

# GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN STANDING RULES

EFFECTIVE 2021-2024

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

1 **HANDBOOK** hereafter refers to *United Methodist Women Handbook 2017-2020*.  
2 **Great Plains United Methodist Women webpage:** [greatplainsumc.org/umw](http://greatplainsumc.org/umw)  
3 **United Methodist Women National Office:** [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org)  
4

## 5 **ARTICLE I: INTRODUCTION** 6

- 7 A. United Methodist Women is a laywomen's organization rooted in mission, whose membership is  
8 open to any woman who shares its PURPOSE. Only laywomen who are members of churches in  
9 the Great Plains Conference may serve as elected Leaders. A laywoman serving as a pastor of a  
10 church is not eligible to serve as an elected or appointed Leader of United Methodist Women.  
11 (HANDBOOK, p. 133)
- 12 B. The Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women shall function in accordance with the  
13 Constitution and Bylaws of United Methodist Women (2017-2020). The Funding the Mission:  
14 Finance Policies and Directions of United Methodist Women 2021-2024 was approved and is  
15 located on the UMW website.  
16

## 17 **ARTICLE II: RELATIONSHIPS** 18

- 19 A. The Great Plains United Methodist Women has the following relationships, in addition to those listed  
20 in HANDBOOK, p. 131-132:
- 21 1. National Mission Institutions (NMIs) <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/nmi>:
    - 22 a. Della Lamb Community Services
    - 23 b. Epworth Village
    - 24 c. United Methodist Ministries in mission as the Big Garden at sites in Kansas, Iowa and  
25 Nebraska.
  - 26 2. Legacy Conference programs that were carried forward into the Great Plains Conference:
    - 27 a. Kansas East Conference – Ministry to Incarcerated Families
    - 28 b. Kansas West Conference – Annual METour (Mission Education Tour) for girls
    - 29 c. Nebraska Conference – Corsages for Mission and the Dedicated Light which are additional  
30 conference channels of Mission Giving that are applied to the Pledge to Mission.
- 31 B. New Units
- 32 1. The Conference President shall write a letter welcoming the unit into the Great Plains  
33 Conference.
  - 34 2. Conference elected Leaders residing within the district shall attend the organizational meeting if  
35 possible.
  - 36 3. A Certificate of Organization shall be presented by the Great Plains Conference United  
37 Methodist Women to the unit at the annual meeting following organization, or at the time of  
38 organization, whichever is deemed appropriate.
  - 39 4. Expenses shall be paid for one person from the newly organized unit to attend the Great Plains  
40 Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting and one Mission u during the first year  
41 following the organizational meeting.
- 42 C. Inactive Units
- 43 1. A unit that chooses to become inactive shall notify the District United Methodist Women  
44 Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator of its inactivity.
  - 45 2. An inactive unit shall continue to file a membership report.
- 46 D. Church Closures
- 47 1. In the event of a church closing, contact with the local unit will be made by the District United  
48 Methodist Women President and Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator and by the  
49 Conference President and Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator.
  - 50 2. Members will be encouraged to join with another unit that is located nearby or to be part of a  
51 district unit.
  - 52 3. Refer to Inactive Unit form found on the Great Plains UMW website.
- 53 E. Realignment of District Boundaries

- 1 1. In the event of realignment of district boundaries by the Great Plains Annual Conference UMC,  
2 the date of transition for United Methodist Women's Districts shall be the same as the date set by  
3 the Annual Conference.
- 4 2. The balance of a unit's pledge to mission shall be paid to their new District as realigned.  
5

### 6 **ARTICLE III: LEADERSHIP** 7

- 8 A. Conference Leaders will be elected at the Annual Meeting for a 2-year term. Each Leader may be  
9 nominated and elected for one additional term in the same leadership role or for a 2-year term in  
10 another leadership role.
  - 11 1. No elected/appointed Leader will hold the same leadership role for more than four years, except  
12 the Treasurer, who can serve in that role for six years. (HANDBOOK, p. 142).
  - 13 2. If a woman has already completed her 8-year tenure in positions other than president, she may  
14 still be elected president. (HANDBOOK, p 142).
  - 15 3. Tenure on the conference Leadership Team is limited to a total of 8 years. (HANDBOOK, p. 142).
  - 16 4. Newly elected Leaders will assume the duties of their office on January 1 following election.
  - 17 5. Conference Leaders, upon their first election and by invitation, will attend National Leadership  
18 Days.
  - 19 6. Positions elected in even-numbered years are: President, Secretary, Communications  
20 Coordinator, Mission Coordinators for Spiritual Growth; Social Action; Membership Nurture &  
21 Outreach; Education & Interpretation and two (2) members of the Committee on Nominations.
  - 22 7. Positions elected in odd-numbered years are: Vice President, Treasurer, Chairperson of  
23 Committee on Nominations, Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation (Journey in  
24 Giving and Journey in Learning combined) Mission Coordinator for Social Action and two (2)  
25 members of the Committee on Nominations.
- 26 B. In addition to the required Leaders (HANDBOOK p. 133-135), the Great Plains Conference will have  
27 the following elected Leaders:
  - 28 1. Communications Coordinator
  - 29 2. Vice President
  - 30 3. Spiritual Growth Coordinator
  - 31 4. Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator
  - 32 5. Education & Interpretation Coordinator
  - 33 6. Social Action Coordinator
- 34 C. Additional Leaders will be appointed by the President in consultation with the Committee on  
35 Nominations, and with Leadership Team approval. The term and tenure will be the same as that of  
36 elected Leaders. The appointed Leaders are:
  - 37 1. Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women METour Director
  - 38 2. Chairperson of Standing Rules Committee
  - 39 3. Legacy Fund Coordinator Conference Liaison (HANDBOOK, p. 35)
  - 40 4. Great Plains United Methodist Women Representative to Church Women United in Kansas
  - 41 5. Great Plains United Methodist Women Representative to Church Women United in Nebraska
  - 42 6. Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women Representative to Legislative Event for  
43 Advocacy in Faith (LEAF)
  - 44 7. Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women Representative to Ecumenical Legislative  
45 Day
  - 46 8. Great Plains United Methodist Women Tour Director(s) as needed for travel to Jurisdiction  
47 Quadrennial Meeting or National Assembly
  - 48 9. Great Plains Conference Mission u Committee Chair  
49

### 50 **ARTICLE IV: COMMITTEES** 51

- 52 A. The Great Plains Conference will have the Committees required in the *Bylaws of United Methodist*  
53 *Women in the Conference*: Leadership Team, Committee on Finance, Committee on Nominations,  
54 Committee on Membership, Committee on Program, and Committee on the Charter for Racial  
55 Justice Policies. (HANDBOOK, p. 135-141) p. 37-42

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## B. Leadership Team:

1. **With voice and vote** – President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, Communications Coordinator, Vice President, Mission Coordinators for Spiritual Growth (Journey in Faith); Social Action (Journey in Action); Membership Nurture & Outreach (Journey in Membership Growth); and Education & Interpretation (Journey in Learning and Journey in Giving). Great Plains United Methodist Women Chairperson of Ministry to Incarcerated Families, Great Plains United Methodist Women METour Chair, Great Plains United Methodist Women Chairperson of Standing Rules, Great Plains United Methodist Women Legacy Fund Coordinator, Great Plains United Methodist Women Representative to Church Women United in Kansas, Great Plains United Methodist Women Representative to Church Women United in Nebraska, Great Plains Conference Representative to Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith (LEAF), Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women Ecumenical Legislative Day Representative, and three (3) Deans of the Great Plains Conference Cooperative Mission u, the District Presidents, and the Bishop. Members of the Jurisdiction Leadership Team and National Director or Program Advisory Group who are members of churches in the Great Plains Conference also have voice and vote. (HANDBOOK, p. 135),
2. **With voice, without vote** – Members of Conference Committees (Nominations, Legacy Fund, Charter for Racial Justice Policies, Standing Rules), volunteer and District Mission Coordinators and members of the South Central Jurisdiction Committee on Nominations who are members of churches in the Great Plains Conference. (HANDBOOK, p. 135-136)

C. All Great Plains United Methodist Women Committees meet concurrently with the Leadership Team or as called by the Chairperson.

D. Committee on Finance – (HANDBOOK, p. 91-97 and p. 137)

E. Committee on Nominations – (HANDBOOK, p. 137-138)

1. The committee will be divided into four classes, with no member serving more than one four-year term. Each of the eight members will be elected for a four-year term, except when classes are established for the first time. Members of a new class will be elected annually to replace the class that is rotating off, with members being elected to fill any vacancies in the other three classes. There will be eight members of the committee on nominations, divided into four three classes.
2. One of those eight will be elected as the chairperson for no more than a two-year term.
3. Attention will be given to representation of the entire geography of the Great Plains Conference.
4. Each class will have one member who resides in Kansas and one member who resides in Nebraska.

F. Committee on Membership – (HANDBOOK, p.138-139)

1. The Great Plains Conference uses the Membership Nurture & Outreach Committee as its Committee on Membership.
2. The Conference Coordinator of the Membership Nurture & Outreach Committee serves as the chairperson.
3. The Committee shall be composed of a representative from the Leadership Team and a rotation of representatives from each district.

G. **Committee on Program** – (HANDBOOK, p.139) The Vice President will serve as chairperson. In addition to information in the *Bylaws of United Methodist Women in the Conference*, the committee will:

1. Plan, implement and promote meetings throughout the entire conference, except Mission u, the METour and spiritual retreats which are the responsibility of other committees/Mission Coordinators.
2. Facilitate arrangements for the Winter and Summer Leadership Team meetings, which include making all needed arrangements regarding location, motel, food, transportation, etc.
3. Evaluate all meetings to ensure that they contribute to fulfilling the PURPOSE.
4. Plan a United Methodist Women's gathering, preferably a luncheon or dinner, at Annual Conference.
5. With the Social Action Coordinator Team, facilitate presentation of the Eunice Harrington Leadership, Service and Advocacy Award at the Great Plains Conference United Methodist

1 Women's Annual Meeting.

2 H. **Committee on Charter for Racial Justice Policies** – The President serves as Chairperson of the  
3 Committee. (HANDBOOK, p. 139-140)

4 I. **Other Committees**

- 5 1. **Mission u Committee** –The Great Plains Mission u is a Cooperative Mission u in partnership  
6 with the Great Plains Conference Mercy and Justice Ministries.  
7 a. The Mission u committee is composed of representatives from United Methodist Women and  
8 Great Plains Mercy and Justice Ministries.  
9 b. The United Methodist Women representatives to the Mission u committee will be the  
10 President and Treasurer.  
11 c. While serving as Dean she/he will be a member of the Conference Leadership Team with  
12 voice and vote.  
13 d. The Mission u committee relates to the Education & Interpretation Coordinator.  
14 2. **Standing Rules Committee** – **There will be 5 members on the committee. Committee**  
15 **members will be appointed by the President, in consultation with the Committee on**  
16 **Nominations and approved by the Leadership Team. The committee consists of the**  
17 **following members, one of whom will be designated as the chairperson:**  
18 a. A member of the Conference Leadership Team  
19 b. A District President  
20 c. At least one person from Kansas  
21 d. At least one person from Nebraska  
22 e. Additional member(s) as needed to have a total of 5 on the committee  
23 f. Conference President and Conference Treasurer are Ex-Officio members  
24 3. **Mission Committees** – **There are four Mission Committees: Spiritual Growth (formerly**  
25 **Journey in Faith), Membership Nurture & Outreach (formerly Journey in Membership**  
26 **Growth), Education & Interpretation (formerly Journey in Giving and Journey in Learning),**  
27 **and Social Action (formerly Journey in Action). Each Mission Committee will have up to**  
28 **17 members.**  
29

30 **ARTICLE V: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

- 31  
32 A. A slate of nominees will be provided to the Leadership Team by the Committee on Nominations at  
33 the Summer Leadership Team Meeting.  
34 B. The Committee on Nominations will send the slate of nominees to the Communications Coordinator  
35 35 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Communications Coordinator will publish the slate on the  
36 conference web page 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting and send an email blast when the slate is  
37 posted.  
38 C. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting each year. There will be opportunity for nominations  
39 from the floor.  
40 D. Election may be by acclamation or by ballot.  
41 1. A majority vote (>50% of persons voting) is sufficient for election OR by a 2/3 majority vote, if the  
42 slate has not been published 30 days in advance of the meeting. (HANDBOOK p. 141)  
43 2. If there is more than one nominee for an office, election will be by paper ballot or electronically.  
44 E. **Voting Body of the Conference Annual Meeting** - All United Methodist Women who are in  
45 attendance and who are members of churches in the Great Plains Conference have voting  
46 privileges. The Bishop, if present, also has voting privileges.  
47 F. The slate of nominees must reflect inclusive representation (age, race, marital status, employment,  
48 geography, etc.).  
49 G. The Committee on Nominations will supply each potential nominee for an elected position a list of  
50 duties for the office as well as a list of connectional boards and agencies, if any, related to that  
51 position.  
52 H. Names of potential Leaders may be submitted to the Committee on Nominations by any member or  
53 group of United Methodist Women.  
54 I. **Nominees for Directors** -- The Committee on Nominations will present two nominees and two  
55 alternate nominees for the Board of Directors of United Methodist Women's National Organization.

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1 Nominations will take place the year prior to the quadrennial meeting with a vote taken at Annual  
2 Meeting.

- 3 J. **Nominees for Program Advisory Group** – The Committee on Nominations will present three  
4 nominees to be considered to serve on the Program Advisory Group of the United Methodist  
5 Women’s National Organization. Nominations will take place the year prior to the quadrennial  
6 meeting with a vote taken at Annual Meeting.  
7

## 8 **ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

9

10 A. Childcare will be provided as needed for conference meetings and events. All childcare providers will  
11 be Safe Gatherings certified. Dependent care for youth and adults will be arranged as needed for  
12 members of the Leadership Team to attend required meetings.

13 B. The Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting will be held in the fall with  
14 the date and location determined by the Leadership Team. The date will be published at least 1 year  
15 in advance.

- 16 1. The Annual Meeting is an official gathering of United Methodist Women and will be planned so  
17 that all aspects are in keeping with the Purpose and policies of the organization, including the  
18 offering recipient.  
19 2. The offering will be directed toward programs for which United Methodist Women has  
20 responsibility. These programs include Mission Giving to any of the 5 national channels of giving  
21 to help meet or exceed the Conference Pledge to Mission or to Supplementary giving for our  
22 Great Plains NMIs: Della Lamb, Epworth Village and The Big Garden. (HANDBOOK, p. 96)  
23 3. Elections will be held as outlined in Article V of these Standing Rules.  
24 4. **Jurisdiction/National Representation.** At the Annual Meeting in the year prior to the  
25 Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, the following are elected:  
26 a. Conference representatives to the Jurisdiction meeting and  
27 b. Nominees for National Board of Directors/Program Advisory Group. (HANDBOOK, p. 142-  
28 143)

29 C. Other meetings and events:

- 30 1. The **Leadership Team** will meet twice each year.  
31 a. National Representation – At the Summer Leadership Team Meeting in the year of Assembly.  
32 b. Special meetings of the Leadership Team may be called by the President for a stated  
33 purpose. There will be one item only on the agenda.  
34 c. Written or electronic notice must be received by participants at least 7 days in advance of the  
35 meeting unless it is an emergency.  
36 d. Conference call, video conference or other electronic conference meetings may be called by  
37 the President, provided that all members participating in the meeting can hear and be heard  
38 by the other participants at the same time.  
39 e. Mail ballot and electronic communications:  
40 1) Mail ballot is considered to include email, facsimile or other written or electronic  
41 communications, provided all members entitled to vote have access to such means of  
42 communication.  
43 2) A clearly stated deadline for receipt of votes will be published with the ballot.  
44 3) Eligible voters will receive email notification or be mailed the results of the ballot within 3  
45 days after the voting deadline has been reached.  
46 2. **Mission u** locations and dates will be determined by the Mission u planning team.  
47 3. **Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith (LEAF) and Ecumenical Legislative Day** will be  
48 supported by the Great Plains United Methodist Women.  
49 4. **The METour** Team will set the date, plan and lead the METour.  
50 5. There will be a United Methodist Women gathering, preferably for lunch or dinner, during the  
51 Annual Conference, dependent upon the Annual Conference schedule.  
52 6. **Conference Spiritual Retreats** will be offered in odd numbered years and planned by the  
53 Spiritual Growth Coordinator Committee.

1 **7. Quadrennial Meeting:**

- 2 a. The President, Treasurer and Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations will be the  
3 three (3) voting delegates for the South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting.  
4 b. The first alternate will be the Vice President. The second alternate will be the Secretary.

5 **8. National Assembly:**

- 6 a. Decisions about attendance will be made at the Summer Leadership Team Meeting two  
7 years prior to Assembly.  
8 b. Conference President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairperson of the Committee on  
9 Nominations, Communications Coordinator, Vice President, Mission Coordinators (Social  
10 Action; Spiritual Growth; Education & Interpretation; Membership Nurture & Outreach)  
11 and District Presidents will attend at Conference expense. Registration, transportation,  
12 lodging (2/room) and meals will be reimbursed.  
13 c. There are no substitutions, except in the case of last-minute emergencies, as approved  
14 by the Conference President.  
15 d. At least three scholarship recipients, with preference given to women under age 35,  
16 women of diversity and/or first-time attendees will be selected. Registration,  
17 transportation, lodging (2/room) and meals are reimbursed. The Committee on Finance  
18 will consider additional scholarships and make a recommendation to the Leadership  
19 Team.  
20 e. It is recommended that there be two Tour Directors, one from the western Great Plains  
21 Conference and one from the eastern Great Plains Conference. It is preferred that  
22 Leaders in the pattern of attendance (b above) serve as the directors.  
23 f. If Tour Directors are not any of the Leaders listed above, their registration, transportation,  
24 lodging (2/room) and meals are reimbursed.

25 **10. National Leadership Development Days:**

26 The following newly elected conference Leaders will attend if invited Leadership Development  
27 Days: President, Treasurer, Chairperson of Committee on Nominations.  
28

29 **ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS AND STANDING RULES**

- 30  
31 A. The Standing Rules are procedural statements and are supplementary to the current *Constitution of*  
32 *the United Methodist Women in the Conference, Bylaws of the United Methodist Women in the*  
33 *Conference* (HANDBOOK, p. 129-145) and *Funding the Mission: Finance Policies and Directions of*  
34 *United Methodist Women*. (Available online). They are designed to ensure continuity of procedures.  
35 B. Standing Rules may be amended, provided they are in harmony with the current issue of the  
36 *Constitution of the United Methodist Women in the Conference, Bylaws of the United Methodist*  
37 *Women in the Conference* (HANDBOOK, p. 129-145) and *Funding the Mission: Finance Policies*  
38 *and Directions of United Methodist Women* (Available online).  
39 C. Changes and additions to the Standing Rules are to be approved by the voting members of the  
40 conference organization at its Annual Meeting. They may be amended by a majority vote with 30  
41 days previous notice or by 2/3 majority vote without previous notice.  
42

43 MOTION FOR INITIAL APPROVAL: The Standing Rules Committee of the Great Plains United  
44 Methodist Women recommends approval of the 2021-2024 Standing Rules as presented to the  
45 membership at the Great Plains Annual Meeting on September 18, 2021.

46 (Typically, the Standing Rules would only need changing after a new Quadrennial United Methodist  
47 Women Handbook is issued. The HANDBOOK 2021-2024 will be up for approval after General  
48 Conference).