



The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women

August 2021 Edition

A note from your President

2021 has proven to be a time of adjustment and hope. We were able to hold our Spiritual Growth Event in April and our Mission Evening Event in June, both on Zoom. Now we are planning to join in person on October 2nd at Allegan UMC for our District Annual Celebration and celebrate we will even if masked up!!

Rev. Paul Perez, Director of Connectional Ministries in our conference says that “God is graciously inviting us to sing a new song.” He says we need to “reset”,

- ◆ to let go of things we learned we can do without
- ◆ and embrace the new as we labor to adapt and adopt
- ◆ and prepare to respond with care and compassion
- ◆ as we heal and celebrate together

Is this something we can do as United Methodist Women? Can we let go of the old “we’ve always done it this way” attitude? Can we embrace new ideas and new faces in our units? Are we prepared to respond with love to those who look and act differently than we do? Isn’t this what Jesus asked us to do when he said to love our neighbors. If we do this then we will heal and be able to celebrate at unit, District, and Conference meetings, at events, and even at National Assembly.

I can’t wait to see all your smiling faces at our District Annual Celebration and to share new ideas so that United Methodist Women will continue to grow and our purpose will live on for generations to come.

Linda Burton-Collier

You are invited to our District Annual Celebration!

Come one, come all, and celebrate with us as we gather for our 1st in person event this year! Wear a mask, don’t wear a mask, whatever makes you feel safe unless you are **unvaccinated then you need to wear a mask**. We don’t want you catching that nasty Covid variant. We will be singing, sharing, singing, getting reacquainted, singing, doing a little necessary business, singing, experiencing God singing, learning about missions, singing, eating, sharing in communion and of course singing. We may play some games, we hopefully will laugh and smile, but most of all we will be in fellowship together. Please come and join us on October 2nd and bring a friend or relative, they don’t have to be United Methodists.

Fill your car, van, SUV, or truck with young and old women who just want to have fun, be in a supportive community, expand their concepts of mission, while experiencing God. We will gather at Allegan UMC and the celebration will begin at 9:30 am and we plan to end by 3:00 pm. If you come early there will be snacks and beverages available from 8:30-9:30 and lunch will be served at 12:00. We don’t want anyone to go away hungry. Mark your calendar, spread the word, and join us.

Information About the Reading Program...

The purpose of the reading program is to better understand and participate in God's mission today to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues and to enhance and act on self-knowledge. It doesn't matter what your reading level is there are books for you. There are books for children, youth and adults. There are nonfiction books, novels, books of poetry, and books with just stunning pictures. Some books will make you angry, some will make you smile, and some books will make you want to take action.

Many of you were able to pass the quarantine time this past year reading so I anticipate a rise in our reading program reporting. Certificates will be handed out at our District Annual Celebration on October 2nd at the Allegan UMC.

READING PROGRAM PLANS

Plan I: Read 5 books a year, one book from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth and regular reading of Response magazine.

Plan II: Read 10 books a year, two books from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth and regular reading of Response magazine.

Plan III: Read 15 books a year, two from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, plus 5 additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response magazine.

Plan IV: Read 20 books a year, two from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, plus 10 additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response magazine.

Plan V: Read 25 books a year, two from each category Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, plus 15 additional books from any category. Regular reading of Response magazine.

Selections can be from 2016-2020 Reading Lists if not included in previous reports. Bonus books and Faith Talks count as 2 books.

2020 Reading Program Reporting Form

Name: _____

Plan Choice I _____ II _____ III _____ IV _____ V _____

Education for Mission: List Book names

1.

2.

Leadership Development: List Book names

1.

2.

Nurturing for Community: List Book names

1.

2.

Social Action: List Book names

1.

2.

Spiritual Growth: List Book names

1.

2.

Read **Response** Magazine regularly: Yes _____ No _____

REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

I have completed the required reading for PLAN _____, the books I have read are listed above.

Name _____ Local Unit _____

Address _____ City _____

Please return this report to the District Annual Registrar Mary Howard: PO Box 114, 209 Grant St., Hopkins, MI 49328

Help Us Strengthen and Build The District Team!

As Covid restrictions are lifted, perhaps your UMW units are beginning to meet in person once again. What a joy that is! An item I would ask be part of your agenda is the vacancies on the District Team: Vice President, Secretary, Membership Nurture & Outreach Social Action, and Program Resources. We will also have a couple of vacancies on the Committee on Nominations. Women who are serving in any of these positions in their local unit would be a great candidate as they already have experience in the position. While serving on the District Team you can still hold that position in your local unit. Please prayerfully consider deepening your commitment to UMW by stepping up to one of these positions.

Vice President: Fills in for the President when she is absent from meetings. She also coordinates district events with the help of the leadership team.

Secretary: Keeps records of meetings; communicates information to groups; shares fiduciary responsibility with treasurer.

Membership Nurture & Outreach: Maintains membership lists, develops ways to attract, welcome and maintain new and current members.

Social Action: Bring justice issues of concern to women, children and youth to the attention of the units; facilitate advocacy action planning; promote the United Methodist Women social justice priorities.

Program Resources: Promotes the UMW Reading Program to our District via articles for the *Compass*, public service announcement at events, prepares & presents certificates of recognition for women who have successfully completed the reading program.

All positions are elected for 1 year, with a maximum of 4 years in that position.

Training for these positions is provided by the district. Fees for attending Mission u, District Annual and MI Conference Annual are paid for by the District. Mileage to District Team meetings is reimbursed.

Interested parties may contact the District Chair of Committee on Nominations, Cheryl Proctor, 517-741-3125 or via email at seldominn_1@juno.com.

A Word from Membership, Nurture & Outreach...

As we prepare for the District Annual meeting on October 2, 2021, we need your help. Please list the women from your unit who have gone on to glory during the last year and bring the list with you to the meeting. If you cannot attend, please send your list of names along with the name of your church to Joyce Babbitt, Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator so that these women may be recognized during our celebration. Please send your list to the following email: joycetaskerbabbitt21@gmail.com.

A Word from Education & Interpretation...

WOW! Awesome job Gobles and Stevensville UMW units for completing the 2020 Mission Today Unit Objectives. Gobles is a Faith unit and Stevensville is a Faith, Hope and Joy Unit. Awesome job in a very difficult year for all of us!!! **Lori Roof, Mission Coordinator for Education & Interpretation**

Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules...

Proposed changes to the Greater Southwest District of United Methodist Women Standing Rules (updated 2021) can be found on the Michigan Conference website at <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>. Go to the tab for "Greater Southwest District" and find the changes there. Thank you.

**Greater Southwest District UMW
Annual Meeting / Celebration**

Saturday, October 2, 2021

9:30 am to 3:00 pm

Allegan UMC – 409 Trowbridge - Allegan

Registration and Coffee begins at 8:30 a.m.

Join us for:

***Singing**

***Sharing**

***Singing**

***Getting Reacquainted**

***Singing**

***Memorials**

***Learning about Missions**

***Singing**

***Sharing in Communion**

***Singing**

***Eating**

***and of course, Singing!**



**Ingathering: Non-perishable food items for
the local food pantry**

Mission Challenge Winner Announced

Cost is \$15.00 per person in advance or \$18.00 at the door

Register by September 22, 2021

Mail the form on the back with your check to:

Mary Howard, Treasurer

PO Box 114 * 209 Grant Street * Hopkins 49328

Masks are required if you are unvaccinated!

Memorials of United Methodist Women

Church Name _____ **City** _____

Women's Names:



2021 UMW Unit Pledge to Missions

Pledge Amount \$ _____

Unit Name _____



Registration Annual Meeting/Celebration

Name _____ **Church** _____

Telephone _____ **E-mail** _____

Free childcare provided, bring sack lunch. Child must be pre-registered.

Child's name _____ **Age** _____

Mail with \$15 registration fee payable to: Greater Southwest District UMW

Mary Howard, PO Box 114, 209 Grant Street, Hopkins, MI 49328

United Methodist Women
Michigan Conference Annual Celebration

October 23, 2021 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
Leadership Training October 22, 2021 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Kalamazoo — Westwood UMC

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

District Officer Conference Officer

District _____ Office Held _____

Home Church and City _____

Friday Training 4 pm-8 pm Officer training Mission Project

Saturday Celebration 8:30 am-3 pm

Saturday only—Childcare Needs: Number of Children _____ Ages _____

Dietary Needs: _____

Food Allergy: _____ Mobility Issues

Celebration Cost: \$18.00 per person After cut off date: \$20.00 Walk-in: \$25.00

Friday Training Meal \$8.00

Last Day for Registration: October 14, 2021

Please send registrations to:

Dorie Litchfield, Phone: 269-580-3449
61470 CR 657, Email: creator.dorie@gmail.com
Lawton, MI 49065



Register online at: <https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/>

Ingathering: Kalamazoo Drop-In Childcare Center:

100% Apple Juice, Small Paper Plates, Large White Paper Plates, Paper Towels, Large Sized Vinyl Gloves, Fragrance-Free Baby Wipes, Strawberry or Grape Jelly, Foaming Hand Soap Refills, Antibacterial Wipes

Greater Southwest District United Methodist Women
3813 Rockwood Drive
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

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The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women:

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.

IMPORTANT 2021 DATES

Greater Southwest District UMW Annual Celebration

October 2 at Allegan UMC

Mission u of the North - Oct. 18-19th at Grayling 1st UMC

Conference Leadership Training for District Officers

October 22 at Westwood UMC in Kalamazoo

Conference UMW Annual Celebration

October 23 at Westwood UMC in Kalamazoo