

THE SHARING LINE

A PUBLICATION OF UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH — PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

**VICE PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**
PAGES 2 & 3

**IMAGES FROM
JURISDICTION**
PAGES 4 & 5

MISSION & LEGACY
PAGE 6

MISSION U FORMS
PAGES 7 THROUGH 13

**MEMBERSHIP NURTURE
& OUTREACH**
PAGE 14

**NATIONAL MISSION
ORGANIZATIONS**
PAGES 15 THROUGH 16

**NEWS FROM THE
WESTERN JURISDICTION**
PAGES 17 THROUGH 18

**NEWS FROM THE
DISTRICTS**
PAGES 18 THROUGH 21

CONFERENCE CALENDAR
PAGE 22

DEB'S DISPATCH

Springing into Action

As I write this article, our world around us is reeling. We are in uncertain times yet we are assured, as United Women in Faith, that by remaining open to God's call for stewardship of giving and sharing our spiritual and tangible gifts, we will continue to make a difference in our world.

We are in the midst of vital decision-making events within our United Methodist System. ...General Conference, Western Jurisdiction in Anchorage (United Women in Faith), Western Jurisdictional (UMC), Pacific Northwest Annual Conference (UMC), Pacific Northwest Annual Gathering of United Women in Faith at Spokane Valley UMC (October 18-19). Let our voices be heard!

Recently, your leadership within the Pacific Northwest Conference and Missional Districts of United Women in Faith gathered at Lazy F. Conference, and District leadership teams spent time in reflection, searching, sharing, planning,

worship, fellowship, and breaking bread together. You will hear more about our time together through your district leadership teams! Shannon Priddy, with our National Division, motivated and challenged each of us as we looked at our spiritual gifts in regard to our stewardship and sharing of those gifts.

How are you "springing into action" within United Women in Faith? Are you engaging in the many online offerings of "Faith Talks," "Voices for the Field," "Soul Care," and "Reading Program"? Are you reaching out to that friend that you feel would really be excited about the mission and ministry of United Women in Faith but just needs a little "nudge"? Have you introduced youth to the digital platform of United Women in Faith? Have you "boasted" about the work we do instead of keeping it a "best-kept secret"? Have you followed "Response" magazine and its timely information? I especially appreciated the recent edition

(Continued on page 2)

THE PURPOSE

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.



United
Women
in Faith

(Continued from page 1)

that outlines the issues being brought forward by United Women in Faith during this General Conference! Are you making a presence and letting your voice be heard in your own local churches and communities?

I encourage each of you to “spring into action” with whatever gifts and graces you bring to the table.

Serving you with excitement for our future,

Deb

*Deb Avery
President, Pacific Northwest
Conference United Women in Faith
davery51@q.com
360-281-0766*

VICE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS & IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

I’ve seen great change since I was installed as your conference vice president. While I’m still working on my national director responsibilities until July, my responsibilities as VP include program planning. Leadership Development Days, or LDD, was the first event of 2024, and my official duties began. Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith had a very successful training weekend, and most of our conference and district officers attended. Coming from the National

office, I know how important each of our officer positions are who form our leadership teams. Be the best that you can be, learn what you are responsible for, and be diligent. God will help you with the rest. Our time is now. Have you thought about trying an office? If you say yes, know you will be mentored and receive your job description. We are waiting for you to join our team.

*Stell Wallace,
Western Jurisdiction Director,
Vice President
United Women in Faith
Pacific Northwest Conference*





WESTERN JURISDICTION UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH QUADRENNIAL EVENT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA—MAY 9 THROUGH 11



Pacific Northwest Conference attendees

**GREETINGS
FROM ALASKA!**

MORE TO COME NEXT ISSUE.



Seven Rivers attendees



Deb Avery, preparing for the Flag Parade.



Meet Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team.



Moose on the Loose. Collecting money from each table for Deaconess, Nome Community Center, and helping people without housing. So far, in 3 days, \$3,000.



Aleut Dancers

MISSION AND LEGACY

The Legacy Endowment Fund & 1869 Society are very important to me and the Pacific Northwest. Helping Mission around the World by sharing what I can and leaving a gift for the future ensures blessings on our United Women in Faith. Noriko's passion for encouraging others to join in their Estate planning makes our future brighter. Giving is a response to the love and grace of God. Is your Will ready? "Where There's a Will, There's a Way."

Do you have a story to share with your friends? Do you have an enthusiastic young person to mentor? We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ, and put Faith into action! We equip women and girls around the World to become leaders. The Legacy Endowment Fund is all about the future. We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world. Please do what you can!

Because our roots are strong, we can grow in new directions we perhaps never imagined. To do so, we need the experience, wisdom, passion, and voice of women of all ages who are called to support one another in a sisterhood of grace. Not only to share stories but to listen with our hearts and minds to those who live with pain and suffering. Embrace the vision of our foremothers and give to the future! Blessings, Marsha Pacific Northwest Legacy Liaison 5/8/24 Legacy Grand total \$39,491,271.

GIVING TOTALS Pacific Northwest (2014 – 2024)

2015, 2016, 2017	\$98,381
2018	\$111,308
2019	\$120,004
2020	\$128,358
2021	\$133,735
2022	\$620,129
2023	\$679,800
2024	\$685,172 as of 3/31/24

International Total "Day of Giving"
March 23, 2024 \$234,961.

Marsha Aufenkamp
Legacy Liaison
United Women in Faith
Pacific Northwest



MISSION GIVING AWARD

I wish to share this certificate received in the mail with gratitude! It is issued by Sally Vonner, General Secretary/CFO, and Tamara Clark, Treasurer/CFO of our National United Women in Faith organization. With the generosity of women throughout our conference, in units large and small, we provided 163 % of our pledged giving for mission and ministry with women, children, and youth. We had pledged \$50,000 and were able to submit \$81,617! This assures that our legacy of mission will continue into the future. Your creative fundraising and individual pledged



giving are making a difference. Even though we continue to navigate our "new normal," we remain faithful stewards open to the areas of ministry to which we are being called.

Deb Avery

Mission u — Adult Registration Form

The Kin-Dom is Among You —DRAWING CLOSER TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER
July 25-27, 2024

Wesley United Methodist Church - 14 N 48th Ave, Yakima, WA 98908

Name for your Name Badge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Check here if you do not have an email

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Can you open MS Word documents (Word.docx or PDF)? Yes No

Church _____

District _____ Conference _____

Status: Is this your first time attending Mission u? Yes No

(Check all that apply): Pastor/Clergy Lay UWF UMM School Staff

Are you a UWF Officer? Yes No Check all that apply: Local District Conference

Gender (optional) _____ Age Group: 5-12 13-17 18 -35 36 and over

Adult Study Leaders: Rev. Cindy Roberts, Lynden UMC, and Ronda Cordill, Deaconess at UMM

Dietary: Meals are served buffet style. The caterer will work hard to accommodate most diets by providing a variety of options. Gluten-free and diabetic choices will be available.

Food Allergies: _____

Meals included: Thursday dinner; Friday lunch and dinner

ADA needs: We are happy to help you prepare for an enjoyable experience! Please share your challenges or concerns. If we don't know before the event, we may not be equipped to assist:

Childcare is available for ages 2-4. Do you need childcare? Yes or No Child or Children's Ages _____

Do you need a lanyard for your name badge? Yes or No

Children and Youth registrants: Completion of the Medical Release Form and Covenant for Responsible Adult Form

is mandatory for attendance. Youth must complete the Youth Covenant Form. Find the forms here: www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/mission-u-forms.

Can we use your photo in promotional materials? Yes or No

Can the National Division use your contact information? Yes or No

Study Books: Spiritual Growth Study books are available for purchase online at uwfaith.org/resources/
Books will not be sold at Mission u.



Mission u — Adult Registration Form

Hotel Information
Red Lion Hotel Yakima Center
607 E Yakima Ave
Yakima, WA 98901
509-454-2455

Cost per night: \$153.46, including taxes and breakfast

Registration Cost

Early Bird Price — \$125.00 — May 1 - June 30, 2024

Regular Price — \$150.00 — Forms postmarked between July 1 and July 11, 2024

No registration fee for children ages 5-12 accompanied by a parent or grandparent

*****PLEASE LIST FUNDING PROVIDED BY*****

Local Church/UWF	\$ _____	from: _____
District Church/UWF	\$ _____	from: _____
Conference Church/UWF	\$ _____	from: _____
Personal Check	\$ _____	from: _____
Total:	\$ _____	Participants are responsible for the difference.
Total amount enclosed	\$ _____	Make checks payable to <u>MISSION u</u>

*Pre-payment, including scholarship funds, are required. *NO payments accepted at Mission u.

Email the completed registration form to wmil1218@aol.com or mail the completed registration form to Linda Mills, 12431 SE 198th Pl, Kent, WA 98031

For questions about registration, call Linda at 253-859-2964 or email: wmil1218@aol.com

A confirmation letter will be emailed to you. If you indicate you do not have an email address, the letter will be mailed to you.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available up to \$125.

Scholarship Deadline: June 30, 2024.

Please apply to your Local Church, Local UWF unit, and District UWF first.

Scholarship Application available at <https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/mission-u-forms>

Contact: Linda Mills — wmil1218@aol.com — 253-859-2964



Scholarship Application – Mission u July 25-27, 2024

Scholarships are available for registration **ONLY** up to \$125.
Please check with your Local Church/UWF Unit and District UWF first.

APPLICANT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE: (including Area Code) Home or Cell: _____

Email _____

Name and location of the Church you attend: _____

Do you plan to share what you learn with others in your church? _____

- First time attending Mission u? Yes No
- Children 8-12 are free with a parent or grandparent
- Youth 13-17 (all are eligible for the full \$125 scholarship)
- 18-35 36-55 56 and older

**Scholarship checks from your local church, UWF unit, or district
should NOT be mailed with this Scholarship Application.**

They should be mailed to the Mission u Business Manager at:

Carol Gruen

2205 Lakemoor Dr. SW

Olympia WA 98512

gruenw@comcast.net

Please list any funds you are receiving from:

Local Church name _____ amount \$ _____

Local UWF unit name _____ amount \$ _____

District UWF name _____ amount \$ _____

Personal Check amount \$ _____

Total\$ _____

Mission u scholarship amount that you are requesting up to \$125 _____

**Please complete and mail this Scholarship Application
and your Registration form by **June 30, 2024.****

To: Linda Mills,

12431 SE 198th Pl, Kent, WA 98031

Email: wmil1218@aol.com — Phone: 253-859-2964

Youth Covenant for Mission u July 25-27, 2024

As a participant in Mission u, I take seriously my responsibility and affirm my commitment to the well-being and safety of myself and others. I agree to remain on the site of the event or meeting unless I have been granted permission to leave by my designated responsible adult:

_____. I will attend all scheduled activities, sessions, and meals. I will observe published curfews by being in my room, being quiet, and not disturbing others. I understand that anything considered illegal for minors (persons under 18) under civil law and criminal law applies to this event or meeting as well. Therefore, I will obey all laws. I will not use tobacco, illegal substances, or alcohol, nor will I possess any firearms, weapons, or fireworks. I will respect the equipment and property of others and care for the facility which we share. Any damage to the facility will be the sole responsibility of the person or persons who cause the damage and the parent or legal guardian of each person responsible.

This covenant is made between each teen participant and the entire group. I understand that if I break the covenant, and if the brokenness cannot be reconciled, my parent or legal guardian will be contacted, and my participation in the event or meeting may be terminated.

Signature of Teen Participant

Date

Printed Name

Parental consent:

I give my permission for my child, _____, to participate in Mission u, to be held July 25-27 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Yakima, Washington. I am aware of the purpose of this event or meeting and understand the scope and nature of the programs and activities my child will participate in during the event or meeting. I have read the covenant, which my child has signed, and I understand the responsibilities they have agreed to. I will support them in fulfilling this covenant.

I designate _____ to be the responsible adult for my child during Mission u, to be held July 25-27 at Wesley United Methodist Church in Yakima, Washington. I have read and understand the United Methodist Women National Office policies and procedures for responsible adults.

Printed Name & Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Date

Responsible Adults Covenant for Mission u

As a designated responsible adult with children or teen participants at Mission u, to be held July 25-27, 2024, at Wesley United Methodist Church in Yakima, Washington, I hereby accept the responsibilities outlined in this covenant and affirm my compliance with all United Methodist Women National Office policies and procedures related to reducing the risk of sexual abuse, ensuring the safety of teen participants, and administering appropriate disciplinary action when necessary.

I acknowledge that I have not been convicted of any illegal conduct involving a minor, specifically, but not limited to, child abuse (either sexual abuse, physical abuse, or emotional abuse).

I acknowledge and agree to be the designated responsible adult for the following children or teen participants:

Responsible Adult: _____ **Teen** _____

Responsible Adult: _____ **Teen** _____

Responsible Adult: _____ **Teen** _____

I understand that it is my responsibility as the responsible adult for these children or teen participants to provide supervision during Mission u. Should I become unable to perform my responsibilities, I agree to contact one of the Mission u Designated Safety Officers (DSO) and remain with the children or teen for whom I am responsible until an alternate responsible adult can be designated.

I agree to do everything possible to ensure the full participation of these teen participants and their fulfillment of the covenant they have individually signed and collectively agreed to uphold. Furthermore, I personally agree to uphold the standards set forth in the covenant for teen participants, abide by all restrictions placed on them, and serve as an exemplary role model at all times during the event or meeting.

While it is not illegal for me to engage in tobacco use, I will comply with all facility restrictions and use tobacco only in designated areas. Likewise, while it is not illegal for me to consume alcohol, I agree to refrain from using alcohol while I am responsible for the care of children or young adults at Mission u.

I agree to these guidelines and acknowledge this as a binding covenant for the protection of minors entrusted to me for the duration of this event.

I agree to report any suspected child abuse or inappropriate behavior between an adult and minor to a Mission u DSO.

When it becomes necessary to take disciplinary action for minor violations of the covenant, I agree to use non-physical forms of discipline and employ mediation techniques whenever possible. In so doing, I agree to reserve judgment until all the facts have been obtained and the teen participant committing the violation has been given the opportunity to explain their conduct. Any minor violations of the covenant shall be resolved as promptly and amicably as possible. Responsibility for maintaining the covenant rests with each teen participant and the entire group (that is, the responsible adult and the teen they are designated to supervise). Every effort should be made for mediation, reconciliation, and empowerment within the group to resolve the situation and negotiate the consequences for minor violations of the covenant. The responsible adult shall facilitate the mediation and allow the entire group to participate in repairing the brokenness of the covenant.

Minor violations of the covenant are defined as follows:

1. Excessive noise or disruptive behavior.
2. Disrespect for another person or property.
3. Late for curfew (not in his/her room when curfew begins).
4. Breaking curfew (leaving his/her room after curfew begins).
5. Late to scheduled activities, sessions, or meals.
6. Uncooperative attitude.

In the case of major violations of the covenant or civil or criminal violations of the law, the responsible adult shall immediately intervene without consulting with the rest of the group. The parent or guardian shall be notified promptly. Major violations of the covenant are not immediate grounds for termination of participation and should be decided between the responsible adult, child or teen participant, and parent or guardian. Civil or criminal violations of the law are immediate grounds for termination of participation. In the case of termination of participation, the responsible adult shall notify a Mission u DSO representative immediately and inform them of the circumstances.

Major violations of the covenant are defined as follows:

1. Repeated minor violations (more than three of the same or different).
2. Damaging, defacing, or destroying property.
3. Leaving the site without permission.
4. Skipping scheduled activities, sessions, or meals.
5. Violent or abusive behavior or language toward another.
6. Endangering one's own or another's safety.

Grounds for immediate termination of participation are defined as follows:

1. Any civil or criminal violation of the law.
2. Use of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal substances.
3. Possession of firearms, weapons, or fireworks.

In the event that another participant witnesses a violation, they shall immediately refer the matter to the responsible adult for the teen participant involved. In cases of emergency or immediate response, the adult present shall take appropriate action until the situation is under control. Then, they shall notify the designated responsible adult and inform them of the circumstances. The designated responsible adult shall take the necessary steps to ensure proper handling of the situation and its accompanying consequences or disciplinary actions as outlined above.

*Printed Name of
Responsible Adult*

*Signature of
Responsible Adult*

Date

Children and Youth Mission u

Medical Release Form – July 25-27, 2024

All children and youth participants are required to provide medical and insurance information as well as parental consent for necessary treatment in the event of illness or injury.

Participant's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Participant's Address: _____

Father's Name: _____

Home Telephone # _____ Work Telephone # _____

Mother's Name: _____

Home Telephone # _____ Work Telephone # _____

Legal guardian's Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Other Contact Person's Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Family Physician's Name: _____ Telephone # _____

Insurance Carrier: _____ Plan # _____

Policy # _____ Date of last tetanus booster: _____

Allergies, Insect Sting, Food or Drug: _____

Is the participant under the care of a physician for a medical problem? Yes No If yes, please explain.

Is the participant taking medication prescribed by a physician? Yes No If yes, please list.

Other information an attending physician needs to be aware of:

List any over-the-counter medications you **DO NOT** wish dispensed to the participant for treatment of minor ailments or injuries.

I give my permission for such diagnostic and therapeutic procedures as may be deemed necessary for the participant by qualified medical care providers, hospitals, or physicians while the participant is en route to, from, or in attendance at Mission u, to be held July 25-27, 2024, at Wesley United Methodist Church in Yakima, Washington.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian *Printed Name*

Relationship to Participant *Date*

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH REPORT

I am writing this for the Sharing Line with a sense of excitement and enthusiasm. I feel nurtured and welcomed into a group of diverse women who have so much to share. Nurturing others is essential to our ability to include all and diversify our membership.

Last month, many United Women in Faith from around the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference gathered at Lazy-F for leadership development. I was blessed to help lead, but I gained as much, if not more, from all those who participated. The district counterparts for MNO and those who represented districts without an MNO coordinator shared experiences that were useful to all. Guest speaker Shannon inspired us all with her knowledge and ideas for nurturing and inspiring those in our local churches.

I will head to Anchorage for the United Women in Faith Jurisdiction in a few days. I look forward to sharing information with others when I return. Please provide units in your districts with the names of those attending. Sharing the experience would be a great program for a future meeting.

Mission U is fast approaching. It will happen at Wesley UMC in Yakima in July. This is a great opportunity for exposure to United Women in Faith's mission work. As district officers, please encourage new persons and current members to register and participate in Mission U. Wouldn't it be amazing if every unit sent

someone to Mission U! Have a previous attendee invite someone who has never attended. It is essential that we take advantage of every opportunity to share the work of United Women in Faith. Be sure to provide information about scholarships at the district and conference levels.

Check out the National United Women in Faith's webpage. There are so many resources available. Again, share this information with your district units. We must take advantage of multiple approaches to include people from all walks of life.

Remember that as MNO coordinators, you are responsible for the memorial service at your annual meetings. I will also work on this for the conference's annual meeting. I would like to start this by the end of July/early August. Please send me a list of members who have passed away during the year. We can always add to it if we need to. Please let me know if you plan to attend the annual meeting in October, as I would like your help with the memorial service. I will be sending out more information as time gets closer.

We are United Women in Faith. As MNOs, we need to meet women where they are. This means doing things differently, not deserting current ways but adapting them and adding options to include ALL.

*Gail Simpson,
Membership Nurture and Outreach
Coordinator
United Women in Faith
Pacific Northwest*

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Take a moment and take this Board of Discipleship Spiritual Inventory. You may find gifts revealed that you don't expect. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/spiritual-gifts-inventory/en>

MISSION TODAY

The purpose of the Mission Today criteria serve to energize United Women in Faith to be more involved in mission through prayer, study, and action:

- Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so that United Women in Faith understand what their money is supporting around the world.
- Encourage use of mission resources through United Women in Faith.
- Expand concepts of mission to include social justice as mission.

If you want to participate in this program, you will find more on our website on our website under [Resources/Mission-Today](#).

THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you for taking action to support The Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2023. Your faithful action on behalf of children and youth makes a difference. Please share this campaign link with three friends to help grow our collective impact: <https://p2a.co/EYAPqis>. Peace,
*Emily Jones
Executive for Racial Justice
United Women in Faith*

OUR NATIONAL MISSION PARTNERS

NEW BEGINNINGS

TRANSITIONAL LIVING FOR SURVIVORS AND FAMILIES OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, OR STALKING.



My name is Devin Long, and I am the grant and fundraising manager for Navajo United Methodist Center, also known as New Beginnings. I received your message via our website about learning more about our program and why the United Women in Faith should continue to support our mission. I hope to get to know you as well, and I hope I can serve as your main point of contact regarding the agency and the work we are actively doing.

I know the United Women in Faith has been a tremendous support for our agency in the last three years that I have worked with it, and I am positive that support began far before my time here. It is crucial for our agency to have your support to not only continue the work that we have done but also to continue growing and filling gaps in services to serve better survivors and families of domestic violence, sexual assault,

and stalking.

I am unsure how aware you are of our program and services, but I would like to give you a quick overview of our daily work on campus. We currently have six fully furnished residential homes for survivors and families to live in for up to a year, rent and utility cost-free. During their stay, families are offered items like hygiene products, cleaning supplies, clothing, food, weekly individual meetings with their appointed advocate, weekly domestic violence support groups, weekly life skill classes, transportation, career and education guidance, parenting guidance (in the home and out) by our child trauma advocate, and more. In addition to these services, survivors in the residential program have access to our on-site trauma-focused childcare center. This center is the state of New Mexico's only trauma-focused childcare center and provides reliable childcare to both residential and community members. All children in the center have access to working with the child trauma advocate, even if they are not in our residential housing program. We hope our center can provide families with reliable childcare regardless of their child's unique needs. Survivors and families in the residential housing program and community also have access to our on-site counseling center, which currently has five therapists actively meeting with survivors and community members. We are also very excited to say that we have an extension of

our on-site transitional living program that supports survivors and families living with the community. Through our Department of Justice (DOJ) program, we have an advocate who provides many of the same services that are offered to our on-site survivors. Still, these families often live within the community and are in the next phase of developing strong independent living. Our DOJ program provides survivors with rental and utility cost assistance and education cost assistance. Our goal through this program is to continue supporting survivors as they transition from our on-campus housing to living in the community, not be overwhelmed financially, and continue meeting goals that will support them long-term and change the cycle for that family.

The survivors who enter our program are all facing homelessness, and 100% of them have experienced domestic violence. The children that have been in our residential program have all experienced or witnessed domestic violence, and approximately 40% have also experienced sexual abuse. Furthermore, in my three years with the agency, I have documented that 98% of the adults in our program have also been survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and/ or stalking as children. There is a plague of generational trauma infecting our communities. The adults in our program are the children that our community either missed or failed. It is our duty to provide them with a

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15)

second chance at a happy and violent-free life.

More survivors and families come into our program than survivors alone. They become like family. While we know that our outside community supporters may not experience these relationships firsthand, you are a key part of our ability to make a difference in these families' lives. I hope I have answered your questions and that United Women in Faith will continue to be a part of our New Beginnings family.

We are excited to share that 2024 is our 30th anniversary of working with survivors and families, and we have big goals this year. We are trying to promote awareness about generational trauma. We will launch a page on our website dedicated to generational trauma soon. We also share videos and information on our social media pages. I will email you a link to the webpage once it is live.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. I hope to hear back from you.

Kindly,

Devin Long

Grant and Fundraising Manager

NUMC New Beginnings

PO Box 6292

Farmington, NM 87499

www.navajoumc.org

www.facebook.com/newbeginningssjc

[newbeginningssjc](https://www.facebook.com/newbeginningssjc)

RED BIRD MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

DISCIPLE MAKING IN THE HEART OF APPALACHIA

For years, the Red Bird Missionary Conference has been special to my husband's family, who were Hoosiers, raised in and retired in Indiana. Perhaps loving cardinals was part of the folks' attraction; the headquarters was Beverly—their daughter's name! However, their proximity to Kentucky also made the location attractive. Their passion was passed onto us, enticing us to visit the Mission campus twice in our travels.

NEWS FLASH 2024! The Red Bird Missionary Conference in SE Kentucky has officially changed its name to the Central Appalachian Missionary Conference, CAMC, headquartered in Big Creek, Kentucky!

In the 1800s, settlers moved into this area, building small farms before the discovery of coal. Greedy developers took over the land to mine the coal, turning the men and young boys into poorly paid and badly treated coal miners. Even today, air and water pollutants, byproducts of coal mining production, explain the poor health conditions in Appalachian coal

counties.

Red Bird Mission was a rural mission founded in 1921 by the Evangelical Church in the SE corner of Kentucky to provide education and Christian evangelism in the Cumberland Mountains. The Mission was started on a small piece of property at the confluence of Cow Fork and the Red Bird River. The story of Red Bird is one of deep faith in God. Red Bird Mission was born in answer to prayer. It is a story of gracious outpouring of prayer and means by the church. In 1968, the Evangelical United Brethren Church united with the Methodist Church to become the United Methodist Church. In 1973, local churches in the area were reorganized under the name of the Red Bird Missionary Conference. It offers the local community a Christian school, dormitories, a health clinic, a senior center, a food kitchen, and other community outreach programs and ministries. Google to learn more about this vital mission!

Jeannine Lish, President

Puget Sound Missionary District



NEWS FROM THE WESTERN JURISDICTION

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

APRIL 2024

As I begin writing this report, it is April 8th, the day of the great Solar Eclipse. As I look at the map of our conferences, my guess is that none of us got to see the eclipse in its entirety this time unless we traveled elsewhere. Still, I hope you put on your special eclipse glasses and got to see this celestial wonder. Our creation is full of wonders. And they happen every single day if we are paying attention.

FINAL PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP AND DIRECTORS MEETINGS OF THE QUADRENNIUM.

March and April have included our final quadrennium meetings. Our themes through the quadrennium have been to Dream, Believe, and Do. At the Program Advisory Group meeting, Regional Missionary Hakari Chang delivered her message using Matthew 14: 22-31. She pointed out that Peter was able to do the impossible – walk on water. It was only when he doubted that he fell in. But why was Peter the only one brave enough to even try? If we give in to doubt – we are defeated before we even try. With God, all things are possible. May we have the courage to dream, believe, and do. Let us work together, as sisters in Christ, to do what may seem impossible.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Our UMC General Conference is mere days away. So much important work is to be done. You can stay abreast of daily events through the

uwfaith.org member portal via the General Conference Blog. United Women in Faith is highlighting some of our delegates as we build up to the meeting. Please pray for the work and the discernment of this body. You can find a prayer guide available from the Upper Room at GC Prayer guide.

MISSION GIVING

The Western Jurisdiction as a whole must be congratulated for giving 111% of our pledge to mission in 2023! Way to go, WJ! The North Central Jurisdiction was also able to give above their pledge, but as a whole, our mission giving was down about 17%. Disaffiliations have definitely played a role in this. Hopefully, after the General Conference, we can begin to move past this and dare to move forward, dream big, get enthused and inventive, and invite others to share in this work. Continue to encourage your units, districts, and conferences not to cut your pledges but to believe you can do it. Don't give in to doubt! If this organization could return to our pre-pandemic pledges – we would be in great shape.

REGIONAL MISSIONARIES

At our Program Advisory Group meeting, we celebrated the retirement of 4 of our Regional Missionaries. We are so grateful for the work of Rev. Dr. Heasun Kim, director of Scranton Women's Leadership Center in Seoul, Korea. We celebrate all that Grace Musuka and Elmira Sellu have done for Women, children, and youth in

Africa. We thank Emma Cantor for transforming lives in the Philippines, Asia, and the Pacific. These will be hard shoes to fill but know that God will find leaders to follow in the footsteps of His disciples in these places around the world.

JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS

Some resources were shared for our Climate Justice and Racial Justice work. Be sure to encourage women to sign up for these mailing lists so they can get updated materials as they become available. Here are two resources to share: • JE4A download: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11100&catid=2209> • Video "Never Give Up: Cynthia and Michelle's Faithful Fight Against Mass Incarceration" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9X5q8P-DJQE>.

READING PROGRAM

We just approved the 2025 reading program list, which is due to come out in late summer, and are already working on evaluating books for the 2026 list. SO MANY GOOD BOOKS! We continue to hold quarterly discussions or Author talks, and our next one is May 6, right before our Western Jurisdiction Event, where we will discuss "This Here Flesh" by Cole Arthur Riley. We break into small groups for discussion, and pre-reading of the book is required. There is still some space available, so I invite you to join us if you can. Register at Meeting Registration – Zoom

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

DEACONESS HOME MISSIONERS

Did you know 23 new deaconesses and Home Missioners will be consecrated at the General Conference? This will bring the total of active DHMs to 267! This includes two new Deaconesses from the Western Jurisdiction, Stacey Atkins and Kathy Loomis, from the Mountain Sky Conference. There will be a mini-discernment event at our Western Jurisdiction Event next month, and there are online events every other month with registration on the national website. If you know people called to ministries of love, justice, and service, please lead them to these informational meetings.

KEEPING OUR UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH PRESIDENT IN OUR PRAYERS

We continue to hold 'Ainise Isama'u tightly in our prayers following the passing of her husband earlier this year. We love you, 'Ainise!

END OF THE QUADRENIUM-JURISDICTION EVENT

I hope to see many of you in Anchorage in just a few weeks. It is really hard to believe a quadrennium has passed since I was elected as a director. So much has happened in that time. A pandemic. Church disaffiliations. A new name. A new "brand". A new CEO and General Secretary, Sally Vonner. We celebrated all Harriet Jane Olsen did for our organization. I remember Susan Williams telling me to enjoy

my time as a director because it would go fast. And she was not wrong. I admit it has been much work, but it has come with much joy. I have met SO many inspiring, faith-filled people. I loved every minute of serving as the Reading Program Chair and representing United Women in Faith on the General Board of Global Ministries. Thank you for allowing me to represent YOU, the Western Jurisdiction of United Women in Faith, these last four years.

See you in Anchorage!

*Your Sister in Christ,
Jana Jones United Women in Faith
Director Mountain Sky Conference,
Western Jurisdiction*

NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

INLAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

Hallelujah! I write this issue's message as the General Conference closes, having affirmed 18 of United Women in Faith's 19 petitions with a very close vote on the 19th! I echo our General Secretary and CEO, Sally Vonner, 's statement commending our church for uplifting women, children, and youth at the General Conference! Yet the work must continue. Inland Missional District has been heavily involved locally, District-wide, and Conference-wide.

Our Social Action Coordinator and President took part in Idaho's Legislative Days and have been able to celebrate Idaho's reinstatement of their Maternal Mortality Review Board after a few years' lapse.

Nearly all of our executive board officers attended Leadership Development at Lazy F. We shared a unique talent show number focusing on one member's American dulcimer! Reflections will be published in our upcoming Timely Reflections. We appreciate being able to connect in person with Shannon Priddy from National.

Five of our Team members are off to Alaska for Western Jurisdiction. Three were offered scholarships without funding sources provided, and two accepted them. Scholarships are an important way to help women in the District attend enriching and inspiring events.

Mission u is right around the corner! I am looking forward to my 29th! Most of our executive team will

attend this annual event, which will encompass "Inspiring, Impacting, and Influencing." We have scholarships available to any woman in the District, as we surely want all to be able to experience Mission u.

Our Spiritual Growth Coordinator has planned a one-day Soul Care Retreat for August 17th at Clarkston (WA) UMC. She stresses that it should be, as National says, an enrichment experience focused on deepening relationships with each other and the Lord. Our Executive Team is excited about this first-of-its-kind event for our District.

Planning is underway for our September 21st District Annual Meeting to be held at Audubon Park UMC, Spokane, in cooperation with

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

Fowler United Women in Faith. The theme will be "Food Security." This will be interactive and hands-on, with a walk-through of the Food Bank and bagging and sorting of food for distribution to Food Bank clients. Attendance at the Annual Meeting has been declining. We hope that this central location will enable more women to attend. Our Nominating Committee Chairman reported that a full slate of officers has accepted being nominated at this meeting.

We are excited to report that Lewiston 1st has reactivated its unit. They, too, are expressing enthusiasm, and we are encouraging their attendance at events, including Mission u and Soul Care.

We press on towards meeting our goals of meeting or beating our Pledge and increasing membership in every local unit by at least two.

Through my years in United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith, I have been blessed personally with so much inspiration, positively and amazingly impacted, and influenced by so many dear women. I close with a heart-filled Amen!

*Judy Dirks, President
Inland Missional District*

SPOKANE VALLEY UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH'S OUTREACH TO RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

On April 11, Rachel Circle from Spokane Valley United Women in Faith toured the Ronald McDonald House in Spokane. We then made 40 lunches for the families staying in the residence. We provided the food, paper bags, napkins, and sandwich bags. Franz Bread Store donated 5 loaves of bread. Our cost was approximately \$70. If you want to help this wonderful organization, contact the Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator, Kara Bilbo, at (509) 624-0500.



SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH UPDATES

Blessings from your sisters in the SeaTac District of the United Women in Faith. Our executive board is planning the annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, September 28, 2024. The location is still being confirmed, but please mark your calendar so you can join us. There will be an interactive program, continental breakfast, lunch, and our yearly remembrance ceremony.

I know many units have been going through difficult times since the pandemic, and some have had to disband or become inactive. The board would like to reach out to as many of you as possible to see where we can direct you to assist with membership, programs, fellowships, and our United Women in Faith online presence on the web. Even though our name has changed, we still have the programs we have used. The Reading Program continues to be a source of inspiration and thoughtful reflection. There is a new list each year, but the books continue to count towards this certificate going back five years. Look for more information in our newsletter, *The Circuit Writer*, coming out in a few weeks.

IN MEMORIAM

Phyllis Reynolds, a longtime member of United Methodist Women, a Conference and District Office, and President of her unit at Grace UMC in Seattle, has passed. Her granddaughter shared her obituary. We will remember her for her service and love of our program throughout her life.



Phyllis Ann Reynolds (Young) was born July 23, 1942, in Fort Scott, Kansas, to Phillip and Alice Young. She moved with her family to Chinook, Montana, and then to Seattle, where she attended Ebenezer A.M.E. Zion Church. She eventually married and raised a family.

Phyllis enjoyed bowling with her parents, family, and friends. Throughout Phyllis' career, she worked for the federal government, including the United States Postal Service, and later retired as an Accountant in The Department of Interior. In retirement, Phyllis took to crafting, and whether it was crocheting, sewing, or ceramics, Phyllis excelled, making beautiful items that many of us enjoy to this day. Also, she gave her time and gifts to the church in her retirement. Her true gift was service, having served as a President of the United Methodist Women's Council and as a liturgist at Grace United Methodist Church, where she attended in adulthood. She

served for many years as the unit President of United Methodist Women, now known as United Women in Faith. Phyllis also served two terms as Seattle District President, followed by Secretary of the PNW Conference. Phyllis served a term as the Dean of the Christian School of Missions, currently known as Mission U, which is an annual educational event jointly sponsored by United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Church. Phyllis had a beautiful voice and shared that gift by singing in numerous choirs. At Age 82, Phyllis Ann Reynolds, having suffered a stroke with accompanying health challenges, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 21, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. She was greeted by the heavenly hosts, her father and mother, Phillip and Alice Young, and her grandson Marshall Curtis Jones, III. Phyllis is survived by her sister, Mary Jo, and her daughters, Annette, Anita, Angela, and Alicia. Her grandchildren are Phillip (Cierra), Ariana, Donald Jr., Dante, and Ava. And her great-grandchildren, Ayden, Yaminah, and Zade.

UNIT NEWS

St. Peter's UMC in Bellevue has an active group of knitters who gather monthly for updates and fellowship to support the Operation School Bell Program, which supports the Assistance League of Snohomish County with homemade hats and scarves. This group includes women from St. Peter's as well as friends who join in this valuable service project.

(Continued on page 21)



(Continued from page 20)

St. Peter's United Women in Faith sponsored an all-church clothing and food drive for Riverton Park UMC, which started in November and concluded at the end of January 2024. There was an outpouring of support for the asylum seekers who were camping out at the church then. This was during the months of bad weather and up to 400 people at the church. The United Women in Faith also collected donations and was able to purchase clothing and a tent. I know many of you in our District, as well as others who followed the news, have been able to support this project.

MASON UMC UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

Diana Wilson, President, and Linda Mills, MNO Mission Coordinator, visited the Mason United Women in Faith unit in Tacoma in February. We shared the history of the name change and also helped explain the channels of giving for our mission money. We have officers from the Executive Board who can visit your unit if you are interested.

*Diana Wilson, President
SeaTac United Women in Faith
Missional District*

BRING QUILTS & BABY BLANKETS TO THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Once again, quilts and baby-size blankets will be collected at the 2024 Annual Conference of the PNW United Methodist Church. If you are not attending, please have the delegate from your area bring them. Check-in will have a place to leave the quilts. These will be blessed before the quilts and blankets are distributed in the Richland area. Baby blankets for St. Mary's Hospital will be represented at the Annual Conference. It would be great for your group to submit a picture of the quilts and submitted for the next issue of *Sharing Line*.

GET LOVE RIBBON CARDS AND SUPPORT MISSION GIVING

BRING JOY IN THE MORNING, AFTERNOON, AND EVENING ALL YEAR ROUND!

We are the only Conference to have a Love Ribbons ministry, a lovely way to celebrate our friends and family while supporting the United Women in Faith mission.

The conference executive team voted at their winter meeting to increase the cards cost of each card to \$2.00 as a way to increase mission giving). Love Ribbon income is part of Mission Today and included in *The Pledge To Mission*. Units must go to their District Treasurer for supplies and purchases, and credit goes to your unit.

ENCOURAGE PURCHASES!

There is a wide variety for all occasions. I'm here to help in any way I can! **With God, Anything Is Possible!**

*Fran Houser
timandfran1952@gmail.com
(509) 882-4239*

You can contact us about Love Ribbons through our website.
<https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/love-ribbon-cards/>



2024 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 13	1 – 4 p.m.	Winter Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
January 23	7 p.m., ET	Conference Officer Briefing	Zoom
February 9	9 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day	Olympia, WA
April 7		Spring Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Zoom
April 19-21		District/Conference Leadership Training Event	Lazy F Camp & Retreat Center , Ellensburg, WA
April 23		General Conference	Charlotte, North Carolina
May 9-11		Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting	Anchorage, Alaska
June 13-16		Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session	Central United Protestant Church , Richland, WA
July 25	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.	Summer Conference Executive and District Treasurers Meeting	Wesley UMC , Yakama, WA
July 25-27		Mission u	Wesley UMC , Yakima, WA
September 7		Puget Sound Missional District	Marysville UMC , Marysville WA
September 20		Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	Tacoma Community House , Tacoma, WA
September 20-21		Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	Wenatchee First ,
September 21		Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
September 28		SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	TBA
October 18		Fall Conference United Women in Faith Executive Meeting	Spokane Valley UMC , Spokane, WA
October 18-19		Conference United Women in Faith Annual Meeting	Spokane Valley UMC ,

CHECK THE [CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE](#) FOR THE LATEST UPDATES.

JOIN US ON FACEBOOK



Our FACEBOOK PAGE helps us promote upcoming District, Conference, Western

Jurisdiction and National Events. It is also a great place to share and learn about Social Issues and Action Alerts.

Help us utilize this tool in our mission work by sharing local events or social issues that you are aware of. Find this information and more at our website: pnwumc.org/uwfaith.

OTHER UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RESOURCE ONLINE

uwfaith.org

Facebook.com/uwwomenfaith

Facebook.com/pnwuwfaith

Flickr.com/photos/UMWomen

Instagram.com/uwfaith

Pinterest.com/UMWomen/created/

[Podcasts and webinars](#)

[response magazine.](#)

Twitter.com/uwwomenfaith

Youtube.com/user/uwfaith

[United Women in Faith Newsletter.](#)

[United Women in Faith Digital](#)

[United Women in Faith E-Store](#)

Rainbow Photo [143742048](#) © [Grafner](#) | [Dreamstime.com](#)

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OFFICERS FOR 2024

President—Deb Avery

Vice President—Stell Wallace

Secretary—Jenny Bygland

Treasurer—Linda Key

Program Resources—OPEN

Communications—Jenny Bygland

Education & Interpretation—Chidi Okoros

Membership Nurture & Outreach—Gail Simpson

Social Action—

Spiritual Growth—Sophia Agtarap

Committee on Nominations Chair—Marsha Aufenkamp

Committee on Nominations Member—Judy Dirks

Committee on Nominations Member—Janice Catrell

Committee on Nominations Member—Carol Gruen

Missional District Presidents:

Crest to Coast—Bev Thomas

Inland—Judy Dirks

Puget Sound—Jeannine Lish

SeaTac—Diana Wilson

Seven Rivers— Barb Stout

SIGN UP FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER

THE SHARING LINE is the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith published four times a year. Complimentary copies are sent to the following: Pacific Northwest Conference leaders, local unit presidents, District officers, Conference officers, pastors and District Superintendents.

This newsletter is available online at pnwumc.org/uwfaith. To receive email notification when new issues are published, or you wish to receive an email copy, send your email address to: Jenny Bygland at jbygland@kentmethodist.com

SHARING LINE DEADLINE

Anything for the **Summer Sharing Line** should be emailed to Jenny Bygland (jbygland@kentmethodist.com) by **Monday, July 29**. *Late articles will be included as space permits.*

THE SHARING LINE

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
PO BOX 13650
DES MOINES WA 98198



For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.

Acts 2:39, NRSV



THIS ISSUE

IMAGES FROM JURISDICTION

PAGES 4 AND 5

MISSION U FORMS

PAGES 7 THROUGH 13