com](mailto:sre.peace@yahoo.com)

**Committee Members:**  
**Loretta Lee (2017)** 2-year term  
142 Greenwood Drive, Battle Creek 49037  
269-317-7377 [weatherby2000@sbcglobal.net](mailto:weatherby2000@sbcglobal.net)

**Sue Franklin (2017)** 2-year term  
2392 Fern Ct., Farwell 48622-9789  
989-339-0491 [Lsfbflat@gmail.com](mailto:Lsfbflat@gmail.com)

**Jenny Kroeze (2017)** 3-year term  
640 Seminole Dr., Fremont 49412  
231-924-4814 [jennyK48g@gmail.com](mailto:jennyK48g@gmail.com)

**Ruth Jones (2017)** 4-year term  
540 Georgetown Dr. #36, Traverse City 49684  
231-421-3500 [tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com](mailto:tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com)

**Dorie Litchfield** 4-year term  
61470 CR 657, Lawton 49065  
269-580-3449 [creator.dorie@gmail.com](mailto:creator.dorie@gmail.com)

### **Program Advisory Group**

**Suzanne Hewitt (2017)**  
2250 Knapp St., Grand Rapids 49505  
616-361-9565 [suzmckhew@att.net](mailto:suzmckhew@att.net)

**Historian — (appointed)** OPEN

### **District Presidents:**

**Albion:** **Cheryl Proctor**  
[517-741-3125](tel:517-741-3125) [seldominn\\_1@juno.com](mailto:seldominn_1@juno.com)

**Grand Rapids:** **Sue Rietman**  
269-795-7644 [Susan.rietman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Susan.rietman@sbcglobal.net)

**Grand Traverse:** **Susan Wirgau**  
[\(231\) 838-5986](tel:(231)838-5986) [onthebay@charter.net](mailto:onthebay@charter.net)

**Heartland:** **Waitha Gaye Leavitt**  
231-640-0238 [wally@journey.com](mailto:wally@journey.com)

**Kalamazoo:** **Cindy Thiele**  
269-673-4514 [cindahthiele@gmail.com](mailto:cindahthiele@gmail.com)

## Wait...where do I find the new information???

The Conference is merging into one big new Michigan Conference, and you will still be getting a newsletter about all the United Methodist Women in the same way you receive it now.

In the meantime, if you are looking for up to date information or forms and registration they are available to everyone.

Please take time to visit, and familiarize yourself with the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women webpage. It is already full of information from both the West Michigan and Detroit Conferences, and is updated consistently.

[www.umwmichiganconference.org](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org)

There is also a Facebook page dedicated to the Michigan Conference of United Methodist Women.

News, updates, and photos can be found here.

Watch the page for exciting new Facebook groups for each district!

Like it now

[www.facebook.com/MichiganUMW/](http://www.facebook.com/MichiganUMW/)



**Please note the first NEW District Annual meetings this fall.**

**Attend any of these that are convenient for you.**

September 15 Northern Waters District  
September 19 Mid Michigan District  
September 20 Midwest District

September 29 Heritage  
September 29 Greater Southwest.

October 2 Northern Skies  
October 6 Central Bay

October 13 East Winds  
October 13 Greater Detroit

Epsilon UMC  
Holt UMC  
Georgetown UMC,  
Grand Rapids  
Jackson 1st UMC  
Westwood UMC,  
Kalamazoo  
Zeba UMC  
St. Luke's UMC,  
Essexville  
Lapeer UMC  
Trenton Faith UMC

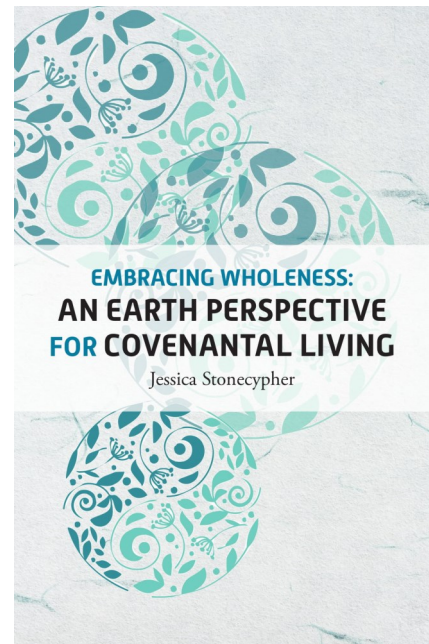
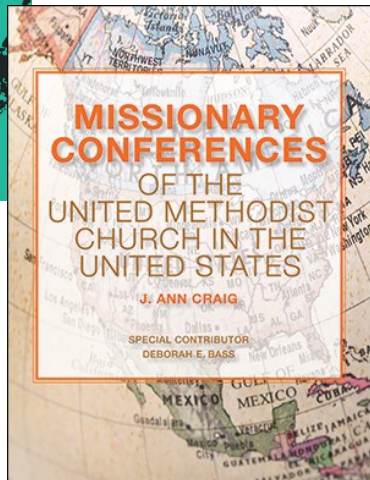




## From Your Book Lady

Secretary of Program Resources

Mission U will focus on the following texts



## E & I Jottings

From Your Education and Interpretation Coordinator

By the time you read this article , Assembly will be a memory. I know that it is a mountain top experience. Those who missed it should plan to attend in four years (2022) in Orlando.

I hope that you have registered for Mission U. It is July 11-14 at Albion College.

Our first Michigan Conference United Methodist Women Annual Meeting will be October 27. Please plan to attend this historic event.

I pray that you will take advantage of the awesome experiences offered throughout the year.



Judy Ross, Joanne Ivey, Mollie Clements, Laura Marlowe, Sue Stickle,

Sue Stickle

E & I Coordinator

### *Social Action needed at the border*



A recent article by United Methodist News Service had a lot to say about the issues of separation of families at our border with Mexico, [http://](http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/united-methodists-fight-separation-of-immigrant-families)

[www.umc.org/news-and-media/united-methodists-fight-separation-of-immigrant-families](http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/united-methodists-fight-separation-of-immigrant-families).

This article reminds us that in our United Methodist Social Principles, The United Methodist Church recognizes all people, regardless of country of origin, as members of the family of God and opposes policies that separate family members from each other. This article has many helpful links and suggestions. Please let the elected officials in your location know you do not approve of this treatment of children.

Traverse City had a rally on June 14. Let's help each other hear about



future events on behalf of Refugees that will be happening in your

### *Randie Clawson, Social Action*

communities. Include information about June 20, World Refugee Day.

**We are called to action, silence is complicity.** Our hearts and lives have been redeemed by Christ, let's strive to redeem the parts of our government that do not give highest priority to the flourishing of all humanity. Working together, our hands and feet will bring God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

If lord willing, I will return to the border with Mexico for the third winter serving at a shelter for asylum seekers and immigrants. If you are interested in joining me, let me know and we will work out the details.

In Solidarity,

Randie Clawson

W. MI. UMW Conference

Social Action Coordinator





## Conference UMW Treasurer

One of the biggest challenges we face in our local units is where to allocate our limited, and often shrinking, financial resources. There are so many needs in our church and in our communities, it is sometimes difficult to meet our unit's Pledge to Mission. I know this is not a new problem, it has been a challenge for United Methodist Women over our 150 year history. When our founders gathered 150 years ago "on a dark and stormy night", they did not make a financial commitment to send a missionary to India INSTEAD of supporting their local church or INSTEAD of supporting their local community, but IN ADDITION TO! We are challenged to do the same in 2018.

The global reach of your UMW mission dollars is absolutely amazing. Want to know more? Check out the website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-we-fund>. Want to know even more? Regularly read **response** magazine and share the articles with your local unit. The May 2018 edition has an article "History and Hope in Alaska" and shares the impact of your mission dollars supporting the Nome Community Center, the Willow Community Food Pantry, and AK Child and Family. I challenge each and every unit to find a way to INCREASE your Pledge to Mission for 2019.

If you ever have a question on "Where the Money Goes" – please contact me at [juliapr@charter.net](mailto:juliapr@charter.net) or 989-576-0675.

Blessings,

*Julia Paradine-Rice*  
Conference Treasurer

Photo from Left to Right: Linda Darrow,  
Amber Hassler, Donna Kleiver, Julia  
Paradine - Rice, Jeanne Shelander

## Assembly 2018

More than 6,000 United Methodist Women members and supporters gathered in Columbus, Ohio, May 18-20, for the 2018 United Methodist Women Assembly with the theme "The Power of Bold."

Throughout this edition of the Highlights are photos of Michigan conference and district team members who attended.

Do you have special photos from Assembly that you would like to share? Please email them to [michiganunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com](mailto:michiganunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com) or direct message them to the Michigan United Methodist Women FaceBook page, to be added to the album in place. @MichiganUMW

If you would like to see the photos of the entire Assembly weekend you can visit the United Methodist Women Flickr at

[www.flickr.com/photos/umwomen](http://www.flickr.com/photos/umwomen)

**THE POWER OF  
BOLD**  
FAITH. HOPE. LOVE IN ACTION. ASSEMBLY 2018





## Photos from Assembly



Micki Phelps and Linda Darrow

Harriet Jane Olsen, General Secretary



Group from West Michigan including Anita Hahn, Toinette Wicks, Makayla Wicks, Sarah Delany, Linn Murray, Amy Starkey, Karleen Dude and Abigail Courtney.



Michigan Delegation to Assembly  
**300 people**  
Second largest delegation!!



## Northern Waters District

As president of the Grand Traverse District UMW, and the future Northern Waters District UMW, I greet you in the name of Lord and Savior!

We are excitedly getting ready for our annual Celebration to be held at Epsilon UMC on September 15 as well as our Mission Day on August 9 at Lake City UMC. You are all invited to both events.

It has been an interesting challenge to create a new district and today my thoughts came to scripture: When God is moving in the world through our events or whatever, the Evil One works overtime to overthrow the good work. We will be stronger for it but it is certainly difficult at times to persevere. Romans 5:3-5: "...but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." We will all grown stronger from this experience and build a greater district UMW.

I thank God for an awesome team and district. **We encourage all of our churches and units to reach out to their counterparts on the district.** We are all blessed to be a blessing.



Susan  
Wirgau

Grand  
Traverse  
District  
President

Pam Moyer and Susan Wirgau

## Midwest District

Assembly 2018 was my second Assembly and it did not disappoint. We celebrated our 150 years of mission service to women, children & youth. Our Theme was "The Power of Bold" and we were embolden to put our faith in action. We had interactive workshops and inspiring speakers. You could feel the energy of thousands of women at "one time; one place, one space. **This is the Power of Assembly.**

My favorite part of the weekend was the live performance group taking us through the Journey of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Mary was called to be Bold when she was chosen by God to carry the Christ child. Mary accepted God's will from a tap dancing Angel Gabriel. The performance continued with Mary visiting



Elizabeth. Mary's "cost of Bold came as her child is born in a manger, visited by Wise men and flees to Egypt to escape Herrod's decree to kill the children. In the wedding at Cana ,

Mary persuades Jesus to perform his first miracle. My most thought provoking part was the Heavenly banquet for the new entrant into Heaven as she insisted she hadn't done anything to deserve a banquet. She was shown her life and what she had touched. It was beautiful.

I can't wait for the 2022 Assembly in Orlando. It was indeed a special weekend of inspiration & fellowship in the company of wonderful women.

Susan Rietman  
GR District President





**United Methodist Women  
Joint Detroit and West Michigan Annual Meeting  
And Michigan Conference Organizational Meeting**

**Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018**

**Petoskey UMC  
1804 E. Mitchell Rd.  
Petoskey, MI 49770  
Phone – (231) 347-2733**

**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.  
Program 10 AM to 3 PM**

**THEME: HAVE COURAGE! "EMBRACE CHANGE AND GROW"**

*Show your “Hatitude” and bring a hat to wear!*

**SPEAKER: Rita Smith, North Central  
Jurisdiction President**



**In-Gathering Project-**

**Petoskey Nehemiah Project  
(helping the homeless)**

Toilet Paper, Paper Towel, Kleenex (tissue) and Napkins



## United Methodist Women Michigan Conference Organizational Annual Meeting Registration Form

Early Bird Registration **Cost is \$16.00**. Early Bird Deadline is October 7, 2018

Registration postmarked after October 8th and walk-in cost is \$20.00. Seating for lunch is limited; we cannot guarantee lunch for walk-ins.

**Child Care** is available at no cost but must be requested in advance.

**Tickets will not be mailed; they will be picked up at the Registration under the District and the name of the person ordering.** Please list all attendees on the registration form. PRINT name clearly.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM SO IT IS READABLE. THANKS**

Name and information for person ordering: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$16/ x\$20 (Circle one) = \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed

Make Check payable to West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women; send check and form (Keep a copy for yourself )to registrar: **Sue Emmons, 2226 Anderson Drive SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506** Phone – 616-308-3802, E-mail srepeace@yahoo.com

NAME

CHURCH

UNIT

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Overnight Stay: 2 choices – Mention United Methodist Women**  
**Michigan Inn 1420 S. US 131, Petoskey, MI – 231-348-3900**  
**Hampton Inn 919 Spring St., Petoskey, MI - 231-348-9555**

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN JOINT DETROIT  
& WEST MICHIGAN ANNUAL MEETING

and

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

OCTOBER 26-27, 2018

**BUS TRIP TO PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN****Price Per Person:**

\$149.00 Double

\$139.00 Triple/Quad

\$199.00 Single

**Trip price includes:**Round trip transportation on deluxe motor coach,  
2 meals\* (1 lunch, 1 breakfast), 1 night accommodation  
and transfers, escort, Christian fellowship, & fall beauty!

Join the fun and fellowship as we travel by charter coach to Petoskey, Michigan for this very special first annual joint annual meeting of Detroit and West Michigan Conferences and the Michigan Conference Organizational Meeting. The 2018 Theme is: **Have Courage—Embrace Change & Grow.** Our speaker will be *Rita Smith, North Central Jurisdiction UMW President.*

**Day I, Friday October 26:** We depart this morning and enjoy the splendors of our Creator as we travel northward. We will enjoy Lunch\* arriving in time for leadership training this afternoon.

**Day II, Saturday October 27:** Enjoy breakfast\* before we transfer to the church for the *Joint Detroit and West Michigan Conference Annual Meeting.* (Lunch is included in your conference registration, which should be sent to Betty Thomas or Sue Emmons by October 7, 2018.) We will leave for home immediately after the meeting.

Accommodations: Michigan Inn Lodge (231-348-3900)---October 26<sup>th</sup>**PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ASAP TO HELP US MAKE NECESSARY DETAILS**Reservations: Your full payment confirms your reservation and must be received by Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>.Mail to and check payable to: **Sally J. Andrews, coordinator, 423 W. Todd Ave., Reed City, MI 49677** Call (810)444-4823 for details**Departure Points:****Bus I**—Southfield, Auburn Hills, Lapeer---**Bus II**—Ann Arbor, Flint, Bay City, Clare.**Bus III**—Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Big Rapids. (Times/details sent with receipt.)**RESERVATION FORM****ANNUAL MEETING****OCTOBER 26-27, 2018**

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

Departure City \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Roommate \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Handicapped Yes No (circle)

Occupancy: Sgl, Dbl, Tpl, Quad (circle)



West Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

[www.umwmichiganconference.org](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org)

**United Methodist Women**

269 Cayo Dr, Buckley MI 49620



United  
Methodist  
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

**NONPROFIT ORG.**

**US POSTAGE**

**PAID**

**LANSING, MI**

**PERMIT # 933**

## Inside This Issue

Mission U

Assembly 2018

Conference Annual

and more

**HIGHLIGHTS**-- the official Newsletter for West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women; Is published quarterly: Dec., Mar., June, Sept.

Submissions requested by the 5th of each previous month to:  
Editor: Amber Hassler  
[michiganunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com](mailto:michiganunitedmethodistwomen@gmail.com)

## *2018 Calendar of Events*

July 11-14	Mission U	Albion College
July 21	One Day Mission U	Hope UMC, Southfield
August 17-18	Mission U	Lake Huron Retreat Center
Sept-Oct	District Annual Meetings	See page 3 for details
October 15-16	Mission U of the North	Gaylord UMC
October 26	District Officer Training	Petoskey UMC
October 27	Conference Annual	Petoskey UMC