



Purpose

The organized unit of UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 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.

“Books break the shackles of time – proof that humans can work magic.” – Carl Sagan



Covenant Connection

Published twice a year by Topeka District United Methodist Women

Volume 38 Issue 2 Fall Edition September 2019

“GROWING THROUGH THE PAGES”

TOPEKA DISTRICT FALL EVENT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2019 8:15 am -- 2:00pm

Berryton United Methodist Church

7010 Berryton Road
Berryton, Kansas 66614

Registration begins at 8:15 am with snacks, fellowship and displays
Officers/Leaders Update 8:45 to 9:40

Gathering songs at 9:45am, Worship will begin 10:00 am.

The emphasis on this Fall Event will be the Reading Program.

Our Keynote speaker will be Katie Wilson of Missouri, a member of the National Reading Program Committee.

There will be book reports throughout the day

A delicious lunch will be available

There will be a Special Musical Presentation.

The meeting will close with Worship and Communion.

We are asking each Unit to bring a 18”X24” poster of pictures, of the history of their Unit.

In gathering donations will be children’s books (for ages 3&4) donated to Pine Ridge Prep. (An early Learning Community serving children from Head Start, At Risk, Early childhood Special Education and the community)

Certified Childcare will be available.

Registration is \$3 plus \$7 for the lunch total \$10

A child’s lunch is \$3.50



Learn and Connect in Berryton!

Where does UMW fit into your life? How are we going to bring in new young women when they don't really enjoy meetings? What does fellowship and mission look like to the 34 year old sitting in the pew with her family? Life is full of changes. That's what makes it interesting, right? I am writing this as I begin a new chapter in my library life finishing up 2 years in Baldwin at a wonderful library. I am gaining 5 hours a week by becoming the library director in Oskaloosa and cutting 30 miles off of my daily commute. Most of our time is committed. How can we, as fellow UMW members, keep learning and growing vital in our units? How do we encourage young women in understanding that UMW is valuable time spent...by connecting in fellowship, learning together, and expanding our mission!

At the Fall district meeting in Berryton, we will have officer training, music, and fellowship. Officer training is an opportunity to understand what the responsibilities are for officers. It is also a time to connect with the district team and officers in other units. We appreciate networks in our work and family life. How about in our UMW life? Many of us have enjoyed meeting other women and sharing ideas about UMW. Communications can be challenging. Attendance at the district meetings connects you in person.

One of my favorite parts of UMW is the education we receive! The Reading program fits our schedules. We learn and read when it's convenient. When we look there are always opportunities to get in some reading time. This Fall District meeting will focus on the Reading Program. There have been so many changes in the past couple of years, the leadership team knows it has been discouraging. We want to help you get back to the reading program, plus enjoy fellowship and connections. I hope to see you there.

Cheryl Sylvester,
Topeka District President

2019 Program Resource Change

UMW Mission Resources will no longer stock Reading Program books or offer consignment orders. Books may be ordered from Cokesbury, Amazon, etc, or obtained through interlibrary loan.

Vice-President's Greetings

I am so glad we are focusing on the Reading Program for the Fall District Event! There have been changes to the Reading Program, and anytime there are changes we seem to have to go through a process. First, we hear about the change with negative thoughts (you know, "but we've always done it this way"). It might take a while, but when we accept the changes and move on, we are the winners. We can adjust and be grateful that we still have the opportunity to learn from the fabulous books we have available to us.

I had the opportunity to go on a short trip with my daughter and her girls to New Orleans, and, yes, we ate the famous breads in the French quarter! I brought this up, as not too long after I returned home, I read the book *The Feathered Bone*, and it really spoke to me as I had just been where a lot of the story in the book takes place. What a book! I could hardly put it down!

Just recently I gave a presentation on Human Trafficking. Throughout my research, the books *White Umbrella* and *Stolen* were mentioned. Both of these books are from the Reading lists. One person who was present even ended up borrowing *The Feathered Bone* to read.

The Reading Program is very important to for me. How else would I learn about the different issues of UMW that are so important to us as members? Even the children's books teach good lessons!

On **October 12, 2019**, Berryton United Methodist Church will host the **Topeka District United Methodist Women's Fall Event**, where we are going to focus on the Reading Program. This event starts with an Officers and Leader Update. The day will be full of worship, music, a short business meeting, a keynote speaker, and communion. There will be a lovely lunch around noon.

Invite your girlfriends or family to see what the United Methodist Women's District Event is all about. Reach out to members of your congregation that are not UMW member and bring them along. This will be an exciting day to have new women and girls in attendance!

There is another chance for each Unit to prepare a picture history of their unit, so ladies put together a poster and bring it!

Ingathering donations: Please bring 3 & 4 year old age appropriate children's books to donate to Pine Ridge Prep Preschool!

The front page of this Covenant Connection tells all about the Event, and in this issue, there is a registration form for your Unit to send.

I can't wait for this event; there will be a lot going on! **See you there!**

In God's service,
Jo Cross
Topeka District Vice President

Journey in Growth

Earlier this summer as I was rushing to do chores, shop for vacation shoes (long story), meet medical appointments, and in general feeling as though I was on a treadmill, I remembered the verse from Psalms- **Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10)**.

This verse sustained me through the busy clamor of college life, through times in my career when the feeling of “stop the world, I want to get off” overtook me, and often in the busy life of a wife and mother. As news assails us daily with clash and clamor, as issues within our church (both locally and worldwide) seem to be both noisy and frightening, take hold of this verse, and “**Be still**”.

What does this have to do with the “Journey toward Membership/Growth,” you say?! Does it mean anything to my local UMW unit and to me as an individual in my church and unit? Yes, it does. Many times, stopping for reflection, being still and knowing God, going “quiet” with our lives allows us to focus on others around us and to see things in a different light and way.

I remind you that “supportive fellowship” is a key phrase in our PURPOSE. Support can come into our lives more easily if we are quiet and listen and watch for ways to make it happen. Does your unit need prayer partners? Does your unit need some quiet suggestions with new ideas for programs? Can you, or a group of you, quietly become the core, the strength, and find ways to hold your faith community together?

Be Still. Focus on knowing that God is there. It doesn't matter if there are many of you in your UMW group/unit, or only two or three, or even seven or eight! In this stillness, quietness of God's love and presence, your group can take on new strength, challenges, involvements and yes, even grow!

Remember that growth isn't always a matter of numbers! It is a matter of becoming stronger, more focused, more available. Growth involves making changes, also! Changes may be finding new study opportunities, new meeting times and places, and new ways of communicating with each other. Take hold of Psalm 46:10 and use it to meet the challenge of Growth and Support in your unit.

Be Still and know that I am God.

God bless,
Doris Wills
Topeka District **Journey in Growth** team leader



Nominations

2020 Ballot a Work in Progress...

The ballot of 2020 officers is still a work in progress. If you have ever thought about joining the District team, it is not too late! If not in 2020, maybe in 2021? We all have talents and gifts to share and the opportunities to meet new people and experience new adventures are priceless! Contact any of us on Nominations if you are interest or would like any information!

The current open positions are:

1. Registrar
2. Mission Education and Interpretation
3. Membership, Nurture, and Outreach
4. Committee on Nominations
5. Spiritual Growth Coordinator

A big THANK YOU goes out to those who have served on our team who are leaving!

- ◆ John Green has served on the Committee on Nominations, Chairman Committee on Nominations, Membership, Nurture, and Outreach, Christian Global Concerns, and Mission Education, and Interpretation.
- ◆ Margaret has served on Committee on Nominations.
- ◆ Irma Boyer has served as the Communications Coordinator, Committee on Nominations, and Registrar.
- ◆ Doris Wills has served as Membership, Nurture, and Outreach, Vice President and Committee on Nominations.
- ◆ Dorothy Iliff has served as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator.

Thank you,

JoAnne Smith, Chair Committee on Nominations

Margaret Jantzen, Sherry Seifert, Jo Miller, and Diane Hanzlicek

From Your Treasurer:

The Great Plains Conference Treasurer provides information to the District Treasurer for handling District funds. She also provides the following guidelines for our Units. Please review this information and see what changes you may need to make to better handle your funds.

A. BANK ACCOUNTS:

1. Two names should be on your bank account, usually the president and the treasurer.
2. Do not write checks to reimburse yourself; ask the co-signer to sign for you and vice versa.
3. Balance your account monthly when you receive the statement. Give a copy of the reconciled statement to the co-signer.
4. If your UMW unit is using the EIN (Federal Tax ID #) of your church, please change it to EIN of UMW Great Plains Conference. Documentation is available from the District Treasurer.

B. REMITTANCE FORMS:

1. May be sent whenever you have Mission Giving money to turn in. Please use the remittance form provided.
2. If your unit wants to be considered a 5-Star Unit for the calendar year, you must submit money in all five channels of giving. If your unit wants to be considered a 7-Star Unit, please submit money for Dedicated Light and Corsages for Mission in addition to the five channels.
3. Checks should be made out to: "UMW GPC Topeka District" Use one check for all remittances.
4. Send to: Kelly Badenoch, Topeka District Treasurer.

C. SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION PINS:

1. Please use the Special Mission Recognition order form and complete a remittance form.
2. Please allow one month, in order to receive your pin for a special date.

D. END-OF-YEAR RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Empty your treasury at the end of the year. Send additional funds to UMW GPC Topeka District as extra giving to "Pledge to Mission." You may keep what you need to begin the new year until pledges start coming in.
2. Create and issue "giving statements" to donors who have donated \$250 or more during the calendar year. Include the donor's name and address and the following statement, "No goods or services were received in exchange for this donation."
3. Submit names of individual recipients of "She's a Gem" or "5-Star Woman" to the District Treasurer.
4. District Treasurer determines 5-Star Unit and 7-Star Unit Awards based on giving history for the calendar year. Check with her to be sure your records match.
5. Arrange to have an audit or financial review made at the close of the year. See pages 83-84 in the "United Methodist Women Handbook 2017-2020" for "Annual Audit." Adjust the procedures to fit your local unit.

Financial Update

As of July 31, 2019, 30 of our Topeka District Units remitted pledges of \$21,187.45. This represents 33% of our \$64,000.00 pledge to the Conference. \$2,312.70 was also received for Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, which is considered "Designated Giving." 10 Units who were active last year have not reported. As Units begin meeting again after the summer, our pledges should increase.

As we do each year at the Fall Meeting, we ask that your Unit complete a 2020 Pledge to help in planning for 2020. The form you need to complete is found at the bottom of this page. Please bring it to the Pledge Service during the Fall Meeting. I hope someone from your Unit will be attending; however, if not, you can email me your pledge amount.

Blessings to all the Treasurers in our Topeka District for supporting Mission Giving and "keeping me busy"!

Kelly Badenoch
klbadenoch@gmail.com
785-266-9122

LOCAL UNIT PLEDGE TO MISSION FOR 2019

Unit Name _____

Pledge Amount _____ -

Unit Treasurer _____

Journey in Action: A Look at Economic Inequality

Economic inequality is the unequal distribution of income and opportunity between different groups in society. It is a concern in almost all countries around the world, and often people are trapped in poverty with little chance to climb up the social ladder. It's all about Power and Privilege.

Money and wealth can have such a pervasive role in our lives. It affects where we live, how we spend our time, how we earn a living, where our children go to school, and how we are treated by society, including law enforcement agencies. We each carry our own family history of how much economic opportunity was available to us, our parents and our grandparents. Unfortunately, many are born into poverty.

But, being born into poverty should not automatically mean that a person stays poor. We need to find ways to reduce the economic inequality of our times. Education at all levels, developing self-worth, enhancing skills, and on-the-job training can be used alongside various social assistance programs to help people out of poverty and to reduce inequality. A free meal here and there helps, but it doesn't change the situation. As United Methodist Women, we need to educate, advocate, petition, and invest in systematic changes.

There was an article in the May 2018 issue of *Response* that said charity and advocacy is not enough. What we need is solidarity, deep solidarity. We need to understand that we all need each other. "What if middle class people understood that we are not the saviors of the poor and the oppressed but that we are all affected by and part of what is happening, some more and some less?"

Think about it. If you are not part of the one percent of the rich whose income grew rapidly in the past 35 years, then you may be part of the bottom 90 percent whose income has increased very slightly, stayed the same, or decreased since 1980. "Deep solidarity puts us in a mutual relationship with those we intend to support, helping us realize that we share important concerns in common."

Please join UMW's Social Action Economic Inequality Campaign: A Living Wage for All (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wages) and let's stand together in solidarity for justice in our Journey for Action.

Debra Hayes

(DebraLHayes@aol.com 785-608-2929)

Social Action (Journey in Action) Team Leader

Journey in Learning

Well, it's that time of year again! Our Fall meeting is October 12th, and I can't wait! I will have the new book lists and possibly the catalog. The new books bring us reading adventures in all our reading areas. Most of the books are from Social Action and Spiritual Growth. Just from the titles and authors, I can tell we are set for a year of great reading and growth. Our theme this year is based on the reading program so look out for some great fun and information during the Fall meeting.

Again, this year we will have a book exchange. You need a list of all the books in your UMW groups library dated 2015 through 2019 and two books you would like to trade. I will trade you two books that are not on your current list for your unit. Look for me before the meeting begins so I can get your swap done before the day is over. Swapped books will be in a bag with your church's name on it in my room.

I am so looking forward to seeing all of you at the Fall District meeting!

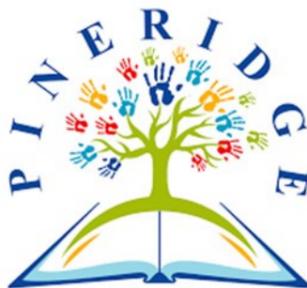
Rose Souter

Secretary of Program Resources

Ingathering for Fall Event for Pine Ridge Prep!

Pine Ridge Prep (PRP) Preschool is a unique preschool located within a public housing community in Topeka, Kansas. Pine Ridge works in partnership with the United Way of Greater Topeka, Topeka Housing Authority, and Topeka Public Schools to create an early learning environment where students can thrive. The school knows the importance of early education and has created a way for students who may otherwise not have access to those services to receive a head start in their education. PRP is an Early Learning Community serving children from Head Start, "At-Risk", Early Childhood Special Education, and the community.

Pine Ridge Prep would love books to give to the students. PRP has three classrooms of seventeen children of 3 and 4-year olds. PLEASE bring an early reader or pre-school book that we can share with young children who will really appreciate them!



2019 Topeka District UMW Officers

Submitted by the Topeka District UMW Committee on Nominations
Lorene Cranwell, Kathi Baenig, JoAnne Smith, Jo Miller, Margaret Jantzen

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| <p>President (2020)</p> <p>Cheryl Sylvester 3612 Nemaha Road Perry, KS 66073 913-709-0895 Cell funbk@yahoo.com</p> <p>Atchison UMW</p> | <p>Vice President (2022)</p> <p>Jo Cross 704 Hamilton Oskaloosa, KS 66066 785-863-2320 cross@giantcomm.net</p> <p>Oskaloosa UMC</p> | <p>Secretary (2020)</p> <p>Cindy Ladd 9340 264th Road P O Box 109 Effingham, KS 66023 913-426-3194 Cell 913-833-2655 Home monrovaladds@yahoo.com</p> <p>Effingham Union UMC</p> |
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| <p>Treasurer (2020)</p> <p>Kelly Badenoch 3914 SE Skylark Court Topeka, KS 66605 785-266-9122 klbadenoch@gmail.com</p> <p>Shawnee Heights UMC</p> | <p>Registrar (2019)</p> <p>Irma Boyer 5977 SW 23rd Terrace Topeka, KS 66614 785-272-3694 Home 785-232-3333 Work idomboy@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Topeka Grace UMC</p> | <p>Program Resource Coordinator (2022) (Journey in Learning)</p> <p>Rose Souter 3736 South Street Grantville, KS 66429 785-640-6242 Cell 785-246-6068 Home gmaw_13@yahoo.com</p> <p>Grantville UMW</p> |
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Mission Coordinators

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| <p>Spiritual Growth (2021) (Journey in Faith)</p> <p>Dorothy Iliff 2201 NE 31st Street Topeka, KS 66617-3549 785-357-1854 totoiliff@cox.net</p> <p>Topeka First UMC</p> | <p>Mission Education & Interpretation (2019) (Journey in Giving)</p> <p>Johné Green 6117 SW 4th Street Topeka, KS 66615 785-273-5593 johnegreen@aol.com</p> <p>Topeka Lowman UMC</p> | <p>Membership, Nurture & Outreach (2019) (Journey in Growth)</p> <p>Doris Wills 2718 SW Ashworth Place Topeka, KS 66614 785-272-1850 Home 785-231-8487 Cell educator2@aol.com</p> <p>Topeka First UMC</p> |
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2019 Topeka District UMW Officers, page 2

Social Action Team

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| <p>Social Acton (2021) (Journey in Action) Debra Hayes 107 SW 16th Street Topeka, KS 66612 785-608-2929 debralhayes@aol.com</p> <p>Topeka University</p> | <p>S.A. Co-Chair (2020) (Journey in Action) Judith Noeller 3302 SW 29th St. Apt 1 Topeka, KS 66614 785-215-2093</p> <p>Topeka Kansas Avenue</p> | <p>Member (2021) (Journey in Action) Linda Montgomery 411 Allen Road Holton, KS 66436 785-872-3773 L.Montgomery@schenckprocess.com Effingham UMC</p> | <p>Member (2022) (Journey in Action) Carol Hughes 1485 160th Road Seneca, KS 66538 785-336-6255 chughes@bbwi.net</p> <p>Seneca UMC</p> |
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| <p>Co-Communication Coordinator (2020) Betsy Scott 3435 SW Alameda Drive Topeka, Ks 66614 785-267-7556 scotteli@usd437.net</p> <p>Topeka Countryside UMC</p> | <p>Co-Communication Coordinator (2020) Brittany Bemus 2922 SW Lydia Ave., Apt. 129 Topeka, KS 66614 785-845-5358 bnbemus@gmail.com</p> <p>Topeka Countryside UMC</p> | <p>Coord. of Ministries to Incarcerated Families Teresa Tuhscherer 5316 SW 25th Street Topeka, KS 66614 785-266-7575 teresatuch@gmail.com Topeka Crestview UMC</p> |
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Committee on Nominations

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| <p>Committee on Nominations Chair (2020) JoAnne Smith 828 SE Rice Road Topeka, KS 66607 785-234-9843 joanne7439@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Topeka Asbury/Mt. Olive UMC</p> | <p>Member (2019) Margaret Jantzen 3835 SE 23rd Terrace Topeka, KS 66605 785-233-8352 argelljantzen@att.net</p> <p>Topeka Lowman UMC</p> | <p>Member (2020) Sherry Seifert 11118 94th Ozawkie, KS 66070 785-633-7533 sseifert@embarqmail.com</p> <p>Ozawkie UMW</p> |
| <p>Member (2021) Jo Miller 1717 SW Arrowhead Road Topeka, KS 66604 785-273-8894 ldypoet@cox.net</p> <p>Topeka University UMC</p> | <p>Member (2022) Diane Hanzlicek 304 Harrison St Sabetha, KS 66534 785-284-2776 dianeflood@sbcglobal.net</p> <p>Sabetha UMC</p> | |

CONFERENCE EVENTS

Turning Faith, Hope, and Love into Action

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leadership, and advocating for justice.



We are The Great Plains United Methodist Women!

We officially became the Great Plains United Methodist Women on January 1, 2014. On that date the United Methodist Women of Nebraska, Kansas East and Kansas West officially united to become the Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women. We have approximately 27,000 members.

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**2019 GP UMW Annual Conference - Sept 20-21 at First UMC in Lincoln, NE. Registration opens July 30th and ends August 31st.**



Dates are set! Put **May 30 - June 7, 2020** on your calendar and travel with us to **Red Bird Mission**, Beverly, KY, **Upper Room**, & **Cookson Hills Center**, Cookson, OK. We will be leaving from and returning to Topeka, KS again in 2020.

**For more information**, please contact the METour director, [Venedith Vargas](#), or via phone at 308-352-8085.

### South Central Jurisdiction UMW Meeting - March 26-29, 2020

#### Little Rock, Arkansas - Downtown Marriott & Little Rock Convention Center

Registration begins September 15, 2019

Save the Date! Read the latest SCJ Newsletter below to find out more about it

#### 150th UMW Birthday Video

Here is a link to a 4 minute video prepared by National UMW for use in celebrating our 150th either locally or at your district level meetings: <https://youtu.be/h-WVKMFuG5s>

Note: 2020 GP UMW Conference Annual Meeting will be September 18-19, 2020 at Garden City, KS! Shannon Priddy, National UMW President, will be our keynote speaker, so you'll want this on your calendar NOW!

**Topeka District Calendar**  
**Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women**

**2019**

|                 |                                                                                |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 20-21 | Great Plains Conference UMW Annual Meeting at First UMC, Lincoln, NE           |
| October 12      | Topeka District UMW Fall Event , Berryton UMC                                  |
| October 14-18   | Great Plains UMW Midwest Mission Distribution Center Trip                      |
| December 15     | Deadline to return 2019 Local Officer List, Mission Do, & Reading Participants |

**2020**

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| March 26-29 | South Central Jurisdictional Quadrennial Meeting, Little Rock, Arkansas<br>Registration begins September 15, 2019 |
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