



## **BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

### **UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**VOLUME II**

**June 2021**

## **“FINDING PEACE AND UNITY IN TODAY’S WORLD”**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Cover Sheet	Page 1
Table of Contents	Page 2
President	Pages 3-4
Secretary	Page 5
Treasurer	Pages 6-9
Secretary of Program Resources	Page 10
Education & Interpretation	Page 11
Membership Nurture & Outreach	Pages 12-13
Communications	Page 14
Charter for Racial Justice	Page 15
Legacy Fund	Pages 16-17
Mission u	Pages 18-20
District Presidents	Pages 21-27
Spotlight on the Districts	Page 28
Hot Off The Press	Page 29
Earthkeepers	Page 30
Conference UMW Projects	Page 31
Epworth House Committee Officers	Page 32
Epworth House-Missioner-in Residence	Page 33
BWC United Methodist Women Scholarships	Page 34
BWC United Methodist Women Scarves	Page 35

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all my UMW Sisters!

"These are the things you are to do: Speak the truth to each other, and render true and sound judgment in your courts." *Zechariah 8:16*.

During our daily lives, we have heard the expression "**Communication is key.**" It should be **true** communication, as described in the verse above from the Old Testament book of Zechariah. As I travel around our Baltimore-Washington Conference, I have come to realize that our Conference and District United Methodist Women leadership have not communicated as effectively as we could with all regions and districts. When local units do not reach out to their District or Conference leadership, we assume that all is well and information is flowing into the proper channels. However, another expression sometimes applies here: "**We don't know what we don't know.**" We, the leadership, don't always know whom we aren't reaching, and those who aren't being reached are missing out.

I was encouraged at a recent UMW District Presidents' meeting to hear that the District officers are contacting their local units and conveying information to them. Now that we are getting past the pandemic, it is important to communicate to all our UMW Sisters just how much we have missed getting together and ministering to one another in Christ. We must provide an overwhelming flood of compassion, love and information to each other so that all will be aware of the many mission and learning opportunities we can offer. I thank my officers who are doing just that, and who will continue to reach out via phone calls, emails, snail mail, contacting the Pastors, church secretaries, and however else they can think of to get the word out that United Methodist Women is alive and well!

Spread the news of the following upcoming virtual events far and wide!

- **Charter for Racial Justice** – Panel Discussion on racism language, what it is, and how it affects us on a daily basis. Saturday, July 10, 2021, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (More information soon.)
- **Mission u** – Friday and Saturday, July 23 – 24, 2021 – "Finding Peace in an Anxious World," "Managing Anxiety," and "Pushout - Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools." Registration is open. (See enclosed information.)

- **Legacy Endowment Fund “High Tea”** –Saturday, August 14, 2021, 2 p.m.

I pray that the light of Christ’s truth will illumine your days and give you peace.

Linda S. Yost  
443-605-8295

[LJYost@verizon.net](mailto:LJYost@verizon.net)



## SECRETARY

We pray God's healing blessings on our Secretary, **Janice Crowe** and all of us as we continue to put our faith, hope and love into action in 2021!





## TREASURER

### 2021 Where the Money Goes?

United Methodist Women is trusted with pledges and donations from individual members as well as mission partners and anonymous donors who have a heart for mission. The national office is committed to good stewardship of our members' generous support.



The Five Channels of Giving (*pictured to the left*) show the various ways that our members give undesignated funds to our organization. When a local UMW gives, a portion of the Pledge to Mission is kept by their respective conference for its own district and conference administrative and membership development (A&MD) expenses. The remainder of the Pledge and the other channels of Mission Giving are forwarded to the national office. The elected Board of Directors vote on the budget each year.

Below are some major categories of how giving is at work around the world!

#### National Mission Institutions

##### **National Mission Institutions (NMIs)**

We support nearly 90 NMIs across the US serving the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities in these areas:

- care for children
- educate and develop youth
- create economic opportunities
- transform neighborhoods
- housing

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/nmi](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/nmi)

#### Regional Missionaries

##### **Regional Missionaries**

Focusing on issues of health, gender equality and elimination of violence among women, and support for the uprooted and marginalized.

- training programs
- workshops
- strategic planning
- networking

[www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/missionaries](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/missionaries)

#### Grants

##### **Grants & Scholarships**

- international & national mission grants
- cultivation grants for UMW missionary conferences
- social justice issue grants
- Theresa Hoover service & global citizenship award
- international and national scholarships

In 2020 we awarded grants for COVID relief and prevention; \$189 thousand internationally and \$73 thousand nationally!

## Where the Money Goes? *(continued)*

### Service & Advocacy

#### Service and Advocacy

Work on peace and justice, education, the rights of children, human rights, and farm workers' rights.

Our work in partnership with coalitions on many justice issues to extend its reach.

Leadership and social action training. Mission education. Deaconess and home missionary program and more!

### What We Don't Fund

#### What We Don't Fund

United Methodist Women does not fund projects and programs that:

- don't benefit women children or youth
- don't comply with our UMC Social Principles
- are administered by discriminatory organizations

We are committed to transparency in our funding sources, especially with our membership.

### More About United Methodist Women Finances

Each year we release an Annual Report which describes a lot of the work we were able to do together. You can read notes from our key leaders, see pictures and stories about projects, view the financial reports and imagine the possibilities for the coming years!

We do a lot with our members on service, training, social action and more; but another part of our work is awarding grants and scholarships to deserving organizations and individuals. The recipients and purposes of the grants and scholarships are released each year in our Grants Disclosure.

Visit [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finance](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finance) to view multiple years of our Annual Reports and Grants Disclosures.

United Methodist Women:  
Turning Financial Gifts into Miracles for  
Women, Children and Youth

"One thing that I know is  
that our financial strength is  
indicative of the love we have  
for those whom we serve."

—Tamara Clark



## “INACTIVE UNITS”

United Methodist Women allows units to transition to inactive status. The process is described below. United Methodist Women cannot endorse disbanding units as the establishment of units in every UMC church is mandated by the *Book of Discipline*, ¶ 1901.

**Local Presidents will need to ensure that the following steps are performed for a unit to officially go inactive:**

### 1. Notify Leadership

- Unit president is to contact the district president and membership nurture outreach coordinator (or the conference membership nurture outreach coordinator, if needed) to report the decision and request assistance. Depending on the reason(s), the district or conference officers/coordinators may suggest a specific course of action, for example:
  - Utilize the Census Analysis 2019 to determine where active units may be within the district for members of the unit wishing to remain active with United Methodist Women.
  - Refer to the local bylaws, Article 1 Section 4b., which identifies other types of units, including how to form a cluster or charge unit. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/2021-2024-handbook/constitution-and-bylaws>
  - Offer “challenges & solutions” scenarios from Leadership Development Days and develop a solution for this unit.
  - Schedule a conversation with the district membership nurture outreach coordinator

### 2. myUMW

- Prior to going inactive, the unit president will offer each individual unit member an opportunity to remain a member through joining a district or online unit or the newly formed cohort through the National Membership option. Have them enter their information into the myUMW database at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myUMW](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myUMW)





- Unit president shall send the name of the unit and all unit members to the district membership nurture outreach coordinator and to the National Office indicating who will remain a member of United Methodist Women and who no longer is interested in membership. The National Office email is [membership@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:membership@unitedmethodistwomen.org).

### 3. Funds

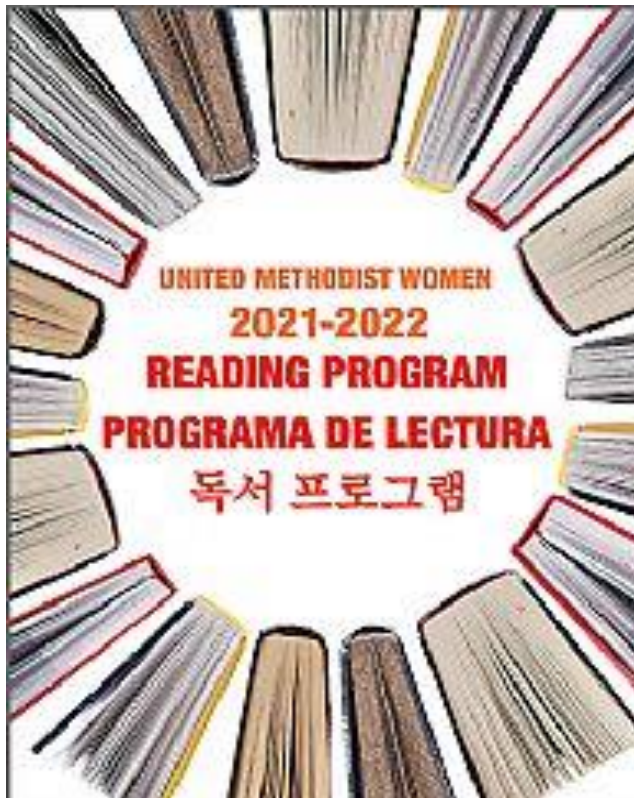
- It is required that the local treasurer will notify both the district and conference treasurers of the discontinuation and maintain communication with them throughout the process.
- The local treasurer must send the district and conference treasurers a report of the unit's giving for the past 4 years, which they will forward to the national treasurer.
- Any remaining unit funds must be sent to the district treasurer. If there are designated or restricted funds, they should be sent to the national treasurer along with the original documentation describing how the funds are to be used. The district treasurer will also require copies of the final audit/review financial report.

### 4. Evaluate & Report

- The local president will send the reason for going inactive and any pertinent information to [membership@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:membership@unitedmethodistwomen.org).

## PROGRAM RESOURCES

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2021 READING PROGRAM

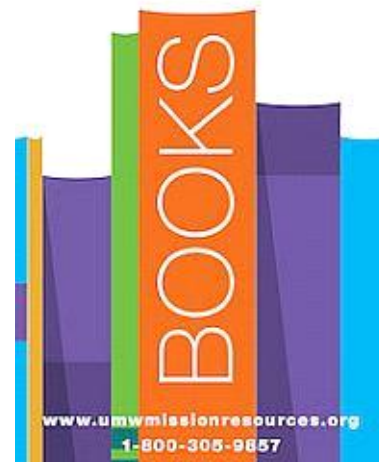


## READING PROGRAM

Reporting Form

Formulario de Información del Programa de Lectura

독서 프로그램독서 프로그램



- Please click on this link [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org) or call 800-305-9857

**District Reading Program participant Information due by**

**September 15 to**

**Tangela Terry**

**[Mst2136@yahoo.com](mailto:Mst2136@yahoo.com)**

## **EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION**

*FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PLACE PRIZES TO BE AWARDED*



### ***2021 Mission Today District Competition***

***The Winners Must Have the Highest Percentage of Active Local UMW Units for the Mission Today Unit Checklist Program***

## ***Prizes to Be Awarded at the 2021 United Methodist Women Annual Celebration***



### ***Rules of the Competition:***

- ***Submit The Total Number of Active UMW Local Units in the District and,***
- ***Submit The Total Number of Active UMW Local Qualifying Units participating in the Mission Today Checklist Program, to include their Bronze, Silver and Gold status***
- ***Due on or Before October 1, 2021.***

Barbara Terry, Coordinator  
Education and Interpretation  
[Babswrightterry@gmail.com](mailto:Babswrightterry@gmail.com)

## MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

***For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:10 (New Living Translation)***

Thank you, District Presidents, MNO's and everyone who completed the 2020 Unit Survey. March 30 marked the deadline for the submission of the 2020 Unit Survey (CENSUS/ Membership Count) for local units. It is important for local units to be counted as part of the Global United Methodist Women because we remain "True to our Wesleyan heritage, mission cannot be solely charity but involves empowerment and advocacy for social change. By combining the two, we can be witnesses to the love and life of Jesus Christ." I want to re-state that membership counting is done **yearly / annually**. It has changed from a paper report to electronic reporting. In addition to collecting the number of members in each unit, National is asking for additional feedback as to how it can best serve and support local, district and conference United Methodist Women. Again, I want to thank District Presidents and Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinators for your work in contacting Local Units and submitting your membership information online. I know this was a team effort and required many hours of work to remind everyone to submit their forms. We should be receiving a preliminary report by May 30th to make corrections. The final Census Analysis will come out in June 2021. The results of this year's findings will be especially useful in the implementation of the **Recruitment, Retention, and Renewal (3 R's)** model developed by National and presented at the 2021 Leadership Day.

The **3 R** campaign focuses on sustaining our current membership while simultaneously attracting more women within the United Methodist Church, and other denominations who do not currently identify as United Methodist Women. Our strong heritage as "laywomen who use their God-given gifts to engage in God's mission in the world," United Methodist Women is committed to developing strong leaders through education and training that equip women with leadership skills. We offer women opportunities to develop a deeper understanding of mission, grow spiritually and have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth." While any woman can join United Methodist Women as a member, United Methodist Women elected leaders must be laywomen who are willing to commit their talents, time, energy and effort to serve God's mission. A member of the local church must be named president, except for local units that are not organized in United Methodist churches (Bylaws, Article 1.3)."



The focus also will be on attracting new, spiritual women, ages 35-59, and who may or may not be a member of the United Methodist Church. I am hopeful that this resource will be useful in increasing membership. We are Women with a Purpose-Turning Faith, Hope and Love into Action.

**Daphne L. Hurd, MNO Coordinator-Appointed**

**410 235-0103**

**[daphnelhurd@icloud.com](mailto:daphnelhurd@icloud.com)**

## COMMUNICATIONS



Kim Marie Walker  
Communications Coordinator-BWC-UMW  
[burrwalker123@gmail.com](mailto:burrwalker123@gmail.com)

## **COMMITTEE ON CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (CFRJ)**

### Committee on Charter for Racial Justice (CFRJ) Members 2021

In light of all the racism concerns happening around the country, we feel it is necessary to reconstitute this committee.

The Committee on the Charter for Racial Justice is a committee that has a membership of at least seven members, one-third of whom shall be of color if possible.

The seven members shall include the President of the Conference UMW Leadership Team, who will serve as the Chairperson, the ~~mission~~ Conference UMW Social Action Coordinator, and the Conference UMW Chairperson of the Committee on Nominations.

Four additional members shall be nominated by the Committee on Nominations. They shall be one district president, one member of the Executive Committee and two members selected to ensure inclusiveness and/or special expertise in the skills necessary to accomplish the task.

The committee shall:

- 1) develop and recommend to the Executive Committee plans for the implementation of the Charter
- 2) monitor conference-approved action plans to implement the Charter
- 3) regularly evaluate progress made on conference, district and local implementation plans.

Linda Yost, Chairperson-- [LJYost@verizon.net](mailto:LJYost@verizon.net)

Ruthella Lievers – [ralievers1@comcast.net](mailto:ralievers1@comcast.net)

Mikele Haskins-Delmore --[mhdelmore@yahoo.com](mailto:mhdelmore@yahoo.com)

Jeannie Panesi--[jeannie5314@yahoo.com](mailto:jeannie5314@yahoo.com)

Janice Crowe – [Janice.a.crowe@comcast.net](mailto:Janice.a.crowe@comcast.net)

Sabrina White -- [sve2042@hotmail.com](mailto:sve2042@hotmail.com)

Sharon Milton -- [law2be@hotmail.com](mailto:law2be@hotmail.com)

Willa Kynard — [msk3334@yahoo.com](mailto:msk3334@yahoo.com)

Kunda Musonda – [careercoachk@gmail.com](mailto:careercoachk@gmail.com)

Judy Smith – [smarmayor@aol.com](mailto:smarmayor@aol.com)

Miriam Mokuena –[mdmokuena@gmail.com](mailto:mdmokuena@gmail.com)

## **LEGACY FUND**

It has been a busy few months in terms of Zoom Communications. This is my first year as a Legacy Endowment Fund Liaison. I have attended Breakfasts, Lunches and Dinner via a computer. While Methodists are known for good food, this year has turned into a steady diet of Blue Light. I feel this time has been advantageous in terms of information sharing and training. We lead such busy lives balancing work, family and worship. I don't feel guilty when I say, "I am attending a meeting," while sitting at my home computer, dressed in comfortable clothing.

I have enclosed some information from the United Methodist Women Website. I refer to [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) for inspiration and guidance. As of this writing the Legacy Endowment Fund has raised over \$34 million. We are in the Sustaining Phase, Building on our Success.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/give> - Ways to Give, Planned Giving, Legacy Builders

Fire appears to us in many ways. The Legacy Endowment Fund Webpage encourages us to ignite change in places near and far. A Moses story in the Book of Acts begins with a flame and God's powerful message from Acts 7:30-35: "Forty years later an Angel appeared to Moses in the flame of a burning bush in the wilderness near Mount Sinai..."

We face the same challenges today in our divided world. We see so much suffering, poverty, war and now we are faced with recovery from the Pandemic. As we continue to work together let us unite for change. Be on fire to spread the Good News of God and His Son, Jesus Christ, through our mission work.

**It's Tea Time!**  
**Saturday, August 14, 2021**  
**2 p.m. – Save the Date.**

The Legacy Endowment Fund Planning Committee meets on the Fourth Sunday of each month. We are currently connecting via Zoom, an email with the Zoom Link and Dial In Number is sent out monthly. We are hoping to build a committee that represents at least One Person from Each District. This is the time to get involved, present some ideas. Help us plan our calendar year.

I look forward to when we can meet in person. Stay Safe. Give Love.

Terri Booth  
Legacy Endowment Fund Liaison  
[terjericho@gmail.com](mailto:terjericho@gmail.com)





*Sat., August 14, 2021*

*Hostess – Liaison(s) Daisy Farmer & Terri Booth*

**It's Tea Time . . . 2 p.m.**



***Topic: Tea Time - Legacy Endowment Fund***

***Time: Aug 14, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)***

***Join Zoom Meeting***

***<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89492868796?pwd=c3Q2ZWw5ZTU3VHpPaytHYTJPOXhpUT09>***

***Meeting ID: 894 9286 8796 Passcode: 562271 One tap mobile***

***+13017158592,,89492868796#,,,\*562271# US (Washington DC)***

***+13126266799,,89492868796#,,,\*562271# US (Chicago)***

***Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89492868796?pwd=c3Q2ZWw5ZTU3VHpPaytHYTJPOXhpUT09>***

\$18.69 Donation

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/give>

***Contact Information – Daisy Farmer – 1-240-533-6448***

***Terri Booth – [terjericho@gmail.com](mailto:terjericho@gmail.com)***

## **MISSION u**

### **2021 Mission u virtual Event**

**July 23-24, 2021**

Mission u, "Learning Together for the Transformation of the World," will provide opportunities for adults and youths to experience inter-generational communication around current issues. They will grow spiritually by connecting in community together at home with family. The concurrent themes are –

#### **"Finding Peace in Today's World" and "Do Not Lose Heart."**

We strive to put faith, hope and love into action as we long for ways to bring peace in the world. Let us be faithful to new learning paradigms about the issues that affect our lives. Our studies intend to motivate, inform and enhance our commitment to the purpose for United Methodist Women. The beauty of this Mission u event is that in-depth transformation learning will continue through planned mini-Mission u studies among the eight districts and local church units for United Methodist Women.

The Mission u topics will prepare women and youth for faithful living and actions by engaging in transformative education.

The studies are:

**" Finding Peace in an Anxious World" (Adults)**

**"Managing Anxiety" (Youth)**

**"The Criminalization of Black Girls in School- Pushout Panel". (All)**

We look forward to building inter-generational relationships and supportive communities among women, men, children and youth as we grow in faith, hope and showing love in action. Remember that **Mission u is for you.**

Grace and Peace,

Elizabeth M. Stemley,  
Mission u Dean



## Mission u 2021 – Finding Peace in Today’s World

**Friday, July 23- gathering at 6:45 pm, service begins at 7 pm**

**Saturday, July 24- gathering at 8:45 am, program begins at 9 am**

**Mission u**, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, God’s grace is still unfolding and life is being made new.

Indeed, there is a need to find peace in today’s world! We missed seeing everyone last year and hope you will join us from the comfort of your home via Zoom this year!

At this year’s **Mission u**, we will examine finding peace amongst the anxiety of today’s world; the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools; and how we as God’s people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

This year’s Mission u event will begin with a worship service on Friday evening with music provided by Rev. Andre Briscoe. Deaconess Logan Alley and Minister Sharon Milton will present a message. The evening will also include some fun activities.

The event continues Saturday morning and will include a Plenary session with leaders Rev. Dr. Roderick Miller and Minister Jan Taylor for adults and Michelle Churchill and Blairlee Owens for the youth. There will be small group discussions; a lunch break; intergenerational talent expressions; and a panel discussion on the criminalization of black girls. The members of the panel are Rev. Dr. Sonia King, Rev. Dr. Joseph Daniels, and Rev. Timothy Warner. We are looking for folks to share their talent and be a part of the Intergenerational Talent Expressions segment, of the event. If you have a talent to share, please indicate that on the registration form.

Mission u is open to all adults and youth grade 7-12. A completed registration form is requested for each participant. This year's registration fee is only \$25 for adults and no fee for youth. We are collecting financial donations for the nine Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW Mission Projects. The list of projects can be found on the BWC UMW website: <https://www.bwcumc.org/ministries/united-methodist-women/> The donations received will be equally divided between the nine projects. There is an option on the registration form to make a donation with your registration fee. The information on how to send your registration fee and donation (if you choose to make one) is included on the registration form. Please use the links below to register.

Adult registration form: <https://forms.gle/xS7R246bW9k5weQS6>

Youth registration form: <https://forms.gle/fbDkYWGSfHR3MH3R9>

Do you need a Zoom tutorial prior to the event? Information about a Zoom tutorial with Zoom tips will be sent out closer to the event.

Regards,  
Rita Green,  
Mission u Registrar  
301-330-9828



# District Presidents



## **ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT**

Greetings Sisters in Christ,

Praise the Lord, I think we have made it through the worst of the COVID pandemic. I pray that most of us have been vaccinated and are looking forward to a better remainder of 2021 than we had in 2020.

Through it all, the Annapolis District has continued our mission of caring and advocating for women, youth and children in our local communities, as well as providing contributions to our national and global outreach missions.

We held our Annual Spring Brunch in April. Our theme was "Climate Justice". Mike and Sherie Koob made a wonderful presentation and taught us about how we can help to save our Earth. We had a wonderful turn out for the event and trivia questions to keep the fellowship interesting.

The Unit at Metropolitan provided welcome baskets for Chrysalis House in Crownsville, a residential and outpatient organization that provides treatment for women who are addicted to drugs and alcohol. They are also supporting the Board of Child Care and its Auxiliary by contributing items for the Christmas store and providing Bibles for their youth. The Unit also donated baby clothes for infants and toddlers to Mary's Center to assist them in providing services for pregnant women and their children.

Throughout the pandemic, Hall UMC United Methodist Women have collected toiletries for the men and women of Hope House, the shelter for individuals that are homeless, to let them know that they are not alone and that someone still cares about them. The Unit also continues to collect items for the Baby Pantries in Glen Burnie and South County. Mothers needed diapers and wipes, and the ladies also provided several gift cards to families so they could purchase food and other essential items as they negotiated through the pandemic. To celebrate the Unit's 81<sup>st</sup> Anniversary, the ladies gave homemade fruit baskets to UMW members who were 80 years old and older.

The District held a 50 States Rally to raise funds to help offset our Pledge to the Conference. The event was an excellent way to learn fun facts about the states represented and a great fellowship with United Methodist Women we have not seen in a long time. It was like having a family reunion.

As restrictions are being eased, please remember that we are still in the midst of a pandemic. Please be careful and remember, the vaccines are not a cure for COVID, but they do help protect us from getting severe cases of the virus.

May God continue to bless each of you, and I can't wait for in-person gatherings so we can embrace and share hugs once again. Until then, stay safe.

Blessings,

Emma M. Krouser  
President, Annapolis District UMW

## **BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

Greetings from the Baltimore Metropolitan District.

We pray that everyone is continuing to follow CDC guidelines and stay safe, above all we pray our women are getting vaccinated and encouraging family and friends to also get vaccinated. BMD is continuing to canvass the churches in our district who do not have active United Methodist Women units. Chase United Methodist Church in Essex, MD has expressed interest in restarting their unit. The district membership team chaired by Yolande Dickerson will be setting up a session with them. Stephanie Nichols, Communications, is working hard on getting the district directory completed and published before the end of the year. Nominations is canvassing the units for a Treasurer, a Vice President and Spiritual Growth Coordinator. After talking with the Conference President, we are going to let women serve for one year in those positions to make sure it is a good fit for them and us.

Our spring meeting was informative and fun. Linda Yost spoke on The Charter for Racial Justice, Daisy Farmer gave updates on the next phase of Legacy and a speaker from Ashford Wellness spoke on "Mental Health During and After the Pandemic". We played two games; a quiz on What Do You Know About UMW and a virtual UMW scavenger hunt. Prizes were awarded.

I am encouraging each member of the BMD to request to attend at least one unit meeting a year, not their church unit. The district team will be meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss revamping the Facebook page, plan district mission projects, begin discussion on the fall program and the possibility of a district picnic in the summer of 2022.

Join us as we continue to pray for Baltimore City, our State, the United States and the Congress.

Sheila Grier  
President, Baltimore Metropolitan District  
[Sdgkng1947@gmail.com](mailto:Sdgkng1947@gmail.com)



## **GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT**

### **Covid-19 Vaccine and Mental Health - What's it got to do with you?**

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended our collective lives in a manifold number of ways. First, what was our normal everyday life, is no longer. The measures put in place to fight the pandemic resulted in the loss of events we take for granted: Going to work, birthday parties, family gatherings, vacations, schools closed, and "the church" as we've come to identify with forever altered. We have endured unfathomable loss and hardship for the past year.

I believe many of us have lost someone from, possibly our family, our church, our jobs, our communities to the ugly grip of COVID 19.

A few weeks ago, I received my second and final dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The feeling I felt after receiving my second inoculation was one of relief.

Because of the vaccine, I can get back to the activities my family and I participated in before COVID-19 upended our lives. For example, going to the park for a walk or heading downtown for a weekend excursion at the National Mall in Washington D.C. or mundane activities we used to take for granted before the pandemic such as grabbing coffee with a friend or even attending church every consecutive [Sunday](#).

I want to encourage you to get the facts then....Take the SHOT!

[Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines - Mayo Clinic](#)

Secondly, I want to touch on a topic that has affected people throughout the country during this pandemic and that is the state of our mental health. May is Mental Health Awareness Month. American Psychiatric Association polls show more people reporting mental health effects from the pandemic this year than last. The polls indicate about 4 in 10 Americans (41%) report they are more anxious this year than last year. While still substantial, that is down from just over 60% last year.

Young adults age 18-29 (49%) are more likely to report being more anxious now than a year ago. Those 65 or older (30%) are less apt to say they feel more anxious than last year.

The results show that Americans are more anxious about family and loved ones getting COVID-19 (64%) than about catching the virus themselves (49%).

These numbers are worrisome. I want to admonish everyone reading this column to take care of yourself, physically, emotionally, and mentally.

Below are a few helpful links to share on Mental Health

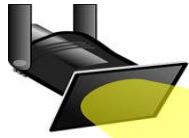
1. The State of Mental Health and Aging in America - CDC-  
[https://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/mental\\_health.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/aging/pdf/mental_health.pdf)
2. Mental Health America (MHA)  
<https://mhanational.org/mental-health-month>

*Stay Blessed and always Encouraged.*  
*Kunda Musonda- President GWD*

## WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Please pray for continued healing for **Diane Shorts**, President of the Washington East District as she recovers from unexpected health issues.





# Spotlight on the Districts

**WE WOULD LOVE TO PUT YOUR  
DISTRICT IN THE SPOTLIGHT! LET US  
KNOW WHAT YOUR UNITS ARE DOING  
WITHIN THEIR CHURCHS AND  
COMMUNITIES FOR PUBLISHING IN OUR  
NEXT FLAME.**





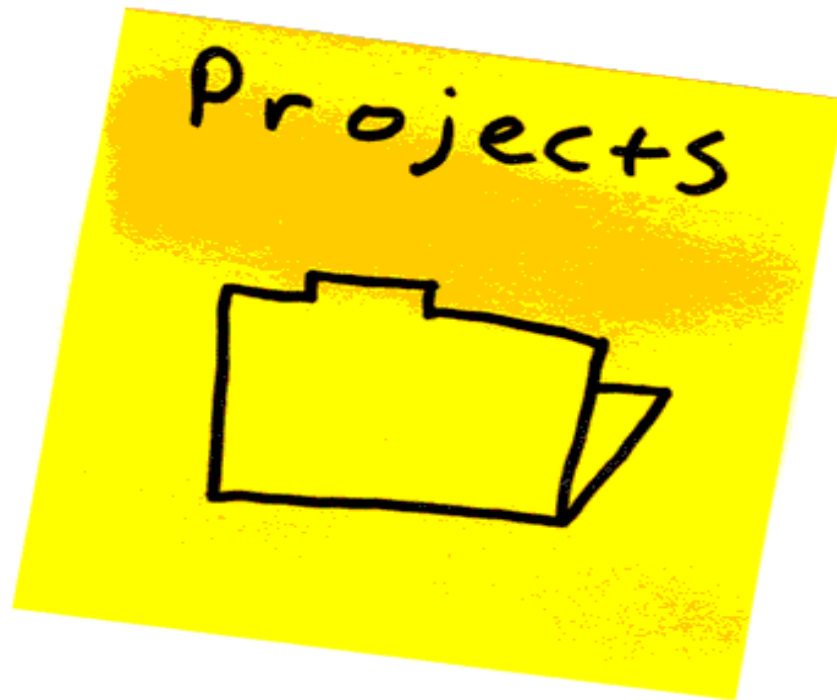
## **Earthkeeper for the Baltimore-Washington Conference**

Hello, my name is Rebecca Vardiman and I am a retired minister in Cumberland, MD. But what I'm really excited about is being a new Earthkeeper for the Baltimore-Washington Conference! Most Earthkeepers begin their ministry with a Creation Care project at their church, something that helps their congregation come together to care for the Earth in their setting. They may start a garden, install rain collection barrels, or replace their church's old lighting with energy-saving alternatives.

My project is a bit different. Called 'Connections for Caring' my project is to create a database with information about churches and group across the conference who are interested in Creation Care. They may have studied Stewardship of Creation or the changing climate. They may have included the Season of Creation in their worship calendar. They may have an Earthkeeper and/or a Green Team who have done a Creation Care project of some kind.

The purpose of this database is to collect all this information in one place so everyone can know who else shares these interests. A church wanting to know more about starting a garden could connect with other churches who have done this. A Green Team with a project vision that's too large for one church could connect with other Green Teams. A cluster of churches that wants to raise awareness of the impact of environmental racism on particular communities could connect with Earthkeepers with a passion for this issue.

It's all about making Caring Connections that bring us together to care for creation and our sisters and brothers who share this one planet with us. So if you or anyone in your church has an interest in Creation Care, already has an Earthkeeper or Green Team, or has done a green project (perhaps as a result of taking the Climate Justice class at Mission u), please be in touch with me at [rebeccavardiman@gmail.com](mailto:rebeccavardiman@gmail.com) or 301-268-1148.



# Conference Projects



## EPWORTH HOUSE

### **2021 Epworth House Committee Officers**

Gertrude T. White (GWD) – President

Lynn T. Davenport (GWD) – Vice President

Ann Price (GWD) – Secretary

**VACANT** – Treasurer

Korla B. Frye (WED) – Education & Interpretation

VACANT– Hospitality Chair

Jane Grays (WED) – Membership Chair

Ellen S. Davis (GWD) – Nominations Chair

Rosetta Daniels (WED) – Nominations Committee

Gertrude T. White  
President

## **EPWORTH HOUSE**



### **Farewell Melinda Paczari-Pongor**

**BWC-UMW 2020-21 Missioner-in-Residence, Wesley Theological Seminary**

Mrs. Melinda Paczari-Pongor, a Hungarian student who's been studying at Wesley Theological Seminary, thanks to a scholarship program established by the Hungarian Reformed Church of D.C. and Wesley Theological Seminary, graduates in May. She has faithfully served the Hungarian congregation here, meeting new people with new views on how to look at the world. Melinda studied theology to understand Biblical history, Christianity, and humanity.

As a teenager she became a believer and wanted to serve the Lord through serving her fellow human beings. After high school she spent a year in the United Kingdom working as a volunteer in a Catholic home for disabled adults. She studied for four years in Hungary at Debrecen Reformed Theological University before attending Wesley Seminary. She is married to Andras, a reformed pastor studying for his Ph.D. degree.

Melinda will continue her work for the Lord wherever she goes. She says, "I feel blessed to have met new people here and learned how they think about our faith, and who are in contact with each other and God." We will miss her smiling face and sweet voice, and we wish her all of God's richest blessings in her ministry.

BWC-UMW Epworth House Mission Project Committee,  
Gertrude T. White  
President

Lynn Davenport  
Vice President



## **CONFERENCE UMW SCHOLARSHIPS**

### **Scholarship Fund, Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women.**

Provides financial assistance for undergraduate students who are members of United Methodist churches within the Baltimore-Washington Conference. **Applications are only accepted on-line at <http://bwcumc.org> from January 4 thru March 1.**

#### ***Matthew 5:16***

***In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.***

Please continue to remember our youth and young adults as they enter into higher education to help them grow and succeed in their fields of choice. Local Unit Treasurers, as you collect donations for the scholarships, please send them to your District UMW Treasurers, who will then send them to your Conference UMW Treasurer, Dorothy Medley.

On behalf of the BWC UMW Scholarship Committee, we thank you, we thank God for you and may God continue to bless you all.

Kim Marie Walker  
BWC United Methodist Women Scholarship Committee Chairperson  
[burrwalker123@gmail.com](mailto:burrwalker123@gmail.com)



## **BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UMW SCARVES!!!!**

You may still place an order for our Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW Scarves. The more scarves ordered at one time, the more the cost is reduced.



The costs are listed below: **Checks should be made payable to BWCUMW**

Amount	Cost
1-25	\$25.00 each
26-100	\$22.00 each
101-200	\$20.00 each
201 and more	\$18.00 each

### **Send your orders to:**

Colleen F. Cates  
5493 Moores Run Dr  
Baltimore, MD 21206-3703  
410-488-5369 (home)  
410-598-9470 (cell)

### **ORDER FORM**

<b>NAME &amp; TELEPHONE:</b>
<b>E-MAIL:</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>
<b>CITY, STATE, ZIPCODE:</b>
<b>NUMBER OF SCARVES:</b>
<b>CHECK/MONEY ORDER AMOUNT (Payable to BWCUMW):</b>