

NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

Spring – Summer 2019

PRESIDENT

Welcome to the first official newsletter of the Northern Skies District of the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women. We are doing a NEW THING! I'm part of that new thing as I'm your new President!

I encourage you to contact your District Officers for questions you may have. We are here to serve YOU and YOUR UNIT!

• Reading Program: Mary Balfour

 5 Star Woman/5 Star Unit or your Pledge: Barb Akins

 Membership including deceased members and online reporting: Joyce Erickson

Spiritual Growth Retreat: Jane Yaeger

• Annual Meeting: Judy Misner and Linda Maiullo

Local Officers Report: Bobbi Sundquist

Social Action: Moira Cowling and Beth Clark

 Criminalization of communities of color, with a focus on disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline.

 Maternal and child health, with a focus on ending maternal mortality in the United States and around the world.

 Climate justice, with a focus on United Methodist Women members' personal and collective choices through the 13 Steps of Sustainability and holding corporations accountable for polluting and greenhouse gas emissions.

 Challenging economic inequality, with a focus on securing living wages for all.

Education and Interpretation (Mission Objectives):
 Moira Cowling and Beth Clark

Newsletter: Judy RostNominations: Sharon Rice

When I attended Mission U in Gaylord I was deeply affected by a video we watched concerning Social Action. Please Google and watch the UN Climate Summit Poem, "Dear Matafele Peinem." It's only 3 minutes.

As we work together FOR women, children, and youth I urge you to make a difference for them.

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Eastern U.P. We hope everyone had a blessed holiday. We attended the Joint Detroit and West Michigan Conference and Leadership training in Petoskey on October 26th and 27th which was full of helpful information but also maybe a little overwhelming. However, we have had wonderful support and guidance from everyone.

This year's Fall Celebration is planned for October 8th (not Oct. 1st) at the Gwinn UMC. The speaker is yet to be determined.

We would like to welcome the Levering UMW to our district and look forward to their participation. We realize it is early to start thinking of 2020 events, but we encourage all the Northern Skies District members to start thinking about hosting the 2020 fall celebration.

We look forward to serving as your new co-vice presidents and welcome any and all suggestions and/or helpful hints you might have to share.

Linda Maiullo Judy Misner

maiullol@aol.com auxchenes2@gmail.com

313-580-1271 906-643-7191

SECRETARY

Greetings from your new Northern Skies District Secretary. It's not often that you take a new job and have no responsibilities for months – I like it! I have read, however, that the secretary's minutes are **NEVER** to be discarded since that is the written record of the organization.

That sounds like a very big responsibility, so I'd better use spell check and get the facts right! Luckily there is always a time for corrections and additions to those minutes before they are approved. Life is like that & I am sure the minutes I take will be also.

The important thing is that we continue to strive to fulfill the mission of UMW as we and the women before us have for 150 years. I know we all approve of that!

If you see an article about what UMW is accomplishing in your area, please send it on so we can include it in our records as we move forward into our next 150 years.

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

TREASURER

Happy New Year to all of you in the Northern Skies District! With the new year and the new district, there are several things to mention that will make our donation systems work smoothly.

First of all, of course, make all checks out to "Northern Skies District UMW." Please no checks written to me! If you are designating money for UMCOR or the UM Community House, just include those amounts in the check written to Northern Skies District. When you send in the check, please fill out and include the Remittance Form. All forms can be found on the United Methodist Women website (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/treasurers). If it is a problem for you to print out the form, just let me know & I will send you one you can use to make copies. When you include a donation for Special Mission Recognition (SMR), there is a separate form to be filled out for that IN ADDITION to the regular remittance form. I know this is a lot of paper, but it makes my job easier; and if you don't send in the form, I

end up having to fill out one for my files & I would rather not have to do that! As you probably know, we have cards available for Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory donations which I will be happy to send to you, but you have to request them—otherwise you won't get them, because the job skills required for being treasurer do not include the ability to read minds!

Please remember that I am always happy to answer questions or help with any concern, either by phone or by e-mail. Together we can continue to advance the cause of missions and enrich the lives of those we help while being blessed ourselves through the grace of generosity.

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

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Faith, Hope, Love - In Action

From the Women's Foreign Missionary Society in 1869 to present, we are celebrating our continuing spiritual growth as United Methodist Women.

We have such a legacy of Faith, Hope, and Love all because of action on the part of those eight women in that March night of 1869. Think of how much that spirit has grown since then.

Faith as in 2 Timothy 1:3-5 where Paul says: "I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also." A legacy of faith recorded in the Bible and continued through the faithful ones.

Hope as in Lamentations 3:24 "'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I hope in Him!'" Hope in the dictionary says: to cherish a desire with *anticipation*; to want something to happen or be true. For the Christian, hope is desire combined with the *expectation* of the event. Hope in Greek is 'elpis' which means expectation of good. Hope = Expectation, Trust, Confidence. We can continue to have the expectation

of good through our mission work that was begun with the eight hopeful ladies in 1869.

Love as in 1 John 3:16-18 "We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action." Love as in the UMW mission initiatives to:

- Provide opportunities to grow spiritually
- Equip women & girls to be leaders
- Provide transformative educational experiences
- Organize for growth & flexibility
- Work for justice through service & advocacy

As we continue to grow spiritually this year, let's remember the "ACTION" part of our faith, hope and love! (A bell is not a bell until you ring it, a song is not a song until you sing it. Love was not put in the heart to stay, love isn't love until you give it away.)

Jane Yaeger plainjane210@sbcglobal.net 906-290-1884

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT
MAY 3-4, 2019
MANISTIQUE COMFORT INN
REGISTRATION DUE APRIL 27, 2019
(See Registration Form Enclosed)

MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, & OUTREACH

Unfortunately, four deceased members from the Stephenson UMW unit were not recognized at the 2018 District Celebration at Zeba. They are:

- Marion Gruenstern
- Jan Poisson
- Fay Menke
- Joyce Peterson

Our apologizes. They will be recognized at the 2019 District Celebration. Please send me the names of deceased members in your unit who passed between October and December 31, 2018, for recognition at the 2019 District Celebration. Due to the restructuring to calendar year reporting, UMW members who pass during 2019 will not be recognized until the 2020 District Celebration.

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

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Many of you have met me already in the last 8 years in my roles as Secretary and Newsletter Editor. I have now taken on a new job, as Secretary of Program Resources. If you have books from our collection that you don't want to hang onto until spring retreat, return them to: Mary Balfour, N7014 Kay Dr., K-1, Stephenson MI 49887.

The Reading Plan is constructed the same as previous years with Plans 1-4. The list includes books from the 2014 list until the present. However, there are several significant changes to The Reading Program as follows:

- The UMW will not provide booklets from which to choose books and in which to record what we have read. I will give you the name, author, and publishing information in this newsletter and provide a booklet with a full description of each book at our spring Spiritual Growth Retreat (thus, saving on expensive postage).
- Beginning in January 2019, United Methodist Women Mission Resources will no longer stock books on the Reading Program lists. You will have to obtain them from Cokesbury, Amazon, or your public library. Some you will be able to borrow through the District Library.

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

NOMINATIONS

I'm happy to report that all positions are filled except one additional member on the nominations committee. Please contact me for more information, and prayerfully consider joining us.

Sharon Rice sharonflachsrice@gmail.com 906-226-3643 or 902-250-4853 (cell)

DISTRICT REPORTING DEADLINES CHANGED AT THE CONFERENCE LEVEL

The Michigan Conference changed the Mission Today, 5 Star Giving and the Reading Program to report on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. The change took effect on January 1, 2019.

What that means for the Northern Skies District is that you will have the whole year to read, work on your Mission Objectives, and 5 Star Women & Units. Submissions will be due January 15, 2020; and the awards will be handed out at the 2020 Annual Meeting. We won't have any awards at our meeting in Gwinn because we'll still be in the 2019 calendar year.

Attached is the 2019 Mission Today Unit Objectives for you to use in your 2019 planning.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Are each of your units holding a United Methodist Women Sunday? It is a great opportunity to let the congregation know a little more about us and spread the word about the mission we are all about. This year, Menominee's unit combined our Special Mission Recognition with the UMW Sunday service. Our ladies take care of the entire service and most of the time we have a chili lunch or salad lunch after. Last year we had a "style show" with fashions from designer Paul for the women of Ephesus, such as the breastplate of righteousness, helmet of salvation, etc. We had fun with the costumes and hamming it up with the narratives and, of course, the serious message woven in. This year we had three short skits with a humorous take on faith, then hope, then love in action. After each skit we had a short message about each. For instance, after the faith skit, we talked from 2 Timothy 1:3-7 and said there are many assets we have to pass on and what about passing on faith.

What we haven't thought up ourselves, we have found resources on line to work with. There is a lot of info, ideas and pictures on the UMW website and online. Our projectionist was able to get some nice UMW pictures for the screen on the wall with the resources available.

Have some fun with it! While you will want to get some facts out, it doesn't have to be a lecture on United Methodist Women.

If you have been holding a UMW Sunday, e-mail information and pictures to Judy Rost at jrost@alphacomm.net so we can share in another newsletter.

WANTED

Pictures and articles of your local unit's 150-year UMW celebration. Whether you have cake & party hats, caviar & champagne, or skits depicting our foremothers, please e-mail your info to Judy Rost at jrost@alphacomm.net by July 15th to be included in our Fall/Winter Newsletter.

WEB PAGES OF INTEREST

Northern Skies United Methodist Women https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/nsd.html

Michigan United Methodist Women https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/

If you're on Facebook, there are many pages pertaining to UMW that might be of interest, such as:

- United Methodist Women
- Michigan Area United Methodist Women
- Detroit Area United Methodist Women
- Michigan Conference, Heritage District UMW
- Midwest District United Methodist Women

If you're receiving this newsletter by snail-mail and you now have an e-mail address, please contact me at jrost@alphacomm.net with your info so I can start sending the newsletters by e-mail. This will help save District postage costs. Thank you!

2019 UMW NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT BOARD

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

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

Co-Vice Presidents: Linda Maiullo, W2419 Hwy US2, 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, plainjane210@sbcglobal.net

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. Kl, Stephenson, MI 49887, 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: Sharon Rice, 615 Brule Rd, Marquette, MI 49855, 906-226-3643, cell 902-250-4853, sharonflachsrice@gmail.com

Nominations Committee:

Deb Cavalier, 311 Fourth St, Iron Mountain, MI 49801, 906-228-7711, 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

Conference Nominating Committee: Patti Steinberg (see info above)





Spiritual Growth Retreat May 3-4, 2019

Comfort Inn, Manistique, MI

On Friday, registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. EST; dinner at 6:00 and a session following. Saturday begins at 9:00 a.m. EST with two sessions, followed by communion and lunch.

"Covenantal Living"

From the Mission U Study, "Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living," we hope to find a renewed sense of what it means to live in a place where there is wholeness for your family, your church, your community, and the earth.

Please make copies of this registration form for each person to attend and send a check payable to Northern Skies District UMW by Sat. April 27th to:

Jane Yaeger, 1610 - 36th Ave. Apt. 6, Menominee MI 49858

Questions? - call Jane at 906-290-1884 or email: plainjane210@sbcglobal.net

Again, if you are attending for the first time, you get one half off !!

Name	Phone#
Emaíl	
Address	
Amount Enclosed	
*First time attendees get	one half off**
Persons to a room:	☐ one person = \$100 ☐ two persons = \$70 each
	\Box three persons = \$65 each \Box four persons = \$60 each
Please choose your Frid	ay níght meal:
	🗆 Físh, rice pilaf, vegetable OR 🗆 Chef salad, bread
Roommate(s)	
☐ handicap accessible	room = first floor

2019 Mission Today Unit Objectives United Methodist Women - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!			
Name of Unit	District		
	()		
Name	Telephone		
City		State	Zip
Email			
A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement December 3l, to be presented at their Annual Me ☐ Units completing any 8 or more objectives will ☐ ☐ Units completing 9 or more objectives, with 8 ac ☐ Units completing 17 or more objectives, with 10 ☐ Units completing 25 or more objectives, with 12	eting the following October. Co be a "FAITH" unit. sterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" contact as a sterisks (*) will be a "FAITH"	Theck the num "HOPE" unit. I" "HOPE" "JO	bers completed. OY" unit.
Mission Giving1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mis2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contril3. Donated to local women's shelte4. Offered scholarships to Mission is	buting to all 5 channels of r or children's/youth progr	ram.	
Spiritual Growth5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Se6. Participated locally in a retreat, p7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiri	orayer vigil or Bible study.		runch.
Membership8. *Added one new member from v9. *Added one new member not inc		e church in t	he current year.
Attendance10. Invited a District or Conference11. Had a combined meeting with a12. Attended Church Women Unite13. *At least one member (other that14. *At least two members (other that district annual meeting/celebrate15. *At least one member (other that Leadership Training.	another United Methodist Ned or other ecumenical groan conference or district of nan conference or district of ion.	Women's un up activity. fficer) attend officer) attend	led a conference <i>Mission u</i> . ded the conference or

Mission Education
16. *Unit or circle conducted at least one <i>Mission Study</i> .
17. *Two members completed a <i>Reading Program Plan</i> and reported on one of the books.
18. Participated in but did not complete the <i>Reading Program</i> .
19. *Used two programs from the <i>Program Book</i> .
20. *Used the <i>Prayer Calendar</i> regularly in the unit meetings.
21. Communicated with five persons listed in the <i>Prayer Calendar</i> , one from Michigan Conference
22. *Unit had two members reading <i>response</i> each month.
23. *Unit included a <i>response Moment</i> during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
24. Unit had one <i>Social Action</i> program.
Mission Action
25. *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
26. Had a member of United Methodist Women present a mission program for youth or children in
the church.
27. Had at least one member visit a United Methodist Mission Project and report to the unit.
28. *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United
Methodist Women's Action Network.
29. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns
that stimulated and enriched the total community.
30. *Unit participated in the <i>Campaign for Children</i> in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
o Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 Communicated with representatives advocating for children issues.
 Attended a school board meeting.
31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United
Methodist Unit.
32. *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.
Possibilities include:
 Read books and articles about another race or culture.
 Sponsor an inter-ethnic event between two or more units.
 Recruit women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 Correspond with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as
immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
33. Sent this completed form to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation
by deadline date:

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit. (Circle all that apply)



Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING 2019 READING PROGRAM INFORMATION:

EDUCATION FOR MISSION:

The Devil Came Down to Chinatown: The True Story of the Church's Rescue of brothel Slaves in Old San Francisco by Christine Taylor (2017), Amazon \$12.95

An Insider's Guide to Praying for the World by Brian C. Stiller, Baker Publishing (2016), Kindle \$9.99

The Mission-Minded Guide to Church and School Partnerships by Jake McGlothin, Abingdon Press (2017) \$16.99

One: Unity in a Divided World by Deidra Riggs, Baker Publishing (2017) \$14.99

Threading My Prayer Rug: One Woman's Journey from Pakistani Muslim to American Muslim by Sabeeha Rehman, Skyhorse Publishing (2017) \$17.99

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography: The Faith of the 20th Century's Most Influential Woman (Eleanor Roosevelt) by Howard Ivan Smith, Westminster John Knox Press, \$20.00

Fresh Expression: A New Kind of Methodist Church for People Not In Church by Kenneth H. Carter Jr. & Audrey Warren, Abingdon Press (2017) \$14.99

Synergy: A Leadership Guide for Church Staff and Volunteers by Ann A. Michel, Abingdon Press (2010) \$14.95

Who Is My Neighbor? Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality by Ruth Hoffman, Sheila Joyce Carasco & Ngoc-Diep Thi Nguyen, Abingdon Press (2015) Kindle \$7.99

NURTURING FOR COMMUNITY:

Better: Waking Up to Who We Could Be by Melvin Bray, Chalice Press (2017) \$21.99

The Hidden Life Awakened by Kitty Crenshaw & Cathy Snapp, Cairns Resources (2016) \$14.95

Hope for the Future: Answering God's Call to Justice for Our Children by Shannon Daley-Harris, Westminster John Knox Press (2016) \$17.00

The Same Sky a novel by Amanda Eyre Ward, Penguin Random House (2015) \$15.00

When Did Everybody Else Get So Old? by Jennifer Grant; Herald Press (2017) \$16.99

SOCIAL ACTION

Nobody Cries When We Die: God, Community, and Surviving to Adulthood (BONUS BOOK) by Patrick B Reyes, Chalice Press (2016) \$19.99

Walking on Lava: Selected Words for Uncivilized Times (BONUS BOOK) by The Dark Mountain Project, Chelsea Green Publishing (2017) \$20.00

"We Are All Fast-Food Workers Now": The Global Uprising Against Poverty Wages (Bonus Book) by Annelise Orleck, Beacon Press (2018) \$18.00

Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community? by Martin Luther King Jr., Beacon Press (2010) \$16.00

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Be Still: Departure From Collective Madness by Gordon C. Stewart & Eric Ringham, Wipf & Stock (2017) Kindle \$9.99

The Soulmaking Room by Dee Dee Risher, Abingdon Press (2016) \$16.99

Spoken Into Being: Divine Encounters Through Story by Michael W. Williams, Upper Room Books (2017) \$12.99

The Wesley Challenge: 21 Days to a More Authentic Faith by Chris Folmsbee, Abingdon Press (2017) Group Discussion Leader Guide \$12.99, Participant Book \$14.99

What We Need Is Here: Practicing the Heart of Christian Spirituality by L. Roger Owens, Upper Room Books (2017) Kindle \$9.99

CHILDREN:

Leadership Development

Red by Jan De Kinder, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (2015) \$16.00

Weird! A Story About Bullying in Schools by Erin Frankel, Free Spirit Publishing (2012) Kindle \$7.99

Nurturing for Community

No One Else Like You by Siska Goeminne, Westminster John Knox Press (2016) \$16.00

Nobody! A Story About Overcoming Bullying in Schools by Erin Frankel, Free Spirit Publishing (2015) Kindle \$7.99

Spiritual Growth

All Around Us by Xelena Gonzalez, Cinco Puntos Press (2017) \$17.95

YOUTH:

Education for Mission

Ahimsa by Supriya Kelkar, Lee & Low/Tu Books (2017) Kindle \$9.99

Leadership Development

Step Up to the Plate Maria Singh by Uma Krishnaswami, Lee & Low/Tu Books (2017) \$16.95

Nurturing for Community

Dear Ijeawele, or a Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Penguin Random House (2017) Kindle \$7.99

Spiritual Growth

What's Your Story? Seeing Your Life Through God's Eyes by Sarah Heath, Abingdon Press (2017) Kindle \$4.98

LARGE PRINT BOOKS:

Nurturing for Community

All the Colors We Are: The Story of How We Get Out Our Skin Color by Katie Kissinger, Red Leaf Press (2017) \$16.95

Spiritual Growth

Lessons to Nourish the Soul: Sermons to Encourage and Challenge You by Marjorie E. Palmer, Create Space (2016) Kindle \$11.99



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

2019 NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT UMW CALENDAR

Newsletter Deadline to Judy Rost
Registration Deadline for Spiritual Growth Retreat
World Day of Prayer—Church Women United
150 th Anniversary of United Methodist Women
District Leadership Team Meeting at the Comfort Inn, Manistique,
MI, 2:30 p.m. EST
Spiritual Growth Retreat at the Comfort Inn, Manistique, MI
Newsletter Deadline to Judy Rost
District Leadership Team meeting in Marquette, MI, at the home
of Sharon Rice, Nominations Chairperson, 12 noon, EST
District Leadership Team meeting, Gwinn UMC, 2 p.m. EST
Northern Skies District Celebration, Gwinn UMC, 10:30 a.m. EST
Mission U of the North, Gaylord UMC