



### Purpose

We are 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.

### Mission

United Women in 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.

### Important Dates to Remember

<b>May</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Interfaith Advocacy Day/Oregon</b>
<b>July</b>	<b>13-15</b>	<b>Mission U</b>
	<b>28-30</b>	<b>Mission U</b>
<b>Sept.</b>		<b>District Annual Meetings</b>
	<b>24</b>	<b>Cascadia &amp; Columbia</b>
	<b>30</b>	<b>Sage</b>
		<b>Crater Lake</b>
<b>Oct.</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Conference Leadership Training</b>
	<b>21</b>	<b>Conference Annual Meeting</b>

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

### Vision

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

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**Join the Oregon/Idaho Conference  
United Women in Faith  
Book Discussion Group**

“Cousins” by Betty Kilby Baldwin &  
Phoebe Kilby

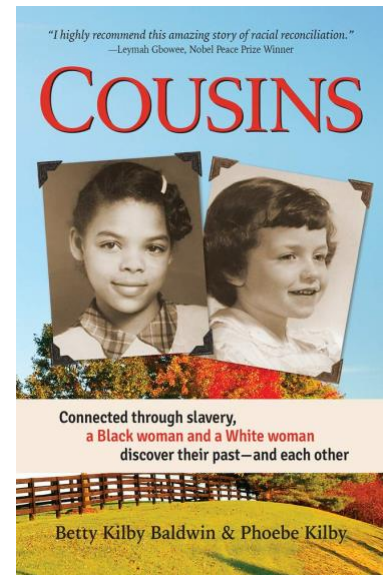
May 19, 2023, at 2pm PT via Zoom  
(Counts as one book in Social Action)

“What happens when a White woman, Phoebe, contacts a Black woman, Betty, saying she suspects they are connected through slavery? First surprise? Betty responds, “Hello, Cousin.” Betty had fought for an education and won. She broke through the concrete ceiling in the workplace and succeeded. A documentary of her life was about to debut. Without thinking, she invites Phoebe to a family dinner and the premiere of the documentary. Second surprise? She forgot to tell her family who was coming to dinner. Betty finds an activist partner in Phoebe. Cousins indeed, they commit to a path of reconciliation. In alternating chapters, each tells her dramatic story—from Betty’s experience as one of the first Black children to attend her desegregated school, to Phoebe’s eventual question to Betty: “How do I begin to repair the harms?” Piercingly honest. Includes a working reparations project which the two women conceived together. Betty and Phoebe have been interviewed on the BBC and were recently featured in a special on Netflix.”

Registration online: <https://forms.gle/fBPQRNAVnFN8wnG88>

Zoom link will be emailed on May 18<sup>th</sup> to those who register.

For more information contact: [pennykhodge10@gmail.com](mailto:pennykhodge10@gmail.com)



**PURPOSE: United Women in Faith is 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.**

Dear Sisters,

Do you realize what a significant role you play in United Women in Faith? Without each of you, United Women in Faith could not exist. Participation, prayers, and advocacy are all important pieces of being a United Women in Faith member, but it is our pledge to mission that is at the foundation of all that we do. Without your financial support, United Women in Faith could not be in mission. All funding for every level of United Women in Faith originates from the local units.



Our mission is clear: “United Women in 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.” Some examples of the programs that United Women in Faith offer are Mission u, the Reading Program, Faith Talks podcasts, Voices from the Field, leadership development days, Assembly, Just Energy for All/Climate Justice campaign, and Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline/Racial Justice campaign.

Our vision is equally clear: “Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.” We support about 90 national mission institutions and 7 regional missionaries that serve in different regions throughout the world. United Women in Faith has recently given substantial grants to two programs: **Girls Embracing Mothers** (an organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of incarceration for daughters of incarcerated mothers), and **Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples** (in support of the “Thriving Women Program,” empowering Indigenous women to address gender-based oppression and violence.)

It’s a time of financial challenge and change for United Women in Faith at every level of our organization. Mission giving has been steadily decreasing for the past few years, but the needs are still great. This month, conferences have been asked to find ways to increase our mission giving so that programs and staff do not have to be cut. In response to that request, I would like to challenge each of you to send an extra amount to mission giving beyond your local unit. Together we can continue the work of putting love into action to change the world.

United by God’s love,  
Chris Mitchell  
United Women in Faith President, Oregon Idaho Conference

## THE WHY OF UNIT GIVING

by Ingrid Cook Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator

When you talk about how to motivate people to do something, you learn that people want to know “WHY should I do it.” Supporting the MISSION outreach of our organization is the WHY for giving. Each unit of United Women in Faith is asked to send their yearly pledge to the district to support MISSIONS.

Our unit pledges support ninety national mission institutions. Our funds empower international missions and regional missionaries who support women especially in Africa and Asia. Because of our giving national staff can assist conference officers, create programs like Mission U, and distribute funds for our ongoing work around the world.

HOW do units make their pledges? The list is endless: bake sales, auctions, dinners, bazaars: the list goes on. RESPONSE magazine is the GO-TO place for ideas about fund raisers. It also contains stories about national and international mission outreach that will inspire the WHY for giving.

United Women in Faith is a “grass roots” organization. It is the local unit - the roots - that supply the funds -the nourishment - for continued growth. The MISSION outreach of our organization depends on the efforts of the local units. Know how important you are. Let’s all find ways to make our pledge and support our wonderful MISSION work for women, children, and youth around the world.

[ianddcook@gmail.com](mailto:ianddcook@gmail.com)



I received an update on the Legacy Fund following the March 23 Day of Giving. It was a great success. Together we have raised

**\$301, 392.27.** We are continuing to accept gifts towards Day of Giving until April 7. Our theme is “The Future is Now” and we are hoping to complete our goal of \$3.25 million in 2023. Thanks to all of you who participated. The event was recorded and is a Facebook video. You can look at it here: <https://fb.watch/jCARVbfiFR/>

It has been announced that Harriet Jane Olson is retiring this year. You or your unit might want to give a gift to the Legacy Fund in honor of the many years of work and service she has given to our organization. When you get to the Legacy Fund page there is an opportunity to give a gift in honor and when it comes to the name - HJO - is listed and just click on that. You also have an opportunity to write a message of gratitude.

Some of you may have made your first donation to the Legacy Fund this year. If that is the case, please let me know ([Lneser@aol.com](mailto:Lneser@aol.com)). We have a new 150next legacy pin for those who give for the first time, and I will send you the pin.

Blessings,  
Lory Nesor  
Legacy Liaison  
[lneser@aol.com](mailto:lneser@aol.com)



### United Women in Faith General Secretary and CEO Retires

Harriett Jane Olson retired on May 5th. She became the General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of what was then Women’s Division of the General Board of Global Ministries in 2007 and began a 15-year tenure marked by programmatic and structural innovations and bold changes to strengthen the organization and position it for a future of growth and increased impact. We have been blessed by her leadership.

In appreciation for her ministry through United Women in Faith, women are invited to make a gift to mission in her honor. Here is a link for directions on how to give. <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2023/honor-harriett-olson/>

### Molly James-Vickery Named Interim General Secretary and CEO



On April 21, United Women in Faith announced the election of Mollie James-Vickery to the position of Interim General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer during its semi-annual board meeting April 14. James-Vickery currently serves as the organization’s national Operations Officer and will begin the interim position May 8. She is replacing Harriett Jane Olson who retired on May 5.



**United Women in Faith**

**We’re a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.**

Driven by God’s love and united in sisterhood, we work to improve the lives of women, children and youth. Every day, we show up. We take action. We get it done. And we invite you to join us.

**Would you like to make a Mission Giving donation online?**

Online Giving Instructions:  
Go to our Conference UWF website  
<https://www.umi.org/uwf>  
Scroll down to

Give Thanks.  
Give Now.


**Click on**  
ONLINE GIVING

Click on the red button

Give

below the picture of **Mission Giving.**  
That will take you to the site to complete your donation.

## 2023-2024 Dr. Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship Available

The Dr. Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship (GBC) is awarded by Oregon-Idaho United Women in Faith and is intended for women in the Greater Northwest Episcopal Area, specifically Oregon-Idaho, Alaska, and Pacific Northwest Conferences, who are pursuing graduate studies toward a vocation in the church, not limited to ordained elder.

The scholarship is granted for a period of one year, with the possibility of renewal. Amounts vary year to year and may be awarded to several individuals. On average, the scholarships have been \$2,000 each. The application and additional information, including letters of reference, must be received by July 5, 2023.

Link to application on website: <https://www.umi.org/cranescholarship>

If you have questions, please call Becky at 503-593-2807, or email [beccanaturalist@gmail.com](mailto:beccanaturalist@gmail.com)  
The application and all additional information must be received by July 5, 2023. Applicants should expect a response by August 1, 2023.

Rebecca Warren, Immediate Past President  
Oregon-Idaho Conference  
United Women in Faith  
Chair, Dr. Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship Committee

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
OREGON-IDAHO CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
ANNUAL CELEBRATION AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

**Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21  
Portland Area – Location to be determined**

**Did you know that you can find contact information for all  
conference and district officers on our website?**

**You can also sign up to receive to receive district and conference  
newsletters there.**





## From Our Program Advisory Group Member Dixie Jacky

At our last gathering of conference liaisons (PAG's) to the National office, the theme used was "Let Your Light Shine;" and the focus was on being "influencers" - United Women in Faith need to be the ones speaking up and letting our light shine!

"How do we do that", the crowd asks? We remember our gospel callings to speak out for the oppressed, for the widow, the orphans, and those living in unjust system. Individually we need to work on our biblical foundation to speak with authority when confronted with differing views but to do so with a listening ear, calmly and including prayer. We must work together as an organization to be strong and if we work together, our light will continue to shine brightly. An easy way we can "let our light shine" and be strong influencers is to increase our Unit Pledge to Mission. The good news is our conference did maintain giving of \$94,000 for 2021 and 2022. Unfortunately, that wasn't true nationwide, as the 2022 Pledge to Mission decreased another 11% from the 2021 giving.

The impact of that decreased giving is that hard choices must be made. Our light cannot shine as brightly to support women, children, and youth if

we don't have adequate funds to allow it to shine. Currently our funds support programming like FaithTalks, the Reading Program, Mission U, and the two justice initiatives (Just Energy 4 All and School to Prison Pipeline.) Also, our funding continues to support some 90 national missions and our 6 international regional missionaries. <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/what-we-fund/>Add link for where our money goes

What can your unit do? Here are a few ideas:

- raise your pledge 5% or 10%!
- empty your treasury!
- give a Special Mission Recognition!
- have a fund raiser just for UWFaith for additional giving!

Just imagine how much brighter our light here in the OR-ID United Women in Faith organization could shine. Will your unit be a bright, shining light this year?

Blessings,  
Dixie Jacky  
Program Advisory Group Member (PAG)

## Monday Forum Questions and Answers

As I am finishing my tenure on the Conference Leadership Team, I am sharing one of the highlights as the Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator (MN&O) which is creating the First Monday Forum. We started with a small group of MN&O Unit Coordinators who gathered virtually each month and now it's possible for anyone to attend; the mailing list has grown to 55 women! At the April meeting we shared our honest answers to the question, **"Why is there a decrease in people joining or continuing in organizations such as UWF?"**

1. Feeling Undervalued
2. Lack of strong leadership (local/conference/national)
3. Too much burden on too few people
4. Not understanding the clear cause or purpose
5. Meetings are boring
6. Cliques
7. No enthusiasm or dedication
8. Poor communication between officers and members
9. Lack of individual and collective discipline in reaching a common purpose

We agreed that we are not stepping up to "toot our own horn." In other words even our local and conference churches don't know what we are doing. We discussed ideas on ways to "tell our story":

- Have a UWF member greet visitors and share information about their unit;
- Create a brochure about their unit;
- Submit articles to our church newsletter, the Conference UM Connector and to **response** Magazine; and
- Purchase and display the UWF banner. It can be purchased on our website for \$120 and is 32" x 72" -- large enough to bring attention.

I wish I had room to share everything that was discussed in the one hour together on April 3, 2023, but just know it included changing newsletters such as Our 2 Cents, pastoral support, the UWF Program book, and sharing programs that units have created themselves. We talked about the challenges of a smaller national staff due to a shortfall of \$1.03 million in giving compared to the prior year, and the strengths and shortcomings of the website. I am so grateful for the honesty and sharing that has transpired over the past two years using this type of forum. Everyone is welcome to join us on the first Monday of each month. Please email me and I will place you on the email list.

Turella Woods

[turellaw@gmail.com](mailto:turellaw@gmail.com)

Conference Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator



## **Social Action for Oregon-Idaho Conference United Women in Faith: Native American Land Acknowledgement**

Judy Halverson, OR-ID Conference Social Action Coordinator/Idaho

One of the Social Issue Priorities of our OR-ID Conference is to have a Native American Land Acknowledgment practiced in each local unit and church. How are we doing with this priority?

My local United Women in Faith unit is collaborating with our Hillview Native American Land Acknowledgment task force. The task force continues to slowly move forward in doing research about the Shoshone, Bannock and Paiute Indigenous People in our Boise Valley area. Our task force has been publishing articles in our church's weekly email letter, including facts about the history of the Boise Valley People and opportunities to learn about their culture, such as the Seven Arrows Powwow in Boise and exhibits at the Boise Art Museum and Idaho State Historical Museum. We encouraged Hillview members to donate to the Special Sunday Offering Native American Ministries this past April. We will be encouraging our members to attend the "open to the public" sessions of the Return of the Boise Valley People the second weekend in June.

Yes, we are slowly meeting the goals of the "Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Women

Peace,

Judy Halverson- [judybhalverson@gmail.com](mailto:judybhalverson@gmail.com)

Conference 2022 Social Action Goal Plan Native American Land Acknowledgement." (<https://www.umoi.org/uwf> scroll down to find "Land Acknowledgment). We are taking steps forward on this journey towards "Acts of Repentance and Healing" that we are called to take.

Below, I've listed some additional resources that I've found—my favorite is from the Native Governance Center, "Beyond a Land Acknowledgment: A Guide". I encourage you to take the time to read through this guide—one of the main themes is "do your homework!" The (Anabaptist) Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition's guide has really good examples of land acknowledgments by various Mennonite churches and the last page has a great diagram that summarizes what is involved with land acknowledgement.

I would appreciate you sending me an email if your local unit/church has started this first step of the journey of "Acts of Repentance and Healing" with Native Americans. Are there resources you could share with us that you've found helpful?

### **Additional Native American Resources:**

Native Governance Center Guide: Beyond a Land Acknowledgment:

<https://nativegov.org/resources/beyond-land-acknowledgment-a-guide/>

Mennonite Central Committee; Land Acknowledgment Guide

[file:///D:/OneDrive/JUDY/a%20%20UMW/Conference/Social%20Action/acts%20of%20repentance%20and%20Healing/land-acknowledgment-guide-for-congregations final 9-13-21.pdf](file:///D:/OneDrive/JUDY/a%20%20UMW/Conference/Social%20Action/acts%20of%20repentance%20and%20Healing/land-acknowledgment-guide-for-congregations%20final%209-13-21.pdf)

## **MISSION u 2023**

### **Living the Good News Reflecting God's Love**

#### **Living the Kin-dom:**

#### **Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation.**

Jesus preached to those around Him, especially the marginalized, who were rejected by their community. The Mission u study will focus on transforming our lives to bring us closer to fulfilling Jesus' mission as we reach out to our sisters in need wherever they might be.

Registration: Registration link for July 13 to 15: <https://forms.gle/iCZqoeGx8MSnf2kXA>

Registration link for July 28 to 30: <https://forms.gle/C6Sbj4nxPMYMPFuC9>

#### **Daily Schedules**

**Both sessions are virtual (Zoom)**

##### Session 1:

Thursday, July 13: Opening worship at 6 pm PDT; 7 pm MDT

Friday, July 14: 9 am - 1:30 pm PDT; 10 am - 2:30 MDT

Saturday, July 15: 9 am - 1 pm PDT; 10 am - 2 pm MDT

Closing worship at 1:15 pm PDT; 2:15 pm MDT

##### Session 2:

Friday, July 28: Opening worship at 6 pm PDT; 7 pm MDT

Saturday, July 29: 9 am - 4 pm PDT; 10 am - 5 pm MDT

Sunday, July 30: 2 pm - 4 pm PDT; 3 pm - 5 pm MDT

Closing worship at 4:15 pm PDT; 5:15 MDT

Zoom will open 15 minutes before designated start time

**More information on the conference website: [umoi.org/umwmissionu](https://umoi.org/umwmissionu)**

**Ways to Stay Connected**



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

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



**Oregon-Idaho Conference  
of The United Methodist Church**

**Oregon-Idaho United Women in Faith on Facebook**

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



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