



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

17-18 Conference Leadership Team Meeting (Conference call)

February

23-24 Legislative Advocacy Event, Idaho

29 Cascadia District EMEE, Tigard UMC, Tigard, OR

March

7 Crater Lake District EMEE, Medford UMC, Medford, OR

14 Sage District EMEE, Fruitland, ID

20-22 Conference Leadership Team Retreat, Portland, OR

28 Cascadia District EMEE, Bend, OR

28 Columbia District EMEE, Oak Grove UMC, Portland, OR

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

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

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Hope, Faith and Love in (SOCIAL) ACTION

I am Judy Halverson, your new Conference Social Action Coordinator. Previously I served as Sage District Social Action Coordinator, and have been involved with mission outreach in areas such as CROP Hunger Walk, prison ministries, Special Olympics, and a homeless shelter. I've also been on 4 Volunteer In Mission trips to Honduras. As you can see, I do have Attention Deficit Disorder—interest scattered all over the place! Another reason why I am glad that I am a member of United Methodist Women and can focus on only four issues each quadrennial!

We are heading into our final year of focus on these four social issue priorities (do they look familiar?)

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/issues>

- Climate Justice: Reduce carbon footprint emissions of corporations and individuals
- Maternal and Child Health: Decrease maternal mortality; develop a network of women's health advocates for access to health care and education
- Criminalization of Communities of Color: Interrupt the School to Prison Pipeline,
- Economic Inequality: Adopt legislation in states/localities that builds the base for a living wage.

There are many ways you can engage more deeply with these issues.

“Study” Opportunities: At Mission u this summer, we will have the opportunity to do the Mission Study *Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*.

Have you read the articles in our mission magazine, *response*, about these social issues? The January/February issue usually has a handy index of the year's articles to track down a specific topic.

What **Reading Program** books have you read recently that relate to the social campaigns? Remember there is a Social Action category. Find the 2020 Reading Program books at:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

Faith Talks

(<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>) are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women. Some of the conversations were/are related to the four social campaigns. You can listen to previous conversations or sign up for upcoming ones

“Action” Opportunities: Your District Social Action Coordinator can guide you to actions in your community and state. Contact her to be on the email list for action alerts.

Have you signed up for the **United Methodist Women's Action Alerts**? You can sign up for all four social campaigns or just your favorite.

https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Social_Action_Alerts.html

If you use Facebook, be sure to follow our page for updates as well.

Thirty-two years ago I chose to become a member of United Methodist Women because of the opportunity to not only study about social issues, but to also **take action** on these issues. We United Methodist Women are not bystanders—we know how to offer our service and advocacy where we see a need!
Judy

From Your President



“Let Your Light Shine: Ignited for Justice” is the theme for the United Methodist Women Program Book 2019-2020 and the *Introduction* to this resource speaks to our present situation as a church and as a nation: “In Genesis, the formation of the earth follows the creation of light. In Revelation, when creation is restored, we are told that God will be our light. As we pay attention to light in the arc of Christian history, what does light mean for us?”

What does God’s light mean when futures are uncertain, when conflicts appear irreconcilable, when communities fracture, and nerves are frayed? To find some answers to these questions I turned naturally to the Quadrilateral — to Scripture, Tradition, Reason, and Experience.

Scriptures guide us. We can be like Noah and make emergency plans; like Moses and accept leadership challenges; like Queen Esther and speak out for justice; like Ruth and stand by family; and like the disciples at Pentecost and ardently seek and respond to the Holy Spirit.

Our history as United Methodist Women also provides us with an admirable Tradition of strong women whose faith was — and is — a foundation for leadership. Here are “Ten Leadership Skills” we would do well to emulate:

1. Reflect on your own experience and ways of being and doing.
2. Be open to the contribution of others.
3. Practice collective leadership.
4. Support the growth of others.
5. Realize the diversity in our communities.
6. Value persons over being right.

7. Speak up.
8. Live democratically.
9. Imagine God’s vision.
10. Sustain critical hope.

Through **Reason** we become more effective advocates for justice. We read, think, evaluate, plan and communicate. Being reasonable isn’t always the easiest road to travel. Presently I am reading **HIGH CRIMES AND MISDEMEANORS** by Frank O. Bowman III. It is a history of impeachment from the 14th century in England to the present-day United States. It is comprehensive. I read this book, not because it is easy, but because the information provides a bridge for talking with others whose opinions differ from mine.

As for **Experience**, United Methodist Women grounds us in a “supportive, creative fellowship” that should remain resilient in dark times. How we talk with one another should “value persons over being right.” Civility is paramount. In the December 12 Oregonian, writer Mary Sanchez talked about the need for civility in our society. She avows that civility is not meekness nor decorum, and its point is “not to keep the boat steady” but to “articulate the highest and best values in civic life.”

In these days of uncertainty both within our denomination and our country, United Methodist Women can respond civilly — but effectively — to dissension and injustice. No wringing of hands for us! We are heralds of light acclaiming with the poet Ann Weems “that with God all things still are possible, that even now unto us a Child is born!”

Amen! - Becky Warren

Informed Voting
Idaho Legislative Advocacy Event
February 23 and 24, 2020

As members of United Methodist Women, we know the importance of being advocates for change. We also know the importance of being educated about the issues that matter to us, and about how we can best affect the change we want to see. One way to do that is by participating in the **Idaho Legislative Advocacy Event**, February 23 and 24 in Boise.

The **Sunday afternoon** session will be at First United Methodist Church. It will feature **presenters** on topics relevant to the upcoming legislative session, as well as a **workshop on considering our Christian principles and the priority issues of United Methodist Women to evaluate our legislators and candidates.**

Monday will be spent at Idaho's State Capitol, attending legislative sessions,

committee meetings, or hearings. At noon, we will move to First Presbyterian Church for a soup lunch with legislators. This is an excellent opportunity to meet with them in a relaxed setting and learn about their priorities while sharing your own.

This event is **open to anyone** – women and men, those who are members of United Methodist Women and those who are not. So invite a friend, neighbor, or newcomer to the area or to your church.

Registration is \$25 for both days (supper and lunch included) or \$15 for one day. Scholarships are available and in-home **housing can be arranged** upon request.

For additional information and the registration form, go to:

<https://www.umi.org/districtumwsage>.

Ways to Stay Connected

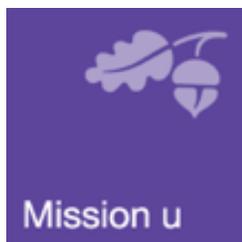
Oregon-Idaho United Methodist Women – umi.org/umw



United Methodist Women – unitedmethodistwomen.org

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





Mark your calendars for Mission u 2020

Preparation is underway for Mission u 2020. In **Idaho**, we are trying something new. There will be only one school, in a retreat setting, on a Monday through Wednesday. It will be at the Nazareth Retreat Center, Boise, Monday, July 13 through lunch on Wednesday July 15.

Oregon dates are Friday, July 24 thru Saturday, July 25 - Portland area; Friday, August 7 thru Saturday August 8 - Eugene area. Oregon locations are still to be determined.

Update on Quilts and Blankets for Greater Northwest Area Annual Conference

Mark your calendars for Greater Northwest Area Annual Conference (Alaska, Pacific Northwest, and Oregon-Idaho), June 11-14, 2020 at the Washington State Fairgrounds Showplex Center in Puyallup, Washington.

Form a group of people who like to quilt, crochet, knit, and/or tie fleece blankets. Think of this as church outreach. What fun it is to converse with others as you work!

Quilt/Blanket Sizes: (sizes may vary)

- 45" X 45"
- 45" X 60"
- 56" X 84" (twin bed size)

Count your finished quilts and blankets and keep your them in a safe place until close to the Annual Conference dates.

This year's studies are:

Spiritual Growth Study: Finding Peace in an Anxious World

Issue Study: Pushout - The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

Special Publication: Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission

Watch for additional information in the spring newsletter, a special email and in your District newsletter.



Your pastor(s) and/or lay delegate(s) can transport your quilts/blankets to Puyallup.

Oregon-Idaho Conference United Methodist Women will have several tables, each with a list with each church name and space to record the number delivered. Quilts will be displayed throughout the conference. On the last day, they will be blessed. District Presidents will pick up the quilts for her district. Each District will decide where the quilts will be distributed. The request is that they be given to agencies who will give them to children and youth who are at risk.

How many can we produce before June?

District Leadership Training Event and Annual Meeting 2020

The dates and the location have been announced for the Conference United Methodist Women's fall events. The venue for both is First United Methodist Church in the historic North End district of Boise, Idaho. **District Leadership Training** date is Friday, **October 16, 2020** and the **Annual Meeting** is **Saturday, October 17, 2020**.

Additional information regarding guest speakers, the schedule and registration will follow in the conference newsletter *Our Two Cents* in the next several months. If you have any questions, please contact Turella Woods at turellaw@gmail.com



Calling u Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event

You, who are called, belong to Jesus Christ." ~Romans 1:6

April 17-19, 2020
Tempe, Arizona

Join us at the 2020 Western Jurisdiction Calling u Event
For A Time of Service, Spiritual Care, Social Action, Networking,
Leadership Development, and Enrichment

Keynote Speaker: Professor Katharine Hayhoe

Katharine Hayhoe is an atmospheric scientist who studies climate change, but who also bridges the broad, deep gap between scientists and Christians— work she does in part because she's a Christian herself.

- Plus Shannon Priddy, Harriett Jane Olsen, and other special presenters.

It's not too late to register. For additional information and online registration (including hotel reservations), go to <https://www.wjumw.com/>

Packing Away Christmas

Before we pack away Christmas completely for another year, let's think about those things we shouldn't put away...

The Season of Christmas is the Season of Hope. The birth of Jesus symbolizes the Hope of mankind for a better world and a better life. Wake up each day with hope in your heart.



The Season of Christmas is the Season of Joy. Joy lifts your spirit and gives you a sense of wonder. Embrace that joy and keep it with you all year long.

Peace

The Season of Christmas is the Season of Peace: Peace of Mind, Peace of Spirit, Peace of

Being, Peace turned inward and Peace turned outward. Take that peace and carry it with you.

The Season of Christmas is, most of all, the Season of Love. A favorite carol of mine is "*Love Came Down at Christmas, Love Incarnate, Love Divine. Love was born at Christmas, Stars and Angels gave the sign.*" Remember and hold in your heart all year the love God showed us by giving us His Son.

So put away your lights, your decorations, and your mistletoe but keep with you the Hope, Joy, Peace and Love of Christmas.



And then when the Holiday Season

comes crashing in on us in the fall... remember these different ways of drawing meaning from the symbols of Christmas.

First of all, when we can hardly catch our breath from the overload of Halloween before Christmas goods hit the shelves... think of it as people being really excited for Christmas to start, even needing it. Call to mind the tune "*...We need a little Christmas, right this very minute....*" So embrace the eager rush of the Christmas Season to open your heart to the Spirit.

Marcus Borg, in his book "The Heart of Christianity," offered these thoughts...

"The special star and the glory of God filling the sky suggest that this is the story of light in our darkness.... "Jesus is the light of the world..."

"The story of the Gentile Wise Men coming to the birthplace affirms that Jesus is not only for Israel but for all nations, Jew and Gentle."

"The story of Shepherds as the first to be told of the birth affirms the good news - the gospel - is especially for the marginalized."

"The song of the angels declared that Jesus is Lord and Savior..."

So enjoy all the lights that brighten the night sky and adorn our homes as a symbol of the Light of the World come to us.

Embrace the diversity by which Christmas is celebrated. Different traditions only enhance the worldwide spirit of the Christmas season - even those that may seem secular. The act of gift giving depicted by the Magi represents the generosity of spirit present in the season.

Remember that the Shepherds were the "simple folk" of the times but were blessed to be the first to witness the birth. Honor the marginalized in your world.

Enjoy the music, all of it, because the joy of the season is celebrated and proclaims Jesus as Savior and Light of the World.

Let us pray -

Creator God,

Thank you for your precious gift of Jesus, your Son, and for the opportunity each year to celebrate the Hope, Joy, Peace and Love of Christmas. Help us all year to keep the spirit of Christmas alive in us all year long. In Jesus' name, Amen.

May God bless and keep you and hold you in His loving arms, close to His heart.

May the promise of Christmas guide you in the new year.

Linda Langham, Spiritual Growth



THE LEGACY FUND
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

Count-up to \$30 Million

Dear Legacy Campaign Friends,

The Legacy Fund Endowment balance is \$29,021,864!

Because of your collective efforts, commitment, and hard work in support of the Legacy Fund, reaching 48% of the campaign's goal is possible.

Reaching \$29 Million is Incredible! **But Why Stop There?** When have United Methodist Women detoured from a challenge and made the impossible, possible?

Here's a Special Year End Call to Action

Let's get to \$30,000,000 by December 31, 2019 - 50% of the Campaign Goal, a phenomenal and remarkable milestone.

As we end 2019, let's put the icing on United Methodist Women's 150th Anniversary Birthday Cake!

Women across the country continue to work and serve together in bold ways. **So, how can we can get to \$30 Million by the end of 2019?** Consider being part of Count-up to \$30 Million by making a special a year-end gift to The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign.

- You can mail your campaign gift to the national office. 475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10115, Attn: Legacy Fund or making an online donation: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/give>
- You can make a Planned Gift and completing and submitting to the national office a Letter of Intent: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/planned-giving-letter-of-intent>
- Make a Major Gift Pledge or \$1,000 or more, payable in a single gift or over five years
- Becoming a Legacy Builder and making a commitment to make a monthly gift of \$18.69 or more: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/donate/legacybuilder>.

You demonstrate the awesomeness of what United Methodist Women can do when we unite faith, hope, love in action in special and inspiring ways this holiday season. Let's start the new decade building on every accomplishment since the campaign's inception in 2014!

Shannon R. Priddy
President of the Board