



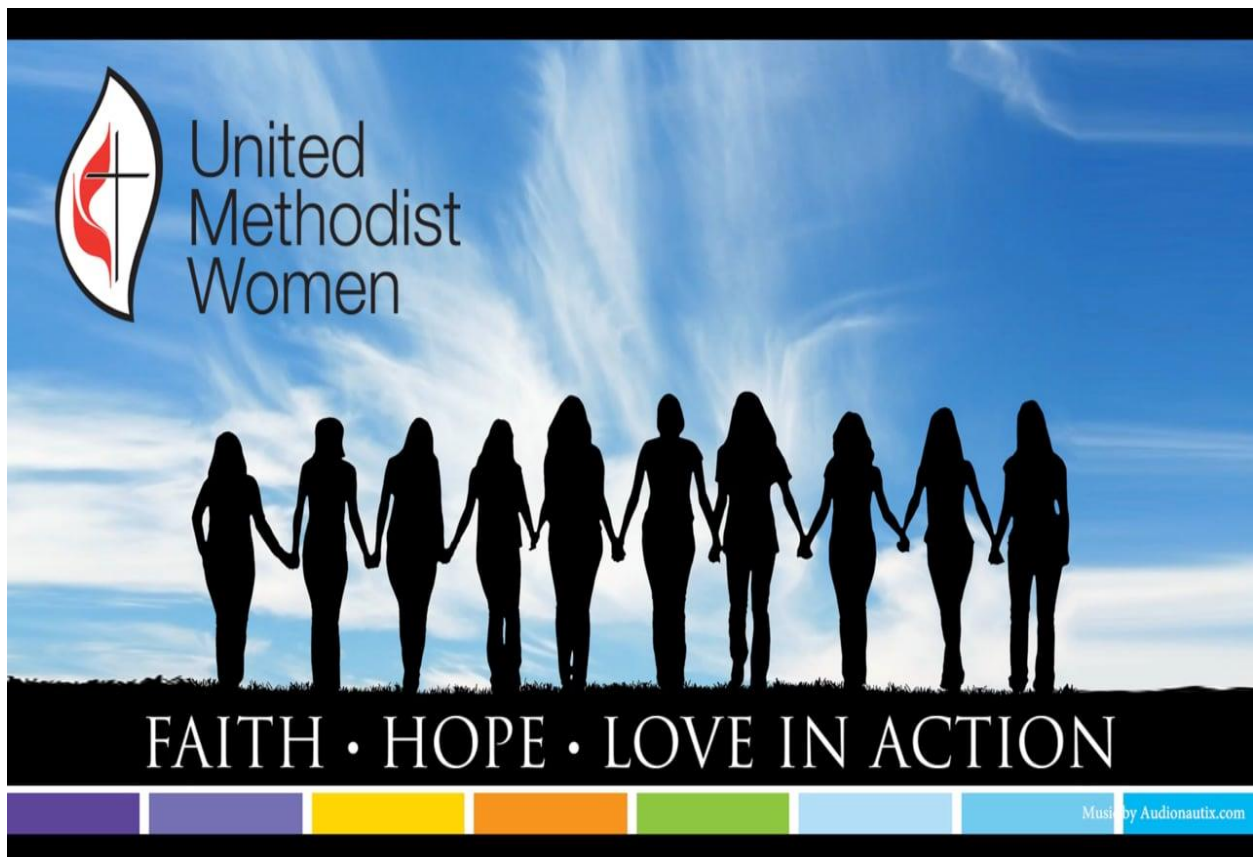
# THE FLAME

**BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE**

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**VOLUME III**

**September 2019**



## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Cover Sheet	Page 1
Table of Contents	Page 2
President and NEJ	Page 3-4
Vice President	Page 5
Secretary	Page 6
Spiritual Growth	Pages 7-10
Education & Interpretation	Page 11
E & I 2019 Mission Today Competition Flier	Page 12
Mission Today Unit Checklist Form	Page 13-14
Membership Nurture & Outreach	Pages 15-16
Communications	Page 17
Nominations	Page 18
Treasurer	Page 19
Board of Directors	Pages 20-21
Mission u	Pages 22-25
District Presidents	Pages 26-32
Susanna Wesley House	Page 33
Baltimore Conference Scarves	Page 34
Annual Celebration Flyer	attached

## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Greetings to my United Methodist Women sisters!

May our Lord Jesus be blessing you this day!

How often have you heard a sermon in church that you really felt applied to you? Today was one of those times for me. As we listened to testimony from some of our recently-returned adult mission trip attendees, it became clear that God had been speaking to their hearts, calling to them to give up their selfish control, stop being a “Martha” and let God be their producer, director, sustainer and guide. Oh, how I love to be like Martha, prepared to “give it my all”, making sure everyone has what they need! Unfortunately, this also includes some worrying. I forget that my job is to open my heart to what God is saying and let God work out the details. “Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4:6-7

As your President, I am concerned that our two western-most districts, Frederick and Cumberland-Hagerstown, are without organized, District-level leadership. As of two weeks ago, all United Methodist Women local presidents in the Frederick District who have an email address received a letter from me, inviting them to contact me to begin a conversation or to answer questions they may have. Those without email addresses will be sent letters via snail mail. The Cumberland-Hagerstown presidents will be contacted in a similar manner. I am hopeful that our women will share some time with me soon. I have to remember not to worry, that God is “in the details” and in control!

Were you blessed by Mission u this summer? About 141 adults experienced some wonderful, informative classroom instruction and grew spiritually within the Plenary time together. Our first “UMW 101” provided attendees with a detailed description of United Methodist Women structure and procedures. Our Youth School attendance doubled this year with 44 youth participating! How awesome was that? Saturday night’s “Open Mic” event gave many of our young people and some adults the chance to showcase their talents. Stay tuned for information on next year’s Mission u.

Looking forward, our Conference UMW Annual Celebration will be hosted by the Greater Washington District and held at Good Hope Union United Methodist Church, 14680 Good Hope Rd, Silver Spring, MD 20905 on Saturday, October 26, 2019, beginning with registration and a continental breakfast at 9:00 a.m., and program from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. We will enjoy lunch following the program. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. This year, in addition to electing a Conference UMW Leadership Team Slate of Officers, you will be electing voting delegates and candidates for offices at the Northeast Jurisdiction level. This happens every four years and is an important

part of this year's Annual Business Meeting. For our mission project this year, we are asking for donations of items from the Susanna Wesley House Wish List (see Annual UMW Celebration flyer later in this edition for a list of needs.)

In His Name,  
Linda S. Yost, President  
[LJYost@verizon.net](mailto:LJYost@verizon.net)



## Northeastern Jurisdiction United Methodist Women

# CALLING u... EVENT

The Northeast Jurisdiction UMW Quadrennial Meeting will be held April 24-26, 2020, at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, MD. Early Bird registration cost is \$305 and the deadline is September 15, 2019. After this date the cost increases to \$350. The registration website is ready for everyone: [nejumw.org](http://nejumw.org) Register early for the early bird discount. You may pay with a credit card when you register or opt to pay later by check. Below is a list of items you may wish to bring to help us fill blessing bags for our homeless sisters and brothers in the Baltimore area.

### The Neighborhood Well

The Northeastern Jurisdiction Event Team is proud to partner with **The Neighborhood Well**. The Neighborhood Well seeks to meet the immediate needs of the homeless and unstably housed communities in our neighborhoods while creating a pipeline to other organizations and resources that enable those in need to achieve stability and long-term self-sufficiency. While serving they give encouragement and support following the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We are asking Jurisdiction Event Attendees to bring the following items so that we may pack blessing bags for donation:

Soap  
Conditioner  
Washcloths

Lotion  
Toothbrushes  
Sanitary napkins

Shampoo  
Toothpaste  
Shower caps

For additional information on the mission of this organization please visit them at:  
[www.theneighborhoodwell.org](http://www.theneighborhoodwell.org)

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Greetings and Peace be unto you all. I recently visited the United Methodist Women at Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Latham, Maryland in celebration of their United Methodist Women Sunday. The theme for the day was Women United in Love and Service. Women all across our conference are heeding the call for service out of the love we share for our fellow UMW women, our families our neighbors, and our communities. Women of the Bible also felt this love for their communities. Women like Shifrah, Puah, Ruth, the daughters of Zelophehad, the daughters of Phillip, Priscilla, Jeshosheba, and Achsah remind us there is no obstacle we cannot overcome with God on our side. These women were faithful, supportive, obedient, transformational, leaders, bold, trailblazers, activists, and arbitrators. It is our moral imperative to imitate them in service to our nation, churches, and global communities as we carry out our missions.

Supporting our missions enable us to reproduce the actions of women in the Bible. As women and more specifically, United Methodist Women, our roles have never changed, just expanded. Women were always workers in the vineyard. The women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference have continued this service and outreach as evidenced by our work in our communities, our work in our churches and our work throughout the world.

As we go forward this year, we will persevere to live out a quote by John Wesley "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

Respectfully submitted,

Ruthella Lievers,  
Vice President

[Ralievers1@comcast.net](mailto:Ralievers1@comcast.net)

## **SECRETARY**

Greetings Sisters,

Wasn't Mission u an incredible experience this year!?! If you weren't there, you certainly missed out on the fellowship of other women (and a few men) the fabulous studies on *Women United for Change*, *What About Our Money* and the Plenary study on the Gospel of Mark – *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Hospitality*. The energy and vitality of the Youth School spilled over to the Adult School in wonderful ways. Please plan on attending next year!

My husband, Mike, and I have begun a new phase in our lives. We have a contract on our house and moved into an apartment in Frederick in mid-August. We are both EarthKeepers through the General Board of Global Ministries now. My training was completed in early August and I am beginning to focus on my project to work with congregations to better understand their carbon footprint and decrease it. We are also spending more time with our grandchildren and teaching them the importance of caring for the earth as well as how to be effective advocates. Mike and I are also looking forward to co-teaching/leading classes on Creation Care and Climate Justice (including one at the NEJ UMW Conference in Baltimore next April). I am also moving into the position of President of my local unit as our current President is stepping down to continue her education, raise her sons, hold down a full-time job and support her husband as he transitions from the local Fire Department to the local Police Department.

As my time of serving as Conference Secretary nears its end, I am grateful for the women I've met and worked with over the last three years. Elizabeth Stemley and Linda Yost have become trusted friends and advisors, others on the team have my respect and admiration for the many years they have devoted to United Methodist Women and the gifts they bring to the table. I also thank Debra Campbell-Addison for her faith in the Frederick District and her willingness to continue serving as its only elected officer! I trust the Nominations Committee will identify a new Secretary in the next month or two and that the transition can begin.

Blessings and peace,

Sherie Koob

Secretary

[sheriekoob@hotmail.com](mailto:sheriekoob@hotmail.com)

202-329-7113



## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

I pray all have had the opportunity for some refreshment and renewal this summer and have allowed God's grace to grow in you. As we look to the fall, may God's harvest of grace be evident in your life.

### **BWC Spiritual Retreat June 8, 2019**

On a beautiful Saturday in June, 65 ladies from across our conference made the scenic drive to Manidokan Camp & Retreat Center for our spiritual retreat. Our excellent retreat leader, Rev. Terri Cofiell, had us laughing and crying, singing and praying as we strengthened our relationship with God and with each other. In the afternoon some of us worked on creating a banner, while others wrote prayers or poems, and still others formed a choir and led us in singing during our closing worship. Two of the poems that were written in the afternoon and sum up some of our activities of the morning were shared during closing worship. They are shared here along with photos of the day.



As promised during the retreat, I have included the poem that Robin Budd shared and Sharon Milton wrote at the retreat.

Rita Green,  
Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
[ritamgreen@hotmail.com](mailto:ritamgreen@hotmail.com)



## **God's Sisterhood**

### **By Robin Budd**

We are God's hands  
He knows each heart  
His grace and mercy  
We've had from the start

Let's all get together – and-  
Be in one accord  
Pray – Praise and Worship  
Glorifying our LORD  
Sharing GOD'S love  
The best we can  
In His Service  
All over His land

God is good  
It's understood  
We are HIS great sisterhood  
Now take that to your neighborhood

Amen





# **Spoken Word: United Methodist Women Spiritual Retreat**

Written by Sharon Milton

Lord we're gathered here on this beautiful day,  
God is good, this we can all say

At Camp Manidokan, no worry about the heat,  
United Methodist Women, gathered to retreat

Many different ages, races, on one accord  
Because together, we serve the same Lord

Greater Washington, Annapolis and Washington East,  
The community needs, they're determined to meet

Baltimore Suburban, Baltimore Metro, Cumberland Hagerstown  
Women united spreading Jesus everywhere around

Next it's Frederick and Central Maryland  
United together they all take a stand

What makes us scared, and makes our heart break  
Gun violence, racism, injustice, the church splitting seems to be at stake


Let's guess the theme, see how well we can draw  
But for some, we're glad it wasn't our call

Lighthouse, tornado, bubbles, fire and much more  
We can only imagine Pentecost is in store!

The Holy Spirit fire falling on us all  
Cause we've said Yes and answered God's call

Let's go further let's get in the Word  
Starts with Adam and Eve, haven't you heard?

What does it say about God and about us?  
God's love is consistent, but we sometimes forget in God to trust



God desires relationship with all of us  
For us to live whole lives, this is a must!

Mothers, Daughters, Aunties we are all in the room  
Grandmothers, Mentors all feeling at home

God has brought us together on a spiritual retreat  
To get away from it all, and listen to the Holy Ghost speak

We sometimes take care of everybody else  
But today should be all about caring for self

If there is a sickness with which you came  
Then I speak healing in Jesus name

UMW Celebrating 150 years  
With God on our side, we have no fears

Leaving this retreat, feeling renewed  
We are no longer just sitting in the pews

But don't let it end here, keep telling your story  
And when we tell it, make sure we give **GOD ALL OF THE GLORY!**

## EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

Hello Ladies,

Education is the key to our mission discipleship work, our relationship with GOD and with each other. The 2019 Mission u Conference-Learning Together for Transformation of the World was an overwhelmingly successful event. There was good food, good fellowship and good education, designed to equip United Methodist Women, children and youth with the knowledge necessary to promote spiritual growth. The Mission Projects supported by the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women were fully represented in the Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission u Display Room. The Deaconess and United Methodist Women displays were impressive. The Plenary Sessions, the Optional Opportunities, the Transformative Learning Centers, the Study Activities and the Youth School were all executed in an extraordinary way. Kudos to Minister Elizabeth Stemley, Dean of Mission u and her team for a job well done!

### **MISSION GIVING\*\*\*\*\*MISSION TODAY COMPETITION**

The 2019 Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women Mission Today Competition is rapidly approaching. The **GRAND PRIZE IS THE ROTATING CRYSTAL AWARD**. District and Local United Methodist Women Units are encouraged to work together with their efforts to win the **GRAND PRIZE**. In 2018, **Greater Washington** was the **Grand Prize Winner**. In 2019, the **Grand Prize Winner** could be **YOU!**

- Local Unit Annual Reports are due to the Districts by September 1st;
- District Annual Reports are due to the Conference by September 15<sup>th</sup> and;
- Conference Reports are due to Kim Marie Walker by September 25<sup>th</sup>.
- This refers to Mission Today Checklist Reports, Five Star Reports and other United Methodist Women reporting requirements.

Kindly, support our Mission Projects, as many of them are having fundraising activities and other special events. To ensure the ongoing support and success of these vitally important resources and services, there must be a renewed interest and dedication to **Mission Giving** through the Pledge to Mission.

Please be reminded: "In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the LORD JESUS for HE Himself said, it is more blessed to give than to receive."

Acts 20:35

Barbara Terry  
Education and Interpretation Coordinator  
Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women  
410-977-5930  
[Babswrightterry@gmail.com](mailto:Babswrightterry@gmail.com)

# BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



## *2019 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 2019 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 2019 Mission Today Checklist Program, Due On Or Before September 15, 2019.*

# Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women

## MISSION TODAY UNIT CHECKLIST FORM

**Your Unit May be a Mission Today Unit! How many checks can you make?**

\_\_\_\_ 1. \*We met our Unit's Pledge / Sent our Unit's Pledged amount to the District Treasurer.

### **Requirements for Bronze, Silver, and Gold Certification!**

\_\_\_\_ 2. \*We used the Prayer Calendar at each of the general meetings.

\_\_\_\_ 3. \*We have at least 2 members who subscribe to Response magazine.

\_\_\_\_ 4. \*We are a Five Star Unit, contributing to all five channels of Mission Giving.

\_\_\_\_ 5. \*We used the Program Book at least twice during the year.

\_\_\_\_ 6. \*We conducted at least one Mission Study per year.

\_\_\_\_ 7. \*We had at least two members attend the Mission u school.

\_\_\_\_ 8. We had at least two members (other than district or conference officers) attend each of the district or conference sponsored events.

\_\_\_\_ 9. We wrote to / e-mailed five (5) persons in the Prayer Calendar at least twice a year.

\_\_\_\_ 10. We added at least two members to our membership roster.

\_\_\_\_ 11. We implemented the Charter for Racial Justice in at least one suggested way.

\_\_\_\_ 12. We implemented at least one initiative using resources from National Office United Methodist Women's Website: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

\_\_\_\_ 13. We have a Response moment at each meeting as a way to tell the mission story.

\_\_\_\_ 14. We have at least two people from the unit, circle, or subgroup who



Completed one of The Reading Program Plans and reported on one of the books read.

\_\_\_\_ 15. We focused on children at least once with actions that support children and youth, e.g., mentored/tutored students; sponsored a Children's Sabbath; or other children's initiatives.

\_\_\_\_ 16. We had at least one person join the United Methodist Women's Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information.

\_\_\_\_ 17. We had a district or conference officer who was not a member of our unit come to one of our unit meetings during the year.

\_\_\_\_ 18. We have not used Styrofoam products during the year and are taking steps to become a "Green Unit."

**NOTE: Required for Gold, Silver, or Bronze Certification:**

(1) Criteria #1 (Met the Unit's Pledged amount); (2) and any additional four (4) of the 7 asterisked (\*) Criteria/items.

**BRONZE Certificate:** For Units that have completed eight (8) to (11) of the above criteria.

**SILVER Certificate:** For Units that have completed twelve (12) to fifteen (15) of above criteria.

**GOLD Certificate:** For Units that have completed sixteen (16) to eighteen (18) of above criteria.

## **MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH**

### **BE COUNTED! CENSUS 2019 COMING IN OCTOBER!**

The 2019 Census will begin in October, date to be announced. Each and every district and local unit and member is very important, we represent *love, hope and faith in action* by carrying out our mission and Jesus Christ mandate to make disciples. We are also advocates for women, children and youth of this world. Be counted; make sure your local unit is represented in the membership count. It only takes five minutes to complete the CENSUS SURVEY. Let's be united in our efforts to collect the count so that we continue to build a strong United Methodist Women organization for another 150 years.

Let's pull together and find creative ways to have 100% reporting in the Baltimore Washington Conference. The 2019 Census Portal will open in October for district and local units to enter their membership count. The Census Portal may be found on the United Methodist Women website, [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

I encourage each District President and Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator to work with their Local Units to collect the Membership Count from their units for the 2019 CENSUS.

### **"United Methodist Women 101" Questions and Answers**

At Mission u there was a question on how often do you complete the **myUMW and the CENSUS Database**; below is the answer from National United Methodist Women:

This is a **short explanation for myUMW/Membership Log** for individual member of the United Methodist Church: **COMPLETE ONCE**

The "myUMW" page is an online form designed for individual members to enter their personal contact information as well as email, age range, social media presence and mission interests.. The information will assist in the creation of an individual profile for each member. This information will help us build an online membership database which will allow us to engage members around interests and for events like Assembly, Leadership Development Days, Mission u and the Seminar Program. We are excited about the prospect of mobilizing members for action around our social justice issues along with contacting our members with new and exciting events. This will allow the national office to customize each member experience and will advance how we are reaching out to members. Once an individual has completed the member registration form (log), the member will be able to print out a personalized membership card. The census and myUMW sites are both secured sites with an SSL certificate. myUMW Link: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myUMW](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/myUMW)

## **CENSUS 2019 (Local Unit Membership Count)**

### **Census Explanation: COMPLETE EVERY YEAR**

The census is released every October to Conference leadership for distribution to the district and local leadership. The census is designed to gather information at the local level in the areas of membership, programmatic and social justice focus. The information collected is used to inform National, Conference and District leadership in planning. The census and myUMW sites are both secured sites with an SSL certificate.

Thanks, Maria Rodriguez-Program Assistant  
Office of Membership and Leadership Development, United Methodist Women.

### **IN CLOSING AND REFLECTION**

The BWCUMW is diverse, there are different generations and different needs all sharing the same purpose, so I ask, *"how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity"*. What are you willing to do to bring unity to the organization? How can we work together towards achieving the same purpose? How can we meet the needs of each generation for inclusiveness? How can we create appealing activities and events for each generation? How can all generations come together to fulfill our purpose? How can you help a sister unit or your district in having 100% participation, not only in collecting the CENSUS but to build a stronger unified conference of the United Methodist Women? Let me hear from you. I've included my email below.

The Grace of the Lord Jesus be with you.

Daphne L. Hurd, Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator  
[daphnelhurd@icloud.com](mailto:daphnelhurd@icloud.com)

## COMMUNICATIONS

To My Sisters in Christ:

Communication is so important among people of all ages. But it is very important as United Methodist Women and as Women of God.

We must always be ready to listen and hear what others are saying and what God is telling us.

In life we have to be ready for anything that life throws at us and I am communicating 6 ways that we as United Methodist Women, as Women of God, can be ready for anything.

- 1. Behave like the new person in Christ you have become**
- 2. Model kindness and compassion**
- 3. Imitate God's forgiving and loving ways**
- 4. Stay in prayer**
- 5. Study His word**
- 6. Stay in love with God**

I have vowed to serve as your UMW Conference Communications Coordinator to ensure that we share collaborative good communications on the conference and district level.

Kim Marie Walker  
Communications Coordinator-BWC-UMW  
[Burrwalker123@gmail.com](mailto:Burrwalker123@gmail.com)

## **NOMINATIONS**

### **GREETINGS FROM THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**



The Nominations Committee is continuously looking for STARS for our Leadership Team and beyond. The Social Action Coordinator position is an immediate fill. Additional positions for which we are seeking interested parties include: Treasurer, Secretary, and Nominations Committee. Candidates voted upon at the October annual meeting will take up their position January 2020. We are also looking for candidates interested in “local” Northeast Jurisdiction representation positions, such as President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Business Manager. The slate of candidates for the National Northeast Jurisdiction positions on the Board of Directors, and Program Advisory Group, has been submitted to the conference leadership team to be voted on by the conference membership at the October annual meeting. Step out on your faith, out of your comfort zone, into leadership. This is especially true if you are looking around and don’t feel your area is represented. Now is a great time to be a part of the leadership team. Be the one who says, “why not me?” We have the Northeast Jurisdiction coming to Baltimore in April, 2020, and the Assembly to be held in Florida in 2022. You do not have to have previously served in a UMW leadership position. How’s that for getting you moved to action? If you, or someone you know, is interested in being part of the Leadership Team, let us know by submitting your name, or by recommending someone (with their permission). Any member of the Nominations Committee stands ready to meet with you one-on-one; with your unit; or talk with you on the phone. With all of us working together as a unified, diverse, faith-filled group of women, we can fulfill our PURPOSE to serve, and advocate, on behalf of women, children and youth.

Pamela Roxanne Aulton, Chairperson  
[palexana@hotmail.com](mailto:palexana@hotmail.com)



## **TREASURER**

### **Greetings United Methodist Women Treasurers**

#### **Just a reminder:**

“Emptying the Treasury” at the End of the Year

The monies given for United Methodist Women are given for mission. However, a local group may discover, toward the end of a given year, that it has more money than it needs to carry it into the first few months of the New Year.

This may have happened because:

- The budgeted amount for the Pledge to Mission was too low.
- Sources of income were underestimated.
- Income from a fundraising event may not have been budgeted.

A local group should keep in its treasury only the minimum amount necessary to carry it into the first few months of the next year, until members' Mission Giving pledges and gifts begin coming in.

The committee on finance recommends how to use these extra funds. The committee could choose one of the following options:

1. Send the extra funds as additional mission funds (added to your Pledge to Mission).
2. Present one or more Special Mission Recognitions or Gifts to Mission to members or friends of the unit.
3. Make a supplementary gift to “A Brighter Future for Children and Youth,” a mission program that receives United Methodist Women National Office funding.

Funds given in these ways to “empty the treasury” should be sent to the district treasurer. The act of emptying the treasury is important because the funds were given to be used for mission, not to build up a bank account for the unit. Saving for a rainy day is not good stewardship since today is a rainy day for thousands of women, children and youth for whom our mission money offers hope.

Submitted by,  
Sabrina White, Treasurer, BWC United Methodist Women  
[sve2042@hotmail.com](mailto:sve2042@hotmail.com)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

As The United Methodist Church (UMC) grapples with our future together, United Methodist Women is staying united and firm in its passion to support women, children and youth around the world. We continue to welcome **ALL** women who want to join and lead this important work. Women in the United Methodist Church and beyond will know that we stand strong and we're not going anywhere, no matter what happens across the denomination.

Congratulations to leesha Gillis (BMD) and to Alexandra McPerron, who were nominated and voted by the Board of Directors to the **Jane Bancroft Robinson Foundation Trustee Board**. The foundation provides financial support for the mission of Sibley Memorial Hospital in providing quality health services and facilities for the community, promoting wellness, relieving suffering, and restoring health.

**Nominations United Methodist Women Directors and Program Advisory Group 2020-2024:** Back in June, national office sent memorandums to the following Conference Officers: Nominations Chairperson, President and the Secretary about the nominations process for United Methodist Women Directors and Program Advisory Group 2020-2024. The information contained in the memorandums is also documented in the United Methodist Women's Handbook 2017-2020, Bylaws of the United Methodist Women Conference, Article V Nominations and Elections, Section 4. Nominees to the United Methodist Women National Organization, pages 142-143.

**NEJUMW Quadrennial Meeting:** Remember to register for the Northeast Jurisdiction (NEJ) Quadrennial Meeting, held in Baltimore, **April 24-26, 2020**, Marriott Waterfront Hotel. The main purpose of that meeting is the election of the NEJ Board of Directors. The registration website ([nejumw.org](http://nejumw.org)) is ready for everyone, register early for the early bird discount.

**Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign:** I will be attending the Fall Steering Team Meeting Oct 3, 2019, in Madison, NJ. Thanks to the Baltimore Washington Conference for supporting this campaign since its inception 2014. As of June 2019, BWC has **donated \$7,554** during 2019; the **total since 2014 is \$43,873**. The conference goal is \$50,000. The campaign is continuing.

**2020 Reading Program List:** At the spring Board meeting, the Reading Program listing was approved. The 2020 Reading Program catalogue will be posted on the United Methodist Women website and available for distribution in September.

**Board Responsibilities:** Esther Barkat and I have been busy over the summer with conference calls and making key decisions for the future of United Methodist Women (including grant decisions). We will be attending the Fall Directors meeting, Oct 4-6, 2019, in Madison, NJ.

**General Conference Delegates:** Continue to pray for the clergy and laity elected during Annual Conference. Not only pray, but stay in contact with them as they will be making decisions for the whole church for the next quadrennial; especially decisions affecting women, children and youth. Check the [bwcumc.org](http://bwcumc.org) website for the listing of the delegates. The national office staff is putting together a list of General Conference delegates and helping new delegates find mentors/supporters as they prepare for General Conference 2020.

Thank you, Baltimore Washington Conference, for all the work you do to keep  
**faith, hope, love in action!**

Colleen F. Cates [craftyme53@gmail.com](mailto:craftyme53@gmail.com)  
Esther Barkat [eunica99@aol.com](mailto:eunica99@aol.com)  
Directors

## MISSION u

The Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women and the Wellness and Mission Board partnership sponsored a vital inspirational weekend school under the theme: “**Learning Together for the Transformation of the World.**” As a Mission u community, we witnessed and observed how the spirit of God worked to transform attitudes, negativity, hearts and minds for His glory. We were guided by the scripture from Romans 12:2- “Do not conform to the patterns of this World, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Mission u provided an opportunity for adults and youth to come together for transformative education, spiritual growth and actions on social issues that related to women, children and youth around the World.

As a creative Mission u Leadership team on the front lines of faith, we sought to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World. We were encouraged to be open to new ways, to engage in transformative education, which is the key to our mission witness, as we explored learning together. We were challenged to put our faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth in service and advocacy.

We were blessed to have an amazing number of participants—141 adults and 44 youth --the total included 30 first timers. God calls and invites all of us to mission studying and fellowship together, where we learned about ourselves and each other. The study leaders for the classes in: What about our Money? Women United for Change, Mark and Radical Discipleship, and seeing Mark through the Eyes of Youth, were outstanding and thought-provoking.

Feedback from participants revealed:

1. Fellowship and sisterhood were very important to deepening spiritual growth
2. Networking and gaining new ideas for mission education and outreach.
3. Diversity among study leaders enriched class learnings
4. Mission u was very organized.

The information gained will be shared with local United Methodist Women units to aid in their planning for Mini Mission u in the church community.

In areas of improvement it was noted that:

1. The schedule needs to be tweaked.
2. Allow for more breaks.
3. Some sessions were too long while others too short.
4. The cost of the school is too expensive.
5. Not enough time to enjoy the Transformative Learning Center activities.

6. Need more diversity among Mission u population for adult and youth participants.

Congratulations, to the Mission u Leadership team, study leaders, supporters and participants for your efforts in making Mission u a great experience. May God of all love, peace, joy and hope continue to bless you and keep you in His hands.

Peace and Love.

Elizabeth M. Stemley, Dean



Amaya F  
Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup> 2019

### Mission U Report

During the mission U retreat, I met new friends and participated in many different activities like. The gospel of Mark, the united methodist women history, and how to tell my story and not be ashamed of my story, there was also a prayer wall ~~board~~ ~~was~~ which someone wrote a prayer ~~in~~ ~~common~~ anonymously, and during freetime which was 10~15 minutes, you took time and prayed sincerely for others who need closure, while I was at mission U, we were given a bible verse and you had to act out the verse in modern time. The verse I was given was the transformation when Jesus was on his way up the mountain with peter, James, and John. Also while I was on the retreat, everytime we ate we were

asked if we made any new friends, and we were asked to make at least 3 friends by the end of the weekend. By the end I made at least 24 friends. One thing I really enjoyed was the talent show (even though I didn't participate). I loved the acts and songs that were put on by friends. This is what I learned at mission u and why I recommend mission u to youth, because it lets them tell their story.

Amaya Frieson

~~Amaya Frieson~~

\* \* \* \* \* **DISTRICT PRESIDENTS** \* \* \* \* \*

**ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT**

It's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work! As summer wanes, the youth get ready to go back to school, and we prepare to usher in fall, the Annapolis District United Methodist Women begin a season of earnest, hard work doing missions for God.

Our District is packing 100 backpacks full of school supplies for children in our counties who might otherwise not get a good start to the school year. We do what we are called to do for the least of God's children. Matthew 25:40 reads: ***"Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."*** As we share with others, we show that we are being good stewards of what God has provided for us.

Along those same lines, when we were at Mission u last month, I was proud that our UMW contributed travel-sized toiletries for the homeless. The support received was overwhelming, the youth that attended Mission u packed more than 400 toiletry bags to be distributed to homeless men and women. When we share what God gives us, he blesses us abundantly. God said that we should "love our neighbors as ourselves", and we show His love by giving.

Many of our churches will be participating in the Warm Nights program; again, we're looking out for the least of God's children. We want to help give them a hand up and a leg up, not a handout. During these programs, UMW collaborates with United Methodist Men to welcome the homeless in our spaces, to show God's love and treat them with dignity and respect.

When we give, not just our resources, but of ourselves, we live out the United Methodist Women's Purpose by doing all we can for women, youth, and children, locally, nationally, and globally. I remember these lyrics that resonate with me: "You can't beat God's giving. The more you give, the more He gives to you." The words ring true and serve as a testimony for believers.

As fall approaches, we're gearing up for our Annual Meeting on Oct. 5 at Centenary UMC. While our District's theme is "Economic Inequality," at the meeting we're going to focus on **"Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission"**, this class was taught at Mission u, and was rather eye opening, and I hope it will give us the impetus to better focus on our future.

Last, but not least, we're getting ready to go into elections in 2020. The Annapolis District will host Voter Registration training. We need to hold voter registration drives anywhere we can so we can get people to see the importance of going to the polls to

exercise their right to vote. Many African Americans were beaten and even killed because they wanted to vote, and we inherited that right, but some of us don't exercise it. We need to get the word out, get people registered, and if need be get them to the polls. Too much is at stake for us to sit this one out. The heart, soul and safety of African Americans and America are depending on people voting to put the right people in office. Many of us are experiencing that the harvest (work) is plenty, but the laborers are few. Let's do our part!

Romans 8:28 states, "***In all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.***"

Blessings,

Emma M. Krouser  
President, Annapolis District UMW  
[e5m7krou2@gmail.com](mailto:e5m7krou2@gmail.com)

## **BALTIMORE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT**

Greetings from the Baltimore Metropolitan District where we are committed to honoring the **PURPOSE** of the United Methodist Women. The mission team and I continue to be committed to using our time, energy and effort to help make a difference in the lives of women, children and youth who are living in an unjust society. I continue to thank God for our collective spiritual growth and for a deeper understanding of how important the United Methodist Women are.

Our fall meeting has been planned and is scheduled for Saturday, September 14, 2019 at John Wesley UMC, 3202 W. North Avenue at Hilton, Baltimore, MD 21216. I know that when I write my next message, I will joyfully report the wonderful time our district had at our fall meeting. Stay tuned!!

Each time I have the opportunity, I continue to feel compelled to make this statement. **“Like many Districts we continue to struggle to get some of our units more involved. It is very true that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Matthew 9:37. There are so many areas of need in our communities and in our world. Women, children and youth are crying out for help. I and my team members are praying to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. Women of to Baltimore Metropolitan District that have not been very active, please contact me or any District team member as soon as possible to get involved we need you.”**

As a District we still continue to reach out to local units to assist in starting and or reinstating units. Several units are also asking for “refreshers” and the team is more than willing to do any of the above. Have a blessed and safe summer!

Love & blessings,

Gwendolyn Brooks  
President – Baltimore Metropolitan District  
[gwndlynbrooks@aol.com](mailto:gwndlynbrooks@aol.com)



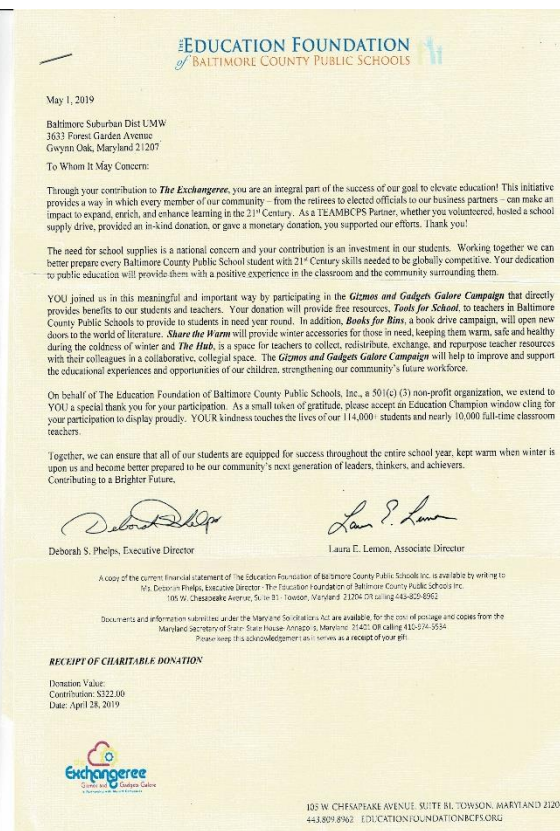
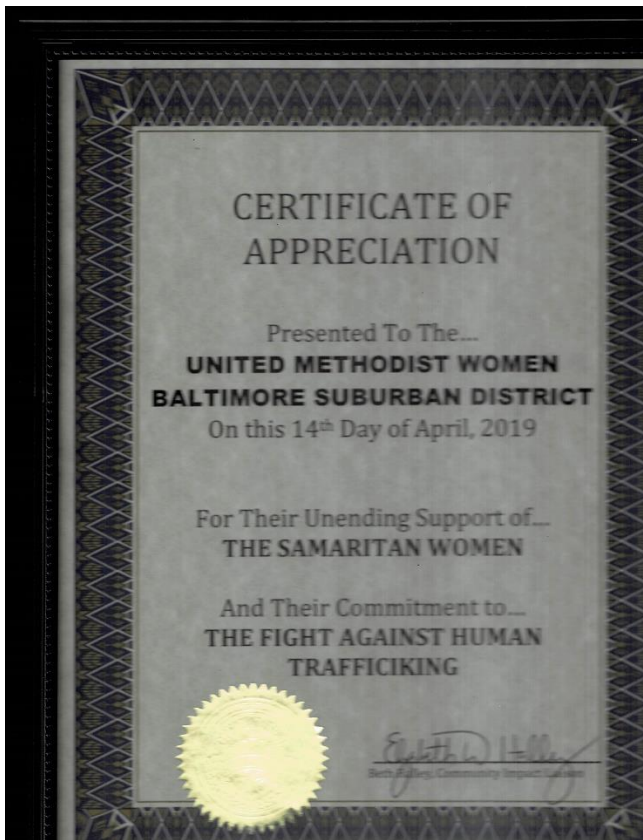
## **BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT**

Greeting!

The Baltimore Suburban District (BSD-UMW) is very excited! We are planning our Annual Fall Meeting which will be held at Union Chapel, 1012 Old Joppa Rd, Joppa, MD 21085 at 9:00 a.m. on September 21, 2019.

This will be a great day to recognize our 2019 fiscal year Achievements and Contributions. Our celebration will honor the BSD-UMW with a Certificate we received from the Samaritan Women and sharing a Letter received from the Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools.

The BSD-UMW is doing great things we are inspired and look forward to being Blessed in 2020



Sharing my Love!

Robin J. Henry, President  
Baltimore Suburban District  
[Robinh386@gmail.com](mailto:Robinh386@gmail.com)  
443-904-3954

## **CENTRAL MARYLAND**

We are currently pushing for pledges. Treasurer Julie Benner has sent an email out to the units encouraging them to turn in pledges. We are currently under 50% but we are confident the numbers will increase once the vacation season settles down.

A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 with Morgan Chapel UMC. We are praying the outcome will be another new unit for CMD. Linda Yost, BWC President and I will be meeting with the Rev. Jim Skillington and the women of the church.

I am proud to report the entire CMD Leadership Team was able to attend the Spiritual Retreat and there was a large turnout of CMD units attending Mission u this year. We also had 2 youth attend thanks to the BWC Scholarship.

We are looking for anyone who may be interested in filling our current Vice President position. Feel free to contact me if you would like to join our team. We are anticipating a great year and doing great things in our district.

Peace and Blessings.

Dianne Kelly Woodlon  
CMD President  
[wooddelyte@verizon.net](mailto:wooddelyte@verizon.net)

## GREATER WASHINGTON

The Greater Washington District of the United Methodist Women have been very busy in the Lord's work these past few months, here are some of our highlights. This past February, the Greater Washington District of the United Methodist Women held their Annual Legislative Seminar on February 16th, 2019 at Silver Spring UMC. We discussed some of the struggles women face in prison such as lack of proper hygienic tools to take care of themselves. Ms. Carter our speaker revealed to us that sometimes, women in prison have to choose the telephone over proper hygienic tools. That is beyond unacceptable. Many prisoners live in cells which could be a little studio apartment; they don't get adequate training in terms of their post-prison life. Many don't even know how to use a smartphone or work a Smartrip card to ride the D.C. Metro system without adequate training; ex-convicts don't become productive members of our society and are subject to shame and a low-class status. As a result of these injustices, The Greater Washington Women held a toiletries drive through various churches and we donated those items to homeless shelters in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area many of them in the Greater Washington's District ecclesiastical *jurisdictional* boundaries. This summer Greater Washington sent 20 youths to Mission u held in Pooks Hill, Bethesda. The Youth participated in a spirit-filled weekend full of bible study, community outreach and some good old fellowship with one another. Also, Mission u was educational as we learned how women can impact the kingdom when we unite for change. Please remember to save the date on Saturday, October 19th! We hope you join us for our annual meeting as we discuss the vision the Lord has shown in 2020. In conclusion, as our nation finds itself in yet another highly divisive election season, our tendency can be to draw firm lines between ourselves based on which candidates we support, and that can, in turn, lead to personal dislike for one another, anger towards those who lead, and eventually division. For the Bible says in II Chronicles 7:14 "if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." As United Methodist Women we are to live in a fine balance; standing for that which is true while seeking unity amongst ourselves whenever possible, standing firm in the faith while showing grace to those who do not, holding our leaders accountable while praying for their wisdom and well-being.

In His Grace,  
Kunda Musonda  
President of the Greater Washington District of the United Methodist Women  
[careercoachk@gmail.com](mailto:careercoachk@gmail.com)

## **WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT**

Greetings and blessings from the Washington East District (WED) United Methodist Women. As President of the WED and this being my first year, things are moving along very nicely and I am learning quite a bit.

On May 29-June 1, our Vice President Stephanie Willett and I attended **my** first BWC Annual Conference. This was a well-organized and informative conference. The most impressive activity during the conference for me was the installation and ordination ceremony. It was well organized, beautiful and spiritually uplifting.

In our efforts to engage more units in our cluster meetings and events, we have decided to have meetings with a theme and a purpose, rather than the usual meetings to discuss issues. Our first theme-based cluster meeting was held June 15 for Cluster II Charles County at Zion Wesley UMC. The theme was entitled "A Workshop on Nurturing Our Physical and Spiritual Well-Being". Our Social Action Coordinator Lauretta Grier gave an outstanding presentation on tips for becoming healthy in mind, body and spirit. This workshop was not only informative but very engaging as well. The meeting was also well attended not only with representatives from Charles County local churches but also from Calvert, Prince Georges and St. Mary's counties. The women at Zion Wesley also provided a wonderful breakfast and gracious hospitality. Thanks Zion Wesley!!

On July 26-28, we attended Mission u. Our Vice President Stephanie Willett was one of the workshop presenters who did an outstanding job. This year the most impressive activity was the donations made by all of the United Methodist Women. Units from WED, New Hope, Union and Westphalia UMC donated 684 items for this benefit. Grace UMC also contributed (amount unknown). Thanks everyone!!

Our Prayer and Praise Network began in our August Turtle Newsletter. We had several names listed of loved ones needing our prayers. We also had a name listed in our praise section. I'm anticipating that these names will increase. We believe that as women of God, we are all prayer warriors and can shake the walls of heaven!

Our WED Annual Celebration will be held on October 12, 2019 at Clinton UMC. This year our celebration will have a theme of "Celebrating God and You". We intend to celebrate the many accomplishments of each of our WED units with food, fun, fellowships and certificates of achievement.

We are continuing our efforts to help our WED units that need assistance and encouragement to stay active and on purpose. If any other districts are providing additional training or have other ideas about how to re-energize their local units, please feel free to contact me at the contact information below or the WED Vice President, Stephanie Willett at [shwbmd58@gmail.com](mailto:shwbmd58@gmail.com).

GOD BLESS,  
Diane Shorts, President, [Minidshorts25@gmail.com](mailto:Minidshorts25@gmail.com), 301-442-2814



## **SUSANNA WESLEY HOUSE, INC. CELEBRATION**

**ITS OUR CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AND YOU  
ARE INVITED, YOUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED!!  
SUSANNA WESLEY HOUSE, INC. (SWH), providing a safe, clean home,  
and a viable program for Residents striving for independent living, is  
celebrating 100 YEARS IN MISSION.**

To commemorate this milestone of serving Women, Children, and Youth, the Board of Directors is hosting its Centennial Gala!

Join us September 21, 2019 at Martin's West, 6817 Dogwood Road, Baltimore MD 21244. From 1:00pm - 5:00pm enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with the "Christian" spin on Music, Comedy, and Dancing, along with a warm welcome by our own Bishop LaTrelle Easterling.

Come fellowship with Queens and other Special Guests at this Fun-Filled Event that is all about "**FUN FUND-Raising**".  
There is a \$65 Fee/Ticket and Donations are welcomed for the Silent Auction. Items include Tickets--Movies, Shows, Travel, Gift Cards, Gift Baskets, Food, Retailers, Services and much more.....

Contact SWH by Phone at 410-837-3787 to confirm your Donation;  
Tables of 8, 9 and 10 are available.  
If you prefer email, send communications  
to: [susannawesleyhouse@verizon.net](mailto:susannawesleyhouse@verizon.net).

Help us help others---We are a people of men and women, adult and children, faith-filled visionaries and missionaries, working together to further the mission of Faith, Hope, and Love in action for ALL!

We have openings on our Board of Directors and invite you to join us, Applications are now being accepted. THANK YOU for your support and see you soon!

If you have Questions please contact Tijuana M. Irons at 301-938-7700.

Thank you.  
Tijuana M. Irons  
Susanna Wesley House, VP, Board of Directors

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

As you plan for the Northeastern Jurisdiction in Baltimore MD April 24-26, 2020, don't forget to place your order for the BWCUMW scarf, we want to be seen from all over the Marriott Waterfront Hotel Harbor East! Orders can be taken at any time. The more scarves ordered at one time, 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**

<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>



