

United Women in Faith

(formerly known as United Methodist Women)

Twin Cities District

Spring (March) 2022



Connection

Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 23, 2022

9:30 – 11:30 (Zoom site opens at 9 a.m.)

Living Our Faith and Voter Suppression

Presentation by Michelle Witte

Voter suppression is any attempt to prevent or discourage certain Americans from registering to vote or casting their ballot. These measures often target specific groups based on race, ethnicity, political affiliation, age, or other aspects of voters' identities. Historically, voter suppression has overwhelmingly targeted Black Americans.

As United Women in Faith we are called to be in ministry with the most vulnerable in society – those that Jesus called the least, the lost and the last. Today these persons include the young, the elderly, women, minorities, immigrants and the poor. Most often these are the ones without a voice and are easily taken advantage of by those in power. Isaiah 1:17 tells us *“Learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause”*. Our faith calls us to ensure that all voices are heard in our democracy by fighting for everyone's right to vote and to participate fully in society.

Michelle Witte is the Executive director of the Minnesota league of Women Voters. The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization whose mission is to empower voters and defend democracy by expanding voting access and fighting voter suppression. She has served as Minnesota's Executive Director since 2017. Starting with her first precinct caucus at the age of 18, Michelle has stayed active in civic engagement activities throughout her life, including serving as the Secretary for International Concerns with the Lutheran Student Movement in college, working in inner city St. Louis to improve access to health care, serving as the campaign manager for a female circuit court judge, and being an active member of both her senate district and her local

League of Women Voters. Michelle has also served on the South Washington County School Board. Our thanks to Michelle for pre-recording her video presentation so it can be shown at four District Spring Gatherings.

Registration form for the Spring Gathering is on page 8.



Remember we are now **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH.**

The new website is uwfaith.org.

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From Your District President

Greetings, United Women in Faith,

I'm really excited about the new name for our United Methodist Women 's organization: "United Women in Faith"! For years our local units, our district, and conference leadership teams, have been searching for ways to bring new people into our midst. I am grateful that the National Office did the research to find out what the next generation of women wants and needs to make it easy for them to join us. I am also thankful that they did the hard work of creating a path forward, one that is new and inviting. The new name reflects who we are: United Women in Faith. Our purpose is the same and our mission efforts are the same. The way we do things is evolving.

It will take a while for the transition to be complete. New things will be coming throughout the coming year. Find out more in this newsletter, in the March

From Your District President, continued

issue of response magazine, at the TC District Spring Gathering on April 23 via Zom, at Assembly on May 20-22 in Orlando, or on the new United Women in Faith web site: uwfaith.org. Together we can put a lot of love into action, as we have always done.

Blessings,

Melinda Kohrt, TC District President

Did You Know?

MN Conference President, Cindy Saufferer, has asked that at each meeting, a Land Acknowledgement Statement and the Charter for Racial Justice be lifted up. Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Cindy Waldt, has volunteered to ensure that both the Land Acknowledgement and the Charter are a part of each TC District Gathering.

Treasurer's Report

The Twin Cities District balance as of February 28, 2022 is \$2820.50. Total receipts were \$2430.00 and total disbursements was \$959.50. \$570.00 was collected from the Winter Gathering for Emma Norton. Also from the Winter Gathering, \$567.50 was sent to the North Minneapolis Pet Resource Center, at our Winter Gathering speaker's request.

Peggy Rhodes, TC District Treasurer

Mission Today Units for 2021

In many ways, 2021 was not the year we hoped it would be. We were all so hopeful that things would return to normal, and we could finally put Covid-19 behind us. Well, 2021 arrived and with it came variants with names like Delta and Omicron. However, this did not stop UMW, and it won't stop United Women in Faith (our new name). Even if we were unable to do everything as we usually did them in the past, activities went on, and adjustments were made, and the members of the Twin Cities District kept learning about and doing important mission work. We have a new name, but our

Mission Today, continued

commitment to missions benefitting women, children, and youth has not and will not change.

Each year, our units are asked to review what was accomplished during the year by completing the Mission Today form. This form also becomes a road map to guide us in planning activities for the upcoming year. Now is the time to get your 2022 Mission Today form and use it at your planning sessions. A copy is in the MN Conference UMW 2022 Directory. You can also email me (address below) and I will send you a copy to use as a reference for 2022.

But for now, let's look back and recognize the Twin Cities units who submitted their 2021 Mission Today forms. The following units have received Certificates of Appreciation for their participation in Mission Today for the year 2021.

- Brooklyn United Methodist Women
- Brunswick United Methodist Women
- Centennial United Methodist Women
- Discovery United Methodist Women
- Fairmount Avenue United Methodist Women
- Fridley United Methodist Women
- Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Women
- Lake Harriet United Methodist Women
- Minnehaha United Methodist Women
- Minnetonka United Methodist Women
- Normandale Hylands United Methodist Women
- St. Paul's UMC-Mendota Heights United Methodist Women

Congratulations to these Twin Cities units for finding ways to keep mission alive and well even during an extended season of pandemic.

Carol Foster, TC District Education & Interpretation

Education & Interpretation Corner

Mission u Information

Plans for Mission u are still being formulated, but here is some information that is known at this time. Mission u will again be held on Zoom. Specific dates are not yet known. Leaders for Mission u will be Shirley Durr and Kim Harris. All sessions will be

Mission u information, continued

based on Luke 13, with sessions for adults, youth, children, and individual curriculum for each group. Adult: **Who Can We Be Together**, Youth: **Community in the Midst of Challenging Times**, and Children: **The Growing Tree**. All books are available to be purchased now online for \$10.00 each by going to https://www.umwmissionresources.org/shopping_product_list.asp?catID=14030. Just as an FYI, postage is charged based on the total cost of the order, so if there are others in your unit who want to order books, it would be more cost effective to place one group order and split the total postage cost between the number of books ordered.

Offering for Spring Gathering

Emma Norton Services (ENS) has been selected as the recipient of half of the offerings collected for our spring meeting. ENS has been a source of strengthening, nurturing, and empowering women and their families for over 100 years. The connection ENS has with United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) goes back to the very beginning of ENS in 1917. Specific services have changed during those 100+ years with today's mission to provide transformational housing and growth for women and families on their journey of recovery, independence, and self-sufficiency. Twin Cities United Women in Faith have an ongoing commitment to ENS, but it should be noted that this gift of half of our collected offerings from this meeting will be sent directly to ENS and is over and above our pledged commitments. By giving your offering, you are impacting, changing, and improving lives as a partner with Emma Norton Services.

As an additional note, we will also be taking a **separate** collection in conjunction with Emma's Tea. This is our usual practice and helps Twin Cities United Women in Faith meet the pledge we made to this organization.

The other half of the offering will be used for United Women in Faith undesignated mission giving. This money supports regional missionaries and international scholarships that are awarded to students all around the globe. Here again your offering is impacting, changing, and improving lives.

How to Give Your Offering

Your offering and Emma's Tea contributions can be mailed to our Treasurer, Peggy Rhodes. Instructions regarding **ALL** checks for both the offering and donations for Emma's Tea are:

1. **ALL checks** should be **made payable to TWIN CITIES UNITED METHODIST WOMEN or TCUMW – this is correct even with our new name.**
2. **On the memo line please write the name of your church.** By doing this, your unit will receive credit towards its yearly pledge,
3. **Note Emma's Tea or ENS on the memo line for Emma's Tea contributions.**
4. One check can be written to include both an offering and a donation to Emma's Tea. **Make a note on the memo line as to the amount for each donation or enclose a note detailing how your total check should be divided.**
5. **MAIL the check to PEGGY RHODES, 2849 Farrington St., Roseville MN 55113.**
6. **Donate online:** <https://bit.ly/TCUMWDonate>
7. **DO NOT send cash.**

If you have questions about any of this information, feel free to contact me.

Be well. See you on Zoom!

Carol Foster, TC District Education & Interpretation

Social Action

This month the focus is on Climate Justice. One resource that you may want to use is the Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light (MNIPL). They are a nonprofit organization in Minneapolis, located at 4407 East Lake Street.

Their mission states that they work in partnership with faith communities to build transformative power and bring the lights of people's unique gifts to addressing the climate crisis. They work to grow the climate movement in MN by empowering individuals and communities across the state to take action that is authentic effective and energizing in their context.

Join them to build a powerful social movement for climate justice. They invite us to celebrate Earth Day 2022 all April. Join them on Earth Day (April 22) and throughout all "Earth Month" to help restore our planet and work for climate justice.

Social Action, continued

Go to Earth Day 2022 at mnipl.org and learn how you and your community can make a commitment to act in April and beyond! They have an Event Calendar of Upcoming Events. You can sign up for MNIPL emails that keep you connected. Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light have a number of webinars coming up the end of March and continuing through April. Check them out at their website. You can also download a Climate Justice Tool Kit which will help you connect your church and community with a plan to get you started or continue in your movement of Climate Justice.

I think that we can feel hopeful in bringing about climate justice. Especially when we work together! May your April bring you the promise of a MN spring that is full of hope! If you have questions or would like to share what you are doing for climate justice, please contact me at nanc.kipp@gmail.com or text or call 612-817-5456.

Nancy Kipp, TC District Social Action

A Note from the Historian

TC District's new historian is requesting materials you have recently uncovered and would like to donate to the TC District. If you are donating photos, make sure the photos are dated and the people in the photos are identified. The occasion at which the photos were taken would be helpful, too.

Priscilla Luitjens, TC District Historian

Dates to Remember

Saturday, April 23 – Spring Gathering via Zoom

Thursday, April 28 – Emma Norton Opening

Doors Gala

Friday-Sunday, May 20-22 – Assembly 2022 in Orlando, FL

Saturday, September 24 – Fall Gathering and Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 1 – MN Conference Annual at Faith UMC in Waseca

Saturday-Sunday, October 1-2 – Leadership Development Training (LDR) at Faith UMC in Waseca

PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2021 UMW READING PROGRAM

Name	Level of Participation	Local Unit
Carol Foster	Plan I	Brooklyn UMW
Jill Michael	Plan I	Brooklyn UMW
Bonnie Bougie	Plan I	Centennial UMW
Mary Hopkins	Plan I	Centennial UMW
Sylvia Costa	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Kris Ewy	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Tammy Foster	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Connie Heine	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Kathy Kohn	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Sharon Kraus	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Becky Lennon	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Suzette Maluchnik	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Jackie Ryder	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Mary Sutton	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Donna Winship	Plan I	Discovery UMW
Pat King	Plan I	Fridley UMW
Becky Coleman	Plan I	Living Spirit UMW
Linda Swanson	Plan I	Minnetonka UMW
Paulette Malecek	Plan I	Normandale Hylands UMW
Fran Field	Plan II	Centennial UMW
Marge May	Plan IV	Discovery UMW
Sandy Meyer	Plan IV	Discovery UMW
Carol Nemitz	Plan IV	Discovery UMW
Ainsley	Children's Plan	Discovery UMW
Eleanor	Children's Plan	Discovery UMW
Raiden	Children's Plan	Discovery UMW

Reading Program Book Recommendation

A book that stood out to Reading Program participant Linda Swanson from Minnetonka UMC is *Gum Moon: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown* by Jeffrey K. Staley. In summary, Linda writes, "Beginning in 1898, a young Chinese-American girl is sold into slavery to a cruel owner. She is rescued by a young Methodist woman. Chun survives the plague, the 1906 earthquake, and more. Based upon a true story." This book is listed under the Education for Mission category and is available through Amazon for \$18.95 or on Kindle for \$6.49. For a modern day connection, read about the Gum Moon Women's Residence in San Francisco in the Nov/Dec 2021 Response magazine.

Paulette Malecek, TC District Program Resource

Emma Norton Services

Opening Doors Gala

Join us to fundraise, volunteer, and celebrate!
Emma Norton Services is excited to host an in-person Gala for the first time since 2019!

InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront

Thursday, April 28, 2022

4:30 pm | Registration opens

6 pm | Dinner

6:45 pm | Program

Reserve tickets at: <https://emmanorton.org/engage/events>

Dinner: \$85.00 Individual Tickets (\$75.00 until March 31)

\$1,000.00 Table Sponsor (\$900.00 until March 31)

Silent Auction, Live Auction, Fund a Need

Auction Item Donation Ideas:

***Themed Baskets (contact Victoria-contact info below-for ideas)**

***Gift cards (any amount) *Baked goods *Other unique treasures**

To donate Silent Auction, Live Auction items contact

Victoria Virasy-Ertelt (She/Her/Hers) Advancement Associate // Emma Norton Services
Email: vvirasy@emmanorton.org Phone: 651-251-2662

Know any potential Corporate-type sponsors?

Contact Shawna Nelsen-Wills, Advancement Director snelsen@emmanorton.org

Since this is such an important fundraiser for ongoing expenses, any support will be deeply appreciated.

Emma Norton Services

Restoring Waters

New Residence/Offices in Highland
Bridge Development
Highland Park Neighborhood, St. Paul

Emma Norton utilizes an evidence-supported approach to creating and sustaining nonviolent lives that work toward healing and wholeness for all humanity

Restoring Waters will be built upon a trauma-informed design & programming

It will feature:

- 56 alcove apartments with kitchenette & sleeping area
 - 4 apartments for small families
- Emma Norton administrative offices with a separate entrance

Generous funding so far includes:

- Butler Foundation
- Anonymous Individual Donations

Emma Norton is counting upon the support of churches and individual donors

Groundbreaking: TBD but hoping for summer 2022

United Women in Faith e-news

- **Black History Month:** February was Black History Month – a time to reflect on the history of Black Americans and to honor the individuals who worked tirelessly toward racial justice. Black women are a crucial part of United Women in Faith’s history, present, and future. Lifted up was Theresa Hoover, the first African American chief executive of United Methodist Women.
- **Beyond Good Intentions-Cultivating an Antiracist White Identity:** White people have a critically important role to play in the work of racial justice. Learning what it means to be white in the United States is deep, important work necessary in the work for equal justice.
- **Save the Date:** Day of Giving was Wednesday, March 23. United Women in Faith members are women of faith who desire to put their faith into action. Each time a donation is made to the Legacy Endowment Fund, an impact is made to ensure the vital work of the organization. Read more in the January/February issue of **response** magazine.

Twin Cities District UWFaith

Virtual Spring Gathering

23 April 2022

9:30 am to 11:30 am



Registration Form

If unable to register online at <https://forms.gle/yg3VjNgecSgtw28k6>, (you can't click on this, must do it by hand)

then mail this form to Sandy Meyer, 8724 Valley View Place, Chanhassen, MN 55317 BEFORE April 15.

=====cut=====

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Phone _____

email _____

Church Name _____

What is your connection to United Women in Faith?

_____ Member _____ Guest _____ Interested in joining

A ZOOM link will be emailed to you on April 21. Questions regarding registration?

Contact: Sandy Meyer 952-270-1157 regmnumw@gmail.com



Save the Dates!

Church Women United of St. Paul Area "May Friendship Day Celebration"
Saturday, May 7, 2022 from 9-1

Church Women United of Minnesota Annual Meeting and "Human Right Day"
Celebration
Saturday, August 6, 2022 from 9-1

Church Women United of St. Paul Area "World Community Day Celebration"
Saturday, November 5, 2022 from 9-1

All meetings at Discovery UMC - 275 Lake Dr. E., Chanhassen, MN 55317
Questions? Contact: Sandy Meyer, CWU of Minnesota President
952-270-1157 cwu.sandy@gmail.com

Please visit our Facebook page for most current information and registration links, which will be posted closer to the date of each event. <https://www.facebook.com/Church-Women-United-of-Minnesota-114743026629947>

This is an opportunity to meet women of other denominations with the same purpose as United Women in Faith (mission to women, children, and youth around the world). Contact Sandy Meyer 952-270-1157 sandrameyer51@hotmail.com for an invitation. INVITE a friend or two!

Founded in 1941, Church Women United (CWU) is a national volunteer Christian ecumenical women's movement initiated and carried out by women in the United States and Puerto Rico. It is a movement that brings together women of diverse races, cultures and traditions in closer Christian fellowship, prayer, advocacy, and action for peace with justice in the world. CWU engages millions of women representing twenty-six supporting denominations and participating Christian Women. For more information about CWU go to <http://www.churchwomen.org>.

Additional Resources from the MN Conference

Education & Interpretation Financial Interpretation

“Mission Giving Makes Mission Happen”

United Women in Faith (formerly called United Methodist Women) members’ Mission Giving and special offerings make mission happen! In 2020 and 2021 UWF (UMW) members provided more than \$9 million to 226 national and international projects and partners. Some grants go directly to specific organizations or projects, including schools, hospitals, agricultural projects, microenterprise projects and more. Other grants go to United Methodist and other women’s societies, ecumenical organization and grassroots groups. This enables women to decide what project and work is needed in their countries.

Your Mission Giving dollars are at work around the world supporting programs that improve life and help empower women, children and youth. In the United States, Mission Giving provides vital support for national mission institutions and other U.S. ministries as well as spiritual growth programs, membership nurture, and opportunities for leadership development, mission education and service and advocacy. Around the world UWF supports projects and people in 34 countries. Mission Giving also provides scholarships to 157 students enrolled in institutions of higher education in 24 countries.

In 2020 and 2021, Mission Giving also supported eight regional missionaries. Their work in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Philippines focuses on gender justice, economic empowerment and leadership development for women and youth. Your gracious giving changes lives for women, children youth and families down the street and around the world!

Program Resources Report

“Where Can I Find Reading Program Books?”

You might have notice that books in the 2020-2021 Reading Program Catalog are not listed with stock numbers; nor will you find the usual order form and shipping information. For the first time, this year United Women in Faith members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online. Think of this resource not as a catalog, as in past years, but as a guide.

Although Amazon is always a convenient option, please consider obtaining Reading Program books through school and public libraries, local independent bookstores and franchises of larger bookstore chains. As always, most Reading Program books can also be found for reading electronically on your Kindle, tablet or other devices

A Reading Program book that goes with our theme today is *Vanguard: How Black Women Broke Barriers, Won the Vote, and Insisted on Equality for All*. In the standard story, the suffrage crusade began in Seneca Falls in 1848 and ended with the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920. But this overwhelmingly white women's movement did not win the vote for most black women. This book offers a new history of how African American women defied both racism and sexism to fight for the ballot, from the earliest days of the republic to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and beyond.

Membership Nurture and Outreach Report

“New National Membership Option”

United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women) is currently rolling out an exciting array of new initiatives. One of these new initiatives is the national membership option. Recruiting new and/or younger women for membership has been a challenge for conference, district and local United Methodist Women leaders for years. Surveys and conversations we conducted with women over the past quadrennia showed us why. While 70 percent

of current members like the way we gather, less than 30 percent of nonmembers over 55 and less than 20 percent of nonmembers under 55 found the way we gather inviting. In addition, nearly 60 percent of nonmembers under 55 said the average age of our membership was too different from their own age for them to join in.

In short, many nonmembers liked what we do, they just didn't feel like United Methodist Women was a place where they could belong, particularly younger women. Enter the national membership option. The new national membership option will enable women who choose to join our sisterhood via our new website. They will learn about and be able to participate in programs and events online, or in person, when they choose to.

Two reminders for local units:

1. In February the Conference Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator, Catherine Williams, sent out an Officer and Fresh Connection Update form to all local units. Please make sure you have filled this out and returned it to Catherine.
2. The 2021 Survey/Census came out this month and can be found on the UWF website under **census**. Please fill this out as soon as possible. This year national will be using your feedback as a tool to gather feedback on the organization's recent changes.

Social Action Report

“2022 JRLC Day on the Hill – For Such a Time as This”

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition (JRLC) held a virtual Day on the Hill on March 15. The Conference UWF (United Women in Faith) supports this organization and encourages its' Social Action Coordinators and all members to take part in this event. JRLC is the largest and most inclusive interfaith public interest group in Minnesota. When JRLC was founded in 1971, it was the first interfaith public-interest lobby group in the United States. JRLC now has an extensive body of public policy statements and continually influences Minnesota legislation in many policy arenas. The JRLC 2022 Legislative Agenda includes the following issues:

1. **Sacred Communities/Tiny House Legislation:** The JRLC supports exploring numerous options to address the homeless crisis in our state. Minnesota law does not currently allow tiny houses as permanent housing unless they have running water with a bathroom and kitchen. Some faith communities want to create small, tiny house communities with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities, with each unit having a compostable toilet. The JRLC supports a very limited change in Minnesota law to allow places of worship or non-profits to allow these sacred community.
2. **Child Care Assistance:** The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) helps low- and moderate-income families with child care cost so they can work or go to school. It is the state's largest program serving infants and toddlers. Minnesota needs to increase the reimbursement rates for providers and to fund the program adequately to eliminate the current waiting list of 2000+ families. Minnesota is currently out of compliance with federal requirements regarding reimbursement rates.
3. **Emergency Shelter:** 80 of Minnesota's 57 counties lack necessary emergency shelter beds. The need continues to rise. JRLC supports significant bonding to create emergency shelter.
4. **Affordable Housing:** Across Minnesota, communities need more affordable housing. 20% of Minnesota rental households are severely cost-burdened, spending 50% or more of their household income for housing. JRLC advocates for a substantial investment in affordable housing as part of our bonding bill.
5. **Addressing Gambling Expansion:** As advocates for gambling expansion push to create easy access to sports betting, daily fantasy sports and other online gambling, the JRLC supports limits on access to online gambling and adequate support those dealing with gambling addiction and their families.

From the editor – I apologize for using “United Methodist Women” and “United Women in Faith” (UWF) interchangeably in this issue. I have attempted to use our NEW name whenever possible.

Sylvia Farrells, Communications Coordinator
Twin Cities District United Women in Faith
c/o Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church
9920 Normandale Blvd, Bloomington, MN 55437

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