

The V.O.I.C.E.

Valuable Organizational Information Connecting Everyone

The Official Newsletter of the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith

Celebrate the Rebranding

Dear Michigan Conference United Women in Faith Sisters:

When you go to the new United Women in Faith website (UWFaith.org) and click on "Who We Are" you land on a page with the following information:

OUR MISSION

We seek to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

OUR VISION

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

FAITH – SISTERHOOD – ACTION

This sounds like us – like who we have always been and like who we really want to be. Our recent organization name change is part of our re-branding – a business term that means more than just a name change, but a corporate image change. In these rapidly changing

times, our leadership needed to stop, evaluate and innovate. It was time to shed any old stereotype of "who we are" to be better prepared to be who God needs us to be in the world today and into the future.

In the recent issue of response magazine, Harriett Jane Olson challenges us to "Share the enthusiasm. Share the excitement. Look for opportunities to answer questions." So, we are preparing to do exactly that at our upcoming Michigan Conference United Women in Faith Conference Annual Celebration. This will be our opportunity to celebrate our new identity as United Women in Faith and at the same time ask and answer questions together.

Please email me and let me know what questions you have about our name change – and any other changes that you are experiencing with the re-branding of United Women in Faith, and plan to attend this wonderful event!

Peace be with you,

Julia Paradine-Rice, President

Michigan Conference UWF
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(989) 576-0675

Volume 4, Issue 3
September 2022

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United Women in Faith: Faith • Hope • Love in Action

We are women with a Purpose!

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

Proposed Slate of Officers and Budget for 2023

President:

Julia Paradine-Rice (2021) Greater Southwest

Vice President:

Waltha Gaye Leavitt (2020) Mid Michigan

Secretary:

Ethel Gill (2021) Greater Detroit

Treasurer:

Cheryl Rumery (2021) Greater Southwest

MISSION COORDINATORS:

Spiritual Growth

OPEN

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Cindy Thiele (2020) Greater Southwest

Education and Interpretation

Judy Huynh (2023) Midwest

Social Action

Jocelyn Davis (2021) Greater Detroit

Secretary of Program Resources

Ruth Sutton (2021) Central Bay

Communications Coordinator

OPEN

Media Coordinator

Cola Hill (2022) Northern Waters

Committee on Nominations: Chairperson

Jane Yeager (2023) Northern Skies

Members of Committee on Nominations

OPEN - Central Bay

OPEN - Midwest

Michele Weston (2023) East Winds

OPEN - Heritage

Jimmie Jones (2020) Greater Detroit

Donna Kleiver (2021) Mid-Michigan

Donna Blair (2021) Greater Southwest

Susan Wirgau (2023) Northern Waters

Charter for Racial Justice Committee:

Members by virtue of office:

President – Julia Paradine-Rice (GSD)

Social Action – Jocelyn Davis (GDD)

Chair. Comm. On Nom. – Jane Yeager (NSD)

Additional Team Member – Ethel Gill (GDD)

District President – Julia Hulka (NWD)

Members at Large:

Taylorie Bailey (2021) (GDD)

Lynda Crandall (2021) (MMD)

Sherry Wagenknecht (2022) (HD)

Ex Officio – Nichea VerVeer Guy (2021) (MWD)

Mission u Dean: OPEN

Mission u Assistant Dean: OPEN

Mission u Treasurer: OPEN

Slate of Leadership Team presented by Michigan United Women in Faith Committee on Nominations 2022: Julia Deemer, Evelyn Delany, Shirley Chappell, Linda Schramm, Carol Gorham, Jimmie Jones, Donna Kleiver, Dona Blair, Jane Yeager

ITEM	BUDGET
	2023
District A&MD	\$80,890.00
North Central Jurisdiction A&MD	2,500.00
Assembly/NCJ/Seminars	1,000.00
Charter for Racial Justice Initiatives	0.00
Church Annual Conference Attendance	500.00
Church Women United State Assembly	0.00
Conference Annual Celebration	4,000.00
Conference Directory	0.00
District Officer Leadership Training	2,000.00
Keep Making Peace	200.00
Newsletter	4,000.00
Officer Resources/Literature	500.00
Mission u - Conference Scholarships	1,000.00
Mission u - Subsidy/Conf Officer Registration	10,000.00
Church Women United - donation	200.00
Justice For Our Neighbors - donation	500.00
UMCH Program Support - donation	6,000.00
Audit	500.00
Conf SMRs/Gift to Mission/Gift in Memory	500.00
Dependent Care	80.00
Lodging	500.00
Meals	300.00
MI Non-Profit Corp Annual Fee	20.00
Mileage	2,000.00
Misc/Contingency	200.00
Postage	125.00
Printing, Supplies & Checks	200.00
Technology	750.00
TOTALS	\$118,465.00
MI CONFERENCE MISSION GIVING PLEDGE	\$142,535.00
Approved by Finance committee	8-20-2022
Approved by Leadership team	8-20-2022



United
Women
in Faith

Michigan Conference

4th Annual Celebration - October 22, 2022

Westwood UMC

538 Nichols Rd. Kalamazoo, MI

Registration starts @ 8:30 am



Keynote
Speakers from
Kalamazoo



**Celebrate our accomplishments
and learn how we fulfill this verse**

Hebrews 13:2 NIV

²Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

Register online at: <https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/> or scan the QR Code:

In Gathering:

Personal & Feminine hygiene items:

(pads, tampons, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste,
Toothbrush, etc.)



Registration Form

Send to: Mrs. Donna Blair, 2470 Quail Run, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

dblair1@hotmail.com or 269-270-6096

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please check one: _____ Local Officer _____ District Officer _____ Conference Officer

District _____ Office Held _____

Home Church and City _____

Please check Event(s) attending:

_____ Friday Officer Training/Leadership Development, starts promptly at 4 pm, \$6.00 per person

_____ Saturday Celebration, \$18.00 per person

_____ TOTAL DUE

Dietary restrictions: _____

Child Care Needed? _____ Yes _____ No

Name and age of child(ren): _____

Make checks payable to: Michigan Conference UMW

Send registration and payment no later than October 7, 2022 to:

Donna Blair, 2470 Quail Run, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Hotel for Friday (Responsible for obtaining own room)

Hampton Inn & Suites

5059 S. 9th Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49006

269-372-1010



2022 Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Women in Faith - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____		District _____	
Name _____		() _____	
Telephone _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Email _____			

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31 to be presented at their District Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.

- Units completing any 8 or more objectives will be a "FAITH" unit.
- Units completing 9 or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" unit.
- Units completing 17 or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" "JOY" unit.
- Units completing 25 or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a "FAITH" "HOPE" "JOY" "LOVE" unit.

Mission Giving

- ____ 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- ____ 2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- ____ 3. Donated to local women's shelter or children's/youth program.
- ____ 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Women in Faith activities.

Spiritual Growth

- ____ 5. Observed a Call to Prayer and Self Denial.
- ____ 6. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- ____ 7. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.

Membership

- ____ 8. *Added one new member from women who have joined the church in the current year.
- ____ 9. *Added one new member not included in above.

Attendance

- ____ 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to one meeting.
- ____ 11. Had a combined meeting with another United Women in Faith unit.
- ____ 12. Attended Church Women United or other ecumenical group activity.
- ____ 13. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended a conference *Mission u*.
- ____ 14. *At least two members (other than conference or district officer) attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- ____ 15. *At least one member (other than conference or district officer) attended the *District Elected Leadership Training*.

Mission Education

- ____ 16. *Unit or circle conducted at least one *Mission Study*.
- ____ 17. *Two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- ____ 18. Participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- ____ 19. *Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- ____ 20. *Used the *Prayer Calendar* regularly in the unit meetings.
- ____ 21. Communicated with five persons listed in the *Prayer Calendar*, one from Michigan Conference.
- ____ 22. *Unit had two members reading *response* each month.
- ____ 23. *Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- ____ 24. Unit had one *Social Action* program.

Mission Action

- ____ 25. *Participated in a District or Conference ingathering project.
- ____ 26. Had a member of United Women in Faith present a mission program for youth or children in the church.
- ____ 27. Had at least one member visit a United Women in Faith Project and report to the unit.
- ____ 28. *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Women in Faith'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 *Campaign for Children* in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
- Co-sponsored with the local church, a Children's Sabbath.
 - Involved with mentoring, tutoring or "big sisters" programs.
 - Communicated with representatives advocating for children's issues.
 - Attended a school board meeting.
- ____ 31. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Women in Faith 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: February 1, 2023**.

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:





Of the North
First United Methodist Church, Gaylord
 October 17-18 (Monday-Tuesday)
 9 am Registration (EDT)

Study Leaders:



Tiffany Newsom



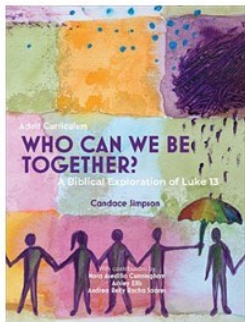
Ethel Gill



Ruth Sutton

EVERYONE ATTENDS THIS STUDY

Who Can We Be Together? A Biblical Exploration of Luke 13, the 2022 adult curriculum by Candace Simpson brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings in this chapter of Luke to explore what it means to be in community. As the author notes, "For followers of Christ 2,000 years later, it's important for us to sit with the range of emotions we have in response to these words. It's not easy to build and sustain communities, especially when there are forces that drain us, exhaust us, and even push us to act uncharacteristically. And yet, we are called to act on the most ethical principles of our faith so we can witness the kin-dom of God on earth."



This book is available at: https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_detail.asp?pid=53516

If you prefer, you can order one to be picked up at the Mission u event that you attend. Please indicate this in the Mission u merchandise section of the order form.

You can register for Mission u online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



This form MUST be filled out for Mission u NO OTHER FORMS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Church: _____

District: _____

Check all that apply:

Information:

- ☐ First time attending
☐ Conference Officer
☐ District Officer

Special needs:

- ☐ First floor housing
☐ Minimal stairs
☐ Minimal walking

☐ Paid online

☐ Study Leader ☐ Laity

☐ Missionary ☐ Clergy

☐ Financial Assistance Applicant

☐ Help moving around campus

☐ Sign language interpreters

☐ Special dietary needs (specify)

Mission u of the North, 1st UMC, Gaylord

☐ October 17-18 (Lodging on your own) \$70

TOTAL DUE: _____

☐ Child Care Age: _____

Registration due October 1

Mission u Merchandise

☐ Study Book **Who Can We Be Together?** \$11 each

TOTAL DUE: _____

This form can be found on the Michigan UMW Website, registration can be paid by check payable to: Mission u or online at: <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site/> This link is also found on the website.

Send registrations to: Sally Messner, 124 Boyd Street, Fife Lake, MI 49633, mimissionu@gmail.com

Membership Nurture and Outreach

KEEP IN CONTACT

Keep in touch, throw out a line, keep in contact. Can we? Are we?

Lots of women/Units do not visit the District or Conference webpages. Board positions are left open, and friend lists are not kept up. Soon there is no higher level of support to these women and their missions. These Units are fading away. Many Units are disbanding. Its is important to keep a contact person for each Unit. If it is a church that has left the greater United Methodist Church, the Units can still be part of United Women of Faith! Our events, missions and reading programs are open to all women, no membership required! Send them event flyers

and other newsworthy information or give them a call. Encourage the Faith Talks and Climate Justice webinars. Add a 'tech' workshop to your breakout session at events. Keeping connected to each other makes us bigger and stronger. A bigger and stronger organization for participation in the global ministries of the church. We can do this!

Cindy Thiele

Membership Nurture and Outreach
cindahthiele@gmail.com
(269) 673-4514

Reading Program

I am blessed indeed. I love the UWF Reading Program (and books). As Secretary of Program Resources, I decided that I needed to be familiar with the books on the book list. This year I have read all of the books on the list that are available at the local public library plus a few more. I want to be a resource to all of the UWF readers and be able to help people with the books. I have selected books for sale at UWF events that will be of interest to most readers. (That's right, occasionally there is a book on the list that I cannot recommend.) Now I am looking forward to the 2023 list which will come out in September.

In addition, I am now a member of Mighty Networks. Mighty Networks is a social media site – like Facebook but devoted to United Women in Faith. I recommend joining this network, either with the App found on your cell phone or googling it on the internet. I am a member of the Reading Enthusiast Group where the members share books and events about the Reading Program. I highly recommend this free app.

So what book am I loving today? I recently finished **The Boy Who Delivered Joy**, by Marvin Bartlett. The book is about a child who had

“What a blessing it is to
love books”

~ Elizabeth von Armen

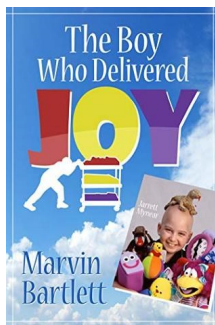
Ewing's Sarcoma – a form of bone cancer. At two and a half he had his leg amputated and was fitted with a prosthesis. He underwent two stem cell transplants and was hospitalized multiple times. While hospitalized he enjoyed the toys and books brought to him by volunteers. As a result, he started the Joy Cart to provide toys weekly to the children on the pediatric wards where he had been a patient. He was a delightful little boy who shared the joy in his heart with other children. At the age of twelve he succumbed to his illness, but the Joy Cart was kept going by others. In fact, the Joy Cart was started in many other hospitals. This is a sad book, but the joy this child shared was beyond measure. I hope you get an opportunity to read this book and share it with others.

Please feel free to contact me for information about any of the books on the list; I probably have read it.

Keep on reading and continue to be blessed!

Ruth Sutton

Secretary of Program Resources
(989) 708-9968, suttonr1@charter.net



Mission u

Hi Everyone,

I really encourage you to register for Mission u of the North on October 17-18 in Gaylord, MI (so you benefit mightily and so it doesn't get canceled!). It was a wonderful experience!

The study is **Who Can We Be Together**, based on Luke 13. The worship is very moving, the music is great, and the presenters, Ethel Gill, Ruth Sutton, and Rev. Tiffany Newsom, are beautiful Christian ladies that are very well prepared and effective teachers and leaders. Through a study of various parables we considered the questions: What motivates change? What conditions make things grow? What are boundaries and when do they need to be questioned? Who has laid foundations for us and how can we leave a more solid foundation for those that follow us? What can we do to move our earthly kin-dom(s) closer to the kin-dom that Christ describes? What kind of door should be made for entrance into the kin-dom and is there space for all? What is necessary for creating safe havens for oppressed peoples in the midst of turmoil? What do we do with this information now??

Please go to <https://michiganconferencemissionu.square.site> to register as soon as possible but before October 1st!

Karen Genson

Messages from District Presidents

Greetings from the Midwest District. We are planning our district annual meeting which will be Saturday, September 17 starting at 10 am at Trinity UMC in Grand Rapids. Our theme is "United Women in Faith--Turn it UP" with Nichea Guy being our keynote speaker. We are looking for a pleasant turn out. If you are a member of the Midwest District we are looking for you to Turn It Up and become a district officer.

Then in November we will be holding our Day Apart event. This will be on Thursday, November 10 from 1 to 3 pm at Fremont UMC, Fremont MI. Program will be presented by Bev Blamer, a retired geography teacher who has

traveled around the world and picked up hats along the way. A casual afternoon open to all. Beverage and small snacks will be served after the program. This is a time for everyone to meet new friends and get reacquainted with old friends.

Jean Sherman

Midwest District President
 sherdairy1@gmail.com
 (810) 694-6266
 c (810) 624-1184



Turn It Up!!! And did we ever! Although the number attending was fewer than the other two assemblies I've attended, we were a mighty bunch! Many also attended online, which was a good option, but we couldn't 'see' them!

Three officers from Northern Waters District attended in person: Vice-President Nancy Goodyear, Secretary of Program Resources Linda Pitts, and myself, President Julia Hulka. Communications Coordinator Cola Hill, Past President Susan Wirgau attended virtually. We listened, questioned, walked, sang, read floorplans, laughed, ate alligator (yes!), learned, walked, gathered for photos, mustered up a great deal of enthusiasm, walked, took notes, tracked down old friends and made new ones. Did I mention walk? Did a lot of that! Quite by accident I met the two women who were signing the event, that was a great experience, too! Eagle-eye Nancy spotted about the only man working on Assembly, or at least his head. I even took his picture! But we didn't go just to walk, eat alligator, and look for men!

The excitement came from each and every presenter, whether speaker, actor, dancer, or singer – we are (and are becoming!) United Women in Faith! We heard the message loud and clear: Imagine what God is calling us to do! Turn it Up! We will hear more about that from Ruby Anderson, our speaker for NWD Annual Celebration September 24.

Some of the phrases I picked up were: We'll show our faith by our action! We are called to be agents of change and to show care in a way that

is inconvenient to you. Faith – Sisterhood – Action! Not be afraid to do the right thing. Strength, faith, and grace to change the world – women like me and you! God holds us close and holds us accountable. We are invited to dream with God. None are free until all are free.

We are called to embody the vision of God here and now. We have a moral responsibility to each other and our earth. You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love! God is doing a new thing among us today! We've taken a new name, not changed our name – we remain women of passion & power! Love and liberation; healing and hope; strength and stubbornness.

And a few closing snippets from our CEO, Harriett Jane Olson: Where will we be in 5-10 years? It is necessary to be where God calls us to be. Is there room for me? Can you see it – yearn for it – taste it? Tell your story – toot your own horn! Now is our chance to live the vision and be changemakers! Are you ready – bold – excited – really ready?

Such a wonderful, mission-minded sisterhood we are a part of! Amen!!!

Julia Hulka

President,
 Northern Waters District
 jahulka49@gmail.com
 (989) 348-1992,
 c (989) 860-8189



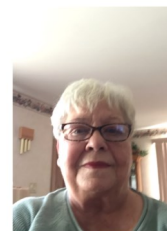
Greetings from Central Bay District United Women in Faith. We are looking forward to our Annual Celebration and Leadership Training on October 1, 2022 in person at Midland First UMC. We are going to have our Central Bay District Superintendent as our main speaker, Rev. John Kasper. The speaker for those not attending Elected Leadership Training will be Bethany Law, "The Rock" Center for Youth Development Reaching Our Community Kids. The Flyer for the Celebration and Training was sent out with our July Around the Bay Newsletter. Our next Central Bay District Leadership Team Meeting will be on September 10th at Bay City Grace UMC, and we will finalize what is needed for the Celebration. We have successfully acquired four

new members for our team, we are still in need of a Vice President, Social Action and more to serve on Nominations.



Caroline Diaz

Co-President
Central Bay District
diazc5282@gmail.com
(989) 450-1735



Doris Simons

Co-President
Central Bay District
dorissimons@att.net
(989)781-1492

This has been a busy year thus far and it doesn't look like that is going to change. We had an exciting in person gathering in South Haven for our annual Spring Fling and then in June we had a very educational gathering in Climax for our Mission Evening event where we learned about ways to individually work toward climate change. Several of our team went to Mission u at the Lake Huron Retreat Center which is just north of Port Huron. The setting was beautiful and we watched the moon come up over the lake both nights we were there, something we don't see on the west side of the state. At least three of our team will be going to Gaylord in October for the Mission u event there.

Our District Annual Celebration will be on October 1st at the Otsego UMC and it looks like an exciting day. We will keep the business time as short as possible, hear from United Methodist Community House on what is happening there, sing some songs, and get fired up to move into action as United Women in Faith. Our key note speaker this year is Ellen Harbin, she spoke last year at several district annual meetings and her goal is to make it to all the remaining districts.

Her heart is for United Women in Faith and our PURPOSE. Everything we do as United Women in Faith is because we believe love in action can change the world. Isn't it exciting to think that we belong to a bold sisterhood that can and is changing the world for the better. What we do in our local units, when combined with our districts, and our conferences throughout the world, is showing love in action changing the world. God is definitely working through us, each and every one of us, to make a difference.

The month of October ends with our Conference Annual Celebration on Oct. 22 at Westwood UMC in Kalamazoo. This looks to be another fun and fact filled event to begin our new branding as United Women in Faith, hope to see all of you there!

In Service to Christ

Linda Burton-Collier

President
Greater Southwest District
(269) 793-7340
lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com



Share your story!

How has your local United Women in Faith been putting love into action? The national United Women in Faith would love to know—and share! Send your story to response magazine and see your Bright Light published in a future issue.

E-mail your text and photos to response@uwfaith.org. Aim for about 500 words, and please send the original photo files from the camera or phone you used to take them, as they will be the highest resolution. Let's celebrate all you do for your community.

Important 2022 Dates:

October 16-18 ~ Mission u of the North
Gaylord First UMC

October 21 ~ Counterpart Training

October 23 ~ Conference Celebration
Westwood UMC ~ Kalamazoo

Please visit our website at:

<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>
to look over the changes to the Standing
Rules to prepare for our Conference
Celebration.

The V.O.I.C.E.

Valuable Organizational Information Connecting Everyone

The Official Newsletter of the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith

Published three times a year: January, May and August

Send submissions by the 10th of the previous month to
Sally Messner, sallymessner@yahoo.com

Charter For Racial Justice Grant

To encourage local UMW units to engage in projects to expand understanding of racial justice issues, the Michigan Conference UMW Charter for Racial Justice Committee is offering grants in amounts up to \$300 to local units.

Some ideas you may want to consider:

- Racial justice book study
- Guest speaker
- Travel to a museum or other site of racial justice significance

More resources for your unit are available at the following UMW website: **UMW Racial Justice Opportunities for Local Units**

Applications will be accepted until all available funds have been granted. If your grant is accepted, we will ask your unit to send a short report to the Charter for Racial Justice Committee once you have completed your project/program. Your submitted application letter should include the following information:



- Name of Unit, contact person name/address/e-mail/phone number,
- Grant amount you are requesting and detailed use of funds
- Goals you hope to achieve and estimated # of people participating
- Beginning and ending date of project
- Any additional information to help us understand your plans.

Please send your application letter to jparadinerice@gmail.com or via snail mail to: Julia Paradine-Rice, 11942 Prairie Edge Street, Schoolcraft, MI 49087

District President Messages

Due to space restraints and required information to prepare for our Conference Celebration, the Messages from the District Presidents will be on-line at our website at: <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/> and in the emailed version of this newsletter.