

THE CHALLENGER

THE CHALLENGER
— JUNE 2020

KANSAS CITY DISTRICT, GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Challenger is published by the Kansas City District United Methodist Women, Great Plains Conference. At District expense it is printed and mailed to the local units and to others upon request. The editor is Jean Gaslin, 703 Cottonwood Drive, Lansing, KS 66043; contact by email: jean000000@aol.com.

Greetings UMW Ladies,

This message brings a bit of sad news. We will not meet in the fall for our District gathering. The leadership team and I do not want to put anyone in danger due to the Coronavirus. Our communities are still feeling their way in regards to large gatherings.

I hope everyone is well and safe in your homes and remain safe as we venture out. Please wear your mask and have that sanitizer handy. If you, a family member or friend have been sick, we pray for you.

I have heard a few ways local units have kept in touch and continued to reach out through missions. We would love to hear from all of you about what your unit is doing. If you are not part of a unit, we would still like to hear how you are doing.

In addition to the Coronavirus, there is much unrest in regards to how people of color have been treated. Please pray for all our brothers and sisters during these times.

A little activity we did many years ago in vacation bible school:

I am a daughter. I am a woman. I am a wife. I am a mother. I am a grandmother. I am a teacher. I am a lover of books and travel. I am a part of the body of Christ. But, most of all, I AM A CHILD of GOD. *Ask yourself, who am I?*

May the Love of Christ be with you until we meet together in person again.

Jill Hershberger, KC District UMW President



United
Methodist
Women

UMW 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 creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

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Journey in Action (Social Action)

The needs in our communities, nation, and world have grown as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. I thought this might be a good time to review our UMW Social Action Priorities for 2016-2020.

The four priorities are:

Climate Justice
Maternal and Child Health
Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration
Economic Equality

By going to the following link, you can obtain additional information about each of these: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action>. From this page, there are links to posters, action tip cards, points of contact, a summary of Take Action steps, and booklets.

There is also a link to an article entitled “What Can We Do About COVID-19? It can also be pulled directly from this link: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-can-we-do-about-covid19.pdf>. This article is full of actions related to these four priorities that individuals can take, even during this time when in-person meetings and service projects are difficult to arrange.

If you haven't already, you might also consider supporting a local food pantry. Demand for food services has grown dramatically over the last couple of months. If you are not comfortable with buying and delivering food, monetary donations are also appreciated. I learned recently that our local pantry was able to purchase meat for \$.18 a pound from Harvesters; so a cash contribution can go a long way toward feeding the hungry in our area.

Given the unrest in our communities at this time, I want to also include a link to the racial justice information on the UMW web page: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjustice>. Please take some time to check out the many resources available for you here, including the Racial Justice Charter and Leader Toolkit.

The new priorities for 2021-2025 will be announced in July. I will watch for them and share the details as soon as I receive them.

Janis Kirkeby
Journey in Action Leader



Giving to United Methodist Women

Even though we may not be meeting in the same way, the United Methodist Women mission continues. Your donations to mission giving support many things: International Projects, National Mission Institutions, Call to Prayer Grants, Leader Development training and seminars just to name a few. About 70 percent of Mission Giving funds from members go to programs and projects supporting women, children and youth. Around 20-30 percent stays with the local, district, and conference organizations of United Methodist Women for local mission. Only 9 percent covers administrative costs.

United Methodist Women is a community of women committed to mission. As a member you can take advantage of many opportunities, including the following: • Prayer, Bible studies and spiritual retreats. • Hands-on mission in local communities. • Mission education experiences. • Leadership development and training opportunities. • Supporting work with women, children and youth. • Partnership with women in mission in the country and around the world. • Advocacy for social justice issues, including those pertaining to the environment, domestic violence, immigration and the many other concerns that impact the lives of women, children and youth. • Engagement in racial justice issues.

We are faith, hope and love in action.

FAITH Thousands of women participate in our reading programs and educational opportunities annually to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action. **HOPE** Our national mission institutions empower women, care for children, educate and equip youth, care for the neglected, advocate for social justice issues, create economic opportunities and strengthen neighborhoods.

LOVE Our members give out of their love for the world and provide financial support for national mission institutions, higher education scholarships for international students, and 121 programs taking place in 110 countries.

ACTION United Methodist Women members' voices are heard around the world as they call for justice on issues such as immigration, human trafficking, domestic violence, health care and the environment.

Along with the pledge, you can also support mission giving in other ways: buy mission cards, give a gift in memory, give special mission recognition (SMR); contribute to the World Thank offering, give corsages or a dedicated light.

**If you haven't yet—please remember to make your pledge
(and other donations) to support mission giving.**

We are Women of Action and support missions in many ways.

Below is a summary of the KC District giving so far this year. Thank you to those of you who have already contributed. The Giving to United Methodist Women article on the previous page outlines the many worthwhile missions that benefit from our giving. Please continue to support these worthy causes with your generous giving.

Betha Regan. Treasurer, KC District UMW

KC District UMW Giving

Jan - May, 2020

MISSION GIVING

Pledge to Mission	\$3,750
Corsages for Mission or Love Ribbons	\$ 95
Gift to Mission	\$ 120
Gift in Memory	\$ 185
World Thank Offering	\$ 5
Total Mission Giving	<u>\$4,155</u>

DESIGNATED GIFTS

A Call to Prayer & Self-Denal	\$ 260
Total Designated Gifts	\$ 260

TOTAL GIVING **\$4,415**



**Stay healthy. Wash
your hands.**

**Maintain social
distancing.**

**And reach out to each
other.**

How have you been staying connected during this safer-at-home time? We've heard several ways. Here are a few:

- ◆ Parking lot meetings
- ◆ Sending cards to UMW members and to others in the congregation
- ◆ Delivering gift bags to doors with "thinking of you" items. (No home-baked goods.)
- ◆ "Circle" meetings — in a circle outside, sitting under a tree!
- ◆ Phone/email trees—for circles and units
- ◆ Zoom meetings (or other video option)

Have you done something that you don't see here? Let us know.

***Use one of the above ways—or one of your own—
to stay connected as a supportive community of women!***





2020 UMW Reading Program—

Have you read a book from the UMW Reading program during this “Safer-at-home” time that you would like to recommend to others? If so, send me a short recommendation and we’ll publish it to the KC District UMW.

Lynn Bain, KCD UMW Program Resource Coordinator

Great Plains UMW Mission u 2020 at all three locations (Kearney, Salina, and Topeka) has been cancelled. Training for study leaders and deans scheduled in late April and May had to be cancelled by National United Methodist Women; therefore, we are unable to offer these events.

Mission u: Learning Together for the Transformation of the World — from National UMW

After much prayer and discussion, the United Methodist Women National Office has made the difficult decision to cancel all in-person training for Mission u 2020 and encourage the cancellation of all in-person conference Mission u events due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19.

We know how much work each conference team has put into Mission u, and we are grieving along with them that our Mission u 2020 events will not take place how we expected. **This does not mean, however, that we will forgo these important and timely studies altogether!** If there is ever a time to “find peace in an anxious world” that time is now. If there is ever a time to look for the impact of racism and economic inequality in times of crisis, that time is now.

In place of in-person Mission u events, the Mission u team is collaborating with study leader trainers to bring elements of each study online over the next several months. The exact format and timeline for each study is still in development and more information will be coming as those pieces take shape. However, it is our hope that those in the Mission u community and the wider church will still be able to engage and benefit from these timely studies from the safety and comfort of their homes.

Stay tuned to the Mission u website for more information:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-u>

From National UMW: We must talk about race and racism and how it shows up in everyday life in America— including our public education system.

On Thursday, June 11 at 2:00 p.m. ET, **please join a #FaithTalks discussion on education equity** with Thena Robinson Mock of the Community for Just Schools Fund and Destiny McClurkin, a public-school teacher in New York City. Together, we will discuss how to eliminate disparities in education and ensure all children can learn in environments that are safe and supportive.

Go here to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OutluvUMQn2CYn3NMBQxXw

(Copy/paste on your computer or your smart phone.)

Most Gratefully, Jennifer R. Farmer, Host, UMW #FaithTalks



KANSAS CITY DISTRICT UMW LEADERSHIP TEAM

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A Prayer for Peace in the Community

O Lord our God, in your mercy and kindness, no thought of ours is left unnoticed, no desire or concern ignored.

You have proven that blessings abound when we fall on our knees in prayers, and so we turn to you in our hour of need.

Surrounded by violence and cries for justice, we hear your voice telling us what is required

"Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God."

Fill us with your mercy so that we, in turn, may be merciful to others.

Strip away pride, suspicion, and racism so that we may seek peace and justice in our communities.

Strengthen our hearts so that they beat only to the rhythm of your holy will.

Flood our path with your light as we walk humbly toward a future filled with encounter and unity.

Be with us, O Lord, in our efforts, for only by the prompting of your grace can we progress toward virtue.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

