



Great Plains United Methodist Women September 2020 Info Gram

**From: Karen Dunlap, President
Great Plains Conference
United Methodist Women**

To: My Sisters In Christ

2020 has been a year like no other in UMW or our own individual history. We celebrated last year 150 years of faith hope and love in action and this year we were challenged to find new ways to function, to meet and to continue in Mission-Giving to women, children and youth in our own neighborhoods and around the world,

In case you were unable to attend the First Annual ZOOM Celebration, I wanted to provide a summary. 126 members were in attendance.

Our theme this year, “**LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IGNITED FOR JUSTICE**” was taken from the 2019-2020 UMW program book. It shows how current National UMW is with the trending needs of our communities and activities that serve as a bridge and help us connect the dots between bible study and call to social action.

This could not have been a more different year for UMW members. Activities from national, conference, di strict to units and circles were canceled. But just like the churches that closed for worship, the church is a building – we are the church in the community. UMW looked at different ways to meet and continue with Mission Giving. We are faith, love, and hope in action.

14 “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

Let your light shine!! Shine for women, children, and youth in your communities and around the world. Let your light shine for the marginalized, those in poverty, and those who are “invisible” in our midst.

It has been my greatest blessing to be the president of the Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women for the past four years. You have increased my faith, shared fellowship, adapted to new experiences and grieved with me. You are my Sisters in Christ and I am forever blessed.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE IGNITED FOR JUSTICE

If you want to enjoy a wonderful music clip: This little Light of Mine

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=This+little&view=detail&mid=F6D78269DB60891E89F9F6D78269DB60891E89F9&FORM=VIRE&cc=US&setlang=en-US&cvid=cefe196266a8411e94df47fc5510ca5d&q=SW&nclid=4082E07AA0B74B1A2C4E0D01272EC82D&ts=1600712068881>

The Dedicated Light ceremony was presented by Margaret Thomas, Journey in Giving Team Leader. In honor of Shannon Priddy, National UMW president and Karen Dunlap, GP UMW president. \$13,730 was collected for the Dedicated Light through the Great Plains United Methodist Women.

The Eunice Harrington Leadership Award was presented to Janice Hauser, Blue River District. By Lori Collins, Journey in Faith team leader. **CONGRATULATIONS Janice!!**

Shannon Priddy, National UMW President Presented the keynote. Shannon was LIVE and stayed with us the whole meeting. She later commented she was so pleased that we had communion as she had not had communion since Easter.

Barbara Smith, treasurer presented the 2021 budget of \$793,068.50 and the pledge of \$425,000 were both passed. In addition, the finance committee recommended that \$16,000 be transferred from the savings account to the 2020 pledge. Motion carried.

Carolyn May Chair of the Committee on Nominations recommended the following slate of officers:

Office, Name, Hometown, District *new nominee
President--Janice Elmore, Wichita, KS, Wichita East
Secretary--Susan Carlson, Lincolnville, KS, Flint Hills
Communications Coordinator--Pat McGill, Waverly, NE, Blue River
Faith Team Leader--Rose Hamilton, Miller, NE, Gateway
Growth Team Leader--Vicki Leech, Lincoln, NE (served 1 yr), Blue River
Giving Team Leader--Margaret Thomas, Norton, KS (served 1 yr), Hays
CON Class of 2021--Committee on Nominations Chair--Peg Walters,
Broken Bow, NE, Gateway
CON Class of 2023—Karen Dunlap, Derby, KS, Wichita East

CON Class of 2023—Patsy Gomez, Wichita, KS, Wichita East
CON Class of 2023---Deb Swartz

The officers were elected and installed by Yvette Richards, past national president of United Methodist Women.

Communion was celebrated and the meeting closed with prayer. Following the adjournment, all videos went live, the mikes were unmuted, and we had a wonderful time of fellowship.

Thank you to Lisa Maupin for providing technical assistance!!

NEWS!! Because we can use ZOOM we have scheduled Officer training for all district and unit officers on Oct 24. Separate rooms for each office and this too will be recorded and placed on the web. What things we can do with ZOOM.

In the Sept/October 2020 issue of response magazine were the following inserts that I felt described the UMW Purpose and our dedication to Mission-Giving.

live

NEW PRAYERS | United Methodist Women is a creative, Supportive fellowship. Often that creativity expresses itself through members' hands as their prayers take the shape of food, clothing, quilts, prayer shawls, and most recently, protective face masks to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 respiratory virus. United Methodist Women members across the country sprung to action as the virus became global and facemasks became the requirement to keep ourselves and others safe.

United Methodist Women members also used their creativity to remain connected even as staying isolated and apart became necessary, with virtual meetings and celebrations and opportunities for spiritual growth. Members stretched themselves in new ways and doubled down on their practice of checking in on one another.

Thanks be to God for United Methodist Women.

give

GIVING IS ACTION | United Methodist Women members' Mission

Giving changes lives. It has been changing lives for the better for 151 years and counting, and it shows no sign of stopping, even during a global health crisis. From continuing to ensure the well-being of retired missionaries and deaconesses to supporting soap-making, mask-making, and food distribution internationally and national mission institutions in the United States. United Methodist Women helps communities adapt to change and uplift the marginalized.

Giving is action. Giving is community building—especially when we must remain physically apart. Giving ensures faith, hope and love in action for women, children, and youth down the street and around the world for 151 more years and beyond.

listen

GOOD NEIGHBORS | United Methodist Women is faith - hope- love in action. Even during a global health crisis United Methodist Women members pray not only with clasped hands but with hands that sew, feed, write and call to make life better for women, children, and youth. Those marginalized by society's systems became only further marginalized by COVID -19 spread.

United Methodist Women's campaigns Just Energy for All, End Maternal Mortality, Living Wage for All, and Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline sprung to action to advocate for neighbors made even more vulnerable by the pandemic.

United Methodist Women members are good neighbors and physical distance will not change that.

act

THE MIRACLE OF MISSION GIVING | Mission Giving: it transports our caring to places we will never go in person. It connects us to all of God's creation. It travels as close as the mission project down the street and as far away as the work of a regional missionary on another continent. It combines everyone's small gifts into one mighty whole. It's the way we live out our Purpose.

Mission Giving is undesignated, unrestrictive giving for the total program of United Methodist Women, and it's been a hallmark of our organization for decades. Mission Giving is our history, starting with "two-cents a week and a prayer" that our foremothers gave. Today, we raise millions of dollars for our work with women, children and youth through the five channels of Mission Giving— millions made up of the small, faithful gifts of hundreds of thousands of women.

Whether we give deliberately, spontaneously, or both, we model the grace of our loving, giving God. Making and keeping a Pledge to Mission encourages spiritual discipline

Mission Giving grows our creative supportive fellowship. Members of United Methodist Women work together to raise funds for mission needs, often through bake sells, bazaars or other special events. We give Special Mission Recognition pins or Gift to Mission cards to honor special people or other events. We celebrate the lives of loved ones with Gift in Memory. The annual World Thank Offering is a time of fun and fellowship in our local unit. We grow together as we learn about the local, national and international mission work our giving makes possible.

Mission Giving is leadership development. Raising funds together fosters teamwork. Treasurers and committee on finance learn budgeting and money management skills as they develop district and conference budgets.

Participation in Mission Giving knits our entire organization together as we share in the responsibility and the joy of giving. That's the miracle of Mission Giving! Visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/give.

Response/September/october2020