



United
Women
in Faith

Cascadia District Spirit Newsletter

June 2022

Dear Sisters in Christ,

We have a new name, a new logo, a new website, and renewed enthusiasm for living out our mission to support women, youth, and children around the world. This is not the first time we have had a name change. Our organization has been known by more than 25 names during our 150-year history. Our new name, United Women in Faith, reflects exciting new changes in our programming with a focus on making the changes we need to grow our faith and put our faith into action in the world.

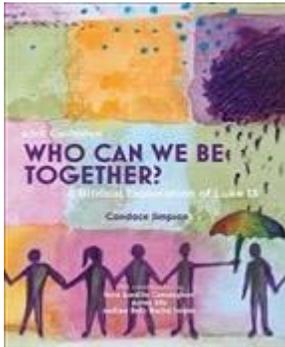
We will remain the official women's organization of the United Methodist Church and remain open to members from any faith tradition. We will maintain the legal name United Methodist Women while operating as United Women in Faith. You will see the name United Methodist Women used in some places, but this will become less as time goes on.

Our new website is www.uwfaith.org Several opportunities for learning are available on the website such as Faith Talks, Just Energy for All Campaign, and Voices from the Field. Our Reading Program offers opportunities to learn about a variety of topics. Take some time to explore the website and find something that stirs you to action.

Mission U is just around the corner. Once again, this year it will be a virtual event and free to participants. We will have two sessions which will have the same curriculum, "Who Can We Be Together" based on Luke 13. We're trying a Friday, Saturday, Sunday option this year to accommodate working women. Please join us for either session. (The flyer is on the next page).

Love in action can change the world!

Penny Hodge, Cascadia District President



Virtual Mission u

July 14- 16 and/or July 29-31

Who Can We be Together?

Building Communities of Hope and Joy

Please join us at Mission u 2022 as we reflect on the COMMUNITY that Jesus is calling us to be.

We find ourselves in a period of disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, divisive political climate, unaddressed systemic racism, ecological crises and economic turmoil, we turn to the stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities for two millennia.

Study leaders:

Janessa Chastain & Sheryl Aydelott

One study option; both dates will offer the same study

No charge

Co-deans: Ingrid Cook - ianddcook@gmail.com

Janice Stevens - grandmamaj@comcast.net

Register online [HERE](#) beginning June 1st or download and print a form [HERE](#).

It is not necessary to purchase a study book; just read Luke 13 before you attend.

More information available at [Oregon-Idaho: Mission u \(umoi.org\)](http://umoi.org)

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Change

In nearly every segment of our culture, people are saying that this pandemic is pushing forward change. Out of necessity, we have had to quickly adapt to new way of doing life. On=line medical and mental health care; education from home, via computers; businesses adapting to distance meetings with employees working from home; shopping on-line taking a big jump in sales; churches worshipping on-line, with zoom meetings to carry on their mission. All speak to the change that has occurred very quickly.

While it remains to be seen which of these changes will be permanent, I believe it has pushed many areas of our society forward more quickly than planned, it its use of technology and the possibilities they present for the future.

For me, one of the questions I wrestle with is: “do we have the wisdom to work with the changes that have begun? Can we use technology well, or will it become a place to exploit people and increase the divide between the haves and the have-nots?

Already we are concerned with the inequity of education. Children with no access to computers or internet are at a great disadvantage in this new model of education. If it continues, are we wise enough to bring all our children along? Can we be wise enough to expand health care under a new model, or will many be left behind? At times, I think our wisdom, as human beings, has not developed as quickly as the advances we make.

We look with horror at the abuses on the internet, and the manipulation of ideas, people, history, misinformation and exploitation of facts and truth. WE step back in confusion and inaction as to how to correct our mistakes and monitor the abuses. It remains a deep concern for our society and our corporate health as we struggle to move into a post-pandemic world.

While I believe that changes will come, I also see the need for a deeper, more profound change...that of the human spirit.

This pandemic has brought to the forefront of life the inequity, the ugliness, a divisive spirit the exists throughout the world. Despite all our advances, we struggle to provide basic needs, and a minimal way of life for so many.

If we are to live together and all thrive, there is a deeper change that must come first. It is the change of heart and soul. The changes in technology and social advances are changes on the surface of our society. They can be a tool to connect and means of caring for one another. But they will not solve the ills of our souls. Only when we have a deep change of heart, to see all as our sisters and brothers, all from one God and Creator, all deserving of the most basic gifts of life, will we all find peace and true life.

It is a transformation of the soul, that Jesus taught so clearly – new life and abundant life, but not just for ourselves. It is the Way of life, that is the Way of living and giving and sharing and following God’s greatest commandments: love God and neighbor.

To be a follower of Jesus means a transformation of heart and soul that goes far beyond getting our place in heaven. It is a way of living and loving in this world, right now.

- It is giving and sharing, and serving and caring, as Jesus did.
- It is about sharing the abundance and resources we have, rather than hoarding and believing that they are ours alone.
- It comes from the most basic belief that what we have, and the created world around us is a GIFT, and that gift is given, to be shared, and cared for and lived into as grace.

What will the world look like after the pandemic? What kind of change will occur?

Will we remain in a spiritual pandemic, in the way we damage life and care little about our neighbor and the creation we live in?

Or can this be a place of hope, abundance, love and life for all?

God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to God’s power that is at work within us. - Ephesians 3:20

This message comes from the book *MUSING ...a period of reflection or thought on a year of pandemic* by Rev. Dr. Carla Stengel who is and ordained elder in the West Ohio Annual Conference, of the United Methodist Church. *MUSING* is her personal journal of questions, struggles, and insights through the pandemic. This book is available on Amazon. Rev Stengel generously provides the proceeds from this book to *Love Beyond Borders: The Interfaith Movement to End the Pandemic* that is committed to the equitable distribution of COVID vaccines around the world. Advance #3022671

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Happy Spring! Isn't it wonderful to see all the flowers starting to bloom? I wanted to share some information that I received from the national office concerning our recent name change.

1. United Methodist is now **doing business as** United Women in Faith. Our name has not legally changed; however, national has filed in the state of New York to use this assumed name.
2. We remain a part of the United Methodist church. There is no intention to leave the church, only to welcome more members. Our organization has always been open to women beyond the UMC who share our purpose.
3. Currently the name change is optional for local, districts and conferences. The national office is not forcing the name on us, but they are hoping we will embrace the new name.
4. **Checks to local, district and conference groups should continue to be payable to United Methodist Women.** This is so we will still be able to deposit them.

If you have any questions about any of this, please let me know. Also, a reminder that 2nd quarter mission payments are due to me by June 10th.

Thank you.

Carolyn Forbes. (cfourforbes@gmail.com)

SOCIAL ACTION

"God declares all creation good and as Christians we are called to be its caretakers. United Methodists are committed to keeping our planet green, clean and sustainable for all." This is a quotation from the UMC resource site. As United Women in Faith we join with the greater church to seek Climate Justice. Although the election primary may be over by the time that you receive this newsletter, it will be very important for you to study the candidates' positions on climate justice in the November election. Although there are many ways that we can address climate justice, supporting elected officials who will make it a priority is one of the most impactful ways of addressing this issue. -Jane Storey- Coordinator



CALLING ALL UNITS

During our Annual Meeting on September 24th, the Cascadia District United Women in Faith will highlight accomplishments of each unit in a slideshow. Please send pictures of your unit and/or a list of what you have accomplished during the last year in your unit to Emilie Kroen ekroen@yahoo.com. Emilie will put together the slides for our District. The last day to submit entries is September 3rd.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER	
• Mission U Virtual	July 14-16 and/or July 29-31
• Cascadia District Annual Meeting	September 24
• OR/ID Conference Annual Meeting Boise First UMC and Virtual	October 22
• Western Jurisdiction, Anchorage AK	2024
• Assembly Indianapolis Indiana	2026

MEMBERSHIP, NUTURE AND OUTREACH
ANNUAL CENSUS SURVEY

Dear United Women in Faith,

Don't you just love the sound of that!?

As Spring blooms and our smiles emerge, it is time to re-invigorate our local Units! One way to achieve this is to take stalk of how we are doing right now. First, we fill out our Unit Survey, available in questionnaire form or online. For those who have computers, I've included the link at the bottom of my article. For those who do not have computers I've attached the printed version (See next page). Please fill out the Survey before you break for the Summer! The due date is Aug. 30th, 2022.

I send you all blessings and my gratitude for all the work that you do for women, youth, and children in Jesus' name!

Sharon Perez, Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator

Unit Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZSYN2B>

The Printed Version Annual Census Survey: (For those of you without computers)

1. Church Name
2. Unit Name
3. Church Address
4. City
5. State
6. Zip
7. Type of Unit:
 - a. Local
 - b. District**
8. What is your Primary Language?
9. What is the unit president's first name?
10. Unit president's last name.
11. President's Telephone Number.
12. President's email.
13. Number of new members added in 2021.
14. Number of members lost in 2021.
15. Total number of active members in 2021.
16. Reported by (person filling out this survey)
17. Would you like to receive emails from United Women in Faith?
18. What is the average age of local unit/circle members?
19. Are you an Active Unit?
20. Is your unit considering becoming inactive?
21. If yes, are there any members of your unit that would like to remain active?
Please list names.
22. Please share your reasons for becoming inactive:

23. Will your group transition to the new brand?
- We are already using the name United Women in Faith.
 - Will transition in a month.
 - Will transition in 2-4 months.
 - Transitioning by the end of 2022.
24. Are you excited about the new name United Women in faith?
- Yes.
 - No.
 - Undecided.
25. Has your unit completed the “Let’s Talk about Change” or “Time to Grow” Workshops? This is located on our websites e-store.
- Yes.
 - No.
26. What resources has your group/unit signed up for on the website?
- All Access Membership.
 - Newsletters.
 - Soul Care Retreats.
 - Faith Talks.
 - I haven’t visited the Website.
 - We are aware of the resources, but do not use them currently.
27. Are you actively recruiting new women?
- Yes, in and outside of the UMC.
 - Yes, only from UMC.
 - No, we are not looking for new women currently.

28. Are you aware that there are downloadable resources located on the United Women in Faith website?
- Yes, they are easily accessible.
 - Yes, they were difficult to locate.
 - No, but I am aware that they exist.
 - No, I was unaware of any resources.
29. Have you heard about the new National Membership Option, an All-Access Membership?
- Yes.
 - No.
30. Soul Care Retreats have been identified through research as an entry point for potential members. Is your unit/group interested in hosting a Soul Care retreat in the coming year?
- Yes.
 - No.
 - We are interested and need more information.
31. Have any members of your unit/group been invited to join Mighty Networks?
- Yes.
 - No.
32. My unit/group is currently gathering:
- Virtually.
 - In-person.
 - By phone.
 - Not at all.
 - Other (please specify):

33. In 2021 and 2022, is your unit/group working on the following campaigns:
- a. Climate Justice.
 - b. Racial Justice.
 - c. Both.
 - d. None.
34. Will a representative from your unit/group be attending either the Conference or District Fall meetings?
- a. Yes, I will be attending a district fall meeting.
 - b. Yes, I will be attending a conference fall meeting.
 - c. No, I will not be attending the district fall meeting.
 - d. No, I will not be attending the conference fall meeting.
 - e. Undecided.
35. Will a representative of your unit/group attend Assembly 2022?
- a. Yes.
 - b. No.
36. How will a member of your unit/group be attending the Assembly2022?
- a. In-person.
 - b. Virtually.
37. Is your unit/group aware of the digital options for the Program Resource (Previously Program Book) and do you use them?
- a. Aware, but use print only.
 - b. Use both print and digital.
 - c. Use digital only.
 - d. Was not aware of digital option.
 - e. We are aware but do not use this resource.

Please mail the Printed Version to: (I will enter the information for you!)

Sharon Perez, 889 NW 2nd Ave., Canby, OR 97013

