

For

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Michigan Conference News – Winter 2019

**PRESIDENT**

**Here We Are! Together!**



Happy, happy, happy - NEW YEAR! It seems like we have been experiencing a “new year” for many months now, actually, for almost a couple of years. This is true for a few more of us across the state than others. And, I want to thank those of you who have worked so diligently on this merging process. But, all of us, United Methodist Women in Michigan, have been on quite a journey, haven’t we?

I believe I am able to handle a LOT. I believe I am a basically organized person. I think I handle situations/ complications/ confusion, quite well. I think I am usually “up to the challenge.” But, can I confide in you? As I write this article, to *my closest UMW friends*, I think I should be very honest with you.

I have concluded that if, I had really been aware, ahead of time, of ALL that would be going on this past two years with United Methodist Women in Michigan, I would most probably have declined the invitation, from the Committee on Nominations, to be on the slate for West Michigan Conference President two years ago. I’m just sayin’..... (And, I apologize for that run-on sentence.) At that

time, it sure was not in my thought process that that decision would lead me to become the first UMW president of the NEW Michigan Conference. It is a bit daunting.

But, here I am. Here YOU are. Here WE are! We are in this together. We are connected. Being connected - this is what I love about our Methodist denomination. And, this is what makes all the difference to me, as I begin this new chapter, this new part of the journey. I know that you ALL are there, too. You

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all are beginning this new chapter, too. I believe in strength in numbers. I believe we are better together. We are better because we are connected and we are on the journey together.

In Ephesians 1:15-16, Paul wrote, "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." So many of you have expressed your support to me, to all of us, as we have worked diligently these past many months to get to where we are right now. Knowing that I have so much love and support from so many, is what gets me through the most challenging times.

Think about the atmosphere around us. It is filled with technological waves that we cannot see, feel, taste, nor smell. These invisible waves all around us remind me of prayer. We have no idea who around us is praying for us or how many prayers are filling the atmosphere. God does. God is as close as our prayers. God is tuned to our needs and always hears and receives our prayers.

As this new year begins, I look forward to getting acquainted with new sisters all across the state and continuing the work we are committed to as United Methodist Women.

In His Service,  
Linda Darrow, President  
Michigan Conference  
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## OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENT



### "This is My Story"

Until 1972, I did not know anything about the United Methodist Women. I am a United Methodist by marriage (52 years). When we moved to Grand Haven, I knew I wanted to sing in the choir, but I was also invited to join a circle. I enjoyed going to the Circle meetings. It got me out of the house (3 small boys), I got to meet new people (we were new in the area and knew no one) and I liked the mission work they were doing. I have always been a shy one, and these women were helping me to come out of my shell. My first step forward was doing a devotion and reading "The Littlest Angel". I later became President of our Circle, and then President of our Unit. From there I have been honored to serve on the District and Conference.

I have met so many beautiful women. I have worked with you on many different projects and have learned about the good, the bad and the ugly in this world. We continue to work for clean water all over the world, food for everyone who is hungry and a better life for all children.

I have gone to five Assemblies and have learned there is a whole different world out there from my little farm town and even Grand Haven. United Methodist Women has opened my eyes to many concerns, injustices and unpleasant realities in this world. I have grown in many ways by my participation in United Methodist Women. I was never able to stand up in front of a group and speak. Now as Vice President of the West Michigan Conference, I am expected to stand up and talk intelligently. I still have nerves, but my self-esteem and

confidence has greatly improved thanks to you. My favorite activities have been Mission u and Spring Retreats. As a conference officer I have also enjoyed attending the District Annuals. I especially remember attending the Grand Traverse District Annual in 2013. My son had died in April of that year. Susan had a very simple memorial service that day and it really touched my heart. I have used that same poem numerous times and have shared it with Mothers who are hurting from the loss of a child.

As I step down from Vice President, I pray that the United Methodist Women remain strong and committed to continue their fight against injustice. I pray that we can get more local women involved in our Units, the District and the Conference. Our new Conference will be a challenge for a couple of years. We all need to be supportive of this group of women and pray for them daily – and when asked, “Say yes” to join the United Methodist Women team – they are the best.

**Shirley Chappell,**  
**Vice President West Michigan Conference**  
**United Methodist Women**



**Showing Midwest District's Assembly Shirts –  
 what a great fundraiser!**

From left to right:

Lynda Edsall, Phyllis Prentiss, Betty Vanderwal, Julie Reimersma, Sue Rietman

## **INCOMING VICE-PRESIDENT PAT BOSTIC**



Greetings to all,  
 Hopefully we will all take time to be grateful, to give thanks for family, friends, and fellowship with each other. We are adjusting to one conference, embracing change, sharing gifts and talents, ideas, goals and mission. Think of three things you are grateful for and why.

Embrace the spirit of giving.

2019 will be here soon, UMW events are planned, and we are getting used to our new district names and reaching out to new churches in our districts. We will adjust our thinking to “better together”.

It's time to update your 2019 calendars for retreats, meetings, Keep Making Peace, Mission u and Annual Conference.

The 2019 annual meeting will be at Howell UMC.

Let's not forget to include our “150” anniversary for United Methodist Women in our events and planning.

Please remember, “there are those who give with joy and that joy is their reward”.

Enjoy the holiday season.

Warm regards

Patricia Bostic

Michigan Conference Vice President

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## INCOMING SECRETARY, BETH MITCHELL



Hi, my name is Beth Mitchell and I will be serving as the Michigan Conference UMW Secretary. I am from the Greater Southwest District, more specifically Kalamazoo, and I attend Westwood United Methodist Church. I have been the West Michigan Conference UMW Secretary for the last 2 years. I have also served as the MNO District and Conference Mission Coordinator and have also worked on the Conference nominations committee.

Personally, I am recently retired after 27 years of work in the legal profession. My education is in vocal music and I have been blessed to be the West Michigan Conference song leader for many years. In 2012 and 2016 I led the music for the North Central Jurisdiction meetings. I have been married for 40 years to my husband Bob and we have 4 children, 2 son-in-laws, 1 daughter-in-law and 7 grandchildren.

I am looking forward to meeting many new women during this exciting time in our Conference. Together we can make a difference.

**Beth Mitchell, Secretary**

**(269)343-6806**

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## INCOMING TREASURER, JULIA PARADINE-RICE



### **New Year's UMW Resolutions**

It is that time of year, time to establish our New Year's Resolutions! Per the dictionary, a resolution is "a firm decision to *do something*". If you are like me, I need to make a list because writing down my plan seems to make it more tangible. And, if it is not on my list, it risks being forgotten and never getting done! Here are some items each unit should consider in their UMW resolutions for 2019:

- ☐ Be a 5 Channel Giving Unit
- ☐ Invite individuals to be 5 Star Givers
- ☐ Subscribe to response magazine and stay informed on "Where the Money Goes"
- ☐ Order Gift to Mission Cards from your District Treasurer
- ☐ Plan a UMW Sunday and/or UMW 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party
- ☐ Plan a church-wide special offering to the Legacy Fund
- ☐ Encourage attendance at Mission u – maybe help fund a new attendee
- ☐ Plan to attend District and Conference events
- ☐ Keep in touch with your District Counterpart Officer (and Conference Officer!).

We are here to be your resources, so ask us questions, invite us to your meetings and events, and include us in your resolutions. We are in this together and together we are the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women – let's *do something* together in 2019!

Blessings,

**Julia Paradine-Rice, Michigan Conference Treasurer**

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## INCOMING NOMINATIONS CHAIR LINDA SCHRAMM

My name is Linda A Schramm, and United Methodist Women changed my life! I began by being part of a circle at Snover Trinity (now a part of Snover Heritage.) Becoming parents of child #3 necessitated a larger home, so in December 1974 we moved to Sandusky, 10 miles away . . . and joined Sandusky FUMC and its United Methodist Women. Someone in that unit had been on Port Huron District UMW, and soon I was asked to be a member of the Committee of Nomination of Port Huron District United Methodist Women. The second year I chaired it, followed by being elected Secretary of Program Resources, then President. That put me on the Conference Team for 4 years, followed by 2 Conference positions, a Mission Coordinator, then Secretary. I was then elected to North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women in 1996-2000, followed by 8 years on Women's Division. Followed by being elected & serving as President of Detroit Conference United Methodist Women from 2009-2013.

When I was first asked to begin this journey, I replied that I knew nothing about the organization nor anyone to nominate. I was told that was okay, that I would be trained. . . and trained I have been, at district, conference, jurisdiction, and national levels. Along the way this introvert became a leader with abilities developed in her that she never knew she had.

It is my joy to have tenure left to serve as Chair of the new Michigan Conference Methodist Women to seek leadership opportunities for United Methodist Women of Michigan, and maybe change a few lives as my life has been changed by this organization. My passion is definitely United Methodist Women!

Linda A Schramm

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## What's in a Name? Naming the new Michigan Conference UMW Newsletter

As I'm sure you know by now, all things United Methodist Women in Michigan are changing, complete with a new title for the combined conference – The Michigan Conference UMW! Complete with a new slate of officers that will begin their terms January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, we now have a new team of participants in Communications! Kathy Freeland, Sally Messner, Amber Hassler and Diana Miller will work together to keep you all informed of important updates through a new newsletter, Facebook page, Michigan UMW website and more to come!

Here's the thing – **we think that you all have a better idea of a name for our new publication** rather than the "Michigan Conference UMW Newsletter". So, instead of the *Detroit Conference News* and *Highlights*, the current names of the two newsletters, we are asking you to help us create a new name!

All entries need to be submitted by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**, and you can submit your names by phone, snail mail or e-mail to:

**Kathy Freeland**  
**PO Box 195, Mayville, MI 48744**  
**989-843-5247**

[ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net)

Good luck – we look forward to seeing your creative choices!

**INCOMING SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES  
BRENDA STREET**



**What Are You Reading in 2019?**

Are you in school and reading for your subject area and preparing for an exam? Are you in church and reading for Bible Study or Sunday School Lesson? Maybe you are at work and have briefs, contracts, application or letters to read for a more productive career. Well, here is a great suggestion. **Get involved in the United Methodist Women Reading Program.**

First, visit [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram). Reading leads to action. The Reading Program Categories are Education in Mission; Leadership Development; Nurture for Community; Social Actions; and Spiritual Growth. You can view or download the catalogues or list for the Reading Program. The Reading Plans includes books from the 2015 – 2019 lists. You can look at the list and if you have not reported it, you can include it in your plan for 2019.

Those who have not participated in the Reading Program can check the list and see if those are books you may have read recently.

How do you find the books? Take your list to your local library. Those of you who read e-books can get them from Amazon, Kindle, the Nook. There are audio books and books in braille. Finally, you can order books from Mission Resources.

The Reading Program includes being informed through the Response Magazine. The new changes are they will be published 6 times a year and it is Digital. The New World Outlook has been discontinued.

How to increase the readers in your unit or church? Get children and youth involved in the Program. The units can get a lending library. Have the books available at events and meetings so members can borrow and read. Have book talks at each meeting. Help members to keep records of their reading and use the reporting forms.

Lastly, Please sign up for the **2019 Annual Sampler**. (Visit the UMW website for the form). Order the print subscription **today for \$40** and save \$5.50. The Annual Sampler includes:

- 2019 Spiritual Growth study (\$10).
- 2019 Special Study (\$10).
- 2019 Prayer Calendar (\$14).
- 2019-20 Program Book (\$10).
- 2020 Date Book (\$1.50)

**Brenda Lee Street**

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**INCOMING SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR ALICE TUCKER**  
**What Would Jesus Do?**



As we come together in this new thing, let us come with love. Much has happened in 2018 that we cannot be silent about. We became **BOLD**. When the image left in our minds is a mother fleeing with her kids, one a toddler with a bottle and clothed in a diaper trying to escape the choking gas tossed at them by our country, we have to stop and wonder: Is this how to welcome the stranger?

Families that were torn apart still have not been reunited. The United Methodist Women and others supported us by signing a petition that we took to Customs and Border Patrol in Washington, D.C.

We marched for living wages, we demanded that Ford continue to support clean car standards. We opened eyes to the problems associated with pipeline to prison, disproportional with poor, minority, and disadvantaged young people being incarcerated. So as we go in to 150 years of celebration, let us open our eyes, and heart and ask What Would Jesus Do? Let us take our voting power to candidates who believe in equality, justice and fairness for all, but most of all for love of our fellow sisters, children and all.

**Alice Tucker**

**(248)357-5816**

[fayerich@comcast.net](mailto:fayerich@comcast.net)

**INCOMING SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR RUTH JONES**



UMW Friends,

I am honored to be your Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator beginning in January. I live in Traverse City, having moved here about ten years ago to be granny nanny to my grand twins, Annie and Gus. I am a retired elementary teacher and widow of a campus pastor, and I really enjoy several book groups and attending student recitals at Interlochen. Our wonderful library is my second home.

This is the first place I have lived that has an active group of Church Women United. Last summer I got my "mountain fix" volunteering at Holden Village, a Christian camp in the Cascades.

Please keep in contact with me as my desire is for us to share ideas for retreats, UMW Sundays, etc.

I am passionately proud of UMW: its origin, history and future. It is needed as much or more than ever.

**Ruth Jones**

**231-645-1761**

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**INCOMING MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, AND  
OUTREACH COORDINATOR  
PATTY SNYDER**

**Connect and Share**

We are a connectional ministry - the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women. Share with each other blessings and resources to further the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to glorify the Father our God.

A short introduction- I am Patricia Snyder (Patty to my family), a 45 year member of Lawrence Avenue United Methodist Church in Charlotte and a member of Deborah Circle, past president of Anna and Marian circles and the unit, also a district and conference officer. Each of us have a sphere of influence; family, friends, clubs and at work. In this season I am busy with my grandchildren and my churches' Boy Scout Troop 46 - planning merit badge instruction and rank advancement. I am a vender at our community market marketing their products: maple syrup and honey, also garden produce and my jams and jellies. I am the main gardener at our community garden-our scouts help mulch and harvest corn for our food bank.

You all have skills and talents. Share life's experiences - resources - encourage each other. P.S. I have been married to my husband David for 50 years. We have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Two grandsons are Eagle Scouts and the youngest joined Tiger Cubs this year. Recently 8 family members joined his pack for a tour of Henry Ford Museum. Baking Christmas Cookies is the most important event happening with the 11 year old granddaughter. Our oldest granddaughter, age 21, lives next door and we share many interests; sewing, cooking, gardening and a car.

Blessings to you all in the New Year.

**Patty Snyder**

**(517)231-1301**

**dpsnyder807@peoplepc.com**

**COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATORS KATHY FREELAND, SALLY MESSNER, AMBER HASSLER**

While West Michigan has done a great job getting the word out about receiving your newsletters in e-mail format, Detroit Conference has lagged behind a little. If we really wish for our mission money to go toward mission, then we need to find ways to cut costs.

So...here's the thought. If we could get your e-mail address, the e-mail of the church where you attend, or the e-mail address of a friend, we would love to have you continue to receive the newsletter, just in a different format.

If you don't have access to e-mail either at your home or at your church, we truly understand that, and you will receive a copy regardless of that fact!

Please take a moment and fill out the form below and send it back to the e-mail or regular address below, letting us know your preference – making sure that you spell out your e-mail address carefully so we don't lose anyone! We will truly appreciate it, and will start this with the next newsletter!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one of the following:**

☐ I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail.

☐ I prefer to receive my newsletter by regular mail.

**Send to: Kathy Freeland, PO Box 195 Mayville, MI 48744 or e-mail [ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net)**



## **THE LEGACY FUND – THE TIME IS REALLY HERE!**

**Linda Schramm**



**2019!** It's here at last - the year we've been waiting for the past four years . . . the year United Methodist Women celebrate 150 years of being in mission for Women, Children and Youth, locally, nationally and globally . . . the year we CELEBRATE!

How will you CELEBRATE?

- Nationally, our Day of Giving is March 23, the actual birthday of our founding in 1869, at Tremont Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston, with a gathering of 8 women with a vision. That vision continues to be us today.
- Conference-wide we will celebrate October 26, 2019 at Howell United Methodist Church with a special ANNUAL CELEBRATION. Save the date! Put it on your calendar now to be a part of this LEGACY CELEBRATION!
- Locally, begin now (if you haven't already) to plan a LEGACY CELEBRATION in your church. Invite the entire congregation to celebrate with you on this remarkable milestone – 150 years of being in Mission. Make it the biggest “bestest” birthday party ever! Send us your stories and/or photos of Celebrations!

### **Top 10 Ideas to Celebrate our Legacy**

10. Do your part to support the United Methodist Women Legacy by . . .
9. Learning about how our history has changed us as women, our church, our nation & the world!
8. Understanding how you can continue this powerful legacy by . . .
7. Using a Legacy video in your local unit ([www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150))
6. Pledging at least \$18.69 (the year of our beginning) this year &
5. Urging your local unit to pledge \$150 (our age in 2019) this year
4. Honoring someone with a limited edition 150th Special Mission Recognition Pin (\$150) (see [www.umwmmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmmissionresources.org)) - someone who mentored you? Or someone you are mentoring?
3. Honoring someone (or yourself) with a 150th Necklace & Pendant (\$50) (see above)
2. Remembering to share YOUR LEGACY about what United Methodist Women means to YOU
1. Celebrating 150 years of United Methodist Women & its Legacy to insure Love in Action for the next 150 years!

**Linda A Schramm, Chair**

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## DISTRICT PRESIDENTS



### HERITAGE DISTRICT PRESIDENT Sherry Wagenknecht

I recently saw this quote, "No one can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending" (Unknown). I really began to think about that statement. The conclusion was that we don't start over; but we begin again right where we are, making things better in our lives.

I am happy to say the past year has been very exciting for the Heritage District. The Ann Arbor and Albion district combined to make a new district with 102 churches. On September 29<sup>th</sup> we had over 100 people in attendance at our annual celebration & training. It was a time of joy and celebration for our gathering and there was a feeling of inclusiveness that one attendee said she had not expected when they found they were changing. We were putting the "Pieces Together", as the title of the program said. Now on to the new beginning.

We have a new Mission Team and a calendar for the year with meetings at churches throughout the district. 2019 Standing Rules will guide us along with the ones from our Conference UMW team and the National UMW. The goal this year is to become a team of people working together as a mission for UMW. We are planning a Team Building Retreat in February to not only help strengthen the new team but develop Job Descriptions and plans for the coming year.

The team is working on improving our contact and communications with the units in our district. Some of our team members will take on sending information to local presidents on a regular basis.

Plans are in process for the Heritage District Retreat to be held March 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> at Judson Collins Retreat Center. We will have a Social Action speaker for Friday evening and Faith Fowler will be our speaker for Saturday. Details to come. The annual meeting will be held September 28<sup>th</sup> at Howell UMC.

So many plans and so much to do but it feels good. This is the start of something new for all of us and we will be making things better as we go forward.

**2 Corinthians 5:17** <sup>17</sup>Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the **new** is here!

Blessings to all of you in the New Year!!!

**Sherry Wagenknecht      734-269-2578   cell: 734-347-5956**

**[wagen88@hotmail.com](mailto:wagen88@hotmail.com)**

### MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT INCOMING PRESIDENT DONNA KLEIVER



Hello from Mid-Michigan District. This past year has been challenging but exciting as we developed a new District. On December 5, 2018, the District Team will meet to finalize 2018 and begin work on our 2019 activities. Our first activity in 2019 will be the Epiphany Celebration on January 5, 2019 at Owosso First UMC with Rev. Kathleen Groff as our speaker.

In 2019 we will be working on writing our Mid-Michigan District Standing Rules and engaging with all of the District units; as our primary goals. Since our District Annual Meeting, we have added Evelyn Bochenek to the appointed position of The Messenger editor. We still have open positions of Membership Nurture & Outreach and on the Committee on nominations. As a team we will be looking forward with new vision, challenges, and energy to serve women, children and youth as United Methodist Women.

**Please note that I have a new email address: [dmkleiver2016@gmail.com](mailto:dmkleiver2016@gmail.com)**

Blessings to all for a Merry Christmas and New Year,

**Donna Kleiver**

**517-663-4193**

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## NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT PRESIDENT PATTI STEINBERG

Greetings from the North! I've taken over the reins of Presidency from Bobbie Clift, who served our district for 9 years, 8 of which as President! I'm excited to be working with a motivated and talented District Team who love Jesus and live out His Calling on their lives.

Our 2018 Annual Meeting was held at Zeba Indian Mission in Zeba, Michigan. The community hall was FULL of women who have a heart for the mission of United Methodist Women. We had 86 UMW members, 9 Pastors, a member of the Conference UMW, and a member of the National UMW for a total of 97 people. Our Ingathering and Offering were both for Zeba Indian Community. Sue LaFerner, representing Zeba, was overwhelmed with the generosity shown by this group of 100. Zeba Indian Mission is part of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) of the Lake Superior Band of Chippewa Indians. We thank Kathy Mallory, outgoing VP, who coordinated this very Spirit-filled event. (Kathy also is leaving the District team having served 4 years as Treasurer and 4 years as Vice-President.)

Six of our ten District Officers are NEW to their position so the training we received at the Conference Training was invaluable. We rely on the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women officers to communicate effectively with us as we communicate with our local units.

The Northern Skies District includes ALL of the churches in Michigan's Upper Peninsula PLUS Cheboygan, Church of the Straits in Mackinaw City, and the newly added Levering New Hope, in the Lower Peninsula.

**Patti Steinberg**

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## CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT INCOMING PRESIDENT RUTH SUTTON

The new Central Bay District UMW is up and running. The first newsletter, "Around the Bay", has been mailed out. We look forward to the new year with all events in place. At the last meeting of the year, we, sadly, said good bye to some of our officers that have joined the Northern Waters District and welcomed members from Crossroads and Heartland Districts. The district team looks forward to the new ideas that will come from the three districts coming together. The next Central Bay District event will be the Spiritual Brunch on Saturday, February 9, at Frankenmuth UMC, with Melene Willsey, pastor of New Hope UMC in Saginaw, as the speaker.

Recently I returned from a mission trip to Liberia where we visited twenty-two United Methodist mission sites. While visiting the Ganta Hospital, I witnessed the United Methodist Women from Ganta United Methodist Church making a donation to the hospital. They had brought five bags of charcoal, cassava, bananas and other food goods for use by the families at the hospital. When a person is hospitalized in Liberia, the family is responsible for making sure that the patient is fed. This donation would allow many patients to be fed by their families. It was reassuring to see that the UMW in Liberia, just as the UMW in the United States provides the means to improve the quality of life for people around them. The UMW is alive and well in Liberia, as well as in the United State, doing what we do best – helping others.

May God be with you as you experience the new year!

**Ruth Sutton**

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**suttonr1@charter.net**



**Swearing in of Central Bay Mission Team**

## EAST WINDS DISTRICT CO-PRESIDENTS

### East Winds Incoming Co-President Alberta Gunsell

I am Alberta Gunsell, Co-President for East Winds United Methodist Women. I am coming from the Crossroads District where I have served as Secretary and Vice-President. Currently I am a member of the Duffield United Methodist Church and am the Financial Secretary for the church and Vice-President for our UMW. Duffield is a country church with an average of 35 to 45 people that attend Sunday Worship Service. Duffield is located between Swartz Creek and Durand.

I am very excited to be serving as the Co-President for East Winds. There have been and will be challenges to face as we take two districts and make them one, but we are off to a great start. The Leadership Team is a great mix of women from both districts. We have taken ideas from both groups and tried to incorporate them to provide events this next year that will be exciting and bring together a great group of women for fellowship, serving God, helping with missions and making new friends

**Alberta Gunsell**

**989-666-4232**

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### East Winds Incoming Co-President Lynn Geer

I am Lynn Geer, your new East Winds Co-President, serving with Alberta Gunsell. Our outgoing district presidents and the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women leadership team have been most generous with sharing and teaching. I have much to learn. I am looking forward to the January Michigan Conference team building retreat I will be attending in Dewitt.

I am a retired educator. Most of my years were at Croswell-Lexington Schools in southern Sanilac County. I attended Cros-Lex, taught there, and my now deceased husband and I raised our four children as they attended there. I was an administrator for 12 years until I retired 16 years ago. I have been attending and an active member at Lexington United Methodist Church since my wedding in that church 56 years ago. Family, traveling, and reading are my passions.

I am looking forward to a new adventure with all of you in our new East Winds District.

**Lynn Geer**

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## MIDWEST DISTRICT INCOMING PRESIDENT SUSAN RIETMAN

Midwest District had a great year in 2018 filled with wonderful events focused on Human Trafficking. Both district and local events were well attended and thought provoking to all who came!

Midwest District elected officers at our annual meeting on Sept. 20. They are as follows:

**President: Sue Rietman**

**Vice President: Jean Sherman**

**Secretary: Nancy Duiven**

**Treasurer: Betty VanderWal**

**Registrar: Sue Van Portfliet**

**Communications: Sara Wolfson**

**Program Resources: Connie Swinger**

**Social Action: Jody Pratt**

**Education & Interpretation: Judy Huynh**

**Spiritual Growth: Ann Scott**

**Nominations: Julie Reimesma**

**Membership Nurture & Outreach: Open**

Events scheduled for 2019 are as follows: **Spring Fling at Fremont UMC on March 16**, with the topic "Immigration in Today's World". Then our **Spring Retreat at the Dewitt Center on May 3 & 4** on "What's your Spiritual Style". There will be a Friday Night "Get acquainted Party", Saturday breakout sessions, a pre-loved auction of items to show your style in a new way and a wrap up of how to use what we have learned about ourselves and how to implement it in our lives. We also look forward to **Mission u in July at Albion College** and then finishing our year with 2 **"Evening or Day Apart" events**. We are planning to have 2 dates & locations; 1 south and 1 north to allow as many of our units to attend the one closest to their location. With 91 churches in our district, we are trying to get to know as many as possible. We have a great team with many ideas, so we hope to have a wonderful year!

**Susan Rietman**

**(269)795-7644**

[susan.rietman45@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rietman45@gmail.com)



## NORTHERN WATERS INCOMING PRESIDENT SUSAN WIRGAU

Greetings from the Tip of the Mitt (aka Northern Waters District),

We just had our annual Christmas party and business meeting. Most of our team was there. Our Committee on Nominations report highlighted what we already knew: they have major work to do in 2019—many of our positions will be vacant for 2020! And we still have two vacancies for 2019! Spiritual Growth is one of those! If you know of anyone in the NWD, who we can contact—please let me know!

We are saying goodbye to some of our long standing members: Jane Tinsley, Trudi Hook and Julia Deemer. We have three conference team members who reside in our district: Ruth Jones, Julia Deemer and Amber Hassler. We also have a district social action coordinator who wishes to remain a part of our district team: Randie Clawson. We have several members who are re-positioning within our team. We have others we welcome anew (some of whom who have been serving with us though still a part of Saginaw Bay District). Then there are others of us who will be “just” continuing on in our positions! Thank you to all of you for your service--past, present and future. If I've left out names, please forgive me and some lists were too numerous to mention! We are blessed with a large team!

Coming into NWD, we have our team quite well populated, our standing rules done and our budget prepared and approved. We also know these will need to be tweaked over 2019 to be ready for 2020. It all takes time—persevering through which we have grown accustomed to through this whole re-districting process. Much of my report could have been written by any of the nine district presidents!

In 2019, for several reasons, we are combining two events previously held in GTD: Social Action Day in May and Mission Day in August. It will be The Power of Bold Day to be held May 4 (Saturday) at Houghton Lake UMC. Our Spiritual Growth Spring Retreat, April 12-13 at Lake Louise with our leader being a former SBD speaker, The Rev. Dr. Lisa McIlvenna. Then our District Annual Celebration will be at Gaylord First UMC on September 28. Everyone is encouraged to attend any of our events.

Blessings to you for a great 2019!

**Susan Wirgau**

**231-838-5986 (voice or text)**

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## GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT PRESIDENT KAY KORNS

Happy New Year! We welcome the new year of 2019; a year that is new in so many ways: a new Michigan Conference United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women and nine new districts. The leadership of Greater Detroit District welcomes all United Methodist Women local units and look forward to meeting and getting to know new friends and seeing old friends and getting to know them better. As new friends and former friends may we accomplish and experience great things.

During a short Executive Board meeting before our Christmas dinner and party we suggested and discussed goals for United Methodist Women Greater Detroit District.

**Goal #1: Strive for excellent two-way communications**, give and take from leadership to units and churches and from units and aspiring members to district leadership. **Suggestions:** Regular emails to local units and churches; organize for Shepherding and plan and arrange visitations to local units and churches without a local UMW unit. Have the trifold cards with names of district leaders and their contact information available at the Prayer Breakfast, February 9 at Redford Aldersgate and at all subsequent district events.

**Goal #2: Encourage and urge regular visits to the United Methodist Women websites:** [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) (National website) and [www.umwmichiganconference.org](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org), (Conference & District info) and Facebook Pages and other social media. We know there are those who do not have a computer and dismiss the idea of seeing what might be on the Home Page of the web sites.

**Goal #3, a very important long term goal: Recruit United Methodist Women members and revive United Methodist Women local units.** It is a tough one; it would be easy to give in and give up. That is not the United Methodist Women way. What can we do? Think: consider and explore ideas and use our imagination; get together to discuss: share, listen and consider; research by contacting friends in other districts and even in other states and contact the national office and staff. We especially need to try to recruit younger and young women.

Prayer should always be a source of answers to our challenges. I pray for us to accept the challenges and to find ways to share with other women in our churches what longtime and relatively new members like and appreciate about being United Methodist Women. 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.

**Kay Korns, President**

**Cell Phone: 734-775-2385**

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## PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP NATIONAL UMW MEMBER SUZANNE HEWITT

Some of us have United Methodist Women DNA. In our family, foremothers in both parent's blood lines were [UMW] for an amazing 135-ish years. Just like today, I remember women serving and advocating in their churches and communities. They were leaders and readers. They met in each other's homes for spiritual growth, learning and fellowship. From whence I come. And this is us. It's in our DNA.

### Shout outs:

- All who attended the 2018 General Assembly in Columbus, OH in May this year
- All who could not attend but helped others to go or prayed for us or donated to a scholarship fund so others could attend (Next Assembly is in 2022 in Orlando FL)
- September 2018 Response contains two photos
  - 1) Detroit Conference UMW for exceeding the 30% mark increasing their participation at Assembly (pg 37) shown with keynote speaker, Leymah Gbowee
  - 2) Lisa Hahn, Traverse City, participated with the Teen Track "Limitless" (pg 28)
- Detroit Conference UMW President Marchelle (Micki) Phelps was among the Faith Leaders who in September 2018 hand-delivered to Ford Motor Company Headquarters a petition to stand by clean car rules agreed to in 2011 and not roll back emission standards
- All who organized United Methodist Women in the *new* Michigan Conference
- The 10 hospitable units and churches that hosted 1,300 people at the Annual Meetings

### Call to Action!

- 1) Be a leader
- 2) Invite new women to UMW
- 3) Mobilize for justice
- 4) Support the Five Channels of Mission Giving

**On a serious note**, please join with all United Methodist Women as we made a commitment to pray daily from 2:23 pm to 2:26 pm, and to fast as you are able, for God's continual leading our leaders and churches from now through the end of the Special General Conference on February 23-26, 2019. This conference has been called to determine "A Way Forward" for the United Methodist Church with clergy and clergy candidates professing to be LGBT, and same-sex marriage ceremonies performed in our churches and by UMC clergy.

Thanks again for all you are doing. We are beautiful and BOLD UNITED METHODIST WOMEN. Still putting FAITH, HOPE, and LOVE in ACTION!

**Suzanne Hewitt**

**616-361-9565**

**suzmckhew@att.net**



Suzanne Hewitt bringing greetings to the Conference UMW Meeting in Petoskey!

## 2019 MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN OFFICERS

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Julia Deemer (2019) Northern Waters  
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### COMMITTEE ON THE CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

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Members:  
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Randie Clawson  
Kathy Freeland  
Toni Grimmatt  
Judy Chasney  
Loretta Lee  
Alice Tucker  
Waltha Gaye Leavitt  
Joyce Simons  
Linda Schramm

Michigan Conference of United Methodist Women  
[www.umwmichiganconference.org](http://www.umwmichiganconference.org)  
United Methodist Women  
269 Cayo Dr, Buckley MI 49620

### Michigan United Methodist Women Conference 2019 Dates to Remember

**Jan. 25-26 (Friday-Saturday)**

Conference Team Planning Retreat  
St. Francis Retreat Center, Dewitt

**Feb. 1-3, 2019 (Fri. – Sun.)**

Leadership Development Days,  
Tempe, AZ

**March 6 (Wednesday)**

Ash Wednesday

**March 23 (Saturday)**

Legacy Day

**April 6 (Saturday)**

Keep Making Peace Social Action Event  
University UMC, East Lansing

**April 14 (Sunday)**

Palm Sunday

**April 19 (Friday)**

Good Friday

**April 21 (Sunday)**

Easter

**April 26-27 (Friday-Sunday)**

Church Women United-MI State Assembly,  
Presbyterian Church, Traverse City

**May 1-4 (Wednesday-Saturday)**

Mission u Training for Deans & Study Leaders  
Tempe, AZ