



NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Spring - Summer 2021

PRESIDENT



Greetings Northern Skies United Methodist Women, beloved by God.

The work of the United Methodist Women goes ON even during a pandemic, just as the work of the Church goes on.

Have you ever thought that God is COUNTING on you to be the Light and Salt of the world? That looks differently for each one of us. How were you Light and Salt during the pandemic?

As your District UMW Leadership Team guides us through 2021, know that we are here to serve God through our positions in the District UMW.

As President I have participated in the Leadership Development Days, "The Flawed Juvenile Justice System That Sparked a National Outrage" Webinar, and "Just Energy For All" Webinar, as well as Conference UMW meetings, all without leaving the snowy Upper Peninsula, I mean...my living room. 😊

I hope each one of you is taking the Social Action Initiatives to heart and are reading about Racial Justice and Climate Justice, THEN formulating a plan to take action! Much info is on these two websites.

www.umwmichiganconference.org
www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

See you in October in Menominee! Have a good and Godly Lenten Season!

Patti Steinberg
pattisteinberg@gmail.com
(906) 367-2128

VICE PRESIDENTS



Hello and Happy New Year to all from your co-vices in frozen St. Ignace. We recently attended

our district leadership meeting and are happy to note we have decided to plan a LIVE gathering on October 5, 2021, for our UMW Celebration. It will take place in Menominee, Michigan, so plan now for a meaningful program as well as the opportunity to see some lovely fall colors as we travel to meet there. We look forward to an in-person program (finally!) with our talented guest storyteller who will give our message special meaning. Look for further details and the registration form in our next newsletter at the end of summer. As an additional preview note, it had been decided previously to make our Celebration a spring event; but because of difficult scheduling with COVID-19, we are presenting our Celebration once more as a fall event. Moving forward in 2022, it will be held as a spring event in May. We hope you all stay well and are looking forward to sharing time with everyone in October.

Blessings to all,

Linda Maiullo
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313-580-1271

Judy Misner
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906-643-7191



SECRETARY

The election results were unanimous! Of course, I am NOT talking about the November election. The October election of UMW officers & the Budget for 2021 were both approved via

“absentee” ballot since we were not able to meet for our Annual Celebration this past Fall. Ballots were received from 35 members representing 15 out of 25 units. You also submitted \$540 as a donation to God’s Country Cooperative. Thanks to everyone who voted & contributed to that worthwhile cause.

On a sad note, the Engadine UMW has requested that they move to inactive status. After much consideration, it was felt that for various reasons they reluctantly cannot do what they feel is necessary to be active UMW members at this time. If they choose to resume active involvement in the future, we will happily welcome them back. UMW will continue to communicate with them & they will be able to receive information about UMW areas of concern.

We appreciate the many years of devoted service the Engadine UMW has provided to their church and to women, children & youth. They plan to continue serving their church & community in the ways they are able. Our prayers of support go with them.

Thank you to everyone who returned their **Local Unit Officers Forms**. It is especially important to update this information, including email addresses, so that newsletters and other communication will reach everyone. Hopefully, you are staying healthy & we can meet in person again soon!

Until we meet again,

Bobbi Sundquist
bobbiansen@aol.com
906-864-9337



TREASURER

As we begin a new year, I am sure many of you are hoping to be able to meet together again and resume our UMW ministry to women, youth and children. It has certainly

been a challenging year, which is reflected in our finances for the past year. Our giving was about half the normal amount, which is not surprising considering we were basically not meeting for ¾ of the year! Since we did not have an annual celebration in 2020, we were not able to publicly recognize the 5 Channels of Giving units and 5 Star women for the year 2019. So here is a listing of both categories:

2019 Units:

Cheboygan St Paul’s	McMillan
Crystal Falls	Menominee
Engadine	Negaunee Mitchell
Greenland	Newberry
Ironwood Wesley	Ontonagon
L’Anse	Republic
Manistique	St Ignace

2019 Women:

Bonnie Picotte
Patti Steinberg

And for 2020:

2020 Units:

Engadine	Menominee
Gwinn	Newberry
L’Anse	Ontonagon
Manistique	

2020 Women:

Bonnie Picotte

Looking ahead to this year, there is one major item of business for all unit treasurers to deal with. The Conference has decided that all local units must have bank accounts that are associated with the Conference UMW tax ID#. I am aware that some units have the tax ID of the associated church on their account, so that will have to be changed. I will be contacting each local treasurer during this year to determine if you need to take some action

to conform to the Conference guidelines. In anticipation of my contact, I am requesting each unit treasurer contact their bank and find out the tax ID# on record for their bank account. You will not need to take any further action with the bank until you hear from me. If you need to make a change, I will have all the necessary documentation for you to work with your bank.

I will also be supplying you with more information later on about some new cards available for Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory donations. These are available by request anytime you send in money in those two categories, so be watching for that information which I will send as soon as the new cards become available.

Until then, let us look forward to this year with hope and expectation of better conditions and renewed fellowship. Our purpose continues even in hard times!

Barb Akins
vlnpno@gmail.com
906-863-7387



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I find it difficult to think of something 'fresh' at this point! But, I am going to start by thanking God for the freshness of each day even though it still may be spent inside our four walls.

Do you remember a time when love was fresh or a newly purchased item was fresh? I'm nursing along a large bouquet of flowers that was fresh two weeks ago but now dwindling to the point I will soon be able to put what is left as fresh in a bud vase. I know these cut flowers won't last much longer but I did help extend their life by frequently using fresh water and 'flower fresh' food on them.

I turn to Oswald Chambers who asks "are we as spontaneously kind to God as we used to be, or are we only expecting God to be kind to me?" Is our kindness, our devotion and our love as fresh as ever or is it losing its freshness? In Jeremiah 2:2,

God says he remembers a time when we were in love with him; He remembers the love of our betrothal. We need to strive to be filled to overflowing with love for Jesus Christ as we were in the beginning when we went out of our way to prove our devotion to Him. Do we remember a time when we cared just for Him or have we chosen man's wisdom over true love for Him? Are we so in love with Him that we take no thought for where He might lead or are we watching to see how much respect we get as we measure how much service we give?

This is a strange and depressing enough time and I don't aim to bring us down but I feel we can be refreshed by remembering God's love for us and the many blessings we have in spite of the world's current condition. I may have to remind myself several times a day to 'freshen up' and after I do, I always feel better. I have a hymnal circa 1966 and the first 70 hymns are under the category of 'The Praise of God'. Just reading through those hymns helps me freshen up. Count your blessings, name them one by one!

There were great times of freshening up in the Bible:

In Exodus 32-33, Moses' people accepted God's laws and built the tabernacle.

In 1 Samuel 7:1-13, Samuel's people promised to make God first in their lives by destroying their idols.

In 2 Samuel 6, David brought the ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and praised God with singing and musical instruments.

In 2 Chron 20, Jehoshaphat's people decided to trust in God alone to help them, and their discouragement turned to joy.

In 2 Chron 29-31, Hezekiah purified the temple; got rid of idols and brought tithes.

In 2 Chron 34-35, Josiah made a commitment to obey God's Word and remove sinful influences from people's lives.

In Ezra 9-10 and Haggai 1, the people stopped associating with those who caused them

to compromise their faith and renewed their commitment to God's Word.

In Nehemiah 8-10, they fasted, confessed sins, read God's Word publicly and promised in writing to again serve God wholeheartedly.

In each of these circumstances God was faithful to plant the Word as well as faithful to forgive. We've had to give up on so much this past year – hopefully our Spiritual Growth wasn't one of them.

Here's where I let you know about the next Spiritual Growth Retreat and say I hope to see you there. Unfortunately, in 2021 we again won't be able to have our retreat. Due to Covid restrictions on gathering we won't be able to have the District Annual Celebration in the spring, so the District Board decided to have the Celebration in the fall of 2021. See details in the Vice Presidents' article. I will be having information on our next Spiritual Growth Retreat for 2022 in a future newsletter. I miss seeing everyone and hope to have a great program for you in the fall of 2022.

Jane Yaeger
jyaeger210@sbcglobal.net
906-290-1884



SOCIAL ACTION/EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

Happy New Year! We hope this finds you well and safe.

The year 2020 has been a challenge for us all. We thank you for returning your Mission Objective forms. We understand that because we have been unable to meet, many of these objectives have been unmet.

Our Social Action focus for 2021-2024 will be: CLIMATE JUSTICE with focus on Just Energy for All and gender equity and racial justice. The second focus will be CRIMINALIZATION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR & MASS INCARCERATION with focus on interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline.

You can find more information and resources in the Jan-Feb issue of *Response* magazine and on the United Methodist Women's website. We hope you will share this information with your members when we can again meet in person.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Beth Clark
clarkbb616@gmail.com
715-696-3773

Moira Cowling
moira5130@hotmail.com
906-774-5130



MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, & OUTREACH

If you haven't already, please return the enclosed form to me reporting new members and the passing of members during 2020. I'd like to thank everyone for their help, but I have found it necessary to resign from my district office due to the continuing demands of my employment.

Joyce Erickson
erickson64@hotmail.com
906-774-9279



PROGRAM RESOURCES

Are you doing a lot of reading during the pandemic? Some of you are, I know!

2019 had 7 units reporting 36 readers and a total of 402 books read! Certificates for 2019 Reading Program will be distributed at the 2021 Fall District Celebration.

I only have reports from 3 units for the 2020 Reading Year. I understand that the number will be lower this year, because most units have not been meeting and church buildings have been closed, so books have not been accessible.

Books eligible for credit are available to borrow from the district library, which is kept at my house.

We do not have all of the books from the Program on the reading list, but we have many of them. I will be unable to send you books until the first week in April, but make your list and let me know which books you would like me to send you at that time. I will make sure that they are Covid free between readers. Recognition for the 2020 Reading Year will also be at the 2021 Fall District Celebration.

Reading lists for the 2020 year should be to me by May 1, 2021. If you hold the Program Resources office for your local unit and your members participated in the reading program for 2019, please notify me if you will NOT be reporting any readers for 2020.

Books for the 2021-2022 Reading Year are listed in the *Response* magazine, Nov/Dec issue. A more detailed list is also available at unitedmethodistwomen.org. The District Library will also have some of these books available for your use.

NEW: If you listen to three (3) Faith Talks (found at unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks) that will count as 2 books in the Spiritual Growth category! These are monthly conversations, exploring “themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope, and love into action.”

Books may be selected from the 2017 list through the 2021-22 list until December 31, 2022.

Do you know the United Methodist Prayer Calendar has its own Facebook Page? Like the printed copy, it has a daily mission focus, birthdays of mission personnel and holidays to include in your prayers. The Prayer Calendar lets you know what is happening in mission and moves you to put faith, hope, and love into action.

If you have any questions. Please don't hesitate to call me. I'm looking forward to seeing you face-to-face at the Fall 2021 Celebration in Menominee!

Mary Balfour
mjbalf@gmail.com
906-298-0487



NOMINATIONS

We still need a Chair of Nominations. We were sorry to see Sharon Rice leave, and we thank her for her service! Is anybody out there good at recruiting women to fill positions? You would have the help of the nominations committee. Get in touch with Patti Steinberg to volunteer!



NEWSLETTER COORDINATOR

If your church or UMW unit is doing anything unusual and/or noteworthy during the pandemic, please submit pictures with a short caption so they can be included in future newsletters. As always, if you're receiving this newsletter by snail-mail and you now have an e-mail address, please contact me with your info so I can start sending the newsletters by e-mail. This will help save District postage costs. Thank you!

Judy Rost
jrost@alphacomm.net
906-788-4771

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Greetings from the Office of Economic and Environmental Justice of United Methodist Women. We hope you will participate in and help spread the word about the following climate justice opportunities:

- **Just Energy for All 101:** Join us on Feb 22nd, March 8th, and March 22nd at 3:00 pm EST to learn more about the why and what of United Methodist Women's Just Energy for All campaign, as well as how your United Methodist Women unit, district or conference can be involved. These 90-minute webinars will include presentations, breakout sessions, and opportunities to connect with other UMW members and people of faith. You don't

need to be a United Methodist Women member to join us—all are welcome!

- **Upcoming UMW Federal Legislative Days:** United Methodist Women and the National Religious Partnership for the Environment are organizing virtual visits to Capitol Hill to urge Congress to make climate justice a top priority. Sign up to receive updates from United Methodist Women about this and other opportunities to get involved in advancing climate justice and just energy for all.
- **Join UMW in writing to Congress** urging them to pass a national moratorium on utility shutoffs: <https://p2a.co/33iJHcC>.
- **Sign up** to receive regular updates from United Methodist Women including opportunities to take action and ways to get your UMW group involved in advancing climate justice and just energy for all.

If you have any questions, please reach out to climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Best,

Erin Hancock

Just Energy for All Coordination Consultant/UMW

WEB PAGES OF INTEREST

Northern Skies United Methodist Women

<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/nsd/html>

Michigan United Methodist Women

<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>



WITH SYMPATHY

Two former district officers passed away during 2020.

- Eunice E. (Larson) Tonkin, L'Anse, former district president, passed away April 18, 2020. Her daughter is our own Beth Clark.
- Patricia Ann (Riopelle) Carmody, L'Anse, former chair of nominations and MNO, passed away October 17, 2020.

Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of these two incredible women. *Well done, good and faithful servant.* (Matthew 25:23a)

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS DURING A PANDEMIC



Menominee UMW/UMC adopted 2 needy families through Michigan DHS for the 2020 Christmas season. Members socially distanced to wrap gifts and deliver to the families in time for Christmas.



St. Ignace UMC was creative with a way to gather for Christmas in 2020. Since members couldn't gather in the decorated sanctuary, they met outside for an old-fashioned Christmas around several fire pits. They greeted Santa when he arrived via fire truck and dropped off a bag of candy canes. They enjoyed hot cocoa and prepackaged cookies, sang Christmas carols around the fire pits, and remembered the Reason for the Season as Pastor Mark Thompson read the Christmas story from the Bible.



Menominee UMC hosted a Nativity display where people could walk through in small groups and observe 50 nativities members displayed. Communion was provided at the end by Pastor John Murray.



2021 UMW NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Honorary President: Bron Harmon, cell 906-420-2943, dfebron@gmail.com

Past President: Bobbie Clift, 225 W. Michigan St. #1, Marquette, MI 49855, 906-361-2234, bblouclift@gmail.com

President: Patti Steinberg, 142 Indian Lake Dr, Crystal Falls, MI 49920, 906-367-2128, pattisteinberg@gmail.com

Co-Vice Presidents: Linda Maiullo, W2419 Hwy US-2, St Ignace, MI 49781, 313-580-1271, maiullol@aol.com

Judy Misner, W2573 Association Rd, St Ignace, MI 49781, 906-643-7191, cell 906-630-0303,
auxchenes2@gmail.com

Secretary: Bobbi Sundquist, N2708 State Highway M-35, Menominee, MI 49858, 906-864-9337,
cell 906-290-0114, bobbiannolsen@aol.com

Treasurer: Barb Akins, 717 - 14th Ave, Menominee, MI 49858, 906-863-7387, vlnpno@gmail.com

Spiritual growth: Jane Yaeger, 1610 - 36th Ave, Apt #6, Menominee, MI 49858,
cell 906-290-1884, jyaeger210@gmail.com

Social Action/Education & Interpretation: Beth Clark, 446 Lake Anna Rd., Florence, WI 54121
715-696-3773, clarkbb616@gmail.com

Moira Cowling, W8321 Spring Lake Lane, Iron Mountain, MI 49801, 906-774-5130
cell 906-221-9311, moira5130@hotmail.com

Membership, Nurture & Outreach: Joyce Erickson, W8021 Oakridge, Iron Mountain, MI 49801,
906-774-9279, erickson64@hotmail.com

Program Resources: Mary Balfour, N7014 Kay Dr. K-1, Stephenson, MI 49887, 906-753-4857, cell 906-298-0487,
mjbalf@gmail.com

Newsletter: Judy Rost, W4768 No. 14.5 Lane, Wallace, MI 49893, 906-788-4771, jrost@alphacomm.net

Nominations Chairperson: OPEN

Nominations Committee:

Deb Cavalieri, 311 Fourth St, Iron Mountain, MI 49801, 906-828-1177, cell 906-282-8037, madrecav@gmail.com
Wendy Mulka, 580 N Riverhills Rd, Kingsford, MI 49802, 906-774-8387, cell 906-396-0405, picup8@gmail.com
Bonnie Picotte, 36870 Stroud Rd, Ontonagon, MI 49953, 906-884-4523, yogibo@charter.net
Linda Chappa, 739 Klomen Ave, Republic, MI 49875, 906-371-9051, sircuddlycakes@gmail.com

Conference Nominating Committee: Patti Steinberg (see info above)

NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UMW 2020 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Please return the names of new and deceased members no later than March 15, 2021 to:

Joyce Erickson, Membership/Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

W8021 Oakridge

Iron Mountain, MI 49801

906-774-9279

Name of Local Unit: _____

City: _____

Person Submitting Information: _____

Members deceased between January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	

New members acquired between January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020

Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	
Name	



Northern Skies District

c/o Judy Rost
W4768 14.5 Lane
Wallace, MI 49893

2021 NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UMW CALENDAR

February 17	Ash Wednesday
April 2	Good Friday
April 4	Easter
April 28	District Leadership Team meeting via Zoom, 11 am EDT/10 am CDT
May 9	Mother's Day
May 31	Memorial Day
June 20	Father's Day
July 4	Independence Day
July 15	Newsletter deadline to Judy Rost
August 25	District Leadership Team meeting TBA
October 4	District Leadership Team meeting in Menominee, 6 pm EDT/5 pm CDT
October 5	District Celebration at Menominee First UMC, 10:15 am EDT/9:15 am CDT
October 18-19	Mission U at Gaylord First UMC
October 23	Conference Celebration at Kalamazoo Westwood UMC