

For

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The Detroit Conference News – Summer 2018

PRESIDENT

CHANGE!!!

The one thing that we can say that has happened in Michigan in the life of the United Methodist Church and the United Methodist Women is change, and more change is coming fast. We have moved from 12 districts to 9 districts. We lost the Albion, Crossroad and Heartland Districts as we have known them in the past. We will not be keeping the same district names and are in the process of choosing new ones. **As of July 1, 2018**, we will no longer be known as the Detroit Conference UMC and West Michigan Conference UMC. **As of January 1, 2019**, we will no longer be known as the Detroit Conference United Methodist Women and West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women. We will be known as the Michigan United Methodist Women. In both changes, the one thing that has not changed is our love for the work of Jesus Christ! So, United Methodist Women members, let us remember our Purpose as we work for the betterment of women, children and youth.

The Purpose of United Methodist Women is what keeps us consistent. However, we always look for opportunities to grow and improve. Therefore, we are at a wonderful time and place in our mission life. On March 23th, the Steering Committee made up of members from the Detroit and West Michigan United Methodist Women Conferences had the opportunity to work with a staff member of our National Office, Marisa Villarreal. Ms. Villarreal came to help us work through the process of making future plans for the new Michigan United Methodist Women. She asked us to reach into our minds and hearts in deciding the “how”, and what we see for the new conference. She put the emphasis on the word “new” to remind us that the old conferences will be gone, and that this is our opportunity to be a different United Methodist Women conference in our state. Now that does not mean that we throw out everything that we have done in the past. Instead, we learn from the old, re-examine what worked

and what did not work, then think of ways to improve and go forward.

We looked at things that can bring the two conferences together and how to describe this process. For example:

. Are we just two groups coming together? Do we just want to continue with our old practices and only add a new name? Or, do we want to merge our skills and resources to blend into a new organization? The answer is: We want to blend together as a new organization and not just be a combined conference.

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2. What would the new organization look like?
3. How do we help each other to become this new conference and organization?
4. What do we expect of the new organization?
5. What could we do to be more inclusive in our new organization?
6. How do we put our thoughts together and what do we need to do to make our thoughts work? How do we develop goals for the new organization?

The Committee was asked to think about the things listed above. We added other things to consider. I know some people might ask, "What is new about some of the things that were mentioned in the meeting?" I suggest that what is "old" can be "new" again and what is new can also be improved. So, let's look at some things. We can think about ways to improve our communication with each other. This includes our written, spoken, visual, and personal contact communications. Let's look at our meeting time and days (this is not new). Let's look at how flexible we are in our thoughts, actions, learning and experience. After we have done all that, let's continue to discover how we can build our new organization to be the Michigan United Methodist Women. In the meantime, we do have some immediate work that we need to do as we continue the work of the Detroit and West Michigan United Methodist Women Conferences from now until December 31, 2018. Therefore, we will continue our current plans of:

1. Meeting and sharing with each other. We have already begun the process of combining the two districts.
2. Looking towards attending and participating in the various Mission u events:
 - West Michigan UMW Conference Mission u at Albion College (July 11-14, 2018)
 - Detroit Conference UMW Mission u of the South at Southfield Hope UMC (July 21, 2018)

- Detroit Conference UMW Mission u One Day Event, H.O.M.E., and Mission u at the Lake Huron Retreat Center (August 16-18, 2018).
- Mission u of the North at Gaylord, MI (October 15-16, 2018)

3. Looking forward to the Organizational Meetings of the various Districts and Conferences:

- District Annual Meetings from September through October 2018
- Leadership Training at Petoskey UMC (October 26, 2018)
- Joint Detroit and West Michigan UMW Conferences Organizational Meeting at Petoskey UMC (October 27, 2018)

We are United Methodist Women members and we have a "PURPOSE"!

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SECRETARY

Ladies lend me your ears! The summer is gone, fall is here, and winter is approaching. The time is fast approaching that we will no longer be the United Methodist Women of the Detroit Conference, but the UMW of the Michigan Conference. As of January 1, 2019, that will be our new name, same responsibilities, with new leaders and with new and exciting ideas.

But the work for 2018 must still go on. Your District and local leaders have reports due before the District and Conference Annual October meetings. Please get them in on time.

I would like to see all if not some of you at your district meetings, as well as the conference meeting.

Many of our districts' borders have been redefined, some churches added, with other churches moved to another district. With so many local units moved around, please reach out to the new units with a mighty Hello and Welcome, as well as, a comforting "Welcome Back" to your old units. Remember "Make new friends, but keep the old. One is silver and the other is gold!"

Toni Grimmett
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VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings everyone,

It has been so exciting and a joy to see many of you at District, Conference and Assembly events. What a wonderful experience feeling "The Power of Bold" at Assembly! I hope you were there for the opening. Did you see the stilts - was that not amazing? Please visit the UMW website and view the pictures and videos.

It is Mission u time and what a great time for spiritual healing, seeing old friends and making new ones. We are not only merging, but refreshing our mission focus.

This year the Annual Meeting will be a joint meeting of both conferences. Practice saying Michigan Conference United Methodist Women. This will be the first joint meeting, with leadership training on Friday, October 26, 2018, and the Annual Celebration on Saturday, October 27, 2018. We are so excited to have Petoskey UMC as the host church. Their address is 1804 E. Mitchell Rd. Petoskey, Michigan.

The theme is; Have Courage! "Embrace Change and Grow". The speaker is NCJ president Rita Smith, and yes we have a bus.

With all the changes within our churches, conference and districts, this is a time to practice "hope".

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifice God is pleased- Hebrews 13:16

Best regards,

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TREASURER

The old saying, "Time flies when we are having fun," surely fits this year. It has been a very busy year getting everything ready as we wrap up the old and start the new. We added Assembly to our spring season and it was so inspiring. The opportunity to gather with our sisters across our country and around the world is something I wish all members could experience.

Thank you to the units that have sent in donations for programming at the United Methodist Community House. If your unit hasn't made a donation this year we hope you still can.

We have a considerable way to go in reaching the Legacy Fund goal in 2019 so your help with \$150.00 per unit and \$18.69 per person this year will go a long way. I would love to know this great organization of which we are a part will go on in generations to come.

With Mission u to attend and then district and conference annual meetings we have different opportunities to meet the ladies we will join as we start new districts on January 1, 2019.

Wrapping up this year will require all district treasurers to close out banking accounts with new district names and some change of treasurers. We ask all unit treasures to be aware of this and send your final checks to the same treasurer you have in the past by **early November**. Starting January 1st all units will have to use the new district names when writing checks so any sent late with a wrong name would have to be returned to you. Also be sure you have the name and address of the treasurer for your new district.

Don't forget to read Response and see our mission money at work.

Janet Muntz

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THE LEGACY FUND UPDATE



Top 10 Ideas to Continue our Legacy

10. Do your part to support the Legacy Fund by . . .
9. Learning about how our history has changed us as women, our church, our nation & the world!
8. Understanding how you can continue this powerful legacy by . . .
7. Using a Legacy video in your local unit (www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150)
6. Pledging at least \$18.69 (the year of our beginning) each year &
5. Urging your local unit to pledge \$150 (our age in 2019) each year
4. Honoring someone with a limited edition 150th Special Mission Recognition Pin (\$150)
(see www.umwmissionresources.org)
3. Honoring someone with a 150th Necklace & Pendant (\$50) (see above)
2. Sharing YOUR LEGACY about what United Methodist Women means to you
1. Being ready to celebrate 150 years of United Methodist Women & its Legacy Fund to insure Love in Action for the next 150 years!

Linda A Schramm, Chair

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MISSION COORDINATOR FOR MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

The warm weather is upon us. This year we have had many very hot days. That is an excellent time to participate in summertime events – trip to the lake, lemonade socials, trips to see a ball game. Make it a fun time and invite new people.

I have received last year's membership report from National and would be willing to share with the Districts. Totally there were 3805 members registered which is slightly lower than last year. This includes 89 units with some in all Districts. National also included a summary of all of the questions. I am aware that many people are not familiar with registering by the use of a computer. Detroit Renaissance was able to have the highest number of units registered. I will be bringing the totals to the Leadership training for us to discuss how to assist more units with the registration process.

Begin thinking about the fall and creative ways to invite members.

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MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SOCIAL ACTION

I am appalled at the separation of families- we are United Methodist Women and we take seriously the separation of families. Women, children and youth we support. We have to do all we can do to fight this terrible injustice. We must plead with the justice department to stop the separations and reunite families.

Ladies call your senators. Let your voices be heard. The children are the most vulnerable among us. In your area there are all kinds of organizations leading marches and taking their presence to the ICE Office. Separations of children from their families is one of the most important things on the agenda.

Give your support in a number of ways. One group – “Justice for Our Neighbors” can always use your support with donations or volunteering. There is a petition online you can sign at stopfamilyseparation.org.

Support our other programs with respect to fair wages. Minimum wages are too low. Some families work two or three jobs just to survive. Rally for higher wages. The world today is full of social issues. Immigration and separation of families reminds us to pray and keep on praying.

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Alice Tucker and Lynda
Brooks at Assembly!

NOMINATIONS

Hello great friends! What an amazing time to be involved in United Methodist Women! There are so many new things happening in the state of Michigan. My husband Brad and I attended the Annual Conference, representing our Plymouth church, and it was so informative. The UMW lunch there was very interesting as well.

Still, I have been mainly involved in putting together a list of officers for our new Michigan Conference to be voted on at our first Annual Celebration together this fall. I am working with my counterpart from West Michigan, Sue Emmons. Thanks to Loretta DeLoach, Linda Brown, Pat Engelbrecht and Patti Steinberg for their help in phone and internet work. We still need a couple more people to participate in the Charter for Racial Justice committee. Let me know if you are interested.

Right now, we are discovering who belongs to what district. Do you know yours? It is a big project to bring us all together in Love, Faith, and Action.

We are now starting on the Mission u team for 2019. That will remain the same in structure. I know that we will need a new business manager, so again, call me! See you in August!

Joy Coyle

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MISSION COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Being totally new to this position and to the entire Mission U experience, I found myself not only a little overwhelmed but also grateful for the opportunity to learn more about some very vital issues.

As I was seeking speakers for our various Mission U events I found that without really realizing it I was selecting people to speak about critical issues of concern for all of us. What is more important to us than the safety of our children? And...not only our own children, but all children. Human Trafficking, Immigration Justice, Racial Justice, Native American Justice all have a major impact on children.

Education is the key to understanding. Participating in the various level of programs offered within the United Methodist Women's Organization is an excellent way to expand our own horizons and to learn more about the various ways we can help make things better.

We may not all be able or qualified to be missionaries, but we all can benefit from listening to and learning from those who are. We may not all be in a position to travel to foreign lands and physically provide help for those in need. However, we all are in a position to provide support for those that are able. Our support, whether it be of a financial nature or a commitment to pray for the success of a given endeavor is just as crucial as being out on the front line.

I urge each of you to take the opportunity to attend the various Mission u events and your District and Conference gatherings. Take the time to learn about the various missions and missionaries that we support. You will be richer for the experience and blessed by it.

Remember, the Lord blesses us so that we can bless others. The more we learn about the various missions and missionaries, the more we can pass on to others.

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MISSION COORDINATOR FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Dear UMW Friends,

It doesn't seem like it's been FOUR years since I wrote my very first newsletter article for the Detroit Conference News. Now here it is, time to write my final article and I'm at a loss for words (rare for me, I know)!

I do recall when I first accepted this position as the SG Coordinator that I admitted I had a lot to learn and really wondered if I would be able to tell if I helped you or mostly myself to grow spiritually at all. Here we are, 4 years later and I still question if I have grown in my own faith, my devotion time or even the energy I sometimes lack when I am working for my Church, UMW and my other commitments.

Just this morning, my Pastor started a new sermon series entitled "Relationship Not Religion" and that really was a God moment for me. I had been thinking about writing this article and asking myself whether I had really grown much at all. Then I started reflecting on how my relationship had grown with God by leaps and bounds. In the past few years I go to Him every day, not just when I'm lost or afraid or worried, but every day I also have thanks and praises and love to share with Him. That is my personal growth that I have learned about me.

While I certainly don't think my articles have instilled such an eye-opening realization of your own spiritual growth these past 4 years, my prayer is that you stop and realize how everything you do to serve God brings you to a closer relationship with Him every day. For that I am ever grateful for this opportunity to be your last UMW Detroit Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator. May God continue to strengthen and guide you in your journey with Him.

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New Standing Rules for the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women To Be Voted On At the Joint Conference Organizational Meeting

For six months in 2017 Diana Miller, Detroit Standing Rules Chair, and Linda Darrow, West Michigan President, brought together Standing Rules that existed in the Detroit Conference and West Michigan Conference. A number of times they were the same. Where they were not the same, they were reviewed and adapted into a new version representing the new conference. Then the rules were brought to the Steering Committee working to bring the two Conference UMWs together. They were reviewed, discussed, and revised through several meeting times. In February 2018, the Steering Committee voted to send the proposed standing rules to the joint Executive Committees meeting in May. At that meeting they voted to send the proposed standing rules to the October Organizational meeting at Petoskey.

Some sections that were in the Detroit Rules were removed and will eventually be listed as separate documents. These include items related to the Conference newsletter and the Conference Year End Reports and Directory. These will continue to be refined by the committees and be listed at a later time.

The various committees for Mission u events are mentioned in the section labeled II. Committees. These committees will be working in the coming years to determine a new process for managing the Mission u events for the new conference. They each have their own Standing Rules and the events will continue as they are until the new process is developed.

There are substantial changes in the section labeled V. Funds beginning on page 11. Each conference had reserve money for attendance at national events but handled them differently. These were worked out. There were different memorial and trust funds. The United Methodist Community House is now owned by the institution but there is still a significant relationship through giving to their programs and having a presence on their Board of Directors.

The proposed Michigan Conference Standing Rules can be found in PDF form by clicking on the title on the left side of the front page of the Michigan Conference United Methodist Women website: <http://www.umwmichiganconference.org>

Please review these proposed rules and be prepared to vote on them at the Joint Detroit and West Michigan Annual Meeting and Michigan Conference Organizational Meeting, Saturday, Oct. 27, 2018 at Petoskey United Methodist Church.

Diana Miller

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COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR

As we start into our new year with one newsletter for the entire Michigan area, this will be a bit of a challenge to all of us. Be watching for changes in the newsletter that will reflect the new officers and new districts. We will also, given a limited budget, be looking for ways to increase our "readership" while spending less. Those who have e-mail will be getting contacted in order to see how we can use those addresses to send you the newsletter by electronic means.

Please rest assured that all will get the newsletter – we will not leave you out! In this time of change, it is important to make sure that all know about the great things that UMW does!

Kathy Freeland

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SECRETARY OF PROGRAM RESOURCES

Free! Free! Free!

The Reading Program encourages everyone to get involved and read books and literature that focus on our purpose and vision.

As part of keeping our members informed there are free materials that can be ordered to learn more about United Methodist Women and what we do. At each of the events, we have a Free Table that has these items. These are just a few you can be looking for and pick them up to share with your units.

You want to know about United Methodist Women. Get copies of:

- The Joy of Becoming: Guidelines for Organizing Units of United Methodist Women
- United Methodist Women on a Path for Mission
- We Are United Methodist Women
- DVD United Methodist Women – Faith Hope Love in Action
- United Methodist Women Bookmark

What about Social Issues:

- What every congregation needs to know about domestic violence.
- Charter for Racial Justice
- Why should we get involved in Social Issues?
- The United Methodist Women Racial Justice Time Line

Giving and Why Give:

- Legacy Commitment Envelopes
- Mission Giving: Five Channels of Giving
- Remembering United Methodist Women
- United Methodist Women Offering Envelopes
- Mission and Seminars:
- Deaconess and Home Missioner
- Who Am I Called to Be
- International Ministries brochure – poster
- Section on Ministry Opportunities
- Seminar Brochure
- A Bright Future

Visit the <https://www.umwmissionresources.org> to find additional information.

The 2019 Reading list is on the United Methodist Women's website unitedmethodistwomen.org, if someone would like to see the new books for next year!

Lastly, add unitedmethodistwomen.org, to your weekly agenda of Social Media.

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DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

ANN ARBOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

As I sit outside on the first day of summer, I see the colors of the summer shining so brightly. It reminds me of the covenant God made with Noah, when he promised to never bring a flood to destroy the earth again and he put a bow in the sky to remind us of the promise. Today we call that a rainbow. Genesis 9:11 -17

As we across Michigan are moving into new districts and working to create a new covenant with our UMW sisters, we are reminded of how our Sisters in Christ have gone before us to develop the covenant of women working for God to support Women, Youth and Children across the world.

I am a Certified Lay Servant through the United Methodist Church. About a year ago I had the opportunity to do the sermon at a church that was getting a new pastor. This was a part of the sermon: "Today we are here as a community of Christians gathered to worship God. We are a covenant of believers of the United Methodist Church and follow John Wesley's traditions. For him what it meant to be a mature disciple of Christ was the joining of believers in a covenant "to serve God with all our heart and with all our soul." He urged his Methodist followers to renew, "at every point, our covenant, that the Lord should be our God." We are one with God and serve God as true believers so then we will have grace.

As a member of the New Heritage District and as the District UMW President, it is very important to me that we continue to build on the covenant our Sisters who have come before us built. It is my goal to build our new district into an even stronger community of United Methodist Women!

I would like to share briefly about my experience at the 2018 Assembly in Columbus! ***The Power of Bold*** was amazing! First day, Ubuntu Day of Service and Rally at the Capital Building for fair wages. Next opening worship, workshop about *Telling Your Story* and then I had a one on one meeting with Harriet Jane Olsen, CEO of UMW National. That was an amazing 15 minutes and the question I asked was; "How Did You Get Here"! Then that evening I had the opportunity to meet Nobel Peace Prize winner Lehmah Gbowee. Her story was amazing. The rest of the weekend continued to be inspiring in more ways than I can tell you in this article. I was so blessed to be with 6000 women from all over the world and so many from our great state of Michigan!

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BLUE WATER DISTRICT CO-PRESIDENT

As 45 churches from Blue Water and 44 churches from Crossroads Districts continue to talk about becoming one district, one thing has become clear: We are all created by God to do His work! As we meet to establish new standing rules, new dates and a new budget based on the best work we do, it has been encouraging to see the hand of God in all we do. While some Leadership Team members leave for other districts, other women, including some new faces, will carry on the work already started by such a cloud of witnesses! My hope for those who stay to carry on is that they will experience God's hand in everything they do, and that the women of the new East Winds district will support their work with their attendance at new events, merged together to care for all UMW units in the new district, their pledges, knowing that the funds they give will carry on God's work, and their love for a new team that will carry on the important work of caring for women, children and youth!

Kathy Freeland

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CROSSROADS DISTRICT PRESIDENT

It certainly has been a very exciting and informative year for the United Methodist Women in Michigan. With the West and the Detroit conferences combining and new districts forming there have been many meetings attended to pull all the logistics together before our Annual Meeting in October.

Kathy Freeland, Co- President of the Blue Water District and I, along with a few very helpful and hard-working ladies from both districts, have been hard at work trying to establish a new leadership team for the new East Winds District (formally the Crossroads and Blue Water Districts). **We are still looking for a Co-Vice President as well as a Co-Treasurer from the Crossroads District to complete our slate of officers.** We are choosing to have Co-chairs for now as this is a new and larger district. We believe that having one officer from each district in some of the key positions will help with the transition and learning who we all are. We have also been working on a new set of standing rules and job descriptions as well as trying to get our last newsletters out.

We have decided to have a joint Annual meeting in October as both districts will be voting on one slate of officers to represent the two districts. It will be held in Lapeer on October 13th at Lapeer Trinity UMC, 9a.m.-3p.m. Now more than ever your support is needed to help working together in mission.

Be still and listen to God's Call, and let us know if you are willing to help in the leadership in these exciting times.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone for the honor of serving as president of the Crossroads District those past four years. I have enjoyed all the opportunities it allowed me: to travel to the different Assemblies, conferences, leadership training and mission schools. I have met a lot of wonderful ladies, learned a tremendous amount and gained more confidence than I would have ever thought I could. I learned to be a leader from many mentors. Thank you. I will miss all of you more than you will know.

Blessings Always

Susie Hagenstein

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MARQUETTE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

We had a wonderful Spiritual Growth Retreat in April arranged by Jane Yaeger. The Speaker was Dawn Ferguson & her topic was "Challenging the Body of Christ to Live Without Compromise". The program was excellent & her contact information is ferg103@yahoo.com. We also had a brief Memorial for Darlene Pruess (former Social Action/Ed& Interpretation.)

Our District Celebration will be held @ Zeba Community Hall on Oct 2, 2018. The Revs John Henry & Steve Rhodes will be the speakers. I hope everyone has a great summer. I close with this quote from Dawn: "Humility is not thinking of yourself less, but thinking LESS of yourself."

Bobbie Clift, District President

DETROIT RENAISSANCE DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Whew, even I was tired of winter lasting so long. Prayers were answered for sun and rain for warmth and growth. Green trees, flowers and good looking gardens were noticed while driving to and in Iowa to visit family and for a school reunion.

Detroit Renaissance District UMW members should appreciate and be proud of their Executive Committee, not only those who represent the district but also those who hold Detroit Conference positions and live in the district. These thirty (30) leaders faithfully attend the monthly meetings where they listen, ask questions, participate in discussions and decisions. They give their reports and between meetings meet the responsibilities of the positions they hold. They know, respect, appreciate and love each other.

Our Spiritual Life Retreat was May 11 & 12 at Lake Huron Retreat Center with Rev. Patricia Gandarilla, Detroit Centro Familiar Christiano pastor leading Friday evening and Saturday morning sessions. Those in attendance enjoyed games Friday evening. It is very likely we would have had greater attendance if many leaders and members had not planned to travel to Columbus, Ohio for Quadrennial Assembly later that same week.

It was special to see and greet so many Michigan friends at Assembly in Columbus, to meet friendly, competent and joyful members from other conferences and to be accompanied by friends from my own local unit. I so enjoyed and was impressed with the presence of spirit, joy, resolve and love. I have to also express my appreciation of the organization and leadership. It was a GREAT United Methodist Women Assembly!

It was special also to see and greet so many Michigan friends at the United Methodist Church Annual Conference in Traverse City. The UMW Luncheon was good; there was seating for extras and kudos to conference presidents Linda Darrow and Marchelle Phelps for the special program which was interesting and enlightening.

Hope to see many attend Mission u events this summer. It is good to see members return to Mission u events each year. We need to find ways to encourage and even urge those who have never or rarely attended a Mission u event to attend. Perhaps by using the district Facebook page those who might like to attend might connect with someone for a ride. Driving from Trenton to Lake Huron Retreat Center a few years back I gave someone from Clawson a ride to Mission u or our district retreat.

October 13 at Faith UMC in Trenton we plan to celebrate seven years of being United Methodist Women in Detroit Renaissance District and look forward to becoming and moving forward for an unknown number of years as United Methodist Women Greater Detroit District in the Michigan Area Conference. UMW members from churches that were located in other districts are invited and welcome to attend and be present for the celebration, the meeting and the keynote speech, "As You Do To The Least of These" by Jill Zundell.

Leadership Training of 2019 local unit leaders will be at Rochester St. Paul's UMC Saturday, November 10. Vice President, Tina Campbell and I plan to encourage Leaders to attend and take part in discussions during the opening session about good things happening in various local units followed by training by district leaders of individuals for various positions

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SAGINAW BAY DISTRICT CO-PRESIDENT

Don't just do something, stand there.

Sometimes, our busyness cocoons and insulates us from deep consideration of why we think our lives require constant motion. From Upper Room Daily Reflections, 3/30/2018

I don't know about you, but this makes so much sense to me. I have a lot to do most days. Work is good. But tonight – I still have a ton of 'things to get done' – I sat at my picnic table & read No Longer Silent: The Empowerment of Women in the Gospels by Susan Dehn Matthews (SA-2015). Cool evening after a hot day, twin fawns crossing the corner of the yard, mosquitoes buzzing & biting, later bats & fireflies – I am blessed, but only if I *stop & stand there*.

I found that to be true at Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. My, oh my – so much to learn & do & I didn't want to miss a thing! The Power of Bold – Bold Dreams – Let me turn and follow you and never be the same – We are building a Legacy – We make an impact – Every person has the right to a job with a living wage – Connected in Mission from Everywhere to Everywhere – Speak the Truth! – The Marketplace. My head was spinning! And all of the displays & new friends to visit with! Laughs on the bus! And Leymah Gbowee, Marian Wright Edelman & Michelle Alexander as speakers! And the music! And the tap dancers who interpreted the story of Mary & Elizabeth! (Imagine that!) And my 2 classes: 1) Social Holiness: Righteousness & Justice and 2) Advocacy: Faith & Facts, led by excellent, well-informed instructors from National UMW. And a private session with Harriet Olson & Shannon Priddy because Detroit Conference increased their attendance from 2014! And a taxi ride back to the motel with a driver who could barely speak English but he was also working in food service at the Columbus Convention Center & he wanted us to be sure to look for him the next day!

Whenever I was feeling 'information overload' I always looked for a group of people from Fiji who were singing. They sang on stage when people were gathering & no one was listening to them. They sang in the common area when only a few were listening. They loved to be together & sing as one! Sometimes I could understand the words & sometimes only the melody & sometimes neither, but they always brought relief & focus as I just stood there. Absorbing their good news! Centering on the love of God for all people! I had to *stop & stand there!*

Now for what lies ahead as we form the new Michigan Conference as United Methodist Women. I am reminded of a bumper sticker I saw years ago: Get in. Sit down. Buckle up. Shut up. That's what I feel like as we join together. Part of the ride will be bumpy, but maybe we'll stop along the way for ice cream or a cool dip at the beach. We will encourage each other. We will participate not only in the give & take but also create. The challenge is to listen, change, & create something new & better. Remember the "creative, supportive fellowship" part of our PURPOSE? I think that certainly applies here, don't you? Just keep the big picture in mind & what we do for women, children, & youth. (And who in the world would dare tell United Methodist Women to shut up?) I love our 2019 UMW Michigan Conference President's calm advice: "EVERYTHING will be fine." So reassures Linda Darrow & so it is! And I know Micki Phelps would say the same thing! And on we go!

Let me turn and follow you and never be the same

(lyrics from The Summons)

Julia Hulka

989-348-1992

jahulka49@gmail.com

SAGINAW BAY DISTRICT CO-PRESIDENT

Welcome! Welcome! Welcome!

We are not celebrating our independence as a UMW District, but we are celebrating something new! As of July 1, the Central Bay District is in existence. For the last couple of months, we have been working to bring this organization into existence. We (the Saginaw Bay District UMW as the base for the new district) has invited the UMW members from Heartland, Crossroads and Blue Water Districts to join us in making something new. A slate of officers will be finalized for election at the Annual Celebration and Organizational meeting to be held on October 6 at Essexville St. Luke's UMC. A calendar for next year is being prepared, a tentative budget has been prepared and the Standing Rules will be created for presentation at this meeting. Our hope is that we can take the best of what has been done in the past in each district and create something new and exciting. The previous districts are finishing up the work in which they have been involved. The last to be done is the financial part which will be complete and turned over to the new Central Bay Treasurer on January 1st.

Change can be stimulating as well as anxiety producing. In five years this year of change will be a distant memory and what seems so foreign today will be the norm. And in the end, it will be okay. I encourage each of you to participate in this process of creating new districts. Currently, the Central Bay district is still looking for people to serve on the team. If you are curious and would like to know more about how you might be involved, give me a call and I will help you to learn how you can be involved.

Have you ever attended Mission u? I personally am planning to attend Mission u of the North in Gaylord in October. I look forward to the current studies: *An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living* and *What About Our Money?* UMW provides excellent materials to stimulate your thinking and spur you to action.

How are you doing on the Reading Program? It only takes 5 books to complete Level I. You can do this!! I have completed Level 4 and continue to read the books on this year's list. Reading reports are due by September 15. My most recent read was *The Indigenous People's History of the United States*. This book gave the other side of the story about how the United States was settled. The white man was not nice and did some really cruel things to the Native Americans as they moved west. The books I have read have educated me and caused me to think about how I might become more of an activist.

I look forward to meeting all of you as we create this new organization. Welcome!

Ruth Sutton, Co-President Saginaw Bay District UMW

Phone: 989-708-9968

sutton1@charter.net

GREETINGS FROM NATIONAL DIRECTORS, RUBY ANDERSON AND TAYLORIE BAILEY

We both attended the Mission U School of the South held at Southfield Hope United Methodist Church, on Saturday, July 21, 2018. There were 96 persons in attendance, including our Detroit Annual Conference President Micki Phelps and Vice President Patricia Bostic.

As a member of the Steering Committee for both Conferences, Taylorie Bailey presented some information to the United Methodist Women regarding "A Way Forward". We have been asked by our National office to share this information. We are tracking the attendance at each presentation in order to reach 50% of our United Methodist Women membership count before February 2019. All presenters: please submit your attendance to your conference president after each event!

We want to express thanks to our Dean of Mission U -Linda Schramm and Asst Dean Jackie Euper for granting us the opportunity and time to share this information with our sisters and brothers in attendance.

Taylorie Bailey and Ruby Anderson



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN JOINT DETROIT
& WEST MICHIGAN ANNUAL MEETING
and
MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
OCTOBER 26-27, 2018
PETOSKEY, MICHIGAN

Price Per Person:
\$149.00 Double
\$139.00 Triple/Quad
\$199.00 Single

Trip price includes:
Round trip transportation on deluxe motor coach,
2 meals* (1 lunch, 1 breakfast), 1 night accommodation
and transfers, escort, Christian fellowship, & fall beauty!

Join the fun and fellowship as we travel by charter coach to Petoskey, Michigan for this very special joint annual meeting of Detroit and West Michigan Conferences and the Michigan Conference Organizational Meeting. The 2018 Theme is: **Have Courage—Embrace Change & Grow.** Our speaker will be *Rita Smith, North Central Jurisdiction UMW President.*

Day I, Friday October 26: We depart this morning and enjoy the splendors of our Creator as we travel northward. We will enjoy Lunch* arriving in time for leadership training this afternoon.

Day II, Saturday October 27: Enjoy breakfast* before we transfer to the church for the *Joint Detroit and Michigan Conference Annual Meeting.* (Lunch is included in your conference registration, which should be sent to Betty Thomas or Sue Emmons by October 7, 2018.) We will leave for home immediately after the meeting.

Accommodations: Michigan Inn Lodge (231-348-3900)---October 26th

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ASAP TO HELP US MAKE NECESSARY DETAILS

Reservations: Your full payment confirms your reservation and must be received by Sept. 15th.

Mail to and check payable to: **Sally J. Andrews, coordinator, 423 W. Todd Ave., Reed City, MI 49677** Call (810)444-4823 for details

Departure Points:

Bus I—Southfield, Auburn Hills, Lapeer---**Bus II**—Ann Arbor, Flint, Bay City, Clare.

Bus III—Kalamazoo, Grand Rapids, Big Rapids. (Times/details sent with receipt.)

**In-Gathering Project- Petoskey Nehemiah Project (helping the homeless)
Toilet Paper, Paper Towel, Kleenex (tissue) and Napkins**

RESERVATION FORM	ANNUAL MEETING	OCTOBER 26-27, 2018
Name _____	Cell Phone _____	Departure City _____
Address _____	Roommate _____	Cell _____
City _____ Zip _____	City _____	Zip _____
Church _____	Handicapped Yes No (circle)	

Occupancy: Sgl, Dbl, Tpl, Quad (circle)

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN DETROIT CONFERENCE 2018 TEAM

PRESIDENT

Marchelle "Micki" Phelps (2015)

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**United Methodist Women
Detroit Conference 2018 Dates
to Remember**

**Sept. 15- Oct 13 - DISTRICT ANNUAL
MEETINGS for all 9 new districts**

**October 15 -16 (Monday and
Tuesday)**

Mission u of the North, Gaylord UMC

October 26 (Friday)

Conference Officer Training &
Leadership Development, Petoskey
UMC

Detroit Conference News Meeting, 5
pm

October 27 (Saturday)

Combined Conference Annual Meeting
and District Reorganizational Meeting,
8:30 am registration, 9 am to 3 pm,
Petoskey UMC

Nov. 18 (Saturday)

Joint Conference Team Meeting (New
and Outgoing Members) University
UMC

Michigan Conference Committee on
Program 10:00 a.m.

Michigan Conference Executive
Committee Meeting – Noon-4 p.m.
with lunch

December 1 (Friday)

The Michigan Conference News deadline

2019 Dates

**Save the Date – January 25-26
(Friday-Saturday) St. Francis Retreat
Center, Dewitt**

Michigan Conference UMW Leadership
Retreat

Feb. 1-3, 2019 (Fri. – Sun.)

Leadership Development Days, Tempe,
AZ