

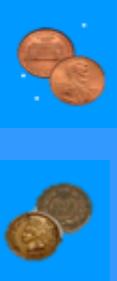


United Women in Faith

OREGON IDAHO CONFERENCE

# OUR TWO CENTS

Recalling our legacy of "two cents a week and a prayer"  
Continuing our mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



### Purpose

United Women in Faith shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

### Living The Vision

Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

### Important Dates to Remember

- September**  
24     **Cascadia District Annual Celebration**
- October**  
21     **All-Member Leadership Training**  
**Event**  
22     **Conference Annual Celebration**  
          **Boise 1<sup>st</sup> UMC**

You can always find the complete Conference Calendar with updates on our website at: <https://www.umoi.org/calendarofevents>

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United  
Women  
in Faith

## Oregon-Idaho Conference

Invites you to join us for an  
**All-Member Leadership Training**

**Draw the Circle Wide**

**Friday, October 21, 2022**

and

**Annual Celebration and Meeting**

**Be Joyful!**

**Saturday, October 22, 2022**

First United Methodist Church, Boise, ID

**With special guest speaker, United Women in Faith President 'Ainise 'Isama'u**



We hope you will plan to attend **in person** so we can truly celebrate together, but if that isn't possible, there will also be a **virtual/Zoom option** available.

*In person attendees must be vaccinated against Covid and wear a mask except while eating*

### **MDT**

### **All Member Leadership Training - Friday, October 21**

- 8:30 am Registration and Continental breakfast – In-person
- 9:00-11:00 Optional tour of the Wassmuth Center for Human Rights and Ann Frank Memorial or optional Ubuntu project at the church – In-person
- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:30 pm Worship – In-person and virtual
- 1:00-2:30 Presentation, small group sharing and large group response – In-person and virtual
- 3:00-4:30 Tools for leadership and district discussion - In-person
- 5:00 Dinner
- 6:00-8:00 District Leadership Team meetings

### **MDT**

### **Annual Celebration and Meeting - Saturday, October 22**

- 8:45 am Registration and continental breakfast
- 9:30-10:00 Welcome and introduction – In-person and virtual
- 10:00-11:00 Opening Worship - - In-person and virtual  
Presentation by UWF national president 'Ainise 'Isama'u - - In-person and virtual
- 11:10-12:00 Business meeting - - In-person and virtual
- 12:00-1:15 Lunch and celebration of districts
- 1:30-3:10 Presentation by 'Ainise 'Isama'u – In-person and virtual  
Business meeting and Installation of officers - - In-person and virtual
- 3:10-3:30 Closing worship, mission giving offering, communion – Sage District Superintendent Rev. Karen Hernandez - - In-person and virtual

## Registration information for All - Member Leadership Training and Annual Celebration



Cost for in-person registration is \$12 and includes all meals. No cost for virtual attendees.

**Additional donations are welcome**

We hope to be able to provide in-home housing for all out-of-town attendees; there will also be motel rooms available or there are nearby Airbnb options - both at your own cost.

**In Person** – Friday, 11:30 – 6:00 MDT (or 8:00 pm for district leadership teams) with optional activities 9:00-11:00 am

Saturday, 8:45 – 3:30 MDT

**Virtual** - Friday, 12:30-2:30 MDT

Saturday, 9:30-12:00 MDT and 1:30-3:30 MDT

Our district has been asked to pilot a **new online registration** program. That will be the **only registration option**; if you are not comfortable registering that way, we encourage you to find someone else in your unit to complete the registration for you.

**We will send out a notification and the necessary link once the registration is active.**

**Questions – contact Gayle Woods, [gaylewoods5964@msn.com](mailto:gaylewoods5964@msn.com) or 208-571-0945**

**As we celebrate our new name, new ways of being together, and our very special guest speaker, this is the perfect opportunity to invite a friend! See you in October!**

Draw the circle wide.  
No one stands alone, standing side by side;  
Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.  
Gordon Lightfoot

Dear Sisters in Christ,

You are invited to a two-day annual gathering of the Oregon Idaho United Women in Faith. We will be gathering at Boise 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church on **October 21 and 22**. This year we will finally be able to meet in-person or virtually!

**On Friday October 21**, we will be gathering for a Leadership Training Event. All women are encouraged to attend. The theme for the day is “Draw the Circle Wide.” In the morning, two optional activities will be offered- a visit to the Wassmuth Human Rights Center in Boise or an Ubuntu mission opportunity at the church. The Leadership Training Event officially begins at 11:30 with lunch and goes through the afternoon. ‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, our national United Women in Faith president, will be leading the afternoon session.

**On Saturday October 22** we will have our Annual Celebration Meeting. Our theme for the day is **BE JOYFUL!** As United Women in Faith, we have much to be joyful for and much to celebrate. At our Annual Celebration we will celebrate and be joyful because:

- we have two options for meeting.... in-person or virtually.
- we are bold, visionary women who share a mutual mission to improve the lives of women, children, and youth in our local communities, our country, and throughout the world.
- we have wonderfully gifted women who have stepped forward as leaders for our Oregon Idaho Conference United Women in Faith.
- our National United Women in Faith President will be with us.
- our Sage District Superintendent, Rev. Karen Hernandez will lead us in closing worship and Communion.
- our God is a loving God and welcomes all of us, just as we are!

We are excited that ‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, our national United Women in Faith president, will be our keynote speaker. She will be sharing her journey as a member of United Women in Faith, the joy and challenges of putting faith into action, and the many new opportunities for involvement that our national organization is offering. Registration for the Conference Annual Celebration begins at 8:30 with a continental breakfast and the meeting ends at 3:30.

If you are unable to join us in-person for these two days, we are also offering a virtual option. You will find a schedule elsewhere in this newsletter. Registration information will come soon.

As we planned this event, the team pondered this question: **What brings you joy?** As you prepare for this meeting, I invite you to sit quietly with this question and then jot down the ideas that come to your mind. Come to the Annual Celebration ready to share some of your responses.

A few things on my joy list include God’s unconditional love, the wonder and beauty of nature, and the love of family and friends. Another big idea that appears on my list is the joy of working with United Women in Faith toward a vision of God’s shalom, creating a space where all are welcome at the table. Together, with God’s leading, we can become creators of justice and joy.

I’ll see you in October.

Blessings, Chris Mitchell  
Conference President



<b>Nominations Report: 2022-23 Proposed Conference Leadership Team</b>		
<b>Office</b>	<b>Remaining in Office</b>	<b>To be elected</b>
President	<b>Chris Mitchell</b> ( <i>Cascadia</i> )	
Vice President		<b>Gayle Woods</b> ( <i>Sage</i> ) (2 years)
Secretary		<b>Sue Andersen</b> ( <i>Columbia</i> ) (2 years)
Treasurer		<b>Karen Morray</b> ( <i>Crater Lake</i> ) (2 years)
Program Resources		<b>Penny Hodge</b> ( <i>Cascadia</i> )(1 year)

<b>Mission Coordinators:</b>		
Social Action (Idaho)	<b>Judy Halverson</b> ( <i>Sage</i> )	
Social Action (Oregon)	<b>Claudia Roberts</b> ( <i>Cascadia</i> )	
Spiritual Growth		<b>Kim Thompson</b> ( <i>Crater Lake</i> ) (1 year)
Education and Interpretation		<b>Ingrid Cook</b> ( <i>Sage</i> ) (2 years)
Membership Nurture and Outreach		<b>Turella Woods</b> ( <i>Columbia</i> ) (1 year)

<b>Committee on Nominations</b>		
Chair (one of the Committee members)		
Class of 2023	<b>Linda Scheirman</b> ( <i>Cascadia</i> )	
Class of 2024		
Class of 2025		
Class of 2025		
Class of 2026		

**Oregon/Idaho Conference United Methodist Women  
Virtual Meeting “Awake to Love and Serve - Empowering Women”  
Annual Meeting Minutes October 16, 2021**

President Becky Warren opened the meeting at 9 AM PDT, introduced national officers and welcomed all attending. The Purpose was read. Judy Halverson, Social Action coordinator, read the land acknowledgement to remember the original inhabitants of the area. Janelle Bolt introduced a montage about the Regional UMW missionaries.

Opening worship was led by Janessa Chastain, Executive Director of Boise Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Becky Warren introduced Cesie Delve Scheuermann, 2021 recipient of the Charter for Racial Justice Award for her leadership of a virtual study on race and racism through First UM Church in Salem. President Becky Warren called the business meeting to order at 9:35 AM PDT.

Minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting were projected and also sent out with the newsletter. The term of the Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, Turella Woods, corrected to be a 2-year term. The minutes were approved as corrected.

Conference Treasurer Karen Morray, on behalf of the Conference Finance Committee, recommended adoption of the 2022 Administration and Membership Development Budget in the amount of \$35,905 as printed (attached). No second needed. Motion passed.

Chair of the Committee on Nominations, Donna Ward presented the following slate of nominees: Officers and Mission Coordinators to be Elected: The Committee on Nominations recommended the following Nominee(s):

- President.....Chris Mitchell
- Social Action - Idaho..... Judy Halvers on Chair,
- Committee on Nominations – Class of 2023.....JoAnn English
- Social Action - Oregon.....Claudia Roberts \*
- Resource Room Manager.....Ruth Gates \*

\*\*Candidate agreed to serve after the 30-day Nominations Report was published The nominations committee moved that Claudia Roberts and Ruth Gates be added to the slate. Motion passed.

The president asked for nominations from the floor for these positions and mission coordinator for Spiritual Growth, Communications Coordinator, and member of the Committee on Nominations, class of 2025. Hearing none the nominations were closed. There was a motion by Donna Ward and seconded by Gayle Woods to accept the slate as nominated. Motion passed.

Officers & Mission Coordinators Continuing in Office:

- Vice President.....Gayle Woods
- Treasurer .....Karen Morray
- Secretary ..... Sue Andersen
- Membership, Nurture Outreach .....Turella Woods
- Education & Interpretation .....Ingr id Cook Member,
- Committee on Nominations – Class of 2022..... Marie Houck Member,

Committee on Nominations – Class of 2022..... Rochelle Killett Member  
 Committee on Nominations – Class of 2024..... Linda Scheirman  
 Outgoing officers – Becky Warren- President, Linda Langham-Spiritual Growth Coordinator,  
 Donna Ward-Nominations, Ann Murchison-Communications Coordinator, Carol Richards-  
 Resource Room Manager.

Karen Morray, treasurer, presented the motion by the Finance Committee that the Oregon/Idaho Conference Pledge to Mission be \$80,000. No second needed. Motion passed.

(2021 Annual meeting minutes cont.)

Changes to the Standing Rules proposed by the Standing Rules committee were presented by Ann Murchison. Section I, J. honorariums for study leaders and technical support people are set at \$300 per study leader per school, excluding executive staff and directors of United Methodist Women. Team study leaders and/or team technical support people shall share the honorarium. The Standing Rules Committee made a motion to adopt the revisions as proposed. Motion passed. Outgoing president Becky Warren thanked the team for support and recognized officers on the national and Western Jurisdiction teams. She passed the gavel to incoming President Chris Mitchell.

Dixie Jacky, member of the national UMW Program Advisory Group led the installation of new and returning officers.

President Chris Mitchell closed the business meeting. After her comments, two songs were shared. Legacy Liaison Lory Nesser presented information about ways women can give to the campaign for the Legacy Fund.

Turella woods introduced a video about the 2022 Assembly in Orlando, Florida.

Lynda Montgomery, Western Jurisdiction Nominations Committee chair asked women to complete the profile sheets for the nominations committee.

Judy Halverson, Social Action coordinator explained the action priorities for UMW of Climate Justice and interrupting the school- to- prison pipeline.

During the break slides of quilts made for local shelters were presented.

Break-out rooms were formed, and the small groups discussed how we can be empowered and what new things we can do in the next year.

The recorded program “Empowering Women Through Mission Giving” was presented by Ingrid Cook and other officers.

The pledge service was led by Ingrid Cook and Leona Whitcomb and pledges from the districts were acknowledged.

Closing worship was led by Lory Nesser and Joyce Orem.

Following the closing worship, the annual meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Conference Secretary Sue Andersen



### Isabella United Women in Faith Virtual Unit of the Oregon Idaho Conference

A new unit, the Isabella Unit has been organized for those women who have no local unit in their church. We are a small unit of 8 members and our members are from Oregon, Idaho, and Washington. We met a couple of times last spring to organize and elect officers. A few of us met last week to plan the programs for the year. If you are wanting to participate at the unit level in United Women in Faith, but find yourself without a unit in your area, you are invited to join us. Our goal is to reach out and welcome others into our unit. Our first meeting of the fall season will be on Thursday September 15 at 2:00 PM (PDT) via Zoom. Beginning in October, we plan to meet on the second Thursday of each month at 2 PM. This season our program focus will be on Creation Justice. We begin each meeting with fellowship and a devotion, and then have our program. We end with a short business meeting (if needed) and close with prayer. We are a group in process of becoming a creative, supportive community, united in our desire to make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth. For more information about the Isabella Unit, or to join us for a meeting, contact Chris Mitchell. ([oridumwpres@gmail.com](mailto:oridumwpres@gmail.com)).

## From our Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

### A Vitamin for the Shepherdess Program

I've been researching what vitamins I can take to give me more energy, a booster for the afternoon slumps or the one vitamin that could give me back the spring in my step I had in my 40's. I'm still looking!



The district leadership teams are asking for some help in boosting up and adding more energy in to the Shepherdess Program. I haven't found a vitamin for that yet either, but I am hoping the new packets that are given out at the Leadership Development Meeting on October 21, 2022 will help. A committee has been meeting to provide direction and tools to help a shepherdess when they visit a unit whether virtually or in person. Each District Leadership Team has committed to making a connection with each local unit in the coming year. They would like to be a resource for the units to improve communication, sharing updates, and opportunities. A Shepherdess will be in contact with each unit president to get acquainted and find ways to help. I am looking forward to seeing the District Leadership Team members in October and presenting their packet of information and tools.

Gratefully,  
Turella Woods  
MN&O Coordinator



## Legacy Endowment Fund

The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanently invested endowment that will forever be a source of income for United Women in Faith. It will assure that United Women in Faith can continue to provide the life-affirming, compassionate care and support that heals, restores and empowers women children and youth in the years and decades to come.

There are several ways to support and grow the endowment.

1. Become a Legacy Builder by setting up automatic monthly gifts of \$18.69.
2. Make a planned gift and become an 1869 Society member.
3. Become a Friend of Legacy by making a major gift/pledge.

Donation information can be found on the United Women in Faith website. If you are a first-time giver, let me know as I have a special pin for you!

I would like to invite all of you to attend our Oregon-Idaho Annual Celebration which will be held at 1st Church in Boise on October 22. At that gathering we will be privileged to hear from our National president, 'Ainise 'Isama'u. 'Ainise is an example of what our Legacy can do. She became involved in United Methodist Women through the Limitless program which was supported by our funds and invited and encouraged younger women to become involved in UMW. Come hear her Legacy story. We will meet in person for the first time in 3 years and celebrate the work of our organization. Registration information can be found in this newsletter. I hope to see many of you there.

Blessings, Lory Nesor

Legacy Liaison

[lnesor@aol.com](mailto:lnesor@aol.com)

### Ways to Stay Connected

Oregon-Idaho United Women in Faith – [umoi.org/umw](http://umoi.org/umw)



United  
Women  
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United Women in Faith – [uwfaith.org](http://uwfaith.org)



Oregon-Idaho United Women in Faith on Facebook – *Like, Comment and Follow us*  
United Women in Faith on Facebook – *Like and Follow*



***From Claudia Roberts, Mission  
Coordinator for Social  
Action/Oregon***

**Voting is Putting Faith in Action**

In a little more than two months we will be going to be voting for members of the National Senate and House of Representatives and for many state and local leaders.

As United Methodists and Christians we are called to exercise this right to vote to elect leaders who will lead us to a path for healing and wholeness that upholds the rights of all of the citizens and residents of this divided nation. On the General Board of Church and Society website, I found this piece by Emily Newman written prior to the 2020 election. I think it states clearly what our responsibilities are as United Methodist voter.

“The Book of Resolutions affirms our civic responsibility: “While declaring our ultimate allegiance is to God, Scripture recognizes that faithfulness to God requires political engagement by the people of God.” (#5012)

As a United Methodist, I believe voting is an important way we raise our voices not only for our individual interests but also to uphold the rights and sacred worth of all our neighbors. Our United Methodist Social Creed states, “*We commit ourselves to the rights of men, women, children, youth, young adults, the aging, and people with disability; to improvement of the quality of life; and to the rights and dignity of all persons.*”

We can enact this commitment by educating ourselves about candidates and policies, then voting out of this knowledge with the quality of life of all our neighbors in mind. Voting is also a part of caring for God’s creation entrusted to our stewardship. As the Social Principles state, “*All creation is the Lord’s, and we are responsible for the ways in which we use and abuse it. Water, air, soil, minerals, energy resources, plants, animal life, and space are to be valued and conserved because they are God’s creation and not solely because they are useful to human beings.*” - ¶160 I plan to vote keeping this care for God’s creation in mind.”

So, I encourage all of you to make sure you have a valid voter registration, that you study the candidates and issues and vote. While churches may not hold partisan discussions as to who to vote for. You can hold discussions on the proposed legislation you will be voting on. Consider setting a panel discussion for your church or your United Women in Faith unit meeting. You could also include this in your annual district meetings.

For Oregon residents, both Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon and the League of Women Voters have great information on their websites. Please feel free to contact me if you want more information about how to do this. The League of Women Voters does have a chapter in Idaho. You can check the websites for these groups to download the information.

***“All creation is the Lord’s, and we are  
responsible for the ways in which we  
use and abuse it...”***

## Native American Land Acknowledgment— First Step on the Journey of Repentance and Healing

How many of our United Women In Faith local units have collaborated with their local churches to begin the journey of repentance and healing with the Indigenous People in their area?

If you have begun this journey with a Land Acknowledgment, please contact me, Judy, (Idaho-- judybhalverson@gmail.com) or Claudia (Oregon-- clarobb@juno.com) so that we can share with others. If you have not begun this journey, please contact us to help you with exploring resources.

My local Hillview unit in Boise went to our Church Council in April to ask for a task force to work on the land acknowledgment. We have seven members (all women!) who have a passion for justice for those who were the original people in the Boise Valley. One of the task force members is new to our church but saw the announcement in our weekly news email about starting up a task force-- she wanted to join. Lynda has extensive experience working with the Crow tribe in Montana on education. If we had not 'advertised' about the task force, we would have never known of her experience and desire to be part of the repentance and healing journey.

Our task force has met twice, focusing first on the Doctrine of Discovery and it's continued influence today. A recommended YouTube that we watched by Mark Charles, co-author of *Unsettling Truth: the Ongoing, Dehumanizing of the Doctrine of Discovery*, can be found using this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYZ2rj2looc>

We are brainstorming on ways we can share with our congregation what we learn from the research—one idea is to set up a labyrinth with stations that has facts as well as questions to help process the disturbing emotions, giving the participants time to ponder and pray.

Our Hillview task force recognizes that this journey is just a beginning and that it will take some time for us to get to the writing of the land acknowledgment. We want to be sure first that our congregation understands why the United Methodist Church has called for us to repent, change our ways, and begin the healing of relationships with the members of the Shoshone, Bannock and Paiute tribes.

**Walking forward,  
Judy Halverson,  
Conference Social Action Coordinator, Idaho**

From the Oregon-Idaho Conference United Women In Faith website: A Native American Land Acknowledgement Priority Plan has been developed. You can find it [HERE](#). This is first step on a journey of seeking reconciliation and healing with the Indigenous People. You will also find a list of Queries for Native American Land Acknowledgement [HERE](#)

GNW Circle of Indigenous Ministry: The Importance of Land Acknowledgment  
<https://greaterNW.org/circle/landacknowledgment/>

## Education and Interpretation

With the responsibility to inform United Women in Faith about the life changing actions of our organization, I as Education and Interpretation Coordinator want to tell you about an amazing gift our organization gave to Girls Embracing Mothers.

As United Women in Faith we have established goals to make life better for women, children and youth. Through our Social Action Campaign, we have worked tirelessly to ending mass incarceration of women and interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline. This has been a priority for United Women in Faith since 2016.

Our organization looks for opportunities to work with others to promote our goals. United Women in Faith have stepped up to the need for nurturing and supporting girls whose mothers are incarcerated. In May we gave \$250,000 to Girls Embracing Mothers (GEM) an organization whose goal is to break the cycle of incarceration. GEM supports girls and women in their efforts to lead healthy, healed, and whole lives. The organization offers empowerment-based programs for the girls and reentry-based training for mothers.

“Part of our work as Christian women is to intervene in situations that could derail women and girls from fulfilling their life’s calling. We are pleased to be able to stand alongside GEM and support them as they support school-age girls of incarcerated mothers,” said Khia Shaw, United Women in Faith director for membership and engagement. “We know that girls of color face intersecting oppressions of gender, race, identity and class. Coupled with the impacts

of having an incarcerated parent, girls of color are uniquely vulnerable.”

This gift comes at a pivotal time. The Sentencing Project reported that between 1980 and 2020, the number of incarcerated women increased more than 475%. The imprisonment rate for African American women is more than 1.7 times the rate of imprisonment for White women. One of every 15 women is serving life in prison, and women serving life without parole increased 43%, compared to a 29% increase among men, between 2008 and 2020.

Brittany Barnett, founder of Girls Embracing Mothers, commented on the \$250,000 gift. “We are so grateful for United Women in Faith’s donation to help us as we serve women and girls impacted by maternal incarceration. As the daughter of an incarcerated mother, I know how mass incarceration devastates families and entire communities. This grant will empower GEM to continue to reduce the trauma women and girls experience by the criminal justice system. We to are enriching the lives those most marginalized and breaking the cycle of incarceration.”

United Women in Faith saw a need, worked with an organization addressing that need, and thus helped change the lives of incarcerated mothers and their daughters.

*Ingrid Cook, Mission Coordinator for  
Education and Interpretation*

