



OREGON IDAHO CONFERENCE
OUR TWO CENTS

Recalling our legacy of “two cents a week and a prayer”
 Continuing our mission in the 21st Century



Purpose

United Methodist Women 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

January

11-12 Conference Leadership Team Meeting
 (Conference call)

February

1-3 Leadership Development Days, Tempe, AZ
 24-25 Legislative Advocacy Event, Idaho

March

4 Oregon Legislative Day, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem, OR

You can always find the complete Conference Calendar with updates on our website at:

<https://www.umoi.org/calendarofevents>

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Epiphany

Merriam-Webster defines the word *epiphany* as “a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the essential nature or meaning of something.” On our church calendars, Epiphany represents the twelfth night after Christmas (January 6th) when the three wise men were thought to worship baby Jesus and acknowledge his divinity. Well, I have an epiphany about Epiphany.

While trying to rearrange things in our garage to allow for more storage space, I came across a box of books that had been sitting on a shelf for several years. It was dusty and the contents had been ignored for quite some time. Naturally, I stopped what I was doing to rifle through the box. Why was I keeping these old books? And there it was. It had been a favorite of mine at one time, and I was glad to reclaim it. It’s called, “Bread for the Journey—Resources for Worship” and was published back in 1981. The editor, Ruth C. Duck, compiled the writings. As I skimmed through the pages, I came across a *Call to Worship* written for

Epiphany. Let me share it with you as we move into the New Year.

We are here to praise God because Jesus has set us free to live.

We are here because in Christ we are forgiven and made whole.

We are gathered because Jesus Christ has united us into one family of faith.

We will witness to the good news: Jesus Christ frees and unites.

Praise God! Alleluia!

Amen

And for the Benediction:

The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us. Let Christ’s light shine in the darkest corner of your life. Let Christ’s love shine in the darkest corners of our world. God is with us. Alleluia! Amen

I brought the book back into the house and placed it my bookcase so I can find it whenever I wish. My hope for the coming year: May 2019 bring peace, comfort and joy to all of God’s children.

Roz Collins

Ways to Stay Connected

Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Women – umoi.org/umw



United Methodist Women – unitedmethodistwomen.org

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



From Your President



WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING by Brian D. McLaren offers mind-bending and heart-moving challenges daily. Before delving into the Advent selections, I read

the Preface and the Introduction: Seeking Aliveness. Certain ideas captured my attention: “You are not finished yet. You are ‘in the making’”; “...faith was never intended to be a destination,...”; and “The quest for aliveness is the best thing about religion.”

He calls for a “global spiritual movement” that needs to be global, spiritual, and social.

The neighbors might have heard me shouting, “THIS IS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN!!!” We are global, spiritual, social and we are indeed a “global spiritual movement. Look carefully and critically at the UMW Purpose: We are on the road, we are walking together, and we are alive!

At the Unit level our aliveness can support existing church and community programs and inspire new ones. We can invite others to participate in a one-time activity that has missional significance. For example, invite mothers and their

daughters to bake cookies for a sale whose profits pay the balance of the unit’s mission pledge and buy books in the Reading Program for the church. Be ready to explain both the pledge and the Program. Ask the mothers if they would be interested in a Days for Girls program — and would bring their daughters again — and, if possible, a sewing machine. Share how making sustainable hygiene kits has both domestic and global significance for educating girls. Yes, it’s true, members of United Methodist Women do discuss menstruation while mixing cookie dough. Been there. Done that.

Being alive means being creative and enthusiastic. And optimistic. Don’t say you’re dying but rather find a project dear to the hearts of those gathered around a table — however small the table, however few the women. Share your concerns, raise questions, reach out to those with answers - including God, and continue this movement that is global in its breadth, spiritual in its foundation, and social in supportive, creative ways.

Becky Warren

Nurture Your Mind

In 2018 United Methodist Women in the Oregon-Idaho Conference logged over 25,000 miles in their collective effort to celebrate the physical challenge in the Abundant Health Initiative's call to nurture the "Body, Mind, and Spirit". And now we turn our attention to the **Mind**. From January 1, 2019 until our 150th Birthday on March 23, 2019 we shall aim to read 150 books from the Reading Program from the years 2014 to 2019. We shall be nurturing our minds by reading the interesting, enlightening, and widely varied books in the United Methodist Women Reading Program. One additional option is the conference-wide read [We Make the Road by Walking](#) by Brian D. McLaren. This is a conference-wide

challenge supported by your Leadership Team; it is **not** a district competition. As you finish a book, share its title with your unit or district Program Resource Manager who, in turn, will share the titles with the Conference Program Resource Managers. The total read will be posted weekly on Facebook. A special thank you to Sandy Emmett, for compiling the list of books (on our website - download [HERE](#)) from 2014 through 2019 according to the categories of Education for Mission, Leadership Development, etc. Penny Hodge, Cascadia District President thoughtfully shared Sandy's list. These cold, dark days of winter provide time for reading and reflection — mindful work. So, on your mark, get set....READ.

Legislative Events – Moving Beyond Voting!

The **Idaho** 2019 United Methodist Women sponsored **Legislative Event** will be held **February 24- 25** in Boise.

The Sunday seminar will begin with District 18 Representative Ilana Rubel at 3:30. Rep. Rubel will explain what is happening in the Idaho legislature to fund the Medicaid expansion. She will also address the status of the bill to repeal the religious exemption for parents who withhold life-saving medical care for their children. Additionally, Rod Gramer of Idaho Business Education will review pending legislation to fund and promote education in Idaho.

This event is not only for women, or for members of United Methodist Women – all are welcome. For additional information and the registration form, go to: <https://www.umi.org/districtumwsage>.

Oregon's 2019 event, held in conjunction with Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, is scheduled for **March 4** at St. Mark Lutheran Church, **Salem, OR**. More information and registration will be coming soon, so be sure to watch for it. Mark your calendar now for this important opportunity to engage on behalf of women and children!

United Methodist Women Census 2018

Simple directions for **local unit** organization reporting!

1. Go to our national website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>
2. Click on this **green icon** and you're on your way!
3. Watch the instructional video. She'll guide you.
4. Fill in the blanks and answer the questions.
5. Click on SUBMIT and you're done.



You will need:

- 1) the number of members as of January 1, 2019, 2) number of new members added in 2018, and 3) number of members lost due to death or other reasons.

While local unit presidents are responsible for the census for their organization, it might be a valuable learning experience if other leaders, or even all unit members, participated in responding to the questions. This census is focused on gathering information that will inform the National office, Conference and District leadership on

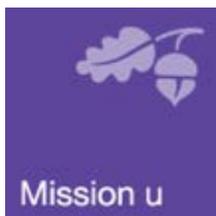
local efforts in order to plan for growth, outreach and impact.

If you have questions, please contact your district's *Educating Members for Mission* coordinator, your district president, or the national contact email and phone number in the video. We are all here to help make **Census 2018** as accurate as humanly possible.

Census Submission Deadline: Saturday March 30, 2019

Mark your calendars for Mission u 2019!

Mission u 2019 will be held in four different locations next summer so there will be many opportunities to attend a Mission u.



Here are the dates and locations:

- July 12-13, 2019 – Boise First UMC, Boise, ID
- July 19-20, 2019 – Lake Oswego UMC, Lake Oswego, Or
- August 2-3, 2019 – Roseburg UMC, Roseburg, OR
- August 9-10, 2019 – Burley UMC, Burley, ID

The schedule will be similar to this past year with Mission u beginning Friday afternoon and ending late Saturday afternoon. The spring newsletter will have more information about registration and overnight lodging possibilities as well as the detailed schedule for the two-day event.

(cont'd on page 6)

Studies for **Mission u 2019** are:

1. "Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship" led by Evelyn Erbele at the Oregon Mission u's and Carole Sullivan at the Idaho Mission u's
2. "Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission," led by Lory Nesper at all schools
3. "What About Our Money?" again led by Rochelle Killett – this study will only be offered at the Lake Oswego and Boise First locations, as it is the repeat study.

Your Mission u team is excited about the studies for 2019. This is our 150th anniversary year and we'll celebrate enthusiastically at Mission u this summer. Who knows – we may even have a birthday cake and ice cream!

Bonnie McOmber, Dean

District Leadership Training and Annual Meeting 2018 and 2019

Thank you to all of you who not only attended the fall meetings but also took the time to complete the evaluations at the end of a full day. Many of you have no doubt attended events and are asked to complete an evaluation form and thought your suggestions probably wouldn't be taken seriously.

The purpose of my column in our newsletter this month is to tell you that the Leadership Team does appreciate your evaluations. You have been helpful in giving us ideas so that each year the meetings get better and more organized – well that's the goal anyway.

There are a few comments that I wanted to share with you since they are given anonymously.

- I am looking at my grocery shopping a little different now, about where I shop
- I learned that in spite of the advance sharing of information, snafus occur.

- I am new so I tried to soak it all in – lot to learn
- Hopefully it will make me be organized and effective.
- I have more tools to work with
- My brain is full, my heart is singing! I am refueled (non-carbon) and inspired!
- There is enough work for everyone. I can be satisfied to work in the area I have been called to serve. No one expects one person to do it all.

Now, let's look forward to the 2019 District Leadership Training and Annual Meeting. The date for District Leadership Training is October 18 and for the Annual Meeting October 19. Both meetings will be held at Newberg United Methodist Church.

More information will be provided as the planning progresses. Please keep offering your thoughts, ideas and ways of improving!

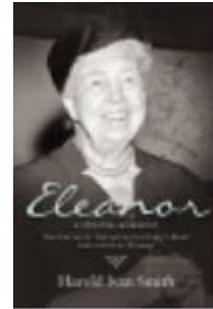
Turella Woods
Vice-President

Reading with a Purpose

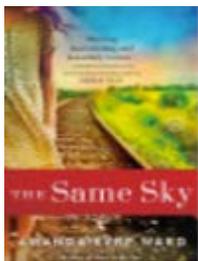
In celebration of the 150th Anniversary Date of our founding, President Becky has challenged us to collectively read 150 books from the United Methodist Women Reading Program by March 23, 2019. With the challenge in mind, this month's article highlights a few of the 2019 reading books. Please share these suggestions with your members. There are many more books of interest, and don't forget that books from the 2015 through 2019 can also be used as well as *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren.

Carol Richard and Ann Murchison, Resource Room Managers

ELEANOR: A SPIRITUAL BIOGRAPHY by Harold Ivan Smith
Education for Mission



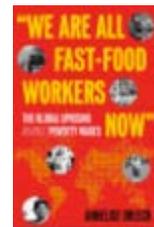
More than fifty years after her death, Eleanor Roosevelt is remembered as a formidable First Lady and tireless social activist. Often overlooked, however, is her deep and inclusive spirituality. Her personal faith was focused on Jesus and fueled her commitment to civil rights, women's rights and the rights of all people marginalized in American society. *Eleanor: A Spiritual Biography* provides insight into one of America's most famous women, particularly the spiritual influences that made her so active in social justice issues.



THE SAME SKY: A NOVEL by Amanda Eyre Ward
Nurturing for Community

Alice owns a barbecue restaurant with her husband, Jake, in Austin, Texas. They have a loving marriage and thriving business, but Alice still feels that something is missing. Carla is a strong-willed young girl who's had to grow up fast, acting as caretaker to her six-year-old brother, Junior, in Honduras. When their grandmother dies and violence in the city escalates, Carla takes fate into her hands and she and Junior join the thousands of children making the perilous trek across Mexico to America. In this elegant and touching novel, the lives of Alice and Carla intersect in a profound and surprising way as they each search for a place to belong.

"WE ARE ALL FAST-FOOD WORKERS NOW" (BONUS BOOK) by Annelise Orleck
Social Action



This book traces the evolution of a new global labor movement sparked and sustained by low-wage workers from Manila to Manhattan, Baja California to Bangladesh, and from Cape Town to Cambodia. This is an up-close-and-personal look at globalization and its costs as seen through the eyes of the workers: the berry-pickers and small farmers, fast-food servers, retail cashiers, garment and airline workers, hotel housekeepers, home healthcare aides and adjunct professors, all fighting for respect, safety and a living wage. In the words of the workers, these stories of resistance and rebellion reflect on hope and change as they rise from the bottom up.

Education and Interpretation

Last month, as I prepared for a planning meeting with the officers of my local unit of United Methodist Women, I began to wonder if other units were making use of the ***Healthy Vital Unit Criteria*** form as they planned for 2019. It's a great tool to help you develop a balanced program each year – one that emphasizes the various parts of our PURPOSE. If your unit is intentional in planning, it is easy to accomplish one or more additional items on the list each year.

If you are a bit fuzzy about the Healthy Vital Unit Criteria form, you can find a copy of it on the conference UMW website - <https://www.umi.org/umw> near the bottom of the page. This form urges a unit to complete a minimum of 4 out of a possible 9 items under “Maintain connection to the organization and PURPOSE of United Methodist Women” and at least 2 items from each of the additional 4 areas (Spiritual Growth, Education and Interpretation, Social Action, and Membership Nurture and Outreach). Completing that many items will qualify you for a certificate recognizing you as a *Healthy Vital Unit*. Of course if you want to do more, you could always do that, and your unit could potentially be recognized as an *Athlete* or as an *Olympian*.

An example of how easy this can be has to do with the Prayer Calendar. Praying for the persons in mission and the mission projects listed in the Prayer Calendar at

each meeting will count as an item under the Spiritual Growth section, and if you use the information in the Prayer Calendar to write to a missionary, that will count as an item under the Education and Interpretation category. In addition simply reciting the PURPOSE at each meeting will count as one item under “maintaining the connection....”.

Because of my experience many years ago as a US-2 (a 2 year mission program for young adults in the United Methodist Church), I have a special interest in making sure units use the Prayer Calendar, and that they contact some of the missionaries listed in it. It's really easy to send a birthday card to a missionary – you would be surprised at how many responses you may receive. Those are a couple of simple things a unit can do that count as part of the criteria.

If your unit has already planned for the entire year without taking the Healthy Vital Unit Criteria into consideration it's not too late. Look through what you have planned and see which things will qualify. Then you should be able to tweak your plans just a little if needed and become a Healthy Vital Unit.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Shalom,
Leona Whitcomb, Education and
Interpretation Coordinator
Jayandleona1969@gmail.co

150th ANNIVERSARY – Plan an Anniversary Celebration

As the 150th anniversary of United Methodist Women approaches, be sure to celebrate all the ways you’ve made life better for women, children and youth.

In just a matter of months, United Methodist Women will celebrate its 150th year as women organized for mission. How will you celebrate? With whom will you share the story of United Methodist Women in the coming months?

March 23, 2019, our 150th anniversary date, is a Saturday, so consider organizing a celebration of United Methodist Women that lasts for the entire weekend.

Activities might include a service day, a unit program, a 150th birthday party or special event, a retreat, or participation in the Day of Giving (March 23). On Sunday, plan a worship service conducted by United Methodist Women, a festive luncheon, a prayer service.

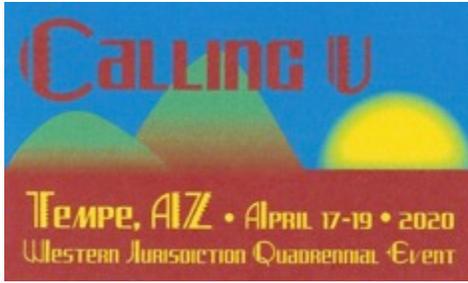


We will be wearing hats from any decade women have been organized for mission!

In addition to plans made by your local unit, plan now to participate in the celebrations sponsored by Oregon-Idaho Conference United Methodist Women. Plan to party with the rest of us at each of

the four Mission u sites this summer, as well as at Annual Meeting in October – **and wear a hat!!**





Calling u...to the Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event. Don't miss it!

Did you attend Assembly in Columbus, Ohio in May? If you did, you had the chance to see Harriet Jane Olsen speak in person. You participated in meaningful worship with fantastic music. You were educated by

fabulous speakers. If you missed Assembly...

The Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event gives you the opportunity for many of the same experiences, closer to home.

Harriet Jane Olsen will speak. There will be great worship with wonderful music. And the Western Jurisdiction is the first jurisdiction to schedule its keynote speaker!

Our keynote speaker will be Katharine Hayhoe. She is a climate scientist and one of the authors of the second volume of the 4th U.S. National Climate Assessment, also known as the "Black Friday Climate Report." She is a tireless advocate for addressing climate change and a dynamic speaker.

Please plan on joining the United Methodist Women of the Western Jurisdiction in Tempe, Arizona in April 2020.

The Emblem of United Methodist Women

The emblem of United Methodist Women includes the cross and flame - ancient symbols of the church that appear on the United Methodist Church emblem. Both symbols remind us of the opportunities and obligations of discipleship. Paul's words to Timothy have fresh and contemporary meanings, "I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you." (2 Tim. 1:6).

As United Methodist Women, we give our gift of God with others through mission. As parts of our emblem, the cross and flame remind us of our PURPOSE of growing in our understanding of, and willingness to participate in, the global ministries of the church. They remind us

of our heritage of women



who pioneer in service for the church at home and in other countries. The overall shape of the emblem is also symbolic. Fluid and free flowing, the shape suggests change and mobility. The women who came before us were at the forefront of movements for change. Always aware of the times, we move with ever changing circumstances rather than feeling overwhelmed by them. We are a group of Christian women with many gifts who are unified by one Spirit. We participate in God's mission in all areas of life.

Your Conference Leadership Team

I am Judi Day, new Mission Coordinator for Spiritual Growth. My husband and I moved from the Bay Area to Oregon in 2009, and just celebrated our 54th anniversary. We have 3 sons and 8 grandchildren.

I began my participation in United Methodist Women in 1973, and gradually increased my involvement, serving on district teams in nominations, as Vice-President, and Spiritual Growth

Coordinator; this is my first time on a Conference team.

In 2002 I was commissioned and consecrated as a Deaconess, and am currently the coordinator of Outreach and Nurture for Jefferson UMC.

If you are not yet connected to the Upper Room Sight Psalm, it is an inspiring daily email with a photo and a short spiritual message.

Blessings, joy, and a calmness of spirit for 2019~~

Shalom,
Judi

My involvement with United Methodist Women and its predecessor organization goes way back. I have a card with my baby stuff giving me a "Life Membership" in the WSCS (predecessor to United Methodist Women). While serving as a US-2 in Portland following college I was asked to speak in many local WSCS units, but was never a member of one. Much later, around 2002, I was asked to be a district VP in the Southwest Texas Conference. Shortly after moving

to Ontario, I was asked to be the Education and Interpretation Coordinator for the Central District. That was followed by serving as district president in both the Oregon Trail District and the Sage District, and serving as both a member and chair of the nominating committee.

Leona Whitcomb, Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Other new members on the Conference Leadership Team include Bonnie McOmer, Dean of Mission u; Sue Chambers, Nominating Committee; and Penny Hodge, Cascadia District President.

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2019 CALENDAR

January

11-12 Conference Leadership Team Meeting (Conference call)

February

1-3 Leadership Development Days, Tempe, AZ

24-25 Legislative Advocacy Event, Idaho

March

2 Cascadia District Every Member Enrichment Event, Canby UMC, Canby, OR

2 Sage District Every Member Enrichment Event, La Grande UMC, OR

4 Oregon Legislative Day, St. Mark Lutheran Church, Salem, OR

9 Crater Lake District Every Member Enrichment Event, First UMC, Albany, OR

22-23 Cascadia and Columbia Districts Spiritual Retreat, Collins Retreat Center

23 Sage District Every Member Enrichment Event, Burley UMC, Burley, ID

28-30 Conference Leadership Team Meeting, location TBD

April

3 Columbia District Every Member Enrichment Event, Portland First UMC

6 Sage District Every Member Enrichment Event, Meridian UMC, Meridian, ID

15 Our Two Cents Articles Due

15 Deadline for applications for Zimmerman Fund Grant and Charter for Racial Justice Award

27-28 Cascadia District Every Member Enrichment Event, Seaside UMC, Seaside, OR

May

1 Deadline for applications for Gertrude Boyd Crane Scholarship

June

12-16 UMC Annual Conference, Eugene, OR

July

12-13 Idaho Mission u, First UMC, Boise, ID

19-20 Oregon Mission u, Lake Oswego UMC, Lake Oswego, OR

August

2-3 Oregon Mission u, Roseburg UMC, Roseburg, OR

9-10 Idaho Mission u, Burley UMC, ID

10 Our Two Cents Articles Due

September

14 or 21 Columbia District Annual Meeting, Location TBA

21 Cascadia District Annual Meeting, Hillsboro UMC, Hillsboro, OR

28 Sage District Annual Meeting, Kimberly Crossroads UMC, Kimberly, ID

October

18 District Leadership Training Event (DLTE), Newberg UMC, Newberg OR

19 Conference Annual Meeting, Newberg UMC, Newberg, OR

November