

The SIGNAL

Great Plains

Spring 2022



United
Women
in Faith

United Women of Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

Calendar of Events

2022

May 20-22

National UMW Assembly in Orlando, FL

2022 Five Rivers District Officers

President: Rachel Wegener, 5121 Congressional Circle, #C101, Lawrence, KS 66049 (785) 766-9598, rachelwegener@yahoo.com	Class of 2022
Vice President: Position vacant	Class of 2026
Secretary: Dorothy Miller, 23723 NW Mitchell Rd., Garnett, KS 66032 (785) 448-3007, rdmiller62@gmail.com	Class of 2023
Treasurer: Donna Grigsby, PO Box 661, Iola, KS 66749 (703) 403-8257, donna.grigsby46@gmail.com	Class of 2022
Communication Coordinator: Julie Ward, 701 Arkansas St., Lawrence, KS 66044 (573) 795-5425, jward@usd497.org	Class of 2024
<u>Mission Coordinators</u>	
Journey in Faith: Nancy Rockers, PO Box 37, Greeley, KS 66033 (785) 867-3933, Wrock21@aol.com	Class of 2021
Journey in Action: Rogene McPherson, 12921 Faucett Rd., Centerville, KS 66014 (913) 579-6379, rkj.mcpherson65@yahoo.com	Class of 2022
Journey in Giving & Learning: Shirley Benjamin, 21757 SW Maryland, Garnett, KS 66032 (785) 214-3966, no email	Class of 2022
Journey in Growth: Ruth Jansen, 741 S Tremont, Ottawa, KS 66067 (785) 242-1917, ruthjansenZ13@gmail.com	Class of 2023
Program Resources: Roberta Selvy, 601 W. 14th St., Pleasanton, KS 66075 (913) 352-8360, (813) 789-8116, rselvy@gmail.com	Class of 2023
Nominations Chair: Position vacant	Class of 2026
Nominations Committee: Kimi Wilson, 910 Brown Ave., Osawatomie, KS 66064 (913) 594-2470, wilsonkimis@gmail.com	Class of 2022
(2) Vacant Positions	Class of 2024

2022 Five Rivers District Big Sister/ Little Sister List

Big Sister

Little Sisters

Rachel Wegener

Baldwin First, Lawrence Centenary, Lawrence First, Vinland, & Worden

Rachel Wegener

Clearfield, Edgerton, Ives Chapel, & Wellsville

Julie Ward

Melvern/Quenemo, Plum Creek, Osawatomie, & Richter

Dorothy Miller

Beagle, Blue Mound, Parker, & Turkey Creek

Rogene McPherson

Ft. Scott First, Fulton, Hammond, Hiattville, Pleasanton, Prescott, & West Liberty

Ruth Jansen

Eudora, Princeton, Ottawa Trinity, Richmond, & Welda

Nancy Rockers

New Lancaster, Paola, & Uniontown

Donna Grigsby

Colony, Garnett, & Humboldt

Shirley Benjamin

Gridley, Iola, Lyndon, & Vassar

Roberta Selvy

Fontana, La Cygne, Lane, Mound City, & Ottawa First

Messages From Your Five Rivers District UMW Officers

From the President

Blessings to each of you! I pray that each of you and your families have been doing your best to stay safe and healthy with the current world we all are living in. Due to the Covid virus variances I met with the Five Rivers District Executive Team via Zoom, and we decided that the best thing to do is not to meet this Spring. We will meet as a team in late June or early July and decide at that time whether it feels safe enough to try and have an in-person meeting in the Fall. The Fall newsletter will have the decision as to whether we will try to meet in the fall. Let's hope for the best.

Even though we haven't met in person, it is still very important for each unit to keep their financial pledge as up-to-date as possible. National needs our financial support more than ever to help women, children, and youth. We have a new name which was announced on March 2, 2022. We are now called United Women in Faith. This move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth. The purpose is now: United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

On a local level, this year we have three positions currently vacant - Vice President, Chair of Nominations, and Nominations Member. I bring this subject up because we, as a district, will have several vacancies that will need to be filled for our district to continue to be a viable district to the Great Plains Conference next year. Please look over the listing below and I request that you give it your heartfelt thought to consider stepping out of your comfort zone and stepping up to fill one of these upcoming vacant positions.

2023 - 2026 Term Five Rivers District Offices

President

Vice President

Treasurer

Nominations Chair

Nominations Member

Journey in Giving & Learning

If you feel so moved, please contact me or any of the other Five Rivers District Executive Team to ask questions or offer your assistance to serve.

I will close with this prayer:

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And rains fall soft upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Rachel Wegener, President

Five Rivers District UMW

drwegener@reagan.com

(785) 766-9598

From the Secretary

Dear Friends,

As our women's organization has been renamed United Women in Faith, it seems a good time to reflect on our past 150 years as an organization in our church. We've had 25 different names throughout these years. What a history! As United Methodist Women/ United Women of Faith, we continue our mission of service spreading God's love. Our symbol is new, the words of our purpose are different, but our goals are the same - to live out God's love in service.

Now should be a good time to pursue our former minutes and other records to reflect on how our units have changed and developed over the years. Also, to focus on the importance of how we are currently developing new things with a new name to spread the Word of God in new and different ways to a new generation of women.

As things change, the Lord our God is the same!

Isaiah 40:28 "Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God. The Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom".

May you all have a blessed Easter!

Dorothy Miller, Secretary
Five Rivers District UMW

From the Treasurer

I'm sure you have heard that the name for United Methodist Women has been changed to United Women in Faith. The District and Local units are not required to change their name or bank accounts at this time. Therefore, Five Rivers District will continue to accept your Mission pledges and donations payable to "Five Rivers District UMW".

There are some new Treasurers this year. I also want to welcome the local treasurers from the Parsons District. You can find instructions and needed forms at the Great Plains Conference website: <https://www.greatplainsumc.org/umw-treasurer-forms>. Look under the Unit Treasurers Forms

heading to find any form you might need. The two you will use the most are **Unit Remittance Form** and **Unit Special Mission Recognition (SMR) order form**.

The National Mission Institutions (NMI) designated for receiving Five Rivers District offerings in 2022 is **Della Lamb**. The NMI designated for receiving Parsons District offering in 2022 is **Epworth Village**.

If you have questions, email or call me. I'm here to help you do your job effectively.

Blessings,

Donna Grigsby

PO Box 661, Iola, KS 66749

(703) 403-8257

donna.grigsby46@gmail.com

From Journey in Faith

Dear Five Rivers District United Women in Faith,

“But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint” Isaiah 40:31.

How do we wait upon the Lord? We take a day out of the week to rest, traditionally Sunday. We change our routine. We appreciate and enjoy our friends and family. We do good for people in need. We go to work. We listen to our favorite music. We cook. We clean. If we are 24/7 caregivers, we find helpers to give us a break. We garden. We craft. We sew. We take a walk. We go to our regular medical appointments. We drink a cup of tea. We relax. We share. We donate. We take a break from TV and social media. We attend Bible study. We read scripture. We pray. We listen for that still, strong voice for guidance. We wait upon the Lord to renew our strength.

Have a pleasant Spring and Summer. I hope to see you at the 2022 Fall UWF district meeting.

In faith,

Nancy Rockers
Journey in Faith
Five Rivers District

From Journey in Action

Sing an Old Song with a New Voice

*Jesus loves the little children,
All the children of the world.
Red and yellow, black and white,
They are precious in His sight,
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

Many children connected to a Christian church between the 1930's and today have at least sung the above refrain in Sunday School, summer Bible School or in a children's choir. It was likely one of the first songs I learned as a child. You, too, perhaps.

Originally published in 1913, the song, *Jesus Loves the Little Children*, was written by a pastor-magician, C. Herbert Woolston. He attended seminary in a building used as a Union Civil War Hospital, keeping in mind the first grueling stages of freeing a discriminated population.

Woolston wrote this song with three themes, but all meant to tell children of Jesus' love and grace for every child. Stanza one emphasized Jesus calling the children of the world and taking them by the hand, stanza two about the Good Shepherd, and stanza three, the soldier seeking the comfort of Christ. Woolston believed he had reached more than a million children in his lifetime because of this song.

The song has been modified in many ways throughout history, but today's four stanzas reflect Jesus' love, death, prayers, and help. Some newer versions includes, brown, red and yellow....

It is my hope this child's song encourages us to think about one of our two UMW priorities - Mass Incarceration/Criminalization of Communities of Color. I encouraged us in our last newsletter to pray for strength, time and ideas. My second "action step" is for you to hum this song or encourage singing *Jesus Loves the Little Children* in your Sunday morning service. In the next newsletter, I hope to do a book review of one of the books from our UMW national book list.

In summary, as the Journey in Action district officer, I encourage you to pray, sing, and read about the first of our two priorities.

Love to all my sisters and brothers of any color, size or personality, world-wide, to take Jesus by the hand,

Rogene McPherson
Journey in Action

From Journey of Giving and Learning

Hello to all of you on this Journey of Giving, Education, and Interpretation. Happy Spring! Trees are budding, flowers are coming up, and grass is growing (time to get the mower ready). My Grandpa would have the potatoes in the ground - garden time.

We have some learning to do - UMW is changing to United Women in Faith. We can learn more in the March and April Response magazine which tells us why and more.

Hopefully we can meet in person this year, sometime and somewhere. Hope you are well and happy. God is so good to us.

Love, and God Bless,
Shirley Benjamin
Journey in Giving and Learning

From Program Resources

The Reading Program has a list of great books that can inspire and motivate you. As in the past few years, to purchase books or get books on loan, check the following list:

Schools and public libraries
Local independent bookstores
Franchises or larger bookstore chains
Amazon

As always, most Reading Program books can also be found electronically on your Kindle, tablet, or other devices. For ebooks free of charge, check your local library, Google eBookstore, Project Gutenberg, or Open Library.

If you order books through Amazon, please remember to visit smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% to United Methodist Women/ United Women in Faith.

If you have a computer or know of someone who will print the list of books, here is the link to the reading program: Reading Program Catalog 2021-2022 (umwmissionresources.org). It is a long document of 65 pages, since it shows the picture and a synopsis of the book.

Have a blessed and safe year,
Your sister in Christ,
Roberta Selvy
Program Resources

From Communications Coordinator

Spring is finally here and I am so thankful for the signs of it all around me. I'd like to share this poem by Mary Oliver - it reminds me to be thankful for the little things. It also reminds me that my conversations with God don't have to be fancy, but they do have to include silence in which God can answer. I need to remember to keep silent (even though it feels uncomfortable) and listen for the voice of God.

“Praying”

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

By Mary Oliver

Grace and peace,
Julie Ward
Communications Coordinator

Five Rivers District UMW/UWF
Julie Ward, Communication Coordinator
701 Arkansas St.
Lawrence, KS 66044

