

# The V.O.I.C.E.

Valuable Organizational Information Connecting Everyone

The Official Newsletter of the Michigan Conference United Women in Faith

## A Pledge to Mission

Have you ever wondered why our financial giving to United Women in Faith is called “Pledge to Mission”?

Our giving to church is often referred to as a “tithe”. When I complete my tax return the IRS wants to know my “charitable contributions”. During the year I give money to many different organizations, and these are often referred to as donations or gifts. In the on-line thesaurus there are 164 synonyms for “gifting”.

A Pledge to Mission is more than just a one-time gift or donation. A Pledge is a solemn promise, it is a serious commitment, not just a casual, spontaneous donation in response to a plea made by a non-profit organization. It is thought-out, promised, committed. Every year we as individuals, local units, Districts and Conferences make a Pledge to Mission, as we have done for 154 years. Our National Organization of United Women in Faith plans on our pledges to commit support to our nearly 90 National Mission Institutions, our 7 Regional Missionaries, and international missions in over 50 countries – including interest-free, micro business loans to women in Sierra Leone to start businesses where traditional financing would carry a 20-25% interest rate and entrepreneurial women chicken farmers in Zimbabwe who can become economically independent and support their families.

We, as United Women in Faith,

are uniquely positioned to focus on missions that improve the lives of women, children and youth. Our international work empowers women to find local solutions and make positive, measurable change in their communities. This includes skills-building workshops, leadership development, economic empowerment, advocacy work and more.

Our foremothers started down a path of mission that is our legacy to continue today. With our support Isabella Thoburn began a school for girls that became Asia’s first women’s college and Dr. Clara Swain began work that became the first women’s hospital in Asia. Now, 154 years later, both of these institutions continue to serve the women of India today.

So, as we prepare to attend our District Annual meetings this fall, have you personally made your Pledge to Mission yet? Has your local unit considered increasing their pledge so the programs supported by United Women in Faith can keep up with inflation? What are you willing and able to Pledge to continue the work and legacy of United Women in Faith?

Blessings,

*Julia Paradine-Rice*, President

Michigan Conference UWF  
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989-576-0675

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September 2023

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If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, you can subscribe on our website at: <https://www.umwconference.org/>

## Proposed Slate of Officers and Budget for 2024

### President:

Julia Paradine-Rice (2021) Greater Southwest

### Vice President :

Sharon Smith (2024) Heritage

### Secretary:

Ethel Gill (2021) Greater Detroit

### Treasurer:

Cheryl Rumery (2021) Greater Southwest

### MISSION COORDINATORS:

#### Spiritual Growth

Waltha Gaye Leavitt (2024) Central Bay

#### Membership Nurture & Outreach

Kay Fuller (2024) East Winds

#### Education and Interpretation

Judy Huynh (2022) Central Bay

#### Social Action

Jocelyn Davis (2021) Greater Detroit

#### Secretary of Program Resources

Ruth Sutton (2021) Central Bay

### Communications:

**Social Media:** Cindy Thiele (2024)

**Conference Directory:** Sally Messner (2024)

**Webmaster:** Diana Spitnale Miller (2024)

**Newsletter:** OPEN

### Committee on Nominations: Chairperson

Jane Yaeger (2023) Northern Skies

### Members of Committee on Nominations

Kathy Freeland (2023) East Winds

Donna Kleiver (2021) Heritage

Faira Glenn (2024) Greater Detroit

Rene Johnson (2022) Central Bay

Donna Blair (2021) Greater Southwest

Western Waters – OPEN

### Charter for Racial Justice Committee:

Members by virtue of office:

1) President – Julia Paradine-Rice (GSD)

2) Social Action – Jocelyn Davis (GDD)

3) Chair. Comm. On Nom. – Jane Yaeger (NSD)

4) Additional Team Member – Ethel Gill (GDD)

5) District President – Northern Skies (2024)

Members at Large:

6) Simmie Proctor (2023) (GSWD)

7) **Regina Allie (2024) (GDD)**

Ex Officio - Nichea Verveer Guy (2021) (MWD)

### National Director Candidates:

Julia Paradine-Rice

Sherry Wagenknecht

### PAG Nominees:

Linda Darrow

Ethel Gill

Michele Weston

### NCJ Voting Delegates:

Jocelyn Davis

Sharon Smith

Jane Yaeger

ITEM	Proposed 2024 Budget
District A&MD	\$65,775.00
North Central Jurisdiction A&MD	2,250.00
Assembly/NCJ/Seminars	1,000.00
Charter for Racial Justice Initiatives	0.00
Church Annual Conference Attendance	0.00
Church Women United State Assembly	0.00
Conference Annual Celebration	4,000.00
Conference Directory	0.00
District Officer Leadership Training	2,000.00
Keep Making Peace/Advocacy Day	150.00
Newsletter	1,000.00
Officer Resources/Literature	500.00
Mission u - Conference Scholarships	1,000.00
Mission u - Subsidy/Conf Officer Registration	8,500.00
Church Women United - donation	200.00
Immigration Law & Justice MI (formerly JFON) dona	400.00
Keep Making Peace - donation	0.00
UMCH Program Support - donation	6,000.00
Audit	500.00
Conf SMRs/Gift to Mission/Gift in Memory	500.00
Dependent Care	80.00
Lodging	500.00
Meals	200.00
MI Non-Profit Corp Annual Fee	20.00
Mileage	1,500.00
Misc/Contingency	200.00
Postage	100.00
Printing, Supplies & Checks	200.00
Technology	750.00
<b>TOTAL A&amp;MD</b>	<b>\$97,325.00</b>
<b>MI CONF UWFAITH PLEDGE TO MISSION</b>	<b>\$122,175.00</b>
<i>A&amp;MD %</i>	<i>44%</i>

State Leadership Team presented by:

Michigan Conference United Women in Faith

Committee on Nominations



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Michigan UWF Conference 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration October 28, 2023

“Turn On - Tune In”

Holt UMC  
2321 N Aurelius Road, Holt, MI

Registration opens @ 8:30 am

## Keynote speaker: Bishop Bard



Local Mission Guest – House of Promise

*Engaged in community outreach and engagement to help survivors of human sex [trafficking](#)*

Hotel rooms are available at: Causeway Bay, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911

Phone: 517-694-8123 Use Code: UWF-27

Ingathering to benefit House of Promise: Gift Cards from Walmart, Meijer, fast food restaurants, Amazon, gas stations.

Register online by October 21st at:

<https://my-site-102740-102533.square.site/> or scan the QR Code



Conference Annual Registration Form  
Registration Deadline is October 21, 2023

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check one:  Local Officer  District Officer  Conference Officer

District \_\_\_\_\_ Office held \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church and City \_\_\_\_\_

Please check events attending:

\$7.00 - Friday Officer Training/Leadership Development

\$18.00 - Saturday Celebration

\_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL DUE (Make checks payable to: Michigan Conference UWF)

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Child care needed?  Yes  No

Names and ages of children: \_\_\_\_\_

Lodging is on your own. Hotel rooms are available at:  
Causeway Bay, 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing, MI 48911  
(517) 694-8123 Use Code: UWF-27

**Mail by October 21st with check payable to: Michigan Conference UWF to:  
Audrey Putman, 1931 Loraine Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910  
putman\_family@yahoo.com (517)-482-2023**

# Get Together!

It's time to get excited for our United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event 2024!

We will gather at the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel, 31 West Ohio Street, in Indianapolis, May 31<sup>st</sup> - June 2<sup>nd</sup>, beginning at 8:30 am on *Friday* and ending at approximately noon on *Sunday*. There will be an optional, pre-event Soul Care Retreat on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> from noon until 9:00 pm.

## GET TOGETHER!

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another"? (John 13:34) Come GET TOGETHER! to

FEEL the joy when faith-filled women unite  
DEEPEN our relationship with God

NURTURE our souls through the strength of our sisterhood  
EXPLORE the power of love to make a difference

TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more.  
TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.

**SCRIPTURE:** The following scripture will provide the biblical foundation for our journey together: *John 13:34 (NRSV)* *I give you a new commandment that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*



Keynote Speaker  
Deaconess  
Garlinda Burton

**WHAT'S HAPPENING at GET TOGETHER! 2024?**

Pray: Community Gatherings, Worship  
Listen: Discussion Groups, Multi-Media Presentations  
Learn: Workshops, Conference Displays  
Engage: Breakouts, Action Opportunities  
Celebrate!: Saturday Night Fun Night!

Optional Soul Care Retreat: Focus on nurturing your mind, body and spirit while deepening your faith through spiritual practice and creating bonds of sisterhood (includes box dinner)



Music Director  
Amanda Powell

**SPREAD THE WORD!** Please go to the United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Event website, <https://www.umwncj.org/> for programming updates and the latest information.

Special guest, Grace Musaka, Regional Missionary, will share a global perspective. One example of a workshop will feature Shannon Priddy and Dawn Armstrong who will challenge us in "Let's Talk Legacy". Breakouts will offer opportunities for activities with your sisters, connecting with friends - old and new. We will be electing Directors and Alternates for the National Board of United Women in Faith as well as the 2024-2028 NCJ Leadership Team.

How can we embrace and include everyone in a divided world? How can we confront injustice? How can we grow within ourselves and our faith? The answer is always the same. We can do it TOGETHER.

Come nurture your spirit TOGETHER      Come join in worship TOGETHER      Come make a difference TOGETHER

**REGISTRATION will open Sept. 1, 2023**

Early Online Registration closes	November 30, 2023 (Midnight EST)	\$225.00
Online Registration closes	April 30, 2024 (Midnight EDT)	\$265.00
Soul Care Retreat (optional)	Filled until capacity	\$75.00



United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Methodist Community House Update



Before there was United Methodist Community House (UMCH), there were United Methodist Women. In 1902, they were a small group of women with a grand idea. Fueled by their unwavering faith, a strong sense of mission, and a deep commitment to their community and its people, UMCH was born. Their legacy has lived on through the lives changed these past 120 years. Together with all of the United Women in Faith, we're embarking on an exciting journey into our second century of service.

The Creating a Place to Belong campaign is a three-year plan to ensure that more children can thrive, more families can work, and more seniors can be healthy in mind, body, and spirit. We know many of you have followed along as our expansion plans have taken shape. We are excited to share that as of August 2023, UMCH has received more than \$25 million in government and philanthropic commitments to make this next chapter a reality.

We are looking forward to joining you for the upcoming district- and conference-wide annual meetings this fall, where we will share updates about the campaign and opportunities for the continued involvement of United Women in Faith members.

Although the campaign is well underway, we have not yet announced our plans to the public at

large. Instead, we are working to involve our closest friends and longest-standing partners first. The giving from this insider group will help set the tone for the campaign to ensure it's a resounding success when we do make a public announcement. Your involvement means everything to us, and that's why we're inviting all of you in the Michigan Conference to join us in putting faith into action as we pave the way for an impactful campaign.

We are endlessly grateful for your continued support, and we are counting down the days to be with you in person this fall!

In the meantime, explore our dedicated hub at [umchousegr.org/faith](http://umchousegr.org/faith). This site was created specifically for our friends within the United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Church. Discover more about the Creating a Place to Belong Campaign and the instrumental role the United Women in Faith Michigan Conference is playing in shaping its course.



**Eric J. Williams**  
UMCH Co CEO



**Carla Moore**  
UMCH Co CEO

## North Central Jurisdiction Scholarships

*The NCJ team has decided to offer 2 scholarships per Conference (one for anyone and one for first timers) to attend the 2024 NCJ event in Indianapolis, IN. **The scholarships are for the registration fee only.** The individual Conference will select their recipients, register them, and request reimbursement from the NCJ treasury. The deadline will be April 30, 2024. Each award will be no more than the early registration rate of \$225.00.*

Early registration opens September 1 and ends November 30, so we need to identify 2 scholarship recipients soon!

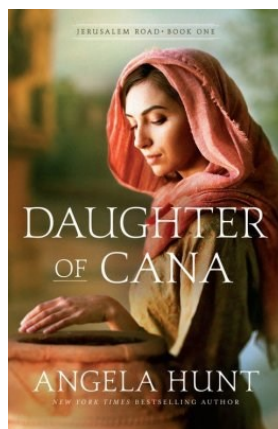
Get  
Together!

## Program Resources - Reading Program

### HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

It's here! It's here! The 2024 Reading List is now available at: <https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ReadingProgramCatalog2024.pdf> I have been anxiously awaiting this list for about a month now. It seems like it takes forever for it to be posted. I haven't had time to really give the list a good look, but I will be checking it out in the next week. As soon as I get the Excel list, I will check out which books are available at the library. I also will check to see which ones are available in audio format. If you would like a copy of this spreadsheet, e-mail me and as soon as I have it done, I will forward it to you.

In the meantime, I am reading the last three books on the 2023 list. As the Secretary of Program Resources, I feel that to recommend books and talk about them I need to have read them. The last book that I finished was Daughter of Cana by Angela Hunt. This is a Christian fiction book based on biblical stories. The



book is written about Thomas' twin sister, Tasmin and Jesus' (Yeshua) brother Jude. The premise is that Jesus and Thomas had responsibilities at home that they should be taking care of. Tasmin and Jude travel together seeking Thomas and Jesus in hopes of getting them to return home. I enjoyed this book and found it interesting to think what life might have been like in Jesus' time.

As we approach the district annual meetings, I hope you have submitted your Reading Program reports to the district Secretary of Program Resources. The certificates will be presented at the district annual meetings. If you are responsible for providing the certificates, they can be downloaded from the Program Resources website. <https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ReadingProgramCertificateOfRecognition.pdf>

Please keep in mind that I am available to answer questions about the reading program or the books on the list. Feel free to e-mail or call me.

Happy reading!

*Ruth Sutton*

Secretary of Program Resources  
(989) 708-9968 [suttonr1@charter.net](mailto:suttonr1@charter.net)

## Social Action

### SAVE THE DATE - Advocacy Day 2024

Advocacy Day 2024 will be held on March 13, 2024. The theme will be: Mental Health Support Access

United Women in Faith disappointed in the Supreme Court decision in Affirmative Action cases:

<https://uwfaith.org/press/2023/united-women-in-faith-supreme-court-decision-in-affirmative-action-cases-gravely-disappointing-we-mourn-but-we-are-not-defeated/>

*Jocelyn Davis*

Social Action Coordinator  
[missydavis32@gmail.com](mailto:missydavis32@gmail.com)  
(810) 694-6266

## Soul Care

For any local units or district teams interested in having a soul care retreat.

Jeanette Harris and I are available for support and guidance.

Here is our contact info:

*Pat Bostic*

Vice President, North Central Jurisdiction  
[pbostic02@att.net](mailto:pbostic02@att.net)  
(248) 761-4302

*Jeanette Harris,*

President, Greater Detroit District  
[Jharris48@yahoo.com](mailto:Jharris48@yahoo.com)  
248 752-7147

  
*Soul Care  
is sacred*



NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 933

**Upcoming Events**  
Leadership Development - Holt UMC  
October 27, 2023  
Conference Annual - Holt UMC  
October 28, 2023  
Jurisdiction- Indianapolis  
May 30-June 2 2024  
Assembly- Indianapolis  
2026

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Published three times a year: February, May and August

Send submissions by the 10th of the previous month to  
Sally Messner at [sallymessner@yahoo.com](mailto:sallymessner@yahoo.com)

## More Articles in This Edition

Due to space restraints and required information to prepare for our Conference Celebration, the following articles :

- Messages from the District Presidents
- United Methodist Community House update
- Information about North Central Jurisdiction scholarships
- Reading Program
- Social Action
- Soul Care
- Charter for Racial Justice

are available in our emailed and on-line newsletter at: <https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>

## District 2024 Budget and Officers

The District Budgets and Slate of Officers can be found at:  
<https://www.umwmichiganconference.org/>  
or by contacting your District or Conference President.

### **NEW DISTRICT MAP:**

<https://michiganumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-Seven-Districts-Map-1.pdf>

## Check Out Our Facebook!



Scan this code to go to our NEW Facebook page. Follow us to keep updated on events and view photos!

