

THE SHARING LINE

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



VOLUME 35
NO. 2
SPRING 2020

THE PURPOSE

The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the United Methodist Church.

THE SHARING LINE is the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Methodist Women published four times a year. Complimentary copies are sent to the following: PNWC leaders, local unit presidents, District officers, Conference officers, pastors and District Superintendents. This newsletter is available online at pnwumc.org/umw.

To receive email notification when new issues are published, or you wish to receive an email copy, send your email address to:

Sharon Stovall, editor at
pnwumwsharingline@peoplepc.com.

Be the Apple of God's Eye

"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings."
--Psalm 17:8 (KJV)



DISTANCING WITHOUT DISCONNECTING

On March 15, I optimistically prepared for pending United Methodist Women events. But by April 17 I had subtracted more than I added to my calendar: March spring executive, April Western Jurisdiction Calling U, June UMC Annual Conference, and July Mission U. My district United Methodist Women postponed events and my local UMW Unit suspended meetings.

In one month, the uncertainty of COVID-19 diminished my crowded calendar. Concern replaced optimism. While I have more time for UMW, I have less energy.

What events in your districts and local units are no longer happening? Will our fall annual meetings be possible? With the lockdown routine activities disappeared, and I sometimes wonder, "What is today?"

When closed restaurants prevented our church birthday lunch, my husband and I collected from 18 regulars and gave \$220 to the restaurant staff.

Our church adopted a YouTube service on Sunday. Weekly our Single Board meets by Zoom with each member reporting on six congregation members. Zoom allowed us to finish our study for Lent.

Our church family has used technology to continue connections. What is your church doing?

Except for daily walks along the Columbia River the lockdown confines us to home. Our Seattle daughter Sarah practices Skype and Zoom with me, so I am now more proficient. Our Wenatchee daughter Jennifer schedules weekly family Zoom meetings so my husband Dale and I can "see" our four youngest grandchildren. She even took us on a Zoom tour of the tulip fields. These "gatherings" have been a blessing.

Ja net' W. Crouse, President, UMW PNW Conference
crousejw@crouses.com
509-884-8415 (landline)

Mission u Cancellation

Dear deans and assistant deans,

We are sorry to inform you that, due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our virtual Mission u training (planned for April 30-May 3 and May 27-30) and we are urging that every conference also cancel their own Mission u events. After much prayer and discussion, the Mission u team and United Methodist Women senior leadership team agreed that it is too great a risk to gather in person this summer.

We know how much work you and each conference team have put into Mission u, and we are grieving with you that our Mission u 2020 events will not take place how we expected. This does not mean, however, that we will forgo these important and timely studies altogether! If there is ever a time to “find peace in an anxious world” that time is now.

Here is what we hope to do instead. National Office staff will collaborate with study leader trainers to bring elements of each study online this summer. The exact format and timeline for each study is still in development and more information will be coming as those pieces take shape. However, it is our hope that those in the Mission u community and the wider church will still be able to engage and benefit from these timely studies from the safety and comfort of their homes.

What does this mean for 2021 Mission u? We will continue as planned with our 2021 studies:

- Moral Witness of the Church
- Pushout
- Children’s and Youth Studies on Violence
- Luke 13: New Biblically-based Curriculum

An email will go out to all study leaders on Monday to share this news, so you have a few days of advance notice if you wish to tell your team first.

“May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:7

In gratitude,
Olivia, Jay, Chantilly
Your Mission u Team

Inside this Issue

Page 1	President
Page 2	Mission u Cancellation
Page 2	Atlantic Street Center
Page 3	Treasurer
Page 3	Social Action
Page 4	Legacy Fund
Page 4	Education & Interpretation
Page 5	Program Resources
Page 5	Nominations
Page 6	Mission Today Form
Page 7	Seven Rivers Dist. Ann. Mtg.
Page 8	Western Jurisdiction Update
Page 9	Websites and Calendar

ATLANTIC STREET CENTER

Many of you know that Atlantic Street Center in Seattle, founded in 1910, is one of our United Methodist Women historic organizations. I would like to report on how Atlantic Street Center (ASC) is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many families in the communities they serve are struggling during this crisis due to losing their jobs, having hours cut, being behind on rent and bills, and having trouble putting food on the table and they have been turning to Atlantic Street Center for help. With essential financial contributions from their donor community, board members, and a grant from the Seattle Foundation, they were able to buy healthy, nutritious groceries, and paper products for 289 families to date, and bring them the food they desperately need. Atlantic Street Center will continue to support these families in need to the best of their abilities.

Linda Mills
SeaTac District President
Wmil1218@aol.com 253-859-2964

SOCIAL ACTION

In these unusual times, we as United Methodist Women are pressing on to continue our important work. While physically distancing, we are finding ways to stay connected. In a recent Zoom meeting with Conference Social Action Coordinators from across the country, women shared how local, district and conference meetings are being held on Zoom and Facebook Live. One local UMW group has recorded their Zoom meeting on DVD, with the help of their church. That way women without computers are included. Some groups are compiling information about food banks and resources available to help families in need. It was pointed out that, **“The current pandemic has made our Four Social Action issue priorities all the more important.”**

An example is the importance for a Living Wage for All. Some of our lowest paid workers are currently considered “essential” as they struggle to get by on low wages. See more on <https://www.facebook.com/UMWEconomicInequality/>.

Other issues we were encouraged to promote are: Call on governors to protect **medically vulnerable incarcerated people** from COVID -19: <https://p2a.co/Jvx2cE>.

- **Utilities Moratorium** to stop water and electricity shut offs and provide economic relief. <https://p2a.co/33iJHcC>
- **Climate Justice** - be aware that carbon emissions have added to pre-existing conditions that make people more vulnerable to the virus.
- **Paid family and medical Leave** - look for an action alert on including P.A.I.D. Leave Action in next stimulus package.
- Support Domestic Violence hotlines - **Domestic Violence and Child Abuse** are a concern as women and children are quarantined with their abusers.
- Find ways to “bust racist myths and stereotypes and call out discrimination and abuse as seen in a rise of **Anti-Asian violence**

See more at

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/what-can-we-do-about-covid19>. We are encouraged to work collaboratively with other agencies for service and advocacy, such as Interfaith Power and Light, and the Faith Action Network.

Look for Action Alert on the **50th anniversary of Earth Day** which is Sat., April 25th. Remember, as stated by one of my sister coordinators, **“staying home itself is a**

powerful social justice choice” and as LeeAnne of Earth Ministry wrote:

“Now is the time to take care of ourselves spiritually and emotionally. We encourage you to be kind to yourself and to remember that this is a marathon, not a sprint. Things are not normal. It’s OK to not be OK. Many are feeling waves of emotions, including grief, anxiety, and confusion as the ground shifts rapidly beneath us. But we are also filled with faith, hope, and joy as communities respond with loving hearts to care for those in need.”

TAKE CARE

Sharon McDaniel sharongarymcdaniel@gmail.com
360-724-3246

Now is also a good time to check out the Mission Today form included in this newsletter. Will your unit qualify for 2020?

TREASURER

It’s hard to know what to write to you about for this newsletter. The news in general is so full and yet scant at the same time for the news we really want to hear. When will life be more normal?

There was a good response on the 1st quarter remittance. I wasn’t sure what it would look like with so many District Leadership Meetings cancelled in late February and March. National Meetings have been cancelled for now as well. On a positive note it has been a good time to look for someone to review or audit the unit and or district books. Maybe you know someone who has extra time and could use some extra money if they are not working. A time to get all the paper work in order and a time to answer questions for units that are struggling or just say hello.

Mostly it is a time to reach out to friends and family on the phone or Zoom and tackle those unfinished projects. My garden is looking better than it has in a while and so early in the season too!

If you have questions or need clarification give me a call or send an email.

Kendra Smith, kendradornsmith@gmail.com
206-390-9736

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN MISSION GIVING? YES! LEGACY FUND? YES!

Over the past several years, I have often heard the question: "Should I give to Mission Giving or to Legacy Fund?" My answer is YES!

It was only after I had joined United Methodist Women in my small rural church, hoping it would get me accepted into the "Women of the Church" and started getting involved that I realized how powerful and important this organization is in the world. Only then did I realize I wanted to see it grow and flourish and that my undesignated giving was a vital part of that. Think Mission Giving.

Now, even further along, I know that I want it to have a future beyond me. I want to be part of something bigger and more enduring than me. Thank Legacy Fund. But how do we balance the two? Upon starting work, I was told about those retirement benefits I would be earning...yawn. I was also given opportunities to add to those...yawn again. But thankfully I did start putting a few dollars aside. It was a small amount compared to what I required for daily living but still, I set some aside to invest in my future. Now that I'm retired, I'm so glad I did because those few dollars have made a big difference. But first I met my current daily needs so that I could be where I am now. Like Mission Giving, I met "today's" needs first.

We members ARE United Methodist Women. We are the organization. As such, would we not be wise to, along with funding our current vital missions, put some aside for the future health of this mission work? Would we not be wise to invest in the future of United Methodist Women in that same small way? It could seem small (like \$18.69 per year) compared to what we pledge and give today, but it could be powerful for the future health of United Methodist Women. YES, to Mission Giving! Without Mission Giving today we have no future.

YES, to the Legacy Fund! The Legacy Fund is all of us, the members, building the foundations of a future vital United Methodist Women. Those women in 1869 started it, **we can and must keep it going and pass it**

on.

MISSION IS: Presence,
Relationships, Witness & Sharing.
Refusing to turn away when God's
tears are being shed.



Marsha Aufenkamp, Legacy Committee
m.aufenkamp@gmail.com 509-826-3423

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

REFLECTION FOR COVID-19

Matthew 6:9-13 NIV. Jesus said, "This, then, is how you should pray: Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

I went grocery shopping with my husband during senior hours. We were not alone! There were a rush of seniors and those with challenging health conditions that rushed the store at 7:00 a.m. There was a quiet pall over the entire humongous miles as if we were attending a funeral wake. Except the dead were walking the aisles. Actually, some were jogging giving wide berth to other shoppers while quickly filling their carts. A smile or kind word was almost non-existent as we all seemed to breathe the air of fear wearing masks and gloves.

We left the store with supplemental groceries that now allow us to avoid COVID-19 filled humanity through May! We also left sad and deeply reflective.

Oh, me of little faith (Jesus chided his disciples with that type of phrase). My own humanness was revealed stripping away the mockery of self-sufficiency. I am not in control though I try to be. My faith shown to be lacking! Faith in God was "easy" (if it ever is) as long as life is flowing smoothly paying bills on time, the cupboards full and steady income stream.

But now, in the face of COVID-19, fear raised its ugly head in that grocery store. Will there be enough? Will we have food and shelter one day to live out our golden years in ease? Will we be able to afford to live by June? Then I remembered the words of Jesus who taught us to pray, "Give us TODAY our daily bread." Hey! We are alive today! We have shelter today! We are eating too much today! There is enough for today!

I do believe in the all sufficiency of God through Jesus Christ. God's grace is sufficient for today. Each day is a gift. I pray that God will remind each of us to celebrate the gift of each day as we pray... and without fear.

Marilyn Reid marilynreid21@gmail.com
206-369-3221

PROGRAM RESOURCES



We are now getting familiar with the rhythms of covid-19 daily living. Many have adopted face covering when in public and maintaining social distance in the neighborhood and in the marketplace. I'm surprised to find that I'm beginning to enjoy the slower pace of life, the quiet streets, and the clearer air. I'm walking more, I'm gardening more, and I'm reading more.

These days I'm reading "The Aging of Aquarius," a book about how we may pay closer attention to the years beyond retirement as the best days of our lives. The book was selected by Rosanna Yates-Bailey to represent the mission area of Membership Nurture and Outreach. The book has practical discussion questions and recommendations for more graceful living as an elder in our communities.

Another book we have selected, to represent Education for Mission, is "When Others Shuddered: Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up," by Jamie Janosz. In the wake of our UMW 150 celebration, this book tells the story of women who took great risks to bring compassion and equity to communities in the 19th and 20th centuries. Marilyn Reid chose this book for us to highlight steadfast love in these challenging times.

The link below reminds us that even during covid-19, United Methodist Women can impact the world in celebration of Earth Day, April 22, 2020. As UMW members, we can focus attention on those climate justice matters that affect our planet. Whether by supporting causes or speaking up about environmental issues, we can make a difference in the world.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/this-earth-day-remember-we-are-all-connected>

Brighter days lie ahead. We may see beyond our pandemic restrictions by stepping outside our homes and communities through books. Be well, stay safe.

Jan Catrell
jcatrell@yahoo.com 360-223-5938

NOMINATIONS

During this pause in business as usual, amidst widespread suffering and loss, we are reminded in startling statistics of the inequities in our communities and between nations – and how these inequities have been further amplified by the pandemic. Our work on behalf of women, children and youth remains vital. Back in October, our conference leadership reached a decision to conduct our January meeting online. Even as we looked forward to the fellowship that would surely be a part of our March meeting at Lazy F Ranch, worries about the growing pandemic and repeated fresh snow in the passes gave way to relief when that meeting was canceled. Postponement of the Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting quickly followed.

The cancellation announcement for Mission u came as no surprise but with a hefty sigh of disappointment. Midst this pause in the rhythm of our UMW work, might we find new ways of engaging each other and increased participation by our membership in these studies and the work of UMW in general? I am eager to hear how our UMW national leadership is moving to maximize the effectiveness of our organization when the luxury of meeting face to face must be curtailed.

I have had concerns over recent questioning of the large travel expenses of our conference and district leadership, because it has implications for the ability to recruit new women, regardless of their financial means. Meetings that require travel and overnight stays are a challenge for young and old alike, though for different reasons, and can be a barrier to recruitment as well. Online meetings cost a fraction of in-person meetings and require no travel time.

Certainly, the cancellation of in-person meetings and events decreases opportunities for the district and conference committees on nominations to observe and recruit new leadership. Which is why, out of necessity, we all must be members of the CON. And we all must help women at all levels of the organization to fall in love with mission. With these thoughts in mind, the latest PNWUMW Potential Leaders form (<https://pnwumc.org/umw/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-PNWUMW-Potential-Leaders-Form.pdf>) clearly states that lack of previous experience as an elected leader in UMW will not be a barrier to nomination and/or election. Please help each other as we seek new leadership for our work on behalf of women, children and youth.

Rosanna Yates-Bailey baileys@olypen.com
360-452-8069

What is Mission Today? Become a Mission Today Unit!

Working to become a Mission Today Unit helps to be fully engaged in the work of Mission and women and children and youth. Mission Today criteria involve activities of spiritual growth, education for mission, social issues awareness, leadership development and membership development. Using Mission Today form as a planning tool can re-energize a unit to be more involved in mission through prayer, study and action. It enhances connections to mission personnel and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where our money goes. Using the available resources, unit expands concepts of mission, including social justice. Take a close look at the Mission Today form. Think about last year and this year, and check off those items that your unit did meet.

You may be surprised and find that your unit is already a Silver or Gold in 2020. Fill out the form and then turn into your District Education & Interpretation Coordinator by August 15, 2020. Strive to be a Mission Today Unit today!

2020 Requirements for a Mission Today Unit:

Gold Unit- complete at least 16 of the criteria, 10 of which must be marked with *

Silver Unit- complete at least 8 of the criteria, 4 of which must be marked with *

(Units who have under 15 members, use half of the above-mentioned numbers in all categories)

The annual period to record and become a Mission Today Unit is from September 2019 through August 2020.

- 1. Make and meet a pledge to mission Mission Today
- 2. Use the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting to pray for people in mission and for mission work with women, children and youth
- 3. Add two or more members to your roll
- 4. Have two or more members subscribing to Response magazine
- 5. Use two programs from the Program Book during the year
- 6. Conduct one or more Mission Studies
- 7. Implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies two or more ways including: reading about other races and cultures; learning about immigration policy; affirmative action; sponsor a multi-cultural event
- 8. Promote & offer scholarships to the Mission u or the District Mini Mission u.
- 9. One or more members attend Mission u or District Mini Mission u
- 10. Two or more members attend a District, Conference, Jurisdiction, or National meeting/training event.
- 11. Two or more members attend the Local Leadership Membership Training Event
- 12. Become a Five Star unit, contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving: Pledge to Mission; Gift to Mission; Gift in Memory; Special Mission Recognition; Thank Offering or a Seven Star unit by adding: Mission Magic and Love Ribbons
- 13. Make a contribution to the Legacy Fund in celebration of 150 years of UMW in mission to the world.
- 14. Two or more members complete one of the Reading Program Plans, report on one of the books, and encourage members to complete Plan One
- 15. Write to five people listed in the Prayer Calendar two or more times a year
- 16. One or more members join the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to information on legislative issues
- 17. At least one member of the unit attend Legislative Day
- 18. Include a mission moment, lifting up and reporting on a mission story from Response or New World Outlook magazine
- 19. Have one or more Bible study groups during the year
- 20. Participate in the "Call to Prayer and Self-Denial" offering
- 21. Participate in the Campaign for Children two or more ways: support a church or community program related to children and youth needs; host a Children's Sabbath to benefit the Children's Defense Fund; volunteer with organizations involved with tutoring, mentoring, "big sisters;" write, email, or call legislators or other representatives regarding children's issues; volunteer at local schools; attend a school board meeting; learn how schools are funded
- 22. Invite a District or Conference officer who is not part of the local unit to one or more meetings during the year
- 23. The unit makes a contribution to the PNW UMW Conference Endowment Fund
- 24. Contribute quilts to at-risk children; kits to UMCOR; participate in "Days for Girls," or to other local projects.
- 25. Two or more members volunteer at a community-based food bank, feeding program, or women's shelter
- 26. Visit Tacoma Community House or Atlantic Street Center, or invite a staff member to present a program; alternatively, present your own program with their DVD
- 27. Become a "Green Unit" by implementing one or more of the following: offer Fair Trade products; use earth-friendly food service items; recycle.

SEVEN RIVERS MISSIONAL DISTRICT
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2020 ANNUAL MEETING

“Justice for our Neighbors”

“Fruits of the Spirit”

(stay overnight!) check with Linda Hay 509-876-4418 Hay_77@hotmail.com Registration will be out soon.

Friday afternoon 2pm – Saturday 9am -3pm

September 18 -19, 2020 - Lake Chelan UMC

Registration \$20. Includes Dinner & Lunch



DISTRICT OFFICERS are: Love, Joy, Peace, Forbearance, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control

UNITS ARE: Benton City, Chelan, Ellensburg, Ephrata, Goldendale, Kennewick First, Leavenworth, Methow Valley, Moses Lake, Omak, Prosser, Riverview: Pasco, Selah, Trinity: E Wenatchee, Wesley: Yakima, West Highlands: Kennewick



Program: Fruits of the Spirit Skit, Citizenship, Leadership, Missions
Institutions at home and abroad, US2 from Tacoma Community House
and some business.

WESTERN JURISDICTION CALLING U EVENT UPDATE

Dear Calling u Participants,

We are pleased to announce that Western Jurisdiction United Methodist Women Calling u event has been rescheduled for **Sept. 11, 2020, through Sept. 13, 2020, at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Tempe, Arizona.**

Flight reservations: Change or cancel and rebook your flights now.

- Most airlines are not charging change fees right now.
- Several airlines are not charging cancellation fees, but this is determined by your ticket type and airline.

Hotel reservations: No action needed at this time.

- The Doubletree Tempe Hotel will cancel all reservations made at the Calling u group rate. *You do not need to personally call the hotel to cancel your reservation unless you booked at something other than the group rate/outside our room block.*
- **New group rate reservations are not available at this time. We will let you know as soon as the room block is available; do not call the hotel yet.**

We thank you again for your patience as we try to care for all our members across the country. Below are answers to other questions you might have at this time.

Why are jurisdiction teams rescheduling these events?

Presidents met and decided that bringing United Methodist Women leader members together in this time in The United Methodist Church and after the COVID-19 global health crisis was critically important for our women to feel unified and connected nationally and across jurisdictions. We remain unified as bold, Christian women putting faith, hope and love into action for women, children and youth!

What happens to my jurisdiction event registration?

Your current United Methodist Women jurisdiction event registrations will automatically roll over to the new event dates. If you cannot attend the new date, you can transfer your registration to someone else. We recommend you offer this as a scholarship to a new woman whom you feel would greatly benefit from our deep, rich worship and spiritual growth experiences, our cutting-edge workshops, our riveting speakers and the chance to be with other bold, Christian women leaders. In future communications we will explain how to transfer your registration.

Why is it not possible to offer a refund to our event registration?

Please know we are working diligently to keep United Methodist Women jurisdictions and national office from owing hundreds of thousands of dollars in cancellation fees to the hotels. For some hotels, this is a full 80 percent of what we promised. This is a critical piece of this puzzle and how the hotel industry works. This is one of the many reasons we cannot offer refunds but only transfer options. We are deeply sorry that this is the case and hope you understand during this difficult time for all of our communities.

Have other jurisdictions been notified of their reschedule event dates yet?

We are working diligently to reschedule the other jurisdictions but are not yet able to share those new dates.

When will you send out next steps information to attend the rescheduled event?

Once new dates have been set and announced for all jurisdictions, we will send out next steps regarding attending the rescheduled jurisdiction event.

Western Jurisdiction update continued:

Are you monitoring the health crisis?

We are in continuous contact with the national office events department as we continue to address new information coming from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and official health experts, and we are following governmental safety regulations. If additional guidance is issued impacting the rescheduled event, you will be notified in a timely fashion and in accordance with our contract with the hotel.

Thank you again for your patience and calm during this complex situation. The primary concern for United Methodist Women is that all United Methodist Women members and their families and friends and all peoples remain safe and healthy.

Your Jurisdiction Team



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: <http://pnwumc.org/umw>.

Other UMW websites include:

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

facebook.com/UMWomen

facebook.com/pnwumw

Instagram.com/UMWomen

www.wjumw.com

Pinterest.com/UMWomen

Twitter.com/UMWomen

Youtube.com/user/UmWomen

Flickr.com/photos/UMWomen

2020 PNW UMW Conference Calendar

September 11-13, 2020	WJ Calling U Event	Tempe, AZ
September 12, 2020	Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting	Marysville UMC Marysville, WA
September 19, 2020	Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	Vancouver First UMC Vancouver, WA
September 19, 2020	Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	Spokane Valley UMC Spokane Valley, WA
September 19, 2020	Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	Chelan UMC Chelan, WA
September 26, 2020	SeaTac Missional District Ann. Mtg.	Haller Lake UMC, Seattle WA
October 15-16, 2020	Conference UMW Exec Meeting	Bothell UMC, Bothell WA
October 16-17, 2020	Conference Annual Meeting	Bothell UMC, Bothell WA