



BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME II

June 2020

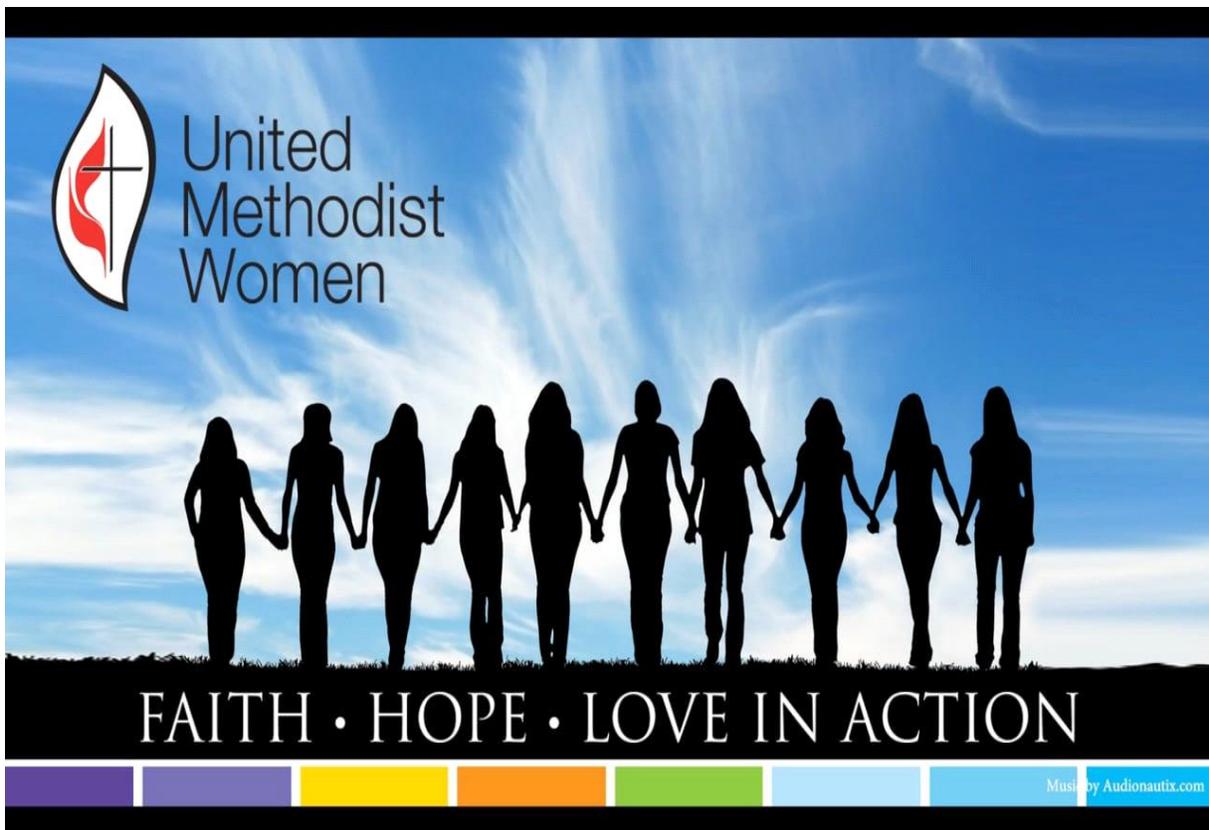
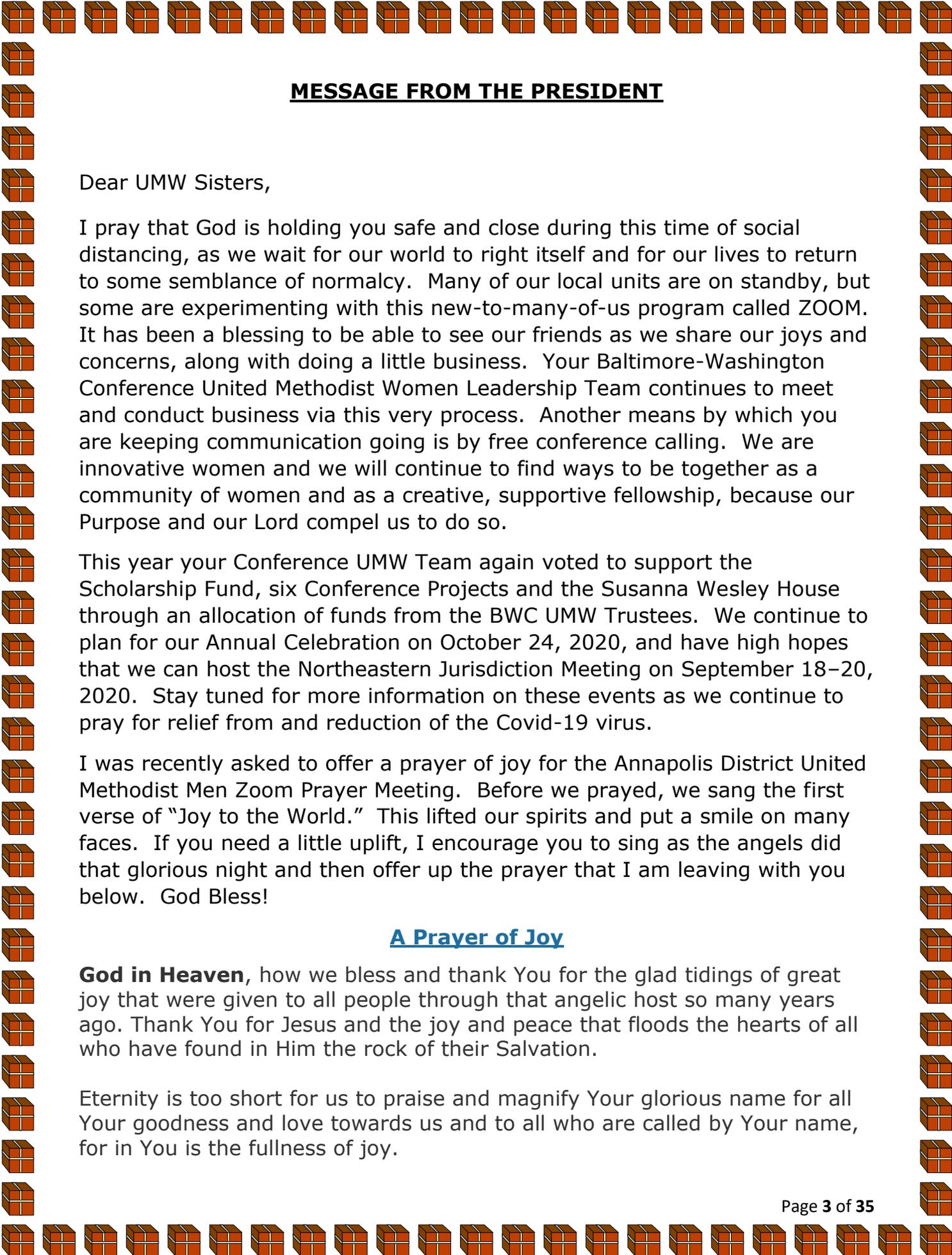




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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear UMW Sisters,

I pray that God is holding you safe and close during this time of social distancing, as we wait for our world to right itself and for our lives to return to some semblance of normalcy. Many of our local units are on standby, but some are experimenting with this new-to-many-of-us program called ZOOM. It has been a blessing to be able to see our friends as we share our joys and concerns, along with doing a little business. Your Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women Leadership Team continues to meet and conduct business via this very process. Another means by which you are keeping communication going is by free conference calling. We are innovative women and we will continue to find ways to be together as a community of women and as a creative, supportive fellowship, because our Purpose and our Lord compel us to do so.

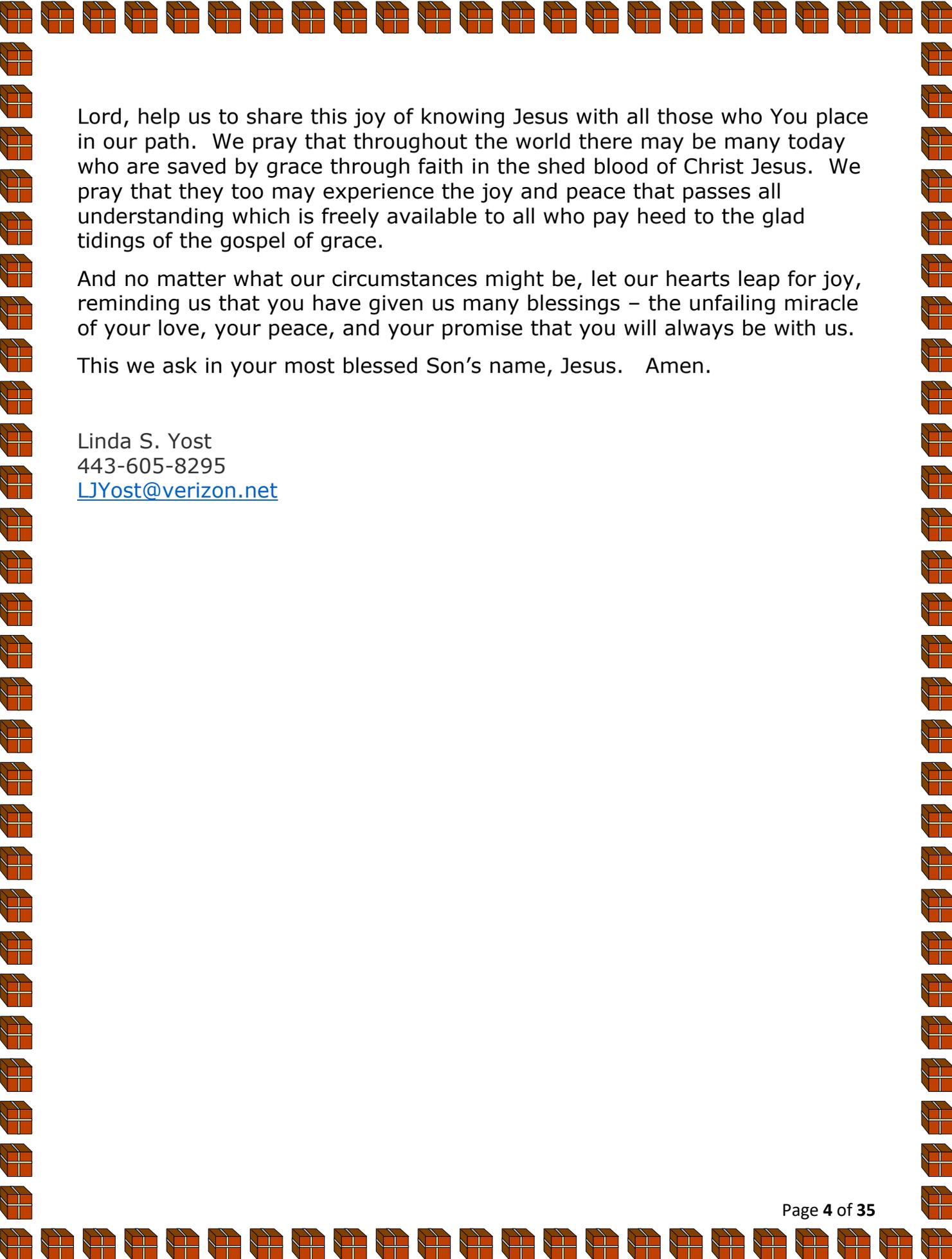
This year your Conference UMW Team again voted to support the Scholarship Fund, six Conference Projects and the Susanna Wesley House through an allocation of funds from the BWC UMW Trustees. We continue to plan for our Annual Celebration on October 24, 2020, and have high hopes that we can host the Northeastern Jurisdiction Meeting on September 18-20, 2020. Stay tuned for more information on these events as we continue to pray for relief from and reduction of the Covid-19 virus.

I was recently asked to offer a prayer of joy for the Annapolis District United Methodist Men Zoom Prayer Meeting. Before we prayed, we sang the first verse of "Joy to the World." This lifted our spirits and put a smile on many faces. If you need a little uplift, I encourage you to sing as the angels did that glorious night and then offer up the prayer that I am leaving with you below. God Bless!

[A Prayer of Joy](#)

God in Heaven, how we bless and thank You for the glad tidings of great joy that were given to all people through that angelic host so many years ago. Thank You for Jesus and the joy and peace that floods the hearts of all who have found in Him the rock of their Salvation.

Eternity is too short for us to praise and magnify Your glorious name for all Your goodness and love towards us and to all who are called by Your name, for in You is the fullness of joy.



Lord, help us to share this joy of knowing Jesus with all those who You place in our path. We pray that throughout the world there may be many today who are saved by grace through faith in the shed blood of Christ Jesus. We pray that they too may experience the joy and peace that passes all understanding which is freely available to all who pay heed to the glad tidings of the gospel of grace.

And no matter what our circumstances might be, let our hearts leap for joy, reminding us that you have given us many blessings – the unfailing miracle of your love, your peace, and your promise that you will always be with us.

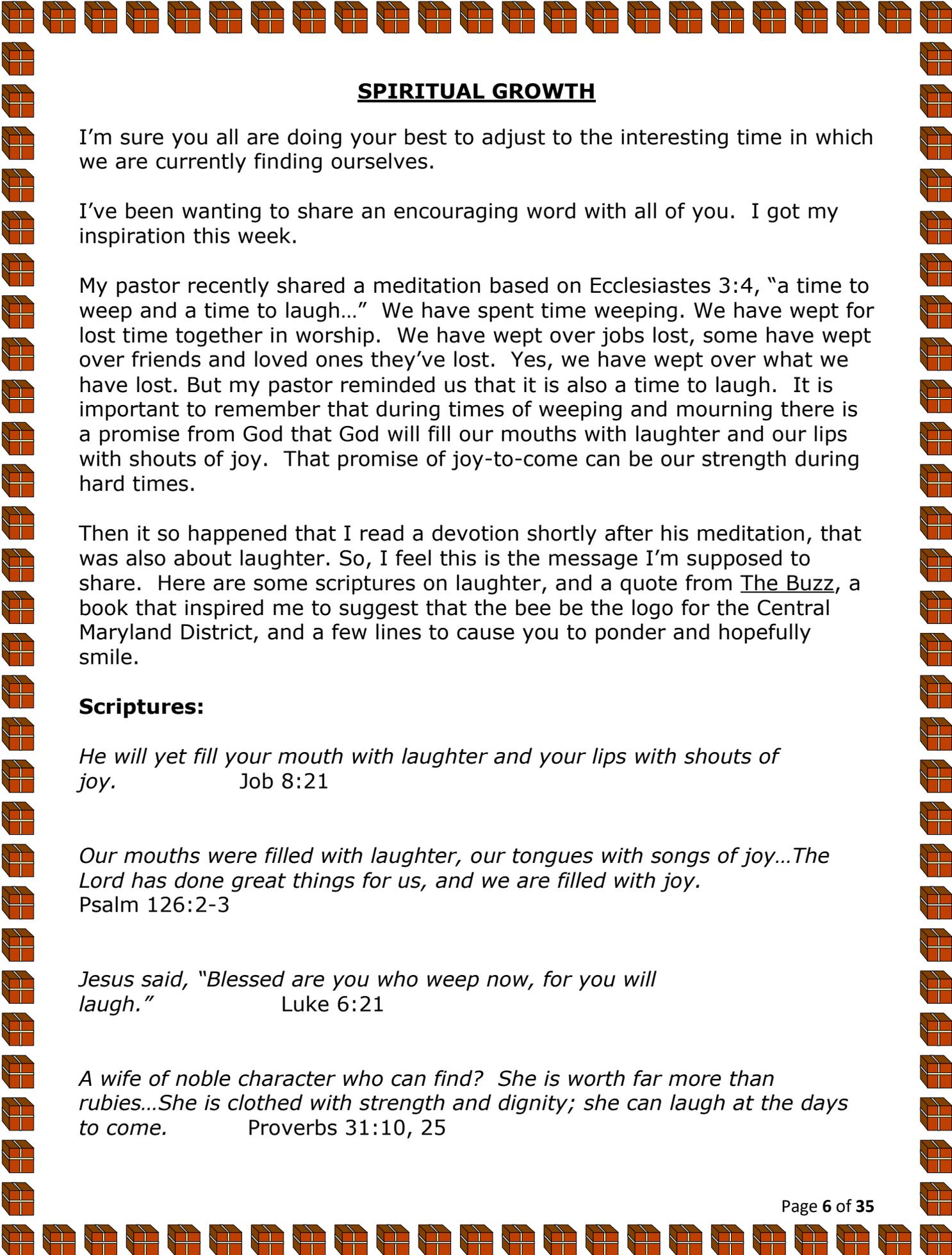
This we ask in your most blessed Son's name, Jesus. Amen.

Linda S. Yost
443-605-8295
LJYost@verizon.net

VICE PRESIDENT

During this time of uncertainty and worry I hope you are well. I pray that your faith has sustained you and kept your anxiety down to a minimum. During this time of seclusion, I have found solace in the quietness of just being still. I have enjoyed not having a full schedule and having to do something every minute of the day. I have been able to call relatives and friends and enjoy great conversations I would not normally have time for. UMW of the Baltimore Washington Conference, take the time to reach out to someone who would love to hear from you. Say a prayer for someone struggling or going through tough times. Reach out to a senior who will not have the pleasure of graduating with all the embellishments that go with high school graduation. Most of all, please take care of yourselves. If you are a vulnerable person, reach out and ask for help and stay in safe situations. If you know someone who is vulnerable, reach out and ask if they need help. We are all in this together.

Prayerfully submitted
Ruthella Lievers V.P. BWCUMW



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

I'm sure you all are doing your best to adjust to the interesting time in which we are currently finding ourselves.

I've been wanting to share an encouraging word with all of you. I got my inspiration this week.

My pastor recently shared a meditation based on Ecclesiastes 3:4, "a time to weep and a time to laugh..." We have spent time weeping. We have wept for lost time together in worship. We have wept over jobs lost, some have wept over friends and loved ones they've lost. Yes, we have wept over what we have lost. But my pastor reminded us that it is also a time to laugh. It is important to remember that during times of weeping and mourning there is a promise from God that God will fill our mouths with laughter and our lips with shouts of joy. That promise of joy-to-come can be our strength during hard times.

Then it so happened that I read a devotion shortly after his meditation, that was also about laughter. So, I feel this is the message I'm supposed to share. Here are some scriptures on laughter, and a quote from The Buzz, a book that inspired me to suggest that the bee be the logo for the Central Maryland District, and a few lines to cause you to ponder and hopefully smile.

Scriptures:

He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. Job 8:21

Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy...The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.
Psalm 126:2-3

Jesus said, "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." Luke 6:21

A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies...She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. Proverbs 31:10, 25

From The Buzz, by Thelma Wells, pg. 17, 24.

“You can laugh without feeling joyful. On the other hand, you can’t have real joy without being able to laugh at yourself and others and at the situations you land in. A joyful person buzzes through each life experience optimistically like a honeybee buzzing around the backyard, looking for a flower...

Joy and laughter are God-given gifts that help us live less stressful, more productive lives. When you have nothing to laugh about, laugh anyway; soon you’ll feel the healing power of joy and laughter bringing new energy and life to your weary, frustrating day.”

If money doesn't grow on trees, how come banks have branches?

Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?

Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and the dishes in the cupboard?

How come noses run and feet smell?

Why do they call it a TV “set” when there is only one?

Who thinks this stuff up? I have been in isolation toooo long!

Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Joyful,

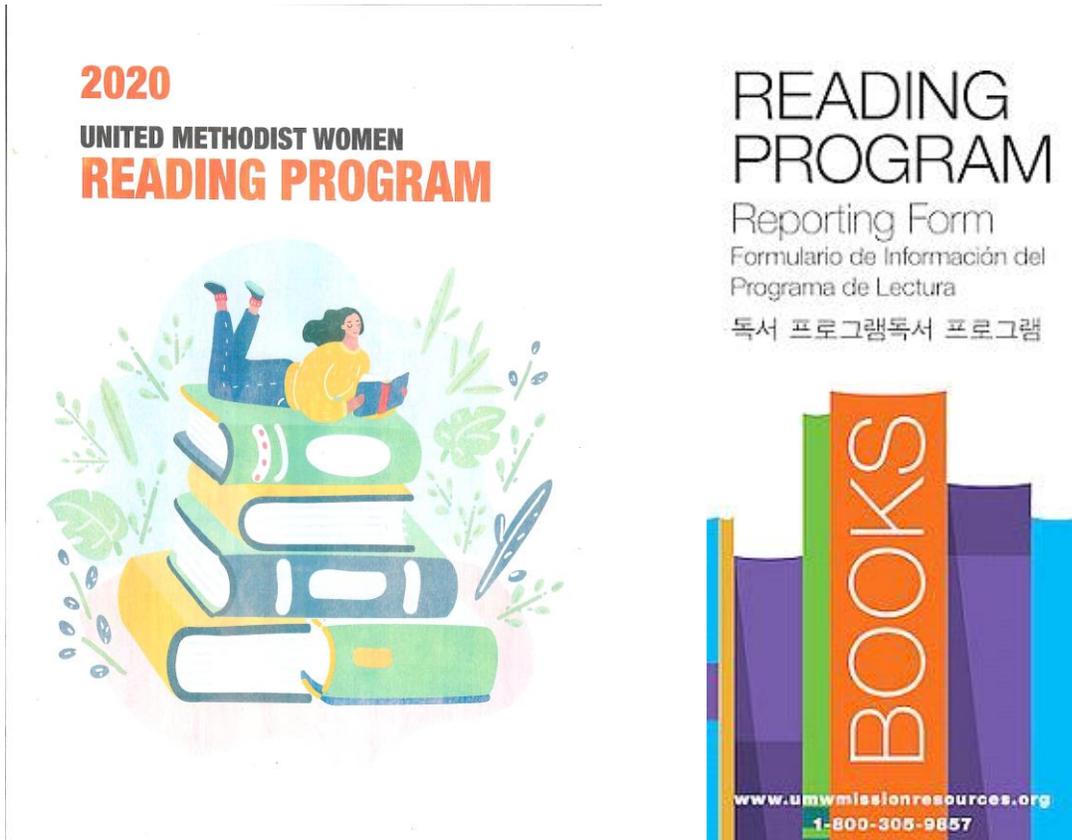
Rita Green,

Spiritual Growth Coordinator,

BWC UMW

PROGRAM RESOURCES

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 2020 READING PROGRAM



- Please click on this link www.umwmissionresources.org or call 800-305-9857

Contact: Tangela Terry
Secretary of Program Resources
443-694-0468
Mst2136@yahoo.com



EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through HIM who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of GOD in CHRIST JESUS our LORD.”

Romans 8: 37

Hello District Education and Interpretation Coordinators,

I pray that this correspondence finds you safe and well. During these difficult times, United Methodist Women are encouraged to remain connected, as we stay focused on our Purpose and Mission. With resiliency, we move forward as women of faith.

Because of issues of safety and concern associated with COVID 19, United Methodist Women have had to think outside of the box with developing innovative ways to stay connected. Some United Methodist Women meetings have been delayed, while others have been canceled. Yet, United Methodist Women continue to move forward with faith and confidence. United Methodist Women are encouraged to be flexible and versatile with meetings. Conference calls and on-line virtual meetings such as Zoom, Google Meet, Skype and Periscope are suggested options for United Methodist Women Meetings. Many of these options are already currently being utilized. The Mission Today Checklist and the Diversity Today Checklist will be updated to reflect the various options available to meet.

With that said, we are moving forward with the 2020 Annual Mission Today District Competition and we will play it by ear moving forward. **“We are more than conquerors.”**

Barbara Terry, Coordinator
Education and Interpretation
babswrightterry@gmail.com

FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD PLACE PRIZES TO BE AWARDED

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



2020 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 2020 United Methodist Women Annual Celebration



Rules of the Competition:

- *Submit The Total Number of Active UMW Local Units and,*
- *Submit The Total Number of Active UMW Local Qualifying Units For The 2020 Mission Today Checklist Program, Due On Or Before September 15, 2020.*



MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

Dear Sisters in Christ, we have received a preliminary statistical report for Census 2019. The final report will be available after June 30th. The preliminary report posts Total Members as of December 31, 2019 was **2400**. New Members Added **183**. Members Lost **136**. The Total for 2019 is **2,447**.

Census/Membership Count reporting is designed to help National and Conference, district and Local leaders to plan, invite or re-connect with absent units, evaluate membership strategies, program development and determine ways to grow in service to name a few responsibilities. Membership is more than numbers, we are tasked with "reaching out, inviting, nurturing and sharing our legacy so that we continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus as we spread His love to transform the world."

National UMW will be hosting a series of webinars for Membership Nurture and Outreach officers, more information to follow. Enclosed is the actual invite: "We'd like to personally invite you to the first cohort meeting of the year! Please note this meeting will be 1 of 3 for this year, as well also expect to come back together in August and November; please expect two more invitations in the near future with regard to those dates." The meetings will be conducted via Zoom. Check the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women's' webpage for upcoming information.

Agenda/topics we'll expect to cover during our time:

Check-in / What's Happening Now?
What's Working vs. What's Not
Support / Resources (Have vs. Need)
Roles & Responsibilities
Q&A
What's Next - where do we go from here?

Learning opportunities and updates are available for all on the UMW Distance Learning page, [BRIDGE](#). If you have not signed up for a Bridge account, please contact Alana Walls, Distance Learning Coordinator, at awalls@unitedmethodistwomen.org.

Respectfully submitted, Daphne L. Hurd, Membership Nurture and Outreach
(appointed)

COMMUNICATIONS



Most people think about speech when they think about communication but there are many other ways we can communicate with each other.

- **Facial expressions**
- **Gestures**
- **Pointing / Using hands**
- **Writing**
- **Drawing**
- **Using equipment e.g. Text message or computer.**
- **Touch**
- **Eye contact**

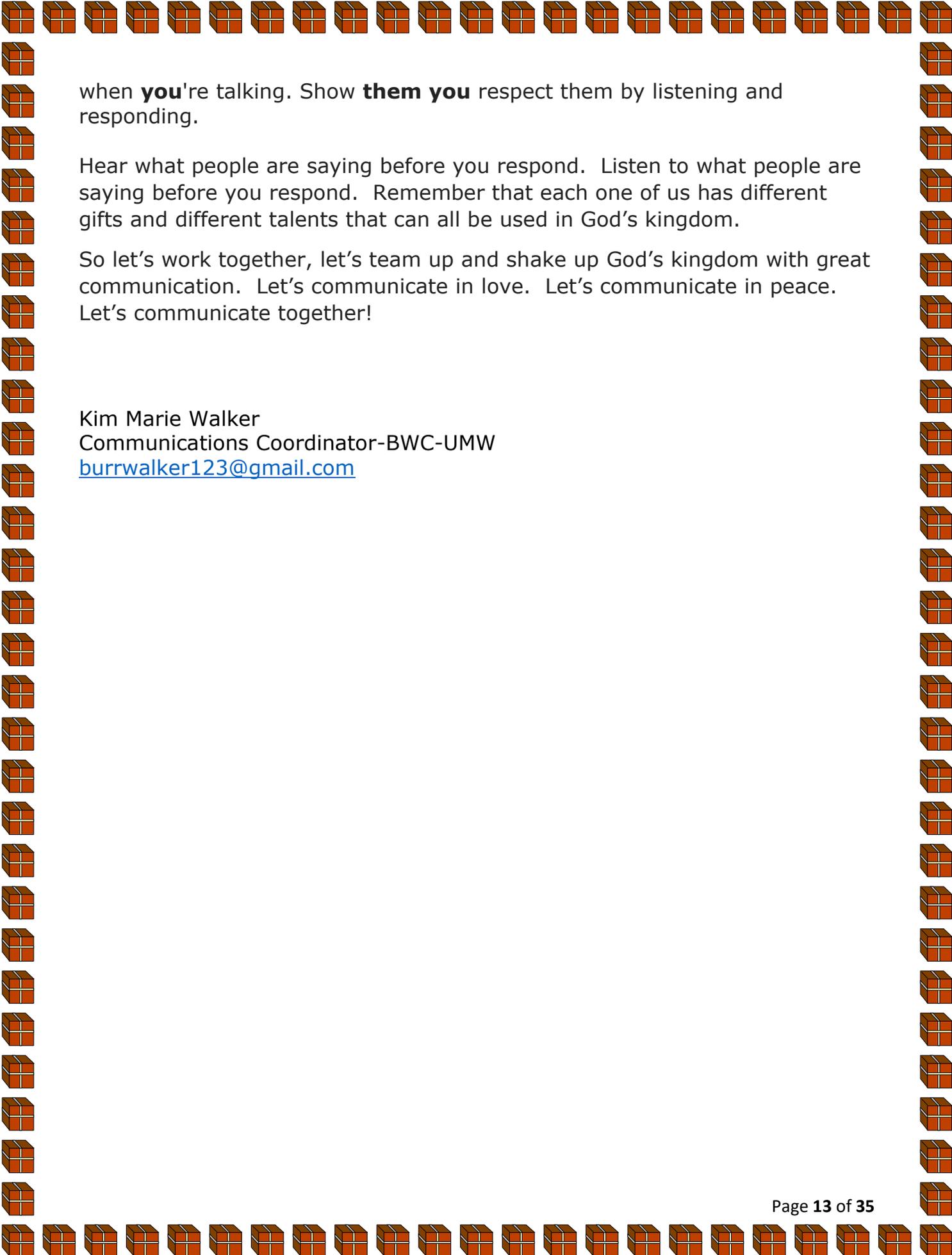
There are many **ways to communicate without technology**, mail by bird, face to face, sign language, Morse code, smoke signal, body language and telepathy. Even though electricity is more preferable, it has taken over our lives. The telepathy way is a good way to **communicate, you just need** to read other people minds.

Effective **communication can** improve relationships at home, work, and in social situations by deepening your connections to **others** and improving teamwork, decision-making, and problem solving.

It enables **us** to **communicate** even negative or difficult messages without creating conflict or destroying trust.

Due to COVID-19, we all have had to sharpen up on all of our forms of communicating like talking on the phone and snail mail. Some of us have had to learn new ways to communicate like Face Time, Facebook, Instagram, Skype, Zoom, Snap Chat, Twitter, linked in, Ring Central and even House Party.

Even though we are communicating differently, we still need to check **our** body language. Let **people** know that **you** are really listening by giving them **your** full attention: sit up, face them and make eye contact when speaking. Don't take a phone call, text or play a video game



when **you**'re talking. Show **them you** respect them by listening and responding.

Hear what people are saying before you respond. Listen to what people are saying before you respond. Remember that each one of us has different gifts and different talents that can all be used in God's kingdom.

So let's work together, let's team up and shake up God's kingdom with great communication. Let's communicate in love. Let's communicate in peace. Let's communicate together!

Kim Marie Walker
Communications Coordinator-BWC-UMW
burrwalker123@gmail.com

NOMINATIONS

GREETINGS FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE



The Nominations Committee continues to seek qualified people to fill leadership positions at the conference level. Membership will be voting on a new leadership team slate at what we hope will continue to be our annual meeting on October 24. Elected members will then begin their work in January 2021. Before you see that slate, though, we're sure you want to know what positions we are looking to fill. If you are a lover of Christ, and want to be a servant leader, we would be very happy to welcome you as part of our executive leadership. Specifically, we are looking to fill the immediate position of Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator. Additionally, we are looking for Nominations Committee Members (3), and Spiritual Growth Coordinator who will begin work January 2021. If you are interested, feel free to reach out to the incumbents and learn what the position "really" entails. You are also welcome to reach out to any nominations team member. Don't forget to complete your talent bank form and send it to us. Until we see each other again. I pray you are all safe and well. As I shared with my unit and committee members, whether you live alone, or not, please make sure to stay positive during these difficult times by keeping in touch with family and friends. Most importantly, stay in prayer, and meditation, for we have a risen Savior in whom our faith tells us will get us through this terrible situation. I find this song, "Trust In You", by Anthony Brown & group therAPy comforting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fjwefyT4_80

Pamela Roxanne Aulton, Chair (palexana@hotmail.com)



**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON UMW TALENT BANK
INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP**

(To be completed by prospective leader.)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary). Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Work _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Age: _____ 20's _____ 30's. _____ 40's. _____ 50's _____ 60's _____ 70's _____ 80's+

Languages Spoken _____ Racial/Ethnic Group _____

Employed: _____ Yes _____ No _____ Full-time _____ Part-time

Professional Skills/Job Experience

Office(s) held in United Methodist Women

Office

Dates of Service

Local _____

District _____

Conference _____

Jurisdiction _____

Additional experience on the local, district, conference, or general Church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community: _____

Special Talents/Skills: _____

Areas of Special Issue or Concern

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Secretarial | _____ Recruiting Members | _____ Publicity |
| _____ Communications | _____ Social Issues | _____ Workshops |
| _____ Computer | _____ Creativity | _____ Newsletters |
| _____ Accounting/Bookkeeping | _____ Recording Minutes | _____ Retreats |
| _____ Organization of Details | _____ Public Policy | _____ Music |
| _____ Nominations | _____ Public Relations | _____ Youth |
| _____ Program Planning | _____ Community Building | _____ Children |
| _____ Administration | _____ Inclusiveness/Pluralism | _____ Other (specify) |

Which office(s) on the Conference United Methodist Women's Team are you most interested in holding, given the opportunity to serve?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ President | _____ Membership Nurture & Outreach |
| _____ Vice President | _____ Social Action |
| _____ Secretary | _____ Spiritual Growth |
| _____ Treasurer | _____ Program Resources |
| _____ Chair of Nominations | _____ Communications |
| _____ Education and Interpretation | |

Why are you interested in this/these positions and what qualifications do you feel you have for your position(s) of choice _____

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization? _____

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or unemployment for?

_____ Full day _____ Weekend _____ Extended time
Yes or No Yes or No Yes or No

_____ I am sorry, but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in _____(year).

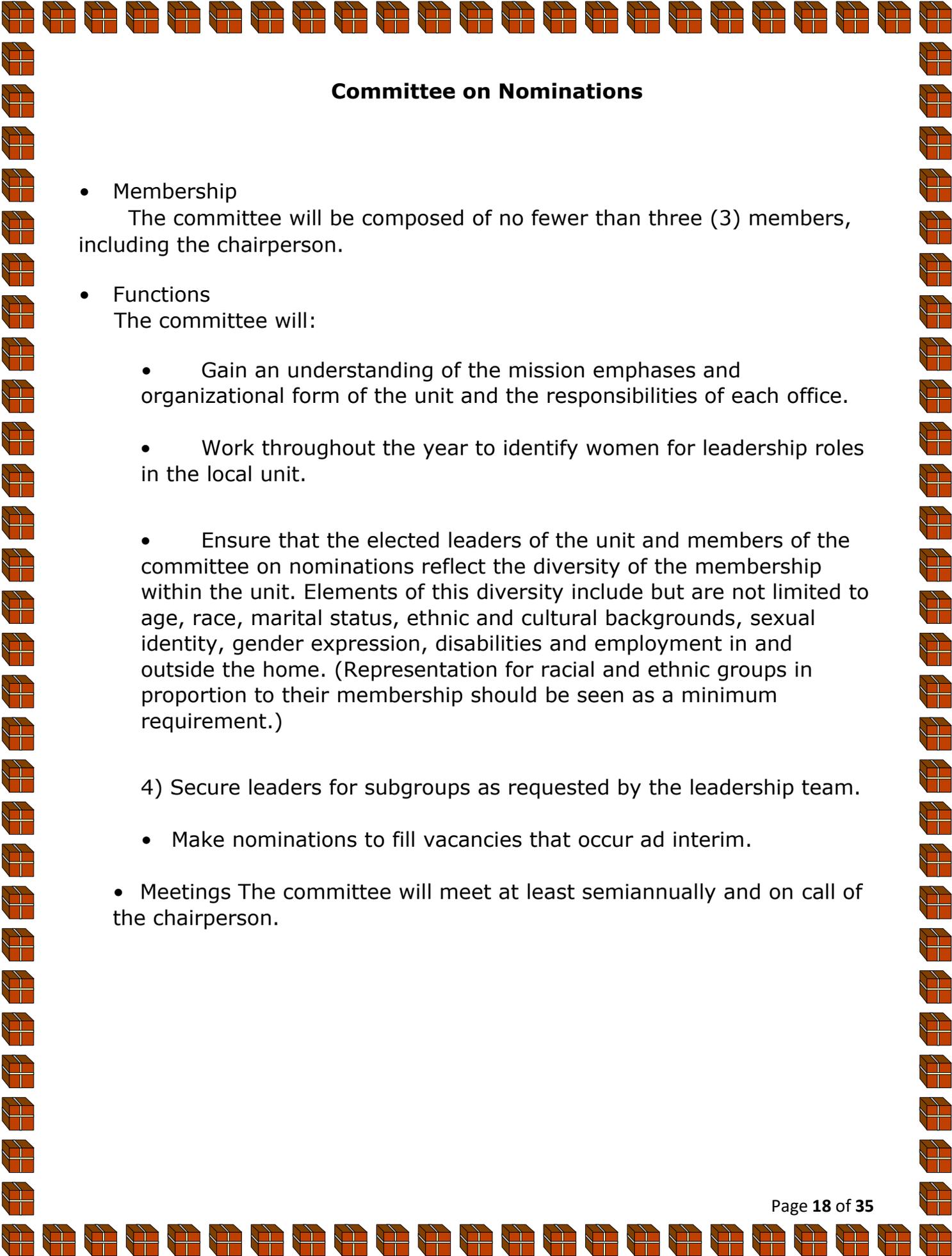
Please give any other information you feel is pertinent:

04/2019

RETURN FORM TO: **Pamela Roxanne Aulton**

Chair, Nominations Committee
Baltimore-Washington Conference
palexana@hotmail.com

443-310-2882



Committee on Nominations

- Membership

The committee will be composed of no fewer than three (3) members, including the chairperson.

- Functions

The committee will:

- Gain an understanding of the mission emphases and organizational form of the unit and the responsibilities of each office.
- Work throughout the year to identify women for leadership roles in the local unit.
- Ensure that the elected leaders of the unit and members of the committee on nominations reflect the diversity of the membership within the unit. Elements of this diversity include but are not limited to age, race, marital status, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, sexual identity, gender expression, disabilities and employment in and outside the home. (Representation for racial and ethnic groups in proportion to their membership should be seen as a minimum requirement.)

4) Secure leaders for subgroups as requested by the leadership team.

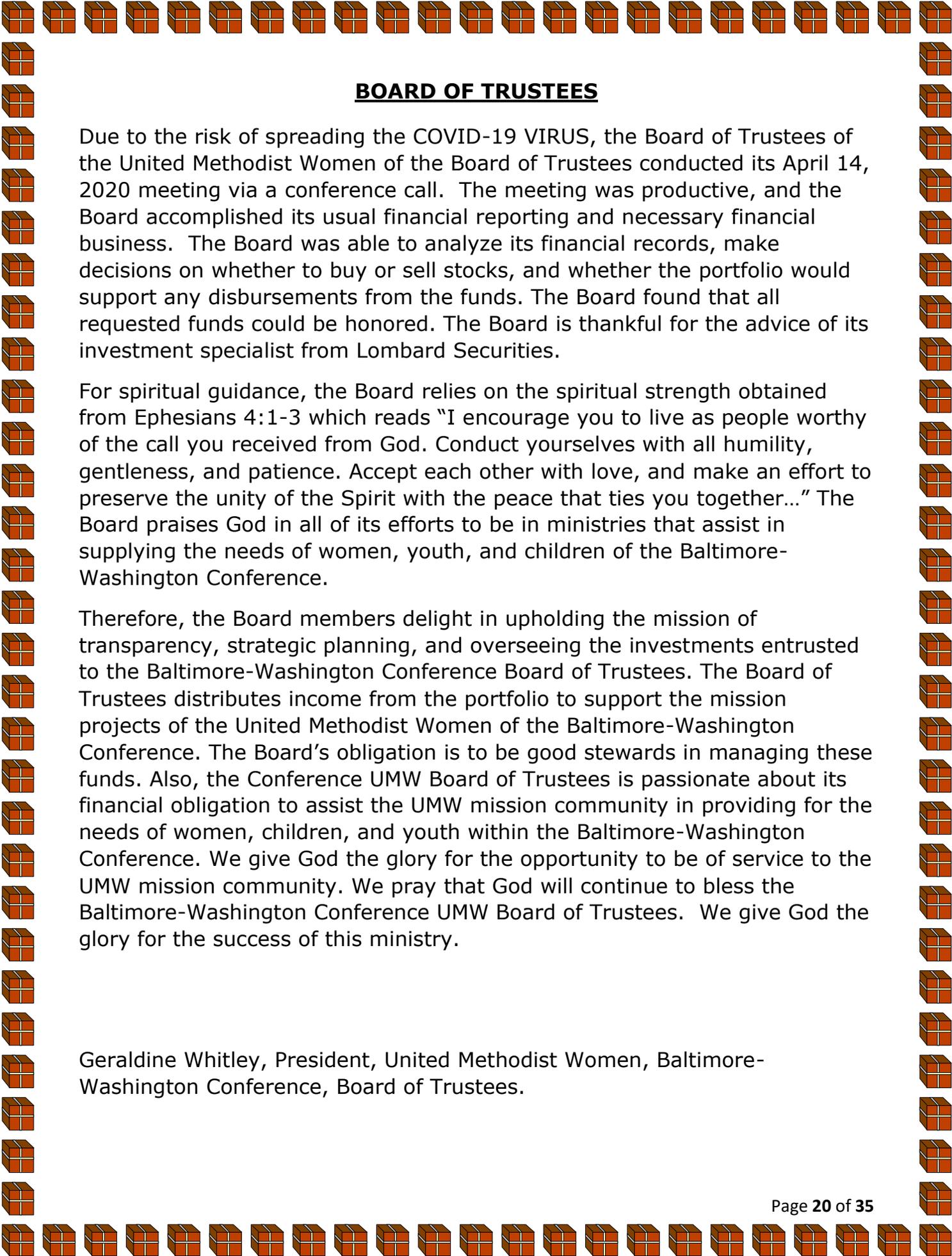
- Make nominations to fill vacancies that occur ad interim.
- Meetings The committee will meet at least semiannually and on call of the chairperson.

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Leader coordinates opportunities for spiritual and theological development as related to mission. She will:

- a. understand and communicate the connection between personal spiritual development and mission as expressed through social and global involvement;
- b. organize and promote special times and events for worship, prayer and meditation such as A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, ecumenical worship, retreats and devotions at meetings;
- c. incorporate language and images into worship that are inclusive of and affirming to women, people of color, people with disabilities and thoughtful toward native peoples and social climates;
- d. equip women to engage in and lead biblical, theological and doctrinal study, utilizing the annual spiritual growth study, issues of response, New World Outlook, the Program Book, Prayer Calendar, Reading Program, and "Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task" in The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016;
- e. develop and curate spiritual growth resources (e.g. devotionals, worship services, retreat ideas, books, websites, etc.) to share with other units;
- f. attend each of the following events at least once during the course of her term: Leadership Development Days, Mission u, National Seminar and Assembly;
- g. establish relationships with local and district stakeholders (nonprofits, local churches, primary and secondary schools, etc.) that undergird the missional focus of United Methodist Women for the purpose of extending our reach and impact within our communities and the world;
- h. serve as contact person for district spiritual growth coordination leaders, provide resources and conduct annual training as determined by the Leadership Team and maintain a database of member names, emails and addresses; and
 - serve on committees as recommended by the Leadership Team.

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/responsibilities/spiritual-growth-coordinator>



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Due to the risk of spreading the COVID-19 VIRUS, the Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Women of the Board of Trustees conducted its April 14, 2020 meeting via a conference call. The meeting was productive, and the Board accomplished its usual financial reporting and necessary financial business. The Board was able to analyze its financial records, make decisions on whether to buy or sell stocks, and whether the portfolio would support any disbursements from the funds. The Board found that all requested funds could be honored. The Board is thankful for the advice of its investment specialist from Lombard Securities.

For spiritual guidance, the Board relies on the spiritual strength obtained from Ephesians 4:1-3 which reads "I encourage you to live as people worthy of the call you received from God. Conduct yourselves with all humility, gentleness, and patience. Accept each other with love, and make an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit with the peace that ties you together..." The Board praises God in all of its efforts to be in ministries that assist in supplying the needs of women, youth, and children of the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Therefore, the Board members delight in upholding the mission of transparency, strategic planning, and overseeing the investments entrusted to the Baltimore-Washington Conference Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees distributes income from the portfolio to support the mission projects of the United Methodist Women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference. The Board's obligation is to be good stewards in managing these funds. Also, the Conference UMW Board of Trustees is passionate about its financial obligation to assist the UMW mission community in providing for the needs of women, children, and youth within the Baltimore-Washington Conference. We give God the glory for the opportunity to be of service to the UMW mission community. We pray that God will continue to bless the Baltimore-Washington Conference UMW Board of Trustees. We give God the glory for the success of this ministry.

Geraldine Whitley, President, United Methodist Women, Baltimore-Washington Conference, Board of Trustees.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Esther Barkat and I attended the final meeting of the 2016-2020 United Methodist Women Program Advisory Group (PAG) March 5-7, 2020, at the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, Tennessee. A new board of directors will be elected at the upcoming jurisdiction events and a new program advisory group will be established for 2020-2024.

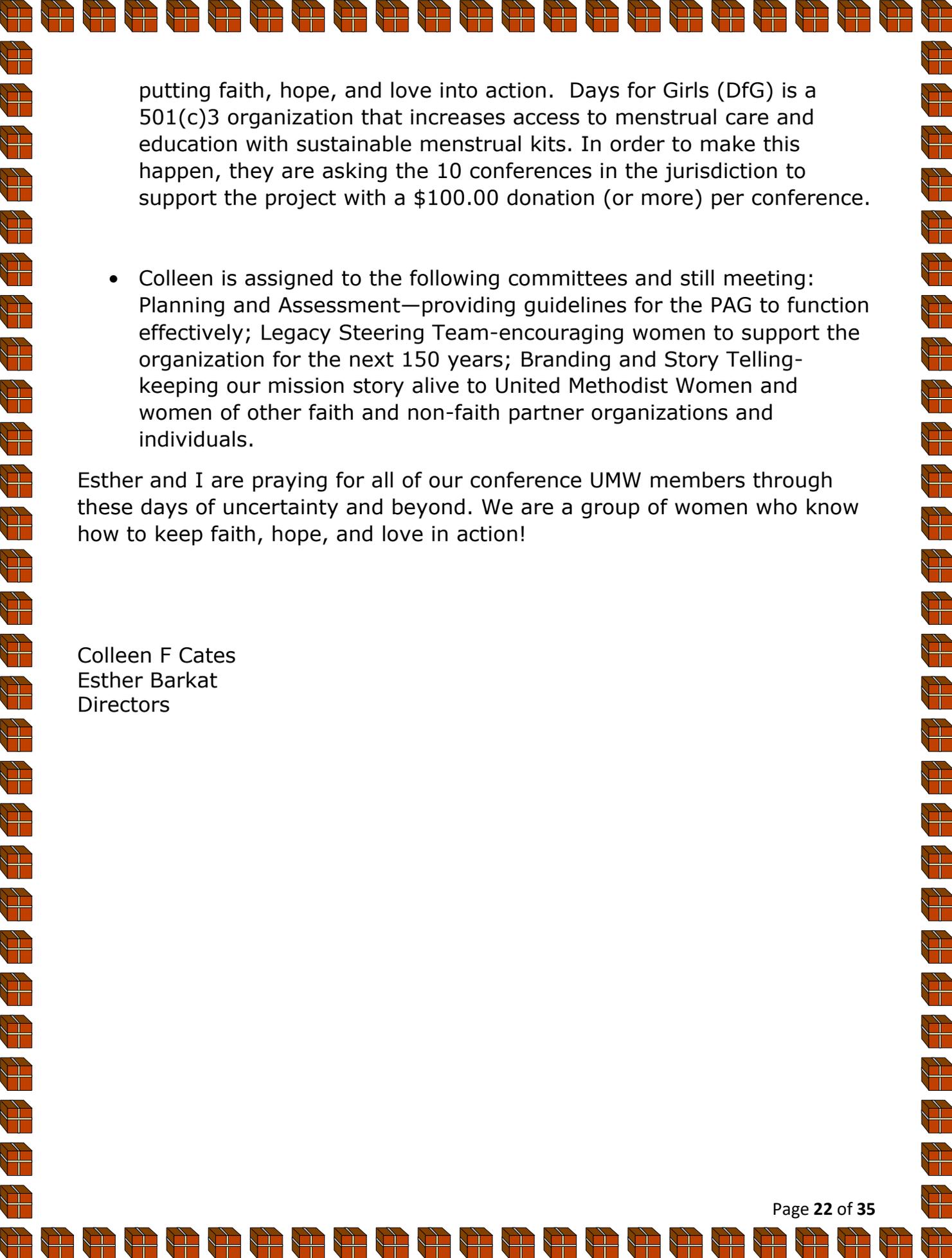
The PAG heard reports from National President Shannon Priddy, General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson and United Methodist Women Treasurer Tamara Clark, the Legacy Endowment Fund (reached **\$31,069,377 • 52% of the total goal • includes cash and \$5,426,174 in planned gifts • total balance as of January 31, 2020**); Reading Program (new reading list 2020-2021 will be available July 2020) and the deaconess and home missioner community (33 new Deaconess and Home Missioners will be consecrated during General Conference; currently 160 active deaconess and 11 home missioners). We also participated in a workshop on implicit bias led by the Rev. Michelle Ledder with the General Commission on Religion and Race. Implicit bias is defined as unconscious thinking that evaluates one group and its members relative to another group even when that thinking does not align with our stated beliefs, values, or commitments (i.e. UMW is a group of older women that eat cookies and drink tea.)

United Methodist Women members gave over **\$10 million in Mission Giving in 2019**. Twenty (20) United Methodist Women conferences met or exceeded their pledge, and 14 conferences increased their giving.

Meeting just after a large storm cut through Nashville, causing extensive tornado damage and loss of life, program advisory group members took up a collection for the United Methodist Committee on Relief's U.S. Disaster Response fund, or Advance number 901670.

During the COVID-19 pandemic the PAG is still meeting within jurisdictions; a wellness check with each other.

- Esther held a virtual book study using our Mission u study book "Finding Peace in an Anxious Time" with Chinese families!
- Denise Nicole Stone and Shanae Als (our youngest directors in our jurisdiction) are coordinating a jurisdictional-wide Limitless mission project that will provide 50 Days for Girls kits for the girl orphans at the Jalingo UMC orphanage in Nigeria. Limitless is our organizations' young women initiative, started in August 2012 to equip young women of faith, transcend barriers and do justice in their communities by



putting faith, hope, and love into action. Days for Girls (DfG) is a 501(c)3 organization that increases access to menstrual care and education with sustainable menstrual kits. In order to make this happen, they are asking the 10 conferences in the jurisdiction to support the project with a \$100.00 donation (or more) per conference.

- Colleen is assigned to the following committees and still meeting: Planning and Assessment—providing guidelines for the PAG to function effectively; Legacy Steering Team-encouraging women to support the organization for the next 150 years; Branding and Story Telling-keeping our mission story alive to United Methodist Women and women of other faith and non-faith partner organizations and individuals.

Esther and I are praying for all of our conference UMW members through these days of uncertainty and beyond. We are a group of women who know how to keep faith, hope, and love in action!

Colleen F Cates
Esther Barkat
Directors



“Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’” Matthew 25:40 (CEB)

February 3, 2020

Grace and Peace Sisters in Christ!

In preparation for the upcoming quadrennial meeting, we are **“Calling u”** to assist with the Jurisdiction *Limitless* mission project to provide 50 Days for Girls Kits for the girl orphans at the Jalingo UMC orphanage in Nigeria. As you may or may not know, *Limitless* is our organizations’ young women initiative, started in August 2012 to equip young women of faith, transcend barriers and do justice in their communities by putting faith, hope, and love into action. Days for Girls (*DfG*) is a 501(c)3 organization that increases access to menstrual care and education with sustainable menstrual kits.

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,000.00USD. We are asking the 10 conferences in the jurisdiction to support the project with a \$100.00 donation to ensure the goal is met. In being good stewards of your mission funds, we will be purchasing the kits from a Days for Girls Enterprise in Nigeria, and they will be handled by Jetai Pepsy, an orphanage volunteer, fellow UMW, and Secretary of Young People (UMC) from the West Africa Conference. She will also supervise the distribution of the kits and provide the required training.

Supporting this project aligns with United Methodist Women’s 2016-2020 mission priorities:

- **Maternal & Child Health** – *Providing a necessary and needed menstrual kit that lasts up to three years and ensures that young girls can attend school while menstruating.*
- **Climate Justice** - *Effective March 2020, DfG kits will be fully sustainable as they will no longer include Ziploc Bags and will instead include a transport bag made of PUL.*
- **Economic Inequality** – *By purchasing kits from a local enterprise, we are providing opportunities for local women to provide for & support their families which may include children.*

Thank you for answering the call and joining us as we put faith, hope, and love into action!

If you have any questions, please contact:

Denise-Nicole Stone, Director

(412) 482-2639 or

dnstone24@gmail.com

Western Pennsylvania Conference

Shanae Als, Program Advisory Group

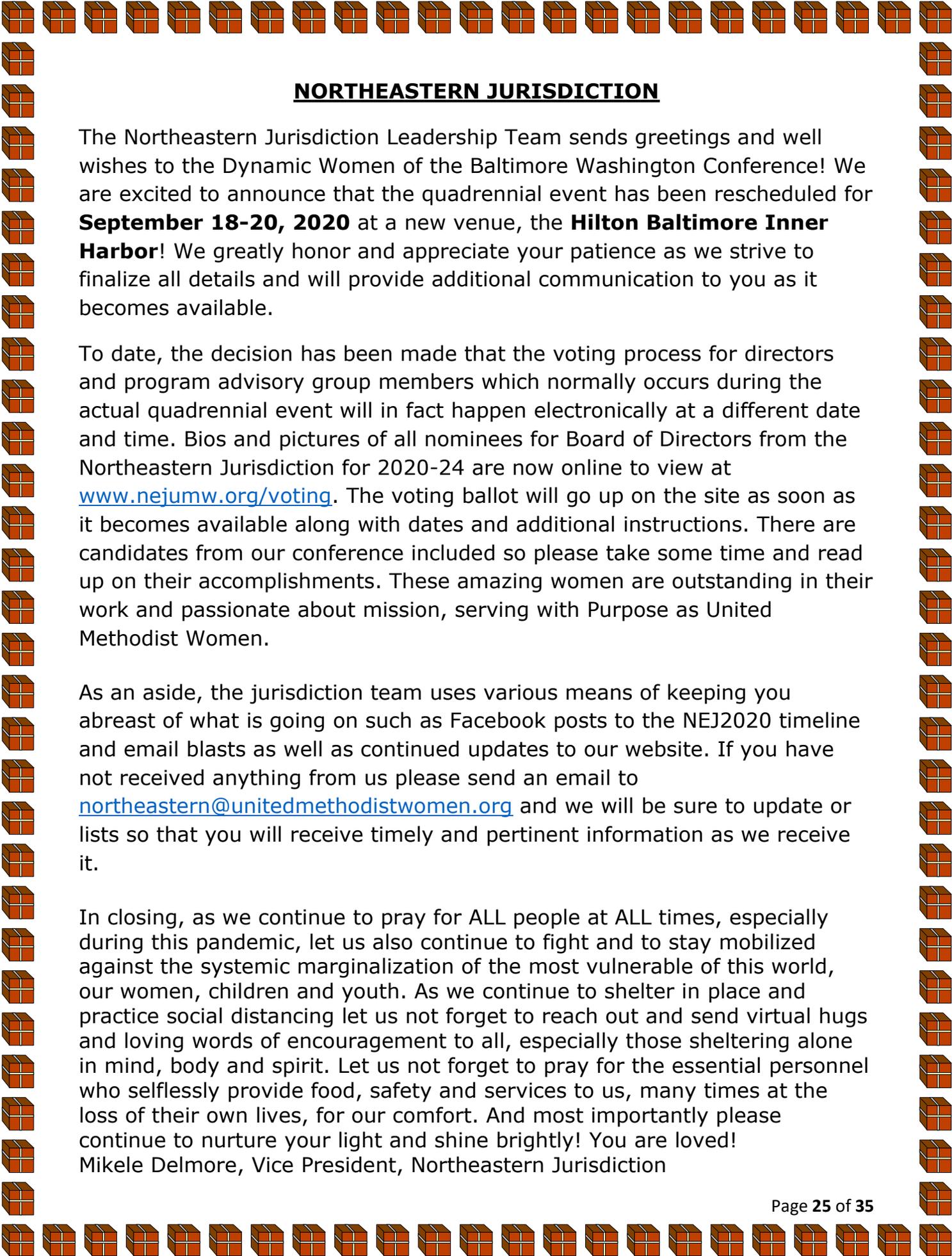
(917) 577-7504 or

shanaea08@yahoo.com

New York Conference

Please send your donation with the **Memo: LIMITLESS-DFG** to:

Leeda Marsh, NEJ Business Manager
210 6th St, Leominster, MA 01453-5741



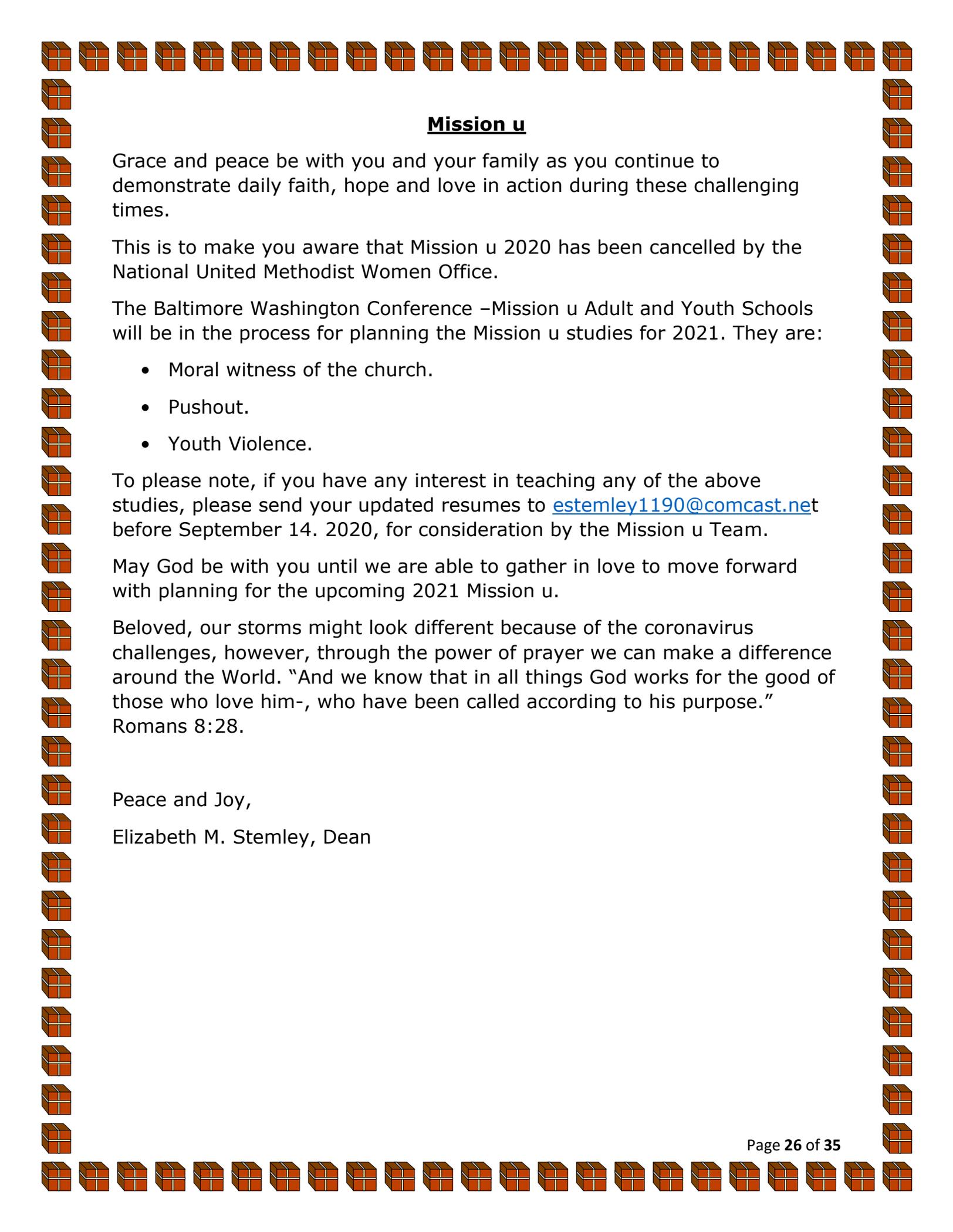
NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Leadership Team sends greetings and well wishes to the Dynamic Women of the Baltimore Washington Conference! We are excited to announce that the quadrennial event has been rescheduled for **September 18-20, 2020** at a new venue, the **Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor**! We greatly honor and appreciate your patience as we strive to finalize all details and will provide additional communication to you as it becomes available.

To date, the decision has been made that the voting process for directors and program advisory group members which normally occurs during the actual quadrennial event will in fact happen electronically at a different date and time. Bios and pictures of all nominees for Board of Directors from the Northeastern Jurisdiction for 2020-24 are now online to view at www.nejumw.org/voting. The voting ballot will go up on the site as soon as it becomes available along with dates and additional instructions. There are candidates from our conference included so please take some time and read up on their accomplishments. These amazing women are outstanding in their work and passionate about mission, serving with Purpose as United Methodist Women.

As an aside, the jurisdiction team uses various means of keeping you abreast of what is going on such as Facebook posts to the NEJ2020 timeline and email blasts as well as continued updates to our website. If you have not received anything from us please send an email to northeastern@unitedmethodistwomen.org and we will be sure to update or lists so that you will receive timely and pertinent information as we receive it.

In closing, as we continue to pray for ALL people at ALL times, especially during this pandemic, let us also continue to fight and to stay mobilized against the systemic marginalization of the most vulnerable of this world, our women, children and youth. As we continue to shelter in place and practice social distancing let us not forget to reach out and send virtual hugs and loving words of encouragement to all, especially those sheltering alone in mind, body and spirit. Let us not forget to pray for the essential personnel who selflessly provide food, safety and services to us, many times at the loss of their own lives, for our comfort. And most importantly please continue to nurture your light and shine brightly! You are loved!
Mikele Delmore, Vice President, Northeastern Jurisdiction



Mission u

Grace and peace be with you and your family as you continue to demonstrate daily faith, hope and love in action during these challenging times.

This is to make you aware that Mission u 2020 has been cancelled by the National United Methodist Women Office.

The Baltimore Washington Conference –Mission u Adult and Youth Schools will be in the process for planning the Mission u studies for 2021. They are:

- Moral witness of the church.
- Pushout.
- Youth Violence.

To please note, if you have any interest in teaching any of the above studies, please send your updated resumes to estemley1190@comcast.net before September 14, 2020, for consideration by the Mission u Team.

May God be with you until we are able to gather in love to move forward with planning for the upcoming 2021 Mission u.

Beloved, our storms might look different because of the coronavirus challenges, however, through the power of prayer we can make a difference around the World. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him-, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28.

Peace and Joy,

Elizabeth M. Stemley, Dean



ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT

Greetings from the Annapolis District,

As we navigate through this COVID-19 pandemic, the likes of which we have never faced before, we are not letting it prevent us from doing the mission work God has for us.

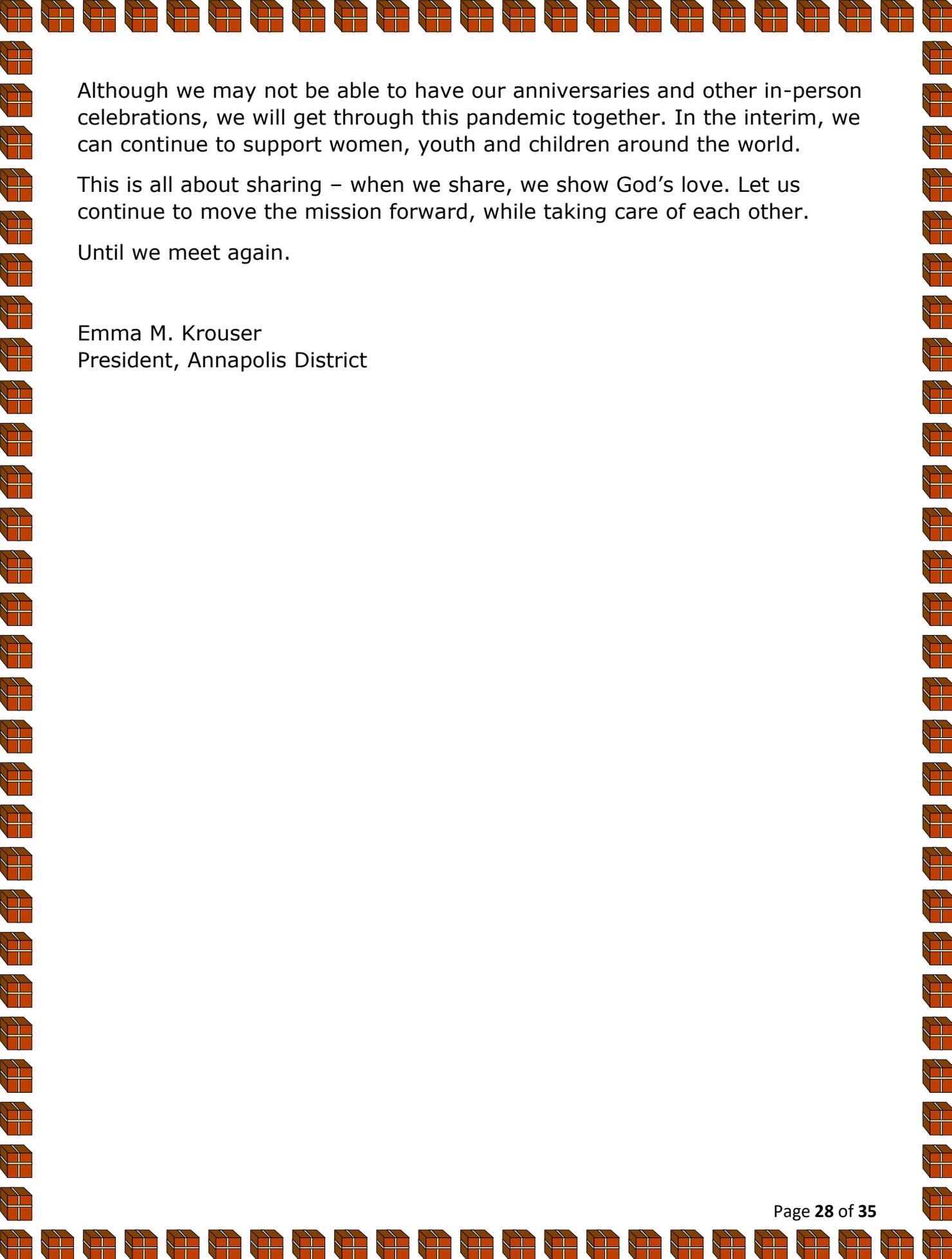
We are not letting this pandemic interfere with the important mission of assisting and advocating for women, youth, and children. I was watching the evening news several weeks ago and heard a story about baby pantries running low on their supply of diapers. That sparked an idea, and I decided to contact the presidents of the local units to do something about that need.

I asked the presidents to contact their members and ask them to donate diapers and other baby items to a local baby pantry. The Annapolis Cluster leader ran with the idea. She galvanized the members in her cluster, and they are arranging two drive-bys to collect the baby items. Others are asking, "where can I meet someone to drop off the diapers and other items, I've purchased?"

Give United Methodist Women a mission and they are all over it. I am proud to be a member of such a caring, compassionate organization. Some of our members may feel a little isolated because they live alone. Call them, send them a card or do something nice to let them know they are loved.

On Mother's Day, my daughter and I delivered sweet treat bags to the senior mothers in our congregation. My daughter drove and I called the ladies to let them know that their treats were hanging on the screen-door handle, on the porch, table, or on the mailbox. Several ladies masked up and came out in their yard to get that church family connection as they grabbed their goodie bag. It was delightful to see the expressions on their faces, and to hear the surprise and love in their voices. As United Methodist Women, we do not necessarily have to have bells and whistles or bombs bursting in air to give you that good feeling deep down inside. It's all about showing the love of God and serving His people. A little love goes a long way, especially in these uncertain times.

And, if the pandemic thought it was going to stop us from conducting the District's business – think again. We discovered some new venues in the process, technology such as Zoom to hold face-to-face meetings, and FreeConferenceCall.com to meet on a teleconference. The mission continues, let there be no doubt in anyone's mind.

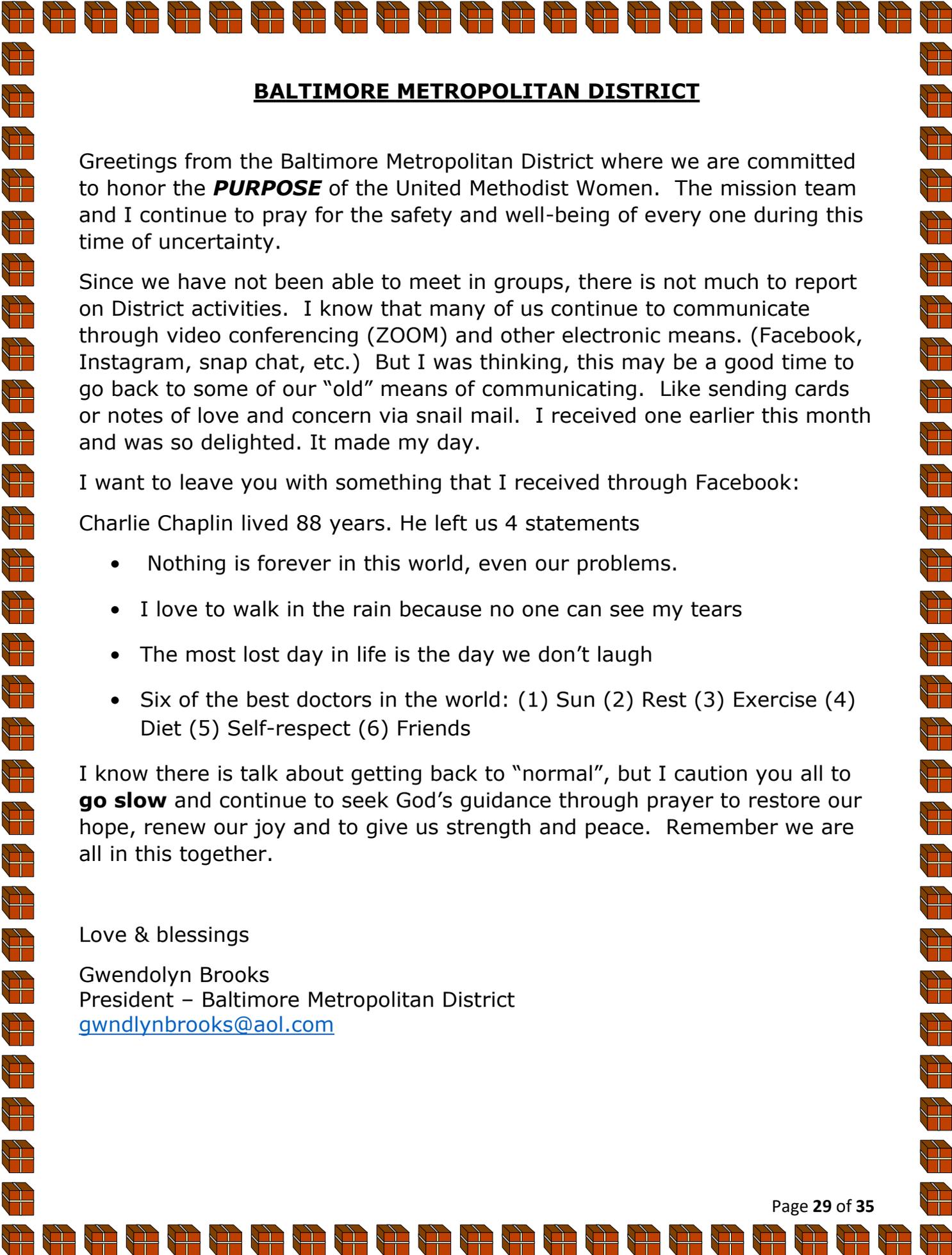


Although we may not be able to have our anniversaries and other in-person celebrations, we will get through this pandemic together. In the interim, we can continue to support women, youth and children around the world.

This is all about sharing – when we share, we show God’s love. Let us continue to move the mission forward, while taking care of each other.

Until we meet again.

Emma M. Krouser
President, Annapolis District



BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

Greetings from the Baltimore Metropolitan District where we are committed to honor the **PURPOSE** of the United Methodist Women. The mission team and I continue to pray for the safety and well-being of every one during this time of uncertainty.

Since we have not been able to meet in groups, there is not much to report on District activities. I know that many of us continue to communicate through video conferencing (ZOOM) and other electronic means. (Facebook, Instagram, snap chat, etc.) But I was thinking, this may be a good time to go back to some of our "old" means of communicating. Like sending cards or notes of love and concern via snail mail. I received one earlier this month and was so delighted. It made my day.

I want to leave you with something that I received through Facebook:

Charlie Chaplin lived 88 years. He left us 4 statements

- Nothing is forever in this world, even our problems.
- I love to walk in the rain because no one can see my tears
- The most lost day in life is the day we don't laugh
- Six of the best doctors in the world: (1) Sun (2) Rest (3) Exercise (4) Diet (5) Self-respect (6) Friends

I know there is talk about getting back to "normal", but I caution you all to **go slow** and continue to seek God's guidance through prayer to restore our hope, renew our joy and to give us strength and peace. Remember we are all in this together.

Love & blessings

Gwendolyn Brooks
President – Baltimore Metropolitan District
gwndlynbrooks@aol.com

FREDERICK DISTRICT

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

By now we have heard that we are in "unprecedented times" or "uncharted waters" or "uncertain times" a million times. Although it is true, now is the time that we must continue to do what we do and live Romans 12:12" Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

Due to covid-19, all of the spring plans have shifted and through all of the changes that we are experiencing, we must continue to be strong and I wanted to share this word of encouragement with you.

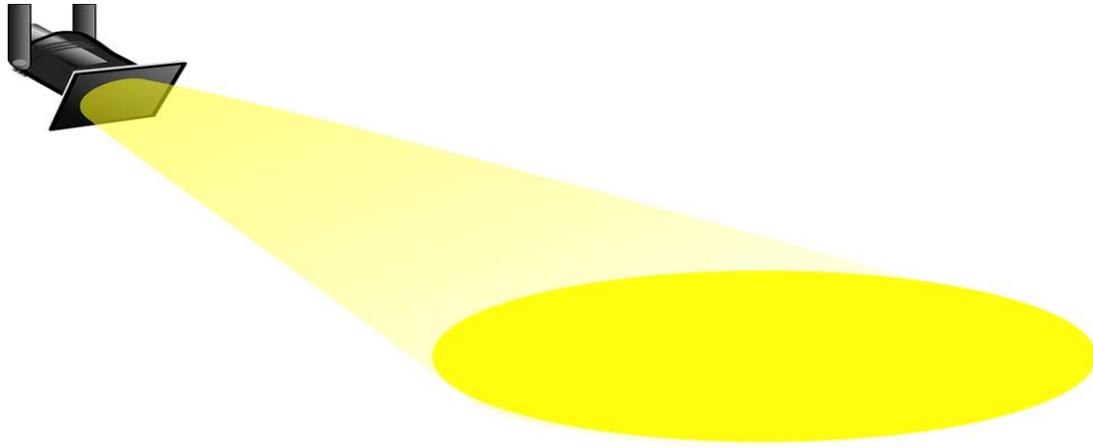
"By God's grace, I am becoming a woman of courage, a woman of strength, a woman of self-discipline. A woman of diligence. A woman of wisdom and discernment, a woman of compassion, a woman of beauty - true beauty - the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. A woman who loves much, because she has been forgiven much. A woman who takes refuge in God alone. A woman of valor who does not run from the battle, but to it, fearlessly, relentlessly determined - through her obedience - to defeat the enemy and bring victory to herself and her people, to the glory of God and His eternal Kingdom." -Christin Ditchfield

We are United Methodist Women and we will continue to be the eyes, ears, hands and feet for others as faithful servants for the Lord Jesus Christ!

Please be watching your emails for updates and scheduled Zoom meetings. Remember I am just a phone call away.

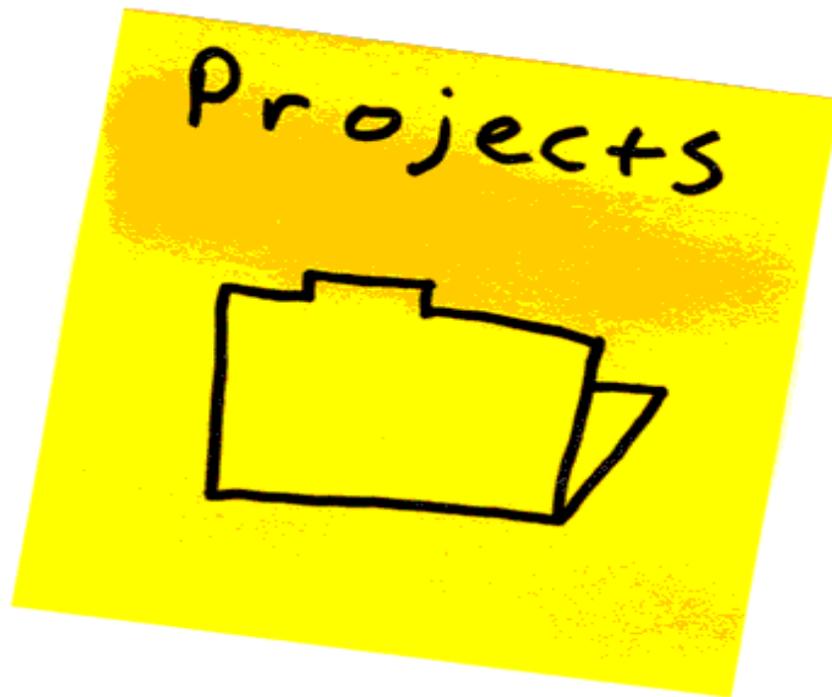
Peace and blessings,

Angela Fossett
Frederick District President
United Methodist Women
301-639-1569
frdistumw@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/frederickdistrictumw/



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.



Conference Projects

SUSANNA WESLEY HOUSE

Susanna Wesley House, Inc. Chronicles

The mission of Susanna Wesley House, Inc is to assist women in need and their dependent children; to provide a safe, clean home, and to ensure a viable program for the residents to obtain independent living.

Thank you so much for your continued support through your financial and supply contributions! As United Methodist Women and Friends of Susanna Wesley House **you** play an integral role in the mission of SWH. The board especially wants to lift up the family and friends of Eloise Bright, who gave donations in her memory.

SWH and Coppin State University have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a Social Work Intern covering seven years for field placement experience. We were blessed to have Lynelle Cook as our first Social Work Intern. Ms. Cook's last day in field placement was May 13th. She will graduate later in May with a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. Ms. Cook's experiences included: case monitoring, individual and group discussions, and has done research to determine community resources available for the residents. She would like to volunteer at SWH after graduation.

Coppin State University and Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley (board member) had been discussing the need to motivate, enhance and improve the living environment for each resident and their family. Coppin State University researched and contacted "My Girlfriend's House" (MGH) about the possibility for volunteering to give our residents' units a "Shelter Room Makeover." This organization is a community of women and young ladies empowering each other to be Better, Stronger and Smarter. My Girlfriend's House's **goal** is to create a comfortable atmosphere that excites residents and makes them feel at home. The makeover is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 7, 2020! More information is forthcoming.

During the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Weekly wellness conference calls are held with the residents. The purpose is to check-in and provide an opportunity for open discussions around how to keep safe in SWH facility.
- COVID-19 guidelines on how to protect yourself and your family during the coronavirus disease pandemic were distributed to the

residents. SWH Board provided cleaning supplies and personal hygiene items to the families as requested.

- The residents express how they are trying to deal with stress during the pandemic; asking for assistance; requesting to have workshops on effective communication, coping skills, GED, and how to manage behavior problems with children and adults. Ms. Cook and Ms. Stemley are looking into resources for them.

Susanna Wesley House is HIRING!

Visit our website at www.susannawesley.org. There are three Part-time, competitively-paid open Positions for immediate fulfillment:

- Residential Aide (work hours 11:pm to 7:00am)
- Executive Director/Grant Writer
- Office/Building Manager

All interested persons are to respond ASAP---Contact SWH by Phone at 410-837-3787 to schedule an Introductory Interview/Appointment. If you prefer email, send Communications to: susannawesley@verizon.net.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sabrina White
President, Board of Directors

BALTIMORE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UMW SCARVES!!!!

As you plan for the Northeastern Jurisdiction in Baltimore MD September 18-20, 2020, don't forget to place your order for the BWCUMW scarf. We want to be seen from all over the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel! Orders can be taken at any time. 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
410-488-539 (home)
410-598-9470 (cell)

ORDER FORM

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