

# THE VOICE

Valuable Organizational Information Connecting Everyone

SEPTEMBER 2019



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

## YOU are the FOREMOTHERS of the FUTURE

Where has the summer gone? It took a while getting here and now the business of the fall is upon us already. I like to have a special thought or inspiration in mind when I write this newsletter article. I keep coming back to what Harriet Olson wrote in her Forward and what author, Ellen Blue wrote in her Preface for our current study book, *WOMEN UNITED FOR CHANGE - 150 Years in Mission*. I hope you have read it already. If not, please do!

Harriet asks, "what will the next generation of turning, faith, hope and love into action look like?"

Ms. Blue says, "I hope that you are filled with hope that the Holy One still has work for United Methodist Women to do and still bestows the courage creativity, and persistence to accomplish it."

We are spending a lot of time learning about our foremothers. We are encouraged to read the stories about the amazing women who have gone before us. We are encouraged to tell OUR stories about those women in our own lives, those we knew personally. We are encouraged to tell our OWN stories. YOU are amazing women. Did you ever think about this? — **you are the foremothers of the future.** What will your family and those who have known you say about you when they talk about *their* foremothers? Your name may never be famous, you may never be mentioned in a history book. But, how will you be remembered? What will you be remembered for?

In the book entitled "God's Leading Lady," by T.D. Jakes, the author writes, "I hope to challenge you to true excellence, to fan the dying embers of your desire for more out of life, to help you discover what the Creator had in mind when he formed you as female, and enabled you to recognize the incredible impact you can have on the world around you."

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I hope you were able to attend one of the Conference Mission u events this summer. If

not, remember there is one more opportunity - Mission u of the North (Oct.- Gaylord). You know ... the main purpose is for mission education. Maybe "getting educated" doesn't sound that exciting. But Mission u events are a most wonderful, FUN way to learn about the current social, geographical and biblical topics promoted by our own UMW organization. If you have never attended a Mission u event you really don't know what you are missing. Try it — you'll like it!!!!

According to all current district newsletters I am receiving, your District Leadership Teams have been hard at work getting ready for this coming year. Be sure to attend the FIRST Annual Celebration of your new District. Remember, we officially became the MICHIGAN CONFERENCE with nine new districts on Jan. 1, 2019. So, these nine upcoming District Celebrations will be the FIRST as the new district. Take a carload from your local unit. Take your daughters and granddaughters. Make it a special occasion. Enjoy that time together. Get to know the women across these new districts. Remember, **YOU** are the foremothers of the future.

And, *celebration* sounds like the name of the game this year!!! I have LOVED seeing all the pictures and hearing about the many ways that you have been celebrating 150 years of UMW.

**I hold you all close to  
my heart,  
Linda Darrow,  
President Michigan  
Conference, United  
Methodist Women  
darrowlinda@gmail.com**



"Make a difference about something other  
than yourselves." Toni Morrison



### *From our Vice President*

Hope everyone is enjoying the weather, so let's all slow down, and remember to be confident in knowing our lives matter. Now it's up to you to make the most of it. What will you do?

Hopefully you are attending Mission u. What great topics we have this year, and awesome study leaders. If you missed the Mission u event in your district, try attending one in another district. It's a great opportunity to meet new UMW members.

Please take a few minutes to review your district and conference websites for all UMW events happening soon.

District annual meetings will begin very soon, don't forget, we are celebrating our 150 year legacy at all events.

The Michigan Conference UMW Annual Meeting will be at Howell UMC, 1230 Bower St., Howell, MI Phone—517-546-2730. We have rooms available at Baymont Wyndham-Howell-ph. 517-546-0712 and at Courtyard Marriott-Brighton- ph.810-225-9200. Both

hotels are very close to the church. Officer training is Friday, October 25, 2019. We have activities scheduled for members not involved in training, including a book review & exchange, where you can review books and pick up some free books that members are donating **(See flier later in this issue)**.

The festivities continue on Saturday, October 26, 2019, with the business meeting and celebration. Rev. Jill Zundel will be the speaker.

The theme this year is :

**Celebrating 150 Years!**

**Together Towards Tomorrow**

I hope to see everyone there.

**Best regards,**

**Patricia Bostic 248-376-8717 pbostic02@att.net**

**SAVE THIS DATE  
JUNE 26-28,2020  
RAMKOTA HOTEL  
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA**

**Theme: Calling u**

Scripture Romans 1:5-6

**Registration begins September 2019**

I would like everyone to know our own Ruby Anderson will be doing Self-Help Walking Experience, on Friday and Saturday morning from 6:30am-7:00am.

**Come and join us in Sioux Falls,  
South Dakota 2020.**

**Mildred Braddock  
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NORTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION  
LEADERSHIP TEAM**

### ***Mission u Update from Simmie Proctor & the Team***

Jackie Euper, Simmie Proctor, and Sally Messner met to complete the program book for the 2019 Mission u.

We would like to thank Washington Heights UMC and Pastor Crystal Thomas for allowing us to meet at their church. A big thanks to Loretta Lee and Mildred Mallard for making us lunch.

If you need to meet in Battle Creek, I suggest you contact them.





### **NEWS FROM THE COMMUNICATION TEAM**

As this is the last newsletter for the year, we hope that you have enjoyed receiving *"The Voice"*. Please note that we are still looking for members who are not receiving the newsletter – and all you have to do is contact me by phone, e-mail, or mail. While our proposed budget remains the same as last year, we are hopeful that many of you will prayerfully consider receiving *The Voice* by e-mail, as our printing and postage costs are very high! Also, if you know someone isn't getting this publication, please notify us. All of our contact info appear on p. 15.

We hope to see many of you at the Conference Annual Celebration!

**Kathy Freeland, Sally Messner, Amber Hassler, and Diana Miller**

### **Secretary of Program Resources—Brenda Street**

We are listening to the political debates, viewing the news on the various channels, trying to interpret the Tweets, Facebook, and Instagram. The issues of United Methodist Women are: **Climate Justice, Maternal and Child Health, Economic Inequality, and Criminalization of Communities of Color.** These issues are surfacing through the political arena and every news report. The United Methodist Women Reading Program is relevant and exposes these issues. Review the choices of books for 2019 and how they are addressing Economic and Climate Justices, Spiritual Growth, and Social Action Issues.

The Reading Program choices *"Praying for the World"* by Brian C. Stiller, and *"Threading My Prayer"* by Sabeeha Rehman, help us focus on praying every day and every hour. We can understand the Power of Prayer.

Our challenges are answered in the following books: *"One" Unity in a Divided World*, by Deidra Riggs; and *"Fresh Expressions"* by Kenneth H. Carter and Audrey Warren. The new conversation in the Methodist Church is addressed in *"Deep Denial"*, by David Billings; and *"Do All Lives Matter?"* by Wayne Gordon and John Perkin. If you know and are honest with the problem, then you can solve it.

Where do these books fit to solve all the other issues we are facing? Read and Discuss: *"Who is My Neighbor"* by Joyce Carrasco; *"Nobody Cries When We Die"* by Patrick B. Reyes; *"When Did Everybody Else Get So Old"* by Jennifer Grant; and

*"Weird"* by Erin Frankel. The "Me Too Movement" can be understood reading, *"Escape from the Green Mansion"* by Christian Taylor.

Where will you place the other selections? How can you share what you are reading to inform others and get them involved in the Reading Program? The book I recently shared with my Reading Group was *"On Pluto: Inside the Mind of Alzheimer's"* by Greg O'Brien. The book discusses how not to give up and shares that every forgetful moment in your life is not necessarily a clear road to Alzheimer's Disease.

The 2020 Book list will be out soon on the **[unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org)** /**Reading Program** website. Visit the site and learn about additional resources.

#### **Brenda Street**

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### **MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SOCIAL ACTION ALICE TUCKER**

#### **Operation Independence Day - Human Trafficking**

It has been a short time since we spoke of some of the social action events. The social action events kept on happening and will continue as we will see. An operation titled Operation Independence Day allowed the FBI to recover and identify eleven victims of sex trafficking in Detroit. Nine of the victims were children and two were adults. Under this investigation, three alleged pimps were arrested. In total Operation Independence Day which happened in July recovered and identified 103 child victims and arrested 67 alleged sex traffickers nationwide. Detroit has the third-highest child recovery number in the U.S. according to the news.

#### **Children Traumatized Through ICE Actions**

Ice agents split more families when they raided six plants in Mississippi. The children were crying. The first day of school was traumatic for kids coming home from school or left at school. Ice officials made it clear that they were law enforcement agencies, not a social service agency. This happened following the shooting in El Paso. The president has declared that all illegal immigrants would be sent back. This and other raids coming he says helps discourage illegal immigration. About 700 workers were taken. A lot of attention has been given to the people that did the hiring.

#### **Climate Injustices**

Have you noticed the weather? The extreme weather conditions around the world threaten our very existence. We must do things to preserve the earth and generations to come. Icebergs are melting at a fast rate. Earthquakes are happening every day. Greenhouse gases cause our atmosphere to become hotter, more turbulent and more unpredictable. Global Warming is a term we use. The president does not believe in the global changes and wants no part of the Paris Agreement. He really does not believe in anything.

There is just so little space to cover so much.



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### **MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH— RUTH JONES**

As I was growing up on the farm I enjoyed a farm journal column called "Now Is the Time To:" so here is my UMW version for you.

#### **Now Is the Time To:**

- ~Enjoy your life.
- ~Teach manners to a child. Affirm their learning.
- ~Go camping.
- ~Go to a ball game.
- ~Dwell on God's love.
- ~Make sure your caring includes doing.
- ~Send appreciation and encouragement notes.
- ~Bless the community by volunteering with a friend.
- ~Amble along a beach barefoot.
- ~Take care of the only earthly body you'll ever have.
- ~Ask why. Live with the unexplained. Trust in God's eternal care.
- ~Marinate yourself in prayer, poetry and scripture each morning. It will soften your day.
- ~Walk when weather allows. Watch a duck and try not to laugh.
- ~Remember that you are the Master's piece.
- ~Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full on His wonderful face.
- ~Wage peace.
- ~Be alert for fresh winds and Holy Spirit moments.

This may be the time that God, knowing you better than you know yourself, planned for you to stretch and grow. This time is His gift to you.

The dream you dare to dream might be the very dream He placed within you.

**Ruth Jones**  
**[tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com](mailto:tcgrannynanny@yahoo.com)**

**231-645-1761**





**MISSION COORDINATOR FOR  
EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION**  
**Michele Weston (810) 694-6266**

The Summer we waited and waited for has so quickly started its decline to the cooler Fall temps and the beautiful colors will be here soon. I hope you all enjoyed this Summer and are rested and ready for the end of our UMW year with the District and Conference Annual Celebrations right around the corner. I just can't wait to hear our speakers and year-end reports this year and I trust you will continue your learning and education of all matters UMW by attending and participating in these Celebrations also.

I've continued my goal of always learning something by joining the East Winds District UMW on their mission trip to Kentucky to visit the Ark Encounter this August. The other half of our day was spent at the Creation Museum nearby, also in Kentucky. What an overwhelming, information loaded day! I plan to go back and take my time going through each of these beautiful places. There were so many things I did not know about, or had forgotten in scriptures that I need more time to let it soak in. I guess that's the E&I part of me, always wanting to learn something new (Education), but I sure have a lot of questions to take back to my Pastor for (Interpretation) and explanation!

This year's UMW *Mission u* across the state is another truly wonderful experience. Our presenters were excellent, the topics and books were very well selected to cover everyone's needs. Once you attend, no matter the length of the session, you'll be wanting to attend every summer. It's that good!!!

Just a reminder to keep the 2019 Unit Objectives in front of you all the time to be able to see what activities your Unit can tackle and perform in order to be a "Mission Today" Local Unit. You'll soon be tallying up all your activities for the year and submitting the Objectives form after the end of this year to your District E&I Coordinator, for presentation at the 2020 Annual Celebration. At your 2019 Celebrations this Fall, you may repeat your list from last year of the various levels of participation, plus add whatever units that completed more items by the end of December 2018 that you know. We are now strictly on a January-December reporting calendar, but I certainly am not opposed to duplication of the recognition of our local units and members. The 2019 reports won't be complete until the end of December this year for presentation in 2020.

For E&I, let us continue learning together. We will be blessed.

**Michele Weston**

**(810) 694-6266**



Sherry Wagenknecht, Mary Danforth, Valerie Felder and Edith Cooper share their skit at Mission u!



Ruby Anderson, Lisa Wightman, Lynda Brooks, Janet Muntz and Doris Huntoon share their skit!



## Membership Nurture & Outreach—Pat Snyder

My thoughts today are on starting a new unit or reviving an old one, or just explaining UMW (United Methodist Women) to ladies of your church. **First** don't assume they know your language -terms you have always used. I made that discovery interacting with our newsletter editor of our local church.

Begin with our pledge as the foundation, highlight it with some common interests and discover our history as you celebrate 150 years in Mission. (Program was UMW 101, taught by E & I Coordinators complete with dvds and workbooks).

Gather help from your district team's representative to your unit. Gather some friends to attend other local unit activities, district & conference events & retreats. (Think Spring Renewal & Mission u). Remember to introduce the reading program and the year's program book and prayer calendar. These last two could be presented at their first official gathering which may include elections of officers.

Personal stories are the best ice breakers. Tell them how United Methodist Women has encouraged and enriched your life and service to others.

**Units, a reminder to provide the names of the ladies we want to remember at our memorial service to your district and district to conference representative. Our conference vice president, Pat Bostic, is preparing the conference memorial service. Please be sure to get the information to her right away.**

**In our Lord's service  
Patty Snyder**



## NEWS FROM DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

### CENTRAL BAY DISTRICT-RUTH SUTTON

What a strange summer! First too much rain and then a drought. No wonder my zucchinis are coming in spurts. Pray that the frost holds off for a while so that my garden matures, and the farmers have a chance to get a reasonable crop.

So, it is back to work for the Central Bay District Leadership team. On September 7 we will put the final touches on our first Annual Celebration and Leadership Training. The celebration will be held at Ames UMC in Saginaw on Oct 5. Deborah Moore, a self-employed midwife, who has been making yearly trips to Kenya and Liberia to work in clinics and teach midwifery skills, will be the keynote speaker. The speaker for those that do not attend the leadership training will be Dorothy Frederickson, who will speak about the Baby Box Program. The ingathering will be nonperishable food items for the local food pantry.

My plans include attending the Mission u of the North in Gaylord in October. I look forward to this event every year. It is an opportunity to meet

friends and make a few new friends, as well as learn about the issues facing us in our world today.

I have completed my reading program for this year but am continuing to read more. One of my favorites this year has been: *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography*. Some books are truly memorable, this is one of them. Now that the days are shorter and a bit cooler, it is time to get back to reading. Also, don't forget to fill out your reading report and receive the recognition you deserve.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Michigan Area UMW Annual Celebration in Howell.

**Ruth Sutton     suttonr1@charter.net**

**Phone: 989-708-9968**

**EAST WINDS DISTRICT-LYNN GEER**

East Winds District UMW is looking forward to their District Annual Meeting Saturday, October 12, at Davison UMC. We have a faithful, industrious leadership team, but we are in great need of a communication person at this time. My reading has led me to a great writer and orator, Frederick Douglass. Thanks to perseverance and a woman who helped him to read, Frederick Johnson (later Douglass) was able to marry Anna on September 15, 1838, in New York City. This was a human and liberating act on free United States soil for this escaped slave. For me it was an intense reminder of what so many that came before us went through for the freedoms we enjoy today. We know that 150 years ago brave UMW organized and opened opportunities for all of us. We cannot take our freedoms and talents for granted. We must open our eyes and act.

**Lynn Geer, [lynngeer@aol.com](mailto:lynngeer@aol.com)**



**Bishop Bard sharing the Gospel of Mark at the Lake Huron Retreat Center!**

**GREATER DETROIT DISTRICT—KAY KORNS**

We are looking forward to our programs and events for this year and next.

District Annual Meeting is Saturday, October 19, 2019 at Detroit Central UMC with Ellen Harbin, a gifted and well known bible teacher as our speaker. This includes lunch.

Leadership Training is Saturday, November 14, 2019, 8:30 to 11:45 at Ferndale UMC.

Prayer Breakfast is Saturday, February 8, 2020, 8:00 a.m. at Redford Aldersgate.

Mission Workshop is Saturday morning, March 14 at Wyandotte First UMC.

Spiritual Life Retreat is Friday afternoon April 24 to Saturday, 2:00 p.m. April 25 at Lake Huron Retreat Center with Nichea Ver Veer Guy as leader.

Melanie Carey, former district superintendent and pastor at Farmington Nardin Park UMC, was present at our Leadership Team meeting Monday, August 12 to lead us in a Team Building exercise. We were first invited to identify characteristics of strong team members and came up with a good list which was posted for reference later. Melanie gave us directions for a game. Identified an observer, divided us into three teams of five each and handed out what we would need for playing the game. A most crucial direction was that we could not talk during the game.

We struggled in silence to accomplish the goal. When time was up no one had accomplished the goal. We listened to what the observer reported and then had much discussion about how we felt during the game and how difficult it was. Melanie directed us to apply our discussion to our Greater Detroit District Leadership Team, referring to the positive leader team characteristics list we had made and posted.

Communication along with knowing each other well and appreciating each other are vital. We have work to do; we plan and hope to do it together! We also hope to greatly improve communication with local units and members and we need help from those units and members for that improvement.

Prayer is essential! God, show us the way; lead us; be with us on the road to improvement. Amen.

**Kay Korn**  
734-671-0005

**[k.korns@gmail.com](mailto:k.korns@gmail.com)**



**GREATER SOUTHWEST DISTRICT- LINDA BURTON-COLLIER**

It has been an exciting and challenging year for the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women. With the new boundaries of our district extending from Lake Michigan to 69 west to east and from the Indiana border to Saugatuck and northwest to Hopkins and Delton. We have tried to make our new sisters from the western side of the former Albion district to feel welcome.

We have joined together in celebrating our 150th anniversary this year beginning in March at Climax UMC with our Spring Fling, which happened to be a beautiful sunny spring day. Our conference president, Linda Darrow spoke, two skits about our heritage were put on by members of our district team, we sang and ate and ended our time together with cake and ice cream and a good time was had by all. Oh yes! We collected over \$1,000 toward the legacy fund.

In June we met at the Schoolcraft UMC for an evening of missions and learned about "Free Stores" and enjoyed wonderful strawberry shortcake.

Our whole team was able to attend one of the Mission events (minus one who couldn't due to medical issues), most were in attendance at the Albion event. A good time was enjoyed by everyone, reconnecting with old friends and meeting new ones. Some of us even brought our children and grandchildren along.

We are looking forward to our district annual meeting the 14<sup>th</sup> of September as we culminate the year with a 150th celebration and guest speakers from United Methodists Community House in Grand Rapids, one of our national mission projects.

This was my first year as district president and it has been a learning experience, trying to make our new members feel a part of the district, getting information out to everyone, and caring for those who have been in the district forever.

We said goodbye to a longtime United Methodist Woman who died in May, Veroneze Strader from Battle Creek.

We started the year with skit, laughs, cake and ice cream as we celebrated our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and we will close the year with music, games, balloons and cake, oh yes and some business. God has been good to us and we return his love by being in service to others and doing good in all the ways we can.

**Linda Burton-Collier      269-793-7340**

[lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com](mailto:lindaburtoncollier@gmail.com)

**NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT-SUSAN WIRGAU**

Greetings in God who we know in Jesus Christ!

It's been an amazing summer following a difficult winter. We are so blessed with wonderful bodies of water around us in Northern Waters District—both the glistening two Great Lakes but the beautifully pristine inland lakes and rivers. It wasn't that many years ago, there was strife over the low water levels and now there is concern for how high the water has gotten. I am awestruck over how much the temperature variation is between summer and winter. How could it ever get that cold or that warm? It's hard to imagine in the thick of it.

A great opportunity is coming up in September for the local units of our district. We have our annual celebration on September 28 in Gaylord. As part of this year's celebration, we are offering local officer training from our district counterpart officers. We feel this is a great way to reach out to our units. BUT, as an example, maybe they don't have a Mission Coordinator for Social Action—do they have a person in their unit with a PASSION for social action? Send her! If some ladies who are coming to the celebration are not involved in the officer training by position or interest, there will be a speaker for them.

**Susan Wirgau      [onthebay@chartermi.net](mailto:onthebay@chartermi.net)  
231-838-5986**



**HERITAGE DISTRICT-SHERRY WAGENKNECHT**

*"Let all that you do be done in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14*

**Story about a Hopi Indian**

An Anthropologist was studying the Hopi Indian culture. One day he was watching an Indian doing a chant about water. Frustrated because every time he asked the Indian what he was chanting about he said water, then he said to the Indian. "Don't you talk about anything other than water; don't you pray for anything other than water; don't you sing for anything other than water?" The Indian responded; water is very important to us here because there isn't very much of it. In fact, that is what most of our thoughts and prayers are about is water. Then the Indian said to the Anthropologist, I've noticed in listening to American music, almost every song is about love. Is that because there isn't very much of it". *Communicating with Compassion video by Karen Fox.*

I am sharing this story with you because I think it is good food for thought. "Isn't there very much of it?" Not if you listen to our media but as United Methodist Women we know God wants us to do everything in Love. I recently had the opportunity to go to Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee Illinois. I helped make desks that went to other countries so children did not have to sit on dirt floors when they did their school work. When we finished, we prayed over each desk and the children that would use it. They have many projects going on daily and the love is abundant. I would be happy to share more anytime. <http://www.midwestmission.org/>

Heritage District is very excited about our upcoming Annual Meeting and Celebration, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 – 2:00, at Howell First UMC. Peri Stone-Palmquist, LMSW, MPP will be speaking on the School to Prison Pipeline. Our ingathering will go to LACASA a non profit organization that provides help and hope for victims of child abuse and interpersonal violence. We have planned a day filled with music, love and compassion. We hope to see you there to share the LOVE!

Note: we have moved our Officer Training that is usually held at the Annual Meeting to November 2 at Milan Marble Memorial Church. This will be a team building retreat and training. More information to come.

**God's Blessing to all of you!**

**Sherry Wagenknecht**      [wagen88@hotmail.com](mailto:wagen88@hotmail.com)  
734-347-5868

**MID-MICHIGAN DISTRICT-DONNA KLEIVER**

Mid-Michigan District greets all of you with the love of our Lord and Savior.

We have been busy this summer, even though it is a time of relaxation. Our new Standing Rules are completed, posted on our website under Michigan Conference of United Methodist Women/ Mid-Michigan District, and ready to be voted on at our First Annual Mid-Michigan District Celebration. The Standing Rules Team had been working hard since February and I cannot thank Rita Baird for all the typing and rewrites; Sharon Smith's eagle eye for wording, punctuation, and spelling; the Leadership Team for their input and recommendations; and Diana Miller for her final edit and loading them onto the website.

We have three positions still open on our proposed slate of officers for 2020; two under Nominations and Editor for The Messenger. The Editor position is a critical position that we are working diligently to fill. **If you know of anyone, in the Mid-Michigan District, that you believe might be interested, please let Bernice Natoli or myself know As Soon As Possible.**

Many women from Mid-Michigan attended the Mission u of the West at Albion College and were enriched through the spiritual study *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*, led by Bishop David Bard, *What About our Money?*, led by Rev. Faith Fowler, and *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission* led by Genie Bank.

Sharon Smith-Vice President has been hard at work getting our 2020 schedule completed and beginning to work on 2021. The Leadership Team meets on September 11, 2019 for our next meeting and to finalize the program for our First Mid-Michigan District Annual Celebration on September 18, 2019 at Green Street UMC in Hastings, MI. Linda Darrow will be our main speaker and our theme is "Be Bold! Be Strong!" We hope ladies from other Districts will be able to attend. Just send in your registration to Joyce Plumhoff no later than September 11. The registration form is in our July 2019 The Messenger if you need to print it off.

We are looking forward to the exciting fall activities in our District and the opportunity to spend time with the units.

**Blessings to You,**

**Donna Kleiver**      [dmkleiver2016@gmail.com](mailto:dmkleiver2016@gmail.com)  
517-663-4193

## MIDWEST DISTRICT- SUE RIETMAN

As I'm writing this note, I am realizing that July is the half-way point in our calendar, and I am proud of the successes we have had with our events. During our Spring Fling in Fremont we welcomed several new friends in our newly formed district and heard several different views on immigration in this country. At our Spring Retreat we discovered our spiritual style with Jody Pratt.

Mission u of the West was held last month at Albion College and is always a wonderful time of learning with topics of radical discipleship, UMW history, and money. Look for other Mission u opportunities around the state in this issue.

The Midwest District Annual Celebration will be held Saturday morning, September 21st at New Life UMC in Six Lakes, Michigan. We will celebrate your successes in UMW for 2019. Rev. Dr. Devon Harrell and Kim Bos will share details of the Wesley Foundation – a nurturing ministry with college students. Come and hear about how you can support this important ministry. Look for the registration form on page 3.

The UMW Conference Annual Celebration is set for Saturday, October 26th at Howell UMC. This statewide Celebration is always enjoyable and offers a chance to meet new women and catch up with old friends.

We will end our year with two gatherings of fun and fellowship: An Evening Apart will be held at Middleville UMC on Thursday November 7th and A Day Apart will be held in the northern region of our district. Watch for details. These special dates are designed specifically to enjoy fellowship together. I hope you will join us for one of these dates.

Finally, I have important news to share with you! Our own District Education & Interpretation Coordinator – Judy Huynh (LeValley UMC) – has been nominated to run as a director to National UMW's Leadership Team for 2021-2024. Voting will take place in Sioux City next June.

Our team has been hard at work bringing you events that both interest and amuse you. Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you have that will make our district relevant and fun. I hope to see you at an event (or two) this Fall.

In His name,  
Sue Rietman, [susan.rietman45@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rietman45@gmail.com)

## NORTHERN SKIES DISTRICT-PATTI STEINBERG

We are so excited to have Pastor Vicky Prewitt as our main speaker for our Annual Celebration in Gwinn on October 8. Pastor Prewitt is a former newscaster for TV6 in Marquette and spoke at our Detroit Conference UMW meeting when it was held in Marquette.

I've visited 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations in Gwinn, Menominee, Iron Mountain, Crystal Falls and Rockland UMW Units around the Northern Skies District, with more invitations for this fall.

The Menominee Birthday Celebration was a superhero themed evening. We were given capes, colored our masks and were reminded to celebrate the Superwoman in every United Methodist Woman AND to celebrate our Legacy in the super "handful of women."

In August the Manistique United Methodist Women held their annual picnic. This year's speaker was Professor Maurita Holland from the University of Michigan, who lives in Gulliver and Ann Arbor. Maurita is an accomplished musician so the UMW was surprised to find her presentation was about *Wildflowers of the Upper Peninsula*, finding God's creations wherever we look. We later found out she is a Master Gardener. I'm sure everyone glanced at the wildflowers we passed on our way home.

Follow us on Facebook!

Patti Steinberg [pattisteinberg@gmail.com](mailto:pattisteinberg@gmail.com)



Patti Steinberg (middle), and former District President, Bobbie Clift (far right), Maurita Holland, (second from the left) Also pictured are the Leadership Team of Manistique UMW: Lynn LaRose, Louise Burson, Bette Jahn, Linda Moon.

## **2020 STANDING RULES REVISIONS FOR THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN FOR VOTING AT THE OCTOBER 26TH BUSINESS MEETING**

Last year we approved the new Standing Rules for the new Michigan Conference United Methodist Women with the understanding that it is a living document and there could be additional major changes as they were implemented and lived with.

At the January Retreat it was decided to call the Executive Committee of the Conference the Leadership Team and rename the smaller Administrative Committee the Executive Committee, so these changes were made throughout the Standing Rules. There were editorial changes throughout that cleared up language but were not substantive.

The following are summaries of the substantive changes that were made.

### **Section II. Committees.**

**B. Leadership Team 2.** Additional members with voice and vote have been edited to reflect the correct titles of the persons mentioned.

**J. Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice** Policies has been revised.

**The Communications Team** has determined how they will function for now so the three Committees sections K, L, and M related to Communications have been deleted and four new ones K, L, M, and N have been added to represent the different responsibilities. While still serving on the Committee on the Directory, the Secretary is no longer responsible for publishing the directory.

**N. Committee on Mission U** has been deleted. A shorter Letter O Committee on Mission u describing the basic duties has been added.

**Section V. Funds. B. 7.** – This paragraph has expanded to explain the attendance pattern of the UMW representatives to Annual Conference and how their way is paid.

The proposed changes to the Michigan Conference Standing Rules can be found in PDF form by clicking on the title on the left side of the front page of the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women website: <http://www.umwmichiganconference.org>

There is also a complete version of the edited Standing Rules so you can see the context. The whole version was approved last year so all we are voting on this time are the changes.

Please review these proposed rules and be prepared to vote on them at the Howell United Methodist Church.

**Diana Miller**

**diana@ddmiller.net**

**989-426-2644**

## United Methodist Women Michigan Conference Annual Celebration



### "CELEBRATING 150 YEARS: TOGETHER TOWARD TOMORROW"

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**Howell First UMC - 1230 Bower St., Howell, Michigan.**

**Phone: 517-546-2730**

**Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.**

**Program 10 AM to 3 PM**

**Keynote Address by: Rev. Dr. Jill Zundel**

**Senior pastor at Central United Methodist Church, Detroit**

**Leadership Training for all District officers will be held Friday afternoon with a Legacy Celebration on Friday night in addition to the Organizational Meeting on Saturday.**

#### Registration Form

- Early Bird Registration **Cost is \$16.00**. Early Bird Deadline is October 14, 2018. Registration postmarked **after October 15<sup>th</sup>** and **walk-in cost is \$20.00**. Seating for lunch is limited; we cannot guarantee lunch for walk-ins.
- **Child Care** is available at no cost but must be requested in advance.
- **Tickets will not be mailed; they will be picked up at the Registration under the District and the name of the person ordering.** Please list all attendees on the registration form. PRINT name clearly.

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

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

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Make Check payable to **Michigan Conference United Methodist Women**; send check and form (Keep a copy for yourself) to registrar:

**Betty Thomas** 3339 Moore Street., Inkster, MI 48141 Phone 313-561-4792  
Cell 313-929-7920 Email: [bthomas610@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bthomas610@sbcglobal.net) or **Shirley Chappell**,  
719 S. Griffin, Grand Haven, MI 49417, Phone (616)846-4197 E-mail:  
[shirley2billchapel@att.net](mailto:shirley2billchapel@att.net) or **Dorie Litchfield** 61470 CR 657, Lawton, MI 49065  
Phone (269)436-0023 E-mail: [creator.dorie@gmail.com](mailto:creator.dorie@gmail.com)

NAME	CHURCH	UNIT
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

#### Overnight Stay:

**Two hotels – book your own! Ask for Michigan Conference UMW Rate**

1. **Baymont Wyndham**, 4120 Lambert Drive, Howell, MI  
Phone 517-546-0712 (free breakfast)

2. **Courtyard Marriott**, Brighton-7799 Conference Drive, Brighton, MI  
Phone - 810-225-9200



**United Methodist Women  
Officer/Leadership Training & Legacy Celebration  
Friday, October 25, 2019  
TRAINING BEGINS AT 4 P.M. FOLLOWED BY DINNER,  
AND THEN LEGACY CELEBRATION!**

**HOWELL FIRST UMC  
1230 BOWER ST.  
HOWELL, MICHIGAN  
Phone – (517)546-2730  
CELEBRATING 150 YEARS**

**Dinner is furnished, along with  
Leadership Training for all District Officers.** If those who aren't attending training wish, dinner can be provided for them as well. Simply indicate below if you will be staying for supper.

**PLANNED ACTIVITY FOR MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING TRAINING**

For hotel information, see the other flier in the newsletter – please register below and send all information to the registrar for your conference. You can find this on the registration sheet for the Conference Annual Celebration.

-----  
**Leadership Training Registration – please fill out for all officers attending!**

**Name**

**Position**

**District**




**MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
PROPOSED SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2020**

**PRESIDENT:** Linda Darrow (2017) Central Bay  
232 N. Cooley St. Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
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Evelyn Delaney (2019) Central Bay  
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Alternate: Marchelle (Micki) Phelps (2020) Greater Detroit  
19622 Syracuse, Detroit, MI 48234  
313-618-5361, [marchellephelps@gmail.com](mailto:marchellephelps@gmail.com)

**VOTING DELEGATES TO QUADRENNIAL MEETING**

Mary Danforth – Alice Tucker – Michele Weston

**CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE - Linda Darrow, chair**

Judy Chasney	Dorie Litchfield	Patti Steinberg
Kathy Freeland	Micki Phelps	Joyce Simons
Loretta Lee	Linda Schramm	Alice Tucker



## **2019 Conference Team**

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Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church

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

**United Methodist Women**

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United  
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Submissions requested by the 10th of each previous month  
to: Kathy Freeland, [ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ksfdaf@sbcglobal.net)

## *2019 Calendar of Events*

October 21-22	Mission u of the North	Gaylord UMC
October 25	Conference/District Officer Education Program & Training	Howell UMC
October 26	FIRST Michigan Conference UMW Annual Celebration	Howell UMC
November 16	Conference Leadership Team meeting	Flushing UMC