

GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN STANDING RULES

EFFECTIVE 2017 – 2021

ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

**HANDBOOK hereafter refers to *United Methodist Women Handbook 2017-2020*.
Great Plains United Methodist Women webpage: greatplainsumc.org/umw
United Methodist Women National Office: unitedmethodistwomen.org**

ARTICLE I: INTRODUCTION

- A. United Methodist Women is a laywomen's organization rooted in mission, whose membership is open to any woman who shares its PURPOSE. Only laywomen who are members of churches in the Great Plains Conference may serve as elected Leaders. A laywoman serving as a pastor of a church is not eligible to serve as an elected or appointed Leader of United Methodist Women. (HANDBOOK, p. 133)
- B. The Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women shall function in accordance with the *Constitution of the United Methodist Women in the Conference*, *Bylaws of the United Methodist Women in the Conference*, and "The Conference and Its Finances" (HANDBOOK, p. 91-97) as adopted by the United Methodist Women's National Organization for the current quadrennium.

ARTICLE II: RELATIONSHIPS

- A. The Great Plains United Methodist Women has the following relationships, in addition to those listed in HANDBOOK, p. 131-132:
 1. National Mission Institutions (NMIs) <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/nmi>:
 - a. Della Lamb Community Services;
 - b. Epworth Village;
 - c. United Methodist Ministries in mission as the Big Garden at sites in Kansas, Iowa and Nebraska.
 2. Legacy Conference programs that were carried forward into the Great Plains Conference:
 - a. Kansas East Conference – Ministry to Incarcerated Families;
 - b. Kansas West Conference – Annual METour (Mission Education Tour) for girls;
 - c. Nebraska Conference – Corsages for Mission and the Dedicated Light which are additional conference channels of Mission Giving that are applied to the Pledge to Mission.
- B. New Units
 1. The Conference President shall write a letter welcoming the unit into the Great Plains Conference.
 2. Conference elected Leaders residing within the district shall attend the organizational meeting if possible.
 3. A Certificate of Organization shall be presented by the Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women to the unit at the annual meeting following organization, or at the time of organization, whichever is deemed appropriate.
 4. Expenses shall be paid for one person from the newly-organized unit to attend the Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting and one Mission u during the first year following the organizational meeting.
- C. Inactive Units
 1. A unit that chooses to become inactive shall notify the District United Methodist Women Membership Growth Journey Team Leader of its inactivity.
 2. An inactive unit shall continue to file a membership report.
- D. Church Closures
 1. In the event of a church closing, contact with the local unit will be made by the District United Methodist Women President and Membership Growth Journey Team Leader and by the Conference President and Membership Growth Team Leader.
 2. Members will be encouraged to join with another unit that is located nearby or to be part of a district unit.
- E. Realignment of District Boundaries
 1. In the event of realignment of district boundaries by the Great Plains Annual Conference UMC, the date of transition for United Methodist Women's Districts shall be the same as the date set by the Annual Conference.

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- 1 2. The balance of a unit's pledge to mission shall be paid to their new District as realigned.
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ARTICLE III: LEADERSHIP

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

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49 A. The Great Plains Conference will have the Committees required in the *Bylaws of United Methodist*
50 *Women in the Conference*: Leadership Team, Committee on Finance, Committee on Nominations,
51 Committee on Membership, Committee on Program, and Committee on the Charter for Racial
52 Justice Policies. (HANDBOOK, p. 135-141)
53 B. **Leadership Team:**
54 1. **With voice and vote** – President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairperson of the Committee on
55 Nominations, Communications Coordinator, Vice President, Journey Team Leaders (Faith,

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- 1 Membership Growth, Learning, Giving and Action); Program Resource Coordinator, Great Plains
2 United Methodist Women Chairperson of Ministry to Incarcerated Families, Great Plains United
3 Methodist Women METour Director, Great Plains United Methodist Women Librarian, Great
4 Plains United Methodist Women Chairperson of Standing Rules, Great Plains United Methodist
5 Women Legacy Fund Conference Liaison, Great Plains United Methodist Women
6 Representative to Church Women United in Kansas, Great Plains United Methodist Women
7 Representative to Church Women United in Nebraska, Great Plains Conference Representative
8 to LEAF, Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women Ecumenical Legislative Day
9 Representative, and three (3) Deans of the Great Plains Conference Cooperative Mission u, the
10 District Presidents, and the Bishop. Members of the Jurisdiction Leadership Team and National
11 Director or Program Advisory Group who are members of churches in the Great Plains
12 Conference also have voice and vote. (HANDBOOK, p. 135),
- 13 2. **With voice, without vote** -- District Treasurers, Members of Conference Committees
14 (Nominations, Legacy Fund, Charter for Racial Justice Policies, Standing Rules), volunteer and
15 district members of Journey Teams and members of the South Central Jurisdiction Committee
16 on Nominations who are members of churches in the Great Plains Conference. (HANDBOOK, p.
17 135-136)
- 18 C. All Great Plains United Methodist Women Committees meet concurrently with the Leadership Team
19 or as called by the Chairperson.
- 20 D. **Committee on Finance** – (HANDBOOK, p. 91-97 and p. 137)
- 21 E. **Committee on Nominations** – (HANDBOOK, p. 137-138)
- 22 1. There will be nine members of the committee on nominations, divided into three classes.
23 2. One of those nine will be elected as the chairperson for a two-year term.
24 3. Attention will be given to representation of the **entire** geography of the Great Plains Conference.
25 4. Each class will have at least one member who resides in Kansas and one member who resides
26 in Nebraska.
- 27 F. **Committee on Membership** – (HANDBOOK, p.138-139)
- 28 1. The Great Plains Conference uses the Journey in Membership Growth Team as its Committee
29 on Membership.
30 2. The Team Leader of the Membership Growth Team serves as the chairperson.
31 3. The team shall be composed of a representative from the Leadership Team and a rotation of
32 representatives from each district.
- 33 G. **Committee on Program** – (HANDBOOK, p.139) The Vice President will serve as chairperson. In
34 addition to information in the *Bylaws of United Methodist Women in the Conference*, the committee
35 will:
- 36 1. Plan, implement and promote meetings throughout the entire conference, except Mission u, the
37 METour and spiritual retreats which are the responsibility of other committees/Journey Teams.
38 2. Facilitate arrangements for the Winter and Summer Leadership Team meetings, which include
39 making all needed arrangements regarding location, motel, food, transportation, etc.
40 3. Evaluate all meetings to ensure that they contribute to fulfilling the PURPOSE.
41 4. Plan a United Methodist Women’s gathering, preferably a luncheon or dinner, at Annual
42 Conference.
43 5. With the Journey in Action Team, facilitate presentation of the Eunice Harrington Leadership,
44 Service and Advocacy Award at the Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women’s Annual
45 Meeting.
- 46 H. **Committee on Charter for Racial Justice Policies** – The President serves as Chairperson of the
47 Committee. (HANDBOOK, p. 139-140)
- 48 I. **Other Committees**
- 49 1. **Mission u Committee** –The Great Plains Mission u is a Cooperative Mission u in partnership
50 with the Great Plains Conference Mercy and Justice Team.
51 a. The Mission u committee is composed of representatives from United Methodist Women and
52 Great Plains Mercy and Justice.
53 b. The United Methodist Women representatives to the Mission u committee will be the
54 President, Treasurer, and Program Resource Coordinator.

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- 1 c. While serving as Dean she/he will be a member of the Conference Leadership Team with
2 voice and vote.
- 3 d. The Mission u committee relates to the Journey in Learning Team.
- 4 2. **Standing Rules Committee** – There will be 5 members on the committee. Committee members
5 will be appointed by the President, in consultation with the Committee on Nominations and
6 approved by the Leadership Team. The committee consists of the following members, one of
7 whom will be designated as the chairperson:
 - 8 a. A member of the Conference Leadership Team
 - 9 b. A District President
 - 10 c. At least one person from Kansas
 - 11 d. At least one person from Nebraska
 - 12 e. Additional member(s) as needed to have a total of 5 on the committee
- 13 3. **Legacy Fund Committee** – There will be a Legacy Fund committee that serves through 2019.
14 The Legacy Fund Conference Liaison (HANDBOOK, p. 35) will serve as chairperson of the
15 committee.
- 16 4. **Journey Teams** - There are five Journey Teams: Journey in Faith, Journey in Membership
17 Growth, Journey in Giving, Journey in Learning, and Journey in Action. Each Journey Team will
18 have 8-12 members.

ARTICLE V: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- 22 A. A slate of nominees will be provided to the Leadership Team by the Committee on Nominations at
23 the Summer Leadership Team Meeting.
- 24 B. The Committee on Nominations will send the slate of nominees to the Communications Coordinator
25 35 days prior to the Annual Meeting. The Communications Coordinator will publish the slate on the
26 conference web page 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting and send an email blast when the slate is
27 posted.
- 28 C. Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting each year. There will be opportunity for nominations
29 from the floor.
- 30 D. Election may be by acclamation or by ballot.
 - 31 1. A majority vote (>50% of persons voting) is sufficient for election OR by a 2/3 majority vote, if the
32 slate has not been published 30 days in advance of the meeting. (HANDBOOK p. 141)
 - 33 2. If there is more than one nominee for an office, election will be by paper ballot.
- 34 E. **Voting Body of the Conference Annual Meeting** - All United Methodist Women who are in
35 attendance and who are members of churches in the Great Plains Conference have voting
36 privileges. The Bishop, if present, also has voting privileges.
- 37 F. The slate of nominees must reflect inclusive representation (age, race, marital status, employment,
38 geography, etc.).
- 39 G. The Committee on Nominations will supply each potential nominee for an elected position a list of
40 duties for the office as well as a list of connectional boards and agencies, if any, related to that
41 position.
- 42 H. Names of potential Leaders may be submitted to the Committee on Nominations by any member or
43 group of United Methodist Women.
- 44 I. **Nominees for Directors** -- The Committee on Nominations will present two nominees and two
45 alternate nominees for the Board of Directors of United Methodist Women's National Organization.
46 Nominations will take place the year prior to the quadrennial meeting with a vote taken at Annual
47 Meeting.
- 48 J. **Nominees for Program Advisory Group** – The Committee on Nominations will present three
49 nominees to be considered to serve on the Program Advisory Group of the United Methodist
50 Women's National Organization. Nominations will take place the year prior to the quadrennial
51 meeting with a vote taken at Annual Meeting.
- 52 K. **Nominees for National Seminar** – At the Summer Leadership Team Meeting following Assembly,
53 the Committee on Nominations will present two nominees to attend. These nominees are elected by
54 the Leadership Team.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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- 3 A. Childcare will be provided as needed for conference meetings and events. All childcare providers
- 4 will be Safe Gatherings certified. Dependent care for youth and adults will be arranged as needed
- 5 for members of the Leadership Team to attend required meetings.
- 6 B. The Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting will be held in the fall with
- 7 the date and location determined by the Leadership Team. The date will be published at least 1 year
- 8 in advance.
- 9 1. The Annual Meeting is an official gathering of United Methodist Women and will be planned so
- 10 that all aspects are in keeping with the Purpose and policies of the organization, including the
- 11 offering recipient.
- 12 2. The offering will be directed toward programs for which United Methodist Women has
- 13 responsibility. These programs include Mission Giving to any of the 5 national channels of giving
- 14 to help meet or exceed the Conference Pledge to Mission or to Supplementary giving for our
- 15 Great Plains NMIs: Della Lamb, Epworth Village and The Big Garden. (HANDBOOK, p. 96)
- 16 3. Elections will be held as outlined in Article V of these Standing Rules.
- 17 4. **Jurisdiction/National Representation.** At the Annual Meeting in the year prior to the
- 18 Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting, the following are elected:
- 19 a. Conference representatives to the Jurisdiction meeting and
- 20 b. Nominees for National Board of Directors/Program Advisory Group. (HANDBOOK, p. 142-
- 21 143)
- 22 C. Other meetings and events:
- 23 1. The **Leadership Team** will meet twice each year.
- 24 a. National Representation – At the Summer Leadership Team Meeting in the year of
- 25 Assembly, the conference representatives to National Seminar will be elected.
- 26 b. Special meetings of the Leadership Team may be called by the President for a stated
- 27 purpose. There will be one item only on the agenda.
- 28 c. Written or electronic notice must be received by participants at least 7 days in advance of the
- 29 meeting unless it is an emergency.
- 30 d. Conference call, video conference or other electronic conference meetings may be called by
- 31 the President, provided that all members participating in the meeting can hear and be heard
- 32 by the other participants at the same time.
- 33 e. Mail ballot and electronic communications:
- 34 1) Mail ballot is considered to include email, facsimile or other written or electronic
- 35 communications, provided all members entitled to vote have access to such means of
- 36 communication.
- 37 2) A clearly stated deadline for receipt of votes will be published with the ballot.
- 38 3) Eligible voters will receive email notification or be mailed the results of the ballot within 3
- 39 days after the voting deadline has been reached.
- 40 2. **Mission u** locations and dates will be determined by the Mission u planning team.
- 41 3. **LEAF** and **Ecumenical Legislative Day** will be supported by the Great Plains United Methodist
- 42 Women.
- 43 4. **The METour** Team will set the date, plan and lead the METour.
- 44 5. There will be a United Methodist Women gathering, preferably for lunch or dinner, during the
- 45 Annual Conference, dependent upon the Annual Conference schedule.
- 46 6. **Conference Spiritual Retreats** will be offered in odd numbered years and planned by the
- 47 Journey in Faith team.
- 48 7. **Quadrennial Meeting:**
- 49 a. The President, Treasurer and Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations will be the three
- 50 (3) voting delegates for the South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting.
- 51 b. The first alternate will be the Vice President. The second alternate will be the Secretary.
- 52 8. **National Assembly:**
- 53 a. Decisions about attendance will be made at the Summer Leadership Team Meeting two
- 54 years prior to Assembly.

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- b. Conference President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations, Communications Coordinator, Vice President, Journey Team Leaders (Action, Faith, Giving, Membership Growth, and Learning) and District Presidents will attend at Conference expense. Registration, transportation, lodging (2/room) and meals will be reimbursed.
 - c. There are no substitutions, except in the case of last minute emergencies, as approved by the Conference President.
 - d. At least three scholarship recipients, with preference given to women under age 35 will be selected. Registration, transportation, lodging (2/room) and meals are reimbursed. The Committee on Finance will consider additional scholarships and make a recommendation to the Leadership Team.
 - e. It is recommended that there be two Tour Directors, one from the western Great Plains Conference and one from the eastern Great Plains Conference. It is preferred that Leaders in the pattern of attendance (b above) serve as the directors.
 - f. If Tour Directors are not any of the Leaders listed above, their registration, transportation, lodging (2/room) and meals are reimbursed.
9. **National Seminar:** There will be two representatives.
- a. One conference elected Leader.
 - b. One other person (such as a district Leader or local member with a passion for social justice).
 - c. One woman of color or Native American.
 - d. At least one under 40 years of age.
 - e. The conference and district representative should have at least one year of tenure remaining after National Seminar.
 - f. Each representative must commit to follow through on specific action through United Methodist Women and work with the other representative(s) to follow-up at the conference, district and local levels.
10. **National Leadership Development Days:**
- a. The following newly elected conference Leaders will attend Leadership Development Days: President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chairperson of Committee on Nominations, Communications Coordinator, Vice President, Program Resource Coordinator and the Journey Team Leaders (Faith, Giving, Membership Growth, Learning and Action).
 - b. All newly elected conference Leaders listed above, if not covered by National, will be reimbursed for registration, transportation, lodging (2/room) and meals to attend National Leadership Development Days within the year following their election.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS AND STANDING RULES

- A. The Standing Rules are procedural statements and are supplementary to the current *Constitution of the United Methodist Women in the Conference, Bylaws of the United Methodist Women in the Conference* (HANDBOOK, p. 129-145) and "The Conference and Its Finances" (HANDBOOK, p. 91-97). They are designed to ensure continuity of procedures.
- B. Standing Rules may be amended, provided they are in harmony with the current issue of the *Constitution of the United Methodist Women in the Conference, Bylaws of the United Methodist Women in the Conference* (HANDBOOK, p. 129-145) and "The Conference and Its Finances" (HANDBOOK, p. 91-97).
- C. Changes and additions to the Standing Rules are to be approved by the voting members of the conference organization at its Annual Meeting. They may be amended by a majority vote with 30 days previous notice or by 2/3 majority vote without previous notice.

MOTION FOR INITIAL APPROVAL: The Standing Rules Committee of the Great Plains United Methodist Women recommends approval of the 2017-2021 Standing Rules as presented to the membership at the Great Plains Annual Meeting on September 30, 2017.

(Typically, the Standing Rules would only need changed after a new Quadrennial United Methodist Women Handbook is issued.)