



THE FLAME

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

VOLUME IIII

DECEMBER 2018

PRESIDENT'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Grace and peace is yours from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. The wisdom from Ecclesiastes 3:1. "There is a time for everything, and a season for everything under heaven." As I move forward in the future a new fresh strong wind will guide me as the new Dean at the helm of Mission u Cooperative School (formerly School of Christian Mission), a partnership between the Board of Global Ministries and the United Methodist Women.

I thank God and you for being President and Vice President Washington Conference for the past 8 years. I value UMW, which provide the witness and vision - turning action on behalf of women, the world. I have had across the United States, grow spiritually, and to Grace, all of which have been inspiring.



a part of my journey as for the Baltimore-United Methodist Women the history and purpose of foundation for the work of faith, hope and love into children and youth around opportunities to travel attend National Seminars, experience a Sisterhood of

As a Conference Leadership Team, we have worked together for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems, as well as provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the

world. The Leadership Team's presence has made an amazing impact on our hands-on mission, social justice, UMW Legacy Gala Celebration, Charter for Racial Justice Seminar in Blackstone, Virginia, and voter registration. We have provided leadership trainings, attended Districts' Annual Celebrations where local church units told their UMW stories, visited our representatives at Legislative Advocacy Days, attended social action issues seminars, supported At Jacob's Well transitional homeless shelter for men and women, provided speakers at UMW Days for churches around the Conference, participated at National UMW Assembly, Northeastern Jurisdiction, and local and statewide events in mission education. We served as volunteers at the "United to Love" Rally in Washington, DC. We are proud to have two National United Methodist Women Directors, Esther Barkat, and Colleen Cates. For the Northeastern Jurisdiction, Mikele Haskins-Delmore holds the office of Vice President. Sabrina White served as Director and a member of the Program Advisory Group. Deaconesses Jane Grays, Logan Alley, Patricia Marks and Gertrude Daily minister to us in love.

United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women, developed a partnership to promote awareness of and to fight against domestic violence and abuse. Church teams were organized and trained in three districts to host information stations. This led to sponsoring an annual workshop luncheon to address various social issues at the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Church Annual Conference. An awareness action initiative hosted by eight Districts resulted in 450 informational sessions on mass incarceration in churches and communities. These are awesome achievements by United Methodist Women.

We have initiated the Mission Today Chrystal Competition Award which is based on districts completing the Mission Today criteria. This is an effort to energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study, action and social justice. Each unit seeks to complete criteria for three levels. Gold, Silver, and Bronze. The winner receives a plaque and holds it for one year after which it is passed forward to the next district winner. The previous winning districts are Washington East in 2016, Baltimore Metropolitan in 2017 and Greater Washington in 2018.

During my tenure, I have traveled and connected with leaders across the conference, built strong leaders, promoted resource sharing, inspired imagination, stressed accountability for areas of responsibility, encouraged communication among districts, spoke at UMW events, offered training and one-on-one sessions with leaders, engaged in cross-cultural communications, and held many conversations that united and connected us in love.

I will remember you in my heart. Thank you for your hospitality and your service to God as we continue to work together in mission.

I am proud to acknowledge and consecrate Linda Yost as President for the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women. She served as the Vice President during my tenure and did an excellent job, and was elected as President at the Annual Celebration on October 27, 2018. She will bring her expertise and experiences to continue to move the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist forward through love in action. I wish the President and the Leadership Team best wishes as they connect together and connect with God in a beautiful Sisterhood of Grace.

Finally, my sisters, rejoice, serve in unity, guided by the Holy Spirit. Encourage one another and be bold in mission. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a prosperous New Year.

With sincere gratitude,

Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley
President

VICE PRESIDENT

"I always thank my God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in Him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge -" 1Cor 1:4-5

Greetings, UMW Sisters, on this day that the Lord has made!

Thank you, thank you to all who participated in the Conference United Methodist Women Annual Celebration in October! The District skits were awesome, inspiring and demonstrated your great efforts in composition and knowledge. Each performance had a story to tell about the many ways United Methodist Women support women, children and youth locally, nationally, and around the world. Middletown UMW showed us generous hospitality in serving delicious and nourishing food to all for both breakfast and lunch. The handbell choir and music director shared their musical talents during our worship service and beyond. Rev. Dr. Sarah B. Dorrance, Lead Pastor of Middletown UMC, enlightened us with the history of the beautiful church in which we celebrated, as well as serving us Holy Communion. You now have a newly-elected slate of Conference Officers installed by our outgoing President, Elizabeth M. Stemley.

Additional thanks go to Mike Koob who spearheaded the Climate Justice Rally after lunch. It was a very full and inspirational day!

Now we move forward. Our District Officer Training will be held on **Saturday, December 1, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon, at the Conference Mission Center, 11711 E. Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759. All District Officers are strongly encouraged to attend this training, and if you have a Local Unit Officer or two, who may be interested, please bring them along.**

The first Saturday of the New Year 2019, will offer another opportunity for us to gather. On January 5, 2019, from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. we will hold our Conference United Methodist Women Annual Planning Retreat, again at the Conference Mission Center. Our time together will be spent on worship, discussion, sharing, and planning, along with a little fun! This is a time when we can meet and greet our new Conference Officers and get to know them. As you may know, the National Office of United Methodist Women informs us of new initiatives and programs each year that are important to all of us. We'll learn more about them during our time together. Please bring your lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

Well, this is the last article I will write for the Flame as your Vice President. Four years have come and gone, and with them lots of learning, meetings, road trips with Elizabeth, time to find out things about myself, and opportunities for getting to know more and more of you. The bus trip to Assembly in Ohio and all who enjoyed that adventure with me will remain in my memory forever. Thank you for your confidence in me as I step into the position of President. I pray that Christ will guide my steps as I throw open my doors (and my heart) and invite you to come on this journey with me.

Love and Peace,

Linda S. Yost
Vice President/President Elect
LJYost@verizon.net



REPORT FOR THE SECRETARY AND FREDERICK DISTRICT

Greetings Sisters!

Thank you to the nearly 100 women who made the trek to my home church, Middletown UMC, on October 27 for the Annual Celebration of United Methodist Women! Although the weather was miserable, we were warm and cozy inside, blessed with a wonderful program and skits by various Districts. We were able to conduct our business and, despite the delay in finishing up the morning business, were able to get through lunch and the Climate Justice portion of the program on time! The few members of our fledgling Unit at Middletown UMC who were present were nearly overwhelmed with all they learned throughout the day and are looking forward to making connections with you in the future!

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the District Officer Training on December 1. Once again, I will be sharing the Secretary's Handbook with those who have not previously received it and plan to have other tips to pass along as well. If anyone is available to help with training (for any position) in the Frederick District on January 19, please let me know. It has been more than three years since training was offered on our District, and our Units have requested we offer it early in the year. However, because there are only two of us who are acting as the District Leadership Team, we will need help to cover training for all the positions.

The Frederick District continues to meet in Clusters. Our numbers are small, but we remain hopeful they will grow, that new leadership will emerge and the Units will have the support they have many years!

Finally, on a personal note, many of you may not know that long before I was elected to serve as your Secretary, I was elected to the Baltimore-Washington Conference Delegation to General and Jurisdictional Conferences. I will be in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019 for the special General Conference as a reserve (alternate) delegate. This is a pivotal time in the life of our denomination and I continually pray we are able to remain unified. I truly appreciate the diversity of the people called United Methodists and that despite our differences of opinions, we are better able to serve God than if we are not connected. If you have not already attended your Region's session on The Way Forward with Bishop Easterling, please plan to attend one of the remaining ones (December 2 at North Bethesda UMC in Bethesda, MD and December 9 at Fallston UMC in Fallston, MD- both are from 3-5 p.m.). If you miss those, please check out the Conference and UMC

Secretary/Frederick District
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websites for information on the three plans the Commission on the Way Forward worked on and/or the 100 resolutions to come before General Conference related to those plans and human sexuality. As a member of the Delegation, I need to hear the diversity of concerns, hopes and dreams people across the BWC have around this issue. I would welcome your input via email (see below). Please pray for this process and for our denomination.

Blessings & peace,

Sherie Koob, Secretary
Lead Frederick District Organizer
202-329-7113
sheriekoob@hotmail.com

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



As we move into the Advent season, I pray you will use this time to focus more on the birth of Jesus Christ into our lives anew, and less on all the “stuff” we feel we must do to celebrate Christmas. I’d like to remind you that the Upper Room Devotional, found in many of our churches, contains a section, “Advent Worship Litanies.” These litanies are a wonderful resource to help you spend personal time or time with family to prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ anew into our lives.

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Please mark your calendars for the 2019 BWC – UMW sponsored Spiritual Growth Retreat.  
Date: June 8, 2019 Location: Manidokan Camp and Retreat Center. Leader: Rev. Terri Cofiell. More information will come out in early 2019.

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District Spiritual Growth Coordinators, please let me know if you are continuing or leaving your position. If you are leaving, please provide contact information for who will be replacing you.

Finally, “Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **Be kind and compassionate to one another**, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.” Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV

After the Central Maryland District adopted the “bee” as our logo several years ago, I began collecting bee things and highlighting bible verses with “be” in them like the one above—“Be kind and compassionate to one another.” I believe that sometimes we just need to be reminded of this verse, especially after the divisive national election we have just had. I also pray that we take “be kind” to heart and live by it as we United Methodist Women members continue to grow as “a community of women whose purpose is to know God and experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.”



Best Wishes for a blessed Advent and Christmas Season,

Blessings,

Rita Green
Spiritual Growth Coordinator
ritamgreen@hotmail.com



COORDINATOR FOR EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION

"I am the way, the truth and the life." (NRSV John 14:6)

Hello, Everyone!

Congratulations! Heartiest congratulations to our 2018 District Mission Today Competition Winners! They are: First Place, *Greater Washington*, Co-President, Gladys Carter and Kunda Musonda and E & I Coordinator Anne D. White; Second Place, *Central Maryland*, President, Tamara Hull and E & I Coordinator Doris Byrd-Watts; and Third Place, *Baltimore Suburban*, President Ruthella Livers and E & I Coordinator Carolyn Nichols. This year's First Place winner will hold the Crystal Award for one year. Under this friendly competition, any District can win the 2019 Award! We also express our appreciation to the dedicated local units that make the Mission Today program a success!!

United Methodist Women and Mission. We are reminded our focus on mission is what makes United Methodist Women a dynamic, connectional organization. Mission is the stimulus that makes our work vital and it permeates everything we do. And, importantly, we are organized for mission:

-At all levels within our Conference, key positions involve four mission coordinators, namely, social action; spiritual growth; education and interpretation; and membership nurture and outreach. Also, communications and program resource coordinators enhance our mission work in this connectional environment.

-Other mission-focused program elements include Schools, and mini Schools of Mission u, various seminars and other mission-focused educational programs.

-Mission giving is a major mission focus. We should keep handy a copy of the UMW *Missing Giving Brochure*. The Pledge-to-Mission is a critical element in our mission giving, along with other avenues for designated and undesignated giving and our 150th Anniversary legacy fund.

-We have many opportunities for direct mission support to United Methodist Women's international, national, and conference specific projects. We support eight projects located in various areas throughout our Conference. One of these projects, the Susanna Wesley House, is also one of about 100 national UMW Projects.

As we focus on these, and various other mission elements of our program, let us not forget new endeavors, such as ubuntu, etc. as creative ways to carry out our activities. As an element of a strong 800,000-member group of women, let us continue in our legacy as we march **boldly** forward, In Mission!

Welcome! We welcome Barbara Terry as our incoming education and interpretation coordinator. I am sure you will support her as much as you have supported me during my eight-year tenure with the Conference UMW, first as social action coordinator, and second as education and interpretation coordinator. I feel so wonderfully blessed to have had these opportunities to serve!

"...here am I; send me!" (NRSV Isaiah 6:9)

Ann Price, Outgoing Coordinator
Education and Interpretation
pricefa@verizon.net

MEMBERSHP NURTURE AND OUTREACH

***Let us give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
For in our union with Christ he has blessed us
by giving us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly world.
Ephesians 1:3 (GNT)***

CENSUS 2018 IS OPEN

Greetings Sisters in Christ, it is close to the end of the year and time for CENSUS 2018. Census 2018 database for collecting United Methodist Women membership information is open. Please go to www.unitedmethodistwomen.org and click on the CENSUS 2018 link and follow the instructions for completing the form. The Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women's goal for 2018 is to increase local unit reporting by 20%.

Local Unit Presidents are asked to complete the form for the 2018 United Methodist Women census. If you do not have access to a computer, please ask your District President or Membership Nurture Outreach Coordinator for assistance. I will be available to assist local units and district officers with inputting data. Census Submission Deadline: Saturday March 2, 2019.

Every unit in the Baltimore-Washington Conference is important and should be included in the membership count. Every woman in the Baltimore-Washington Conference is important and should be counted. Let's make a difference, Be Counted.

Membership Nurture and Outreach
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I pray that your Thanksgiving and Christmas will be full of love, joy, and peace.

BE COUNTED! MAKE A DIFFERENCE! COMPLETE THE CENSUS 2018 FORM.

Daphne L. Hurd
MNO Coordinator
daphnelhurd@icloud.com
410 235-0103 (H) 410 627-7877 (C)

COMMUNICATIONS



Greetings to my Sisters in Christ:

Newswriting basics:

1. Use the "inverted pyramid" pattern for your article. In the inverted pyramid, information is stacked in a news story so that the most important details (from your readers' point of view) are at the top of the article, the least important at the bottom, and the other material in between. When a story is too long, the bottom paragraph can be lopped off.

The inverted pyramid also works well because busy readers can grasp the information they need to know from the top of the article; those with more time can read the entire story.

2. Include the answers to the questions *who, what, when, where, why* and *how* (or as many as possible) in the first paragraph of any news story.
3. Try to average no more than 20 words per sentence. Vary sentence lengths to give your writing rhythm, which makes your articles more interesting.
4. Keep paragraphs brief. Only rarely should a newsletter paragraph be more than three or four sentences.
5. Most articles should be no more than three or four paragraphs. Keep total length to no more than 200 words. One hundred to 150 is even better.

6. Write the way you talk. Use simple words and conversational language. Always be clear and concise.
7. The secret to good writing is re-writing. If you have time lay your first draft of an article aside for a day, then revise it.
8. Don't make your newsletter only an announcement sheet. Include mix of news about recent happenings as well as announcements about upcoming events.
9. Avoid phrases like A good time was had by all; friends invited, members expected; or Everyone is invited.
10. Do not use the newsletter to scold, chastise, humiliate, or embarrass your readers. Fill it with good news, not bad news.
11. Never include full minutes of meetings or detailed financial statements in your newsletter. Most people will not read these. Instead, include financial summaries and meeting highlights.

It has been a complete joy to serve as Communications Coordinator for the BWC-UMW for the last five years. In year 2018, I served as an ad hoc team member until a replacement was found. It was a pleasure meeting all the dedicated United Methodist Women throughout my tenure. My heartfelt gratitude is extended to Linda Yost and secondly Ann Price for their proofing assistance. You both were great.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. May God continue to bless you and your families. Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

In closing may I share my favorite Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be always at your back,
may the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields,
and until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand. Amen.
(Traditional Gaelic Prayer)

Gertrude White, Outgoing Communications Coordinator (Task Force) – BWC-UMW
trudytil@aol.com

NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE 2019 BWC-UMW SLATE

The Committee still has a few positions that remain open. If you have any interest or would like further information please give Tangela Terry a call at 443-694-0468 or send an email to mst2136@yahoo.com before December 31, 2018. Beginning January 1, 2019, our new Nominations Chairperson is Pamela Aulton. Please call her at 443-310-2882 or email her at pamelaaulton@hotmail.com.

**Baltimore-Washington Conference
United Methodist Women
2019 Leadership Team**

President

Linda Yost (BS)
1910 Upper Forde Lane
Hampstead, MD 21074
410-239-0429 (h)
443-605-8295 (c)
LJYost@verizon.net

Membership Nurture & Outreach

Daphne Hurd (BM)
3707 Yolando Road
Baltimore, MD 21218
410-235-0103
daphnelhurd@icloud.com

Vice President

Ruthella Lievers (BS)
6221 Pilgrim Rd
Baltimore, MD 21214
443-858-9329
Ralievers1@comcast.net

Social Action

(Vacant)

Secretary

Sherie Koob (Fred)
3819 S. Mountain Rd
Knoxville, MD 21758
202-329-7113
sheriekoob@hotmail.com

Communications Coordinator

Kim Marie Walker (A)
1383 Marley Court South
Arnold, MD 21012
443-770-4067
burrwalker123@gmail.com

Treasurer

Sabrina White (BM)
2042 Knotty Pine Drive
Abingdon, MD 21009
410-608-9336
sve2042@hotmail.com

Secretary Program Resources

Tangela Terry (A) (provisional)
8067 Long Branch Terr.
Glen Burnie, MD 21061
443-694-0468
mst2136@yahoo.com

Spiritual Growth

Rita Green (CM)
12410 Fellowship Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-648-8294
ritamgreen@hotmail.com

Educ. & Interpretation Coord.

Barbara Terry (BM)
5304 Cecil Avenue
Gwynn Oak, MD
410-987-5830
babswrightterry@gmail.com

Nominations Chairperson

Pamela Aulton (A)
231st Street
Pasadena, MD 21122
443-310-2882
pamelaaulton@hotmail.com

Nominations Committee

Kia Hicks (WE)
108 Mattinly Ave
Indianhead, MD 20640
301-743-7661
rkbhicks@comcast.net

Jean Shields (GW)
3310 N Leisure World Blvd# 412
Silver Spring, MD 20906
301-802-6596
jbfheaven@yahoo.com

Falisha Doby (CM)
13009 Trailside Way
Germantown, MD 20874
240-404-8575
Falisha10@gmail.com

Rosalia Foster (BS)
770 Marlboro Street Rd.
Kenneth Square, PA 19348
484-885-5040
rosekspr@gmail.com

Kristen Whiteley (BM) (new)
7836 Birmingham Ave
Baltimore, MD 21234
443-635-4178
Kbwhiteley67@gmail.com

* seeking more members

UMW BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the United Methodist Women, the Baltimore-Washington Conference, Inc., is thankful for the stewardship ministry of money. The Board is also thankful that the prayerful strategic management of God's money can increase the possibilities of Christian leadership in the world.

A case in point is that the Board of Trustees was able to contribute financially to the School of Mission u, July 27-29, 2018, with the provision of scholarships for two youth from each district. The youth who attended Mission u gave of their talents, friendship, and thankfulness to the members of the United Methodist churches throughout our eight Districts for the opportunity to participate in the School. Most of all, this opportunity provided exposure to the fun and joy that Christian organizations can provide in the secular and sacred worlds. In fact, this exposure supports the possibility for future Christian leadership. Quite possibly, that leadership will be in participation in many positions available through the United Methodist Women organization. The UMW Board of Trustees is thankful for this opportunity to use God's resources for His Ministry.

To insure finances are growing and adequate, the Board of Trustees reviews, evaluates, and approves recommendations as instructed by the financial advisor of the Lombard Securities. Based on the recommendations of the financial advisor, the Board buys and sells stocks which constitute the portfolio of the Baltimore-Washington Conference Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees meets on the second Tuesday of April and September each year. Quarterly, income from the Deaconess Home Fund is distributed to the Baltimore Parish Work Project for allocation and distribution to various activities and projects of the United Methodist Church in the Baltimore City area. Income from the Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women, Inc. funds is also distributed through scholarships and projects across the conference on behalf of women, children, and youth. All disbursements are based on income generated from the principal for the account. (No monies can be/will be authorized that exceed the interest generated from the line item for the particular account).

The 2018 quarterly distributions have been made to the Deaconess Home and the Susanna Wesley House. Funds are distributed January through September each year based on requests and the availability of funds.

The Board of Trustees carefully exercises its strategic and negotiation skills in overseeing the investments entrusted to the Board of Trustees. We rejoice as we strive to be good stewards in managing these funds. Please be assured that the Conference UMW Board of Trustees is passionate about its financial obligation to assist the mission community in executing their obligations to the needs of women and children within our Conference.

To insure the financial integrity of the investment funds, the president of the Board of Trustees continues to monitor the monthly statements of the individual investments. The president works closely with the investment specialist from the Lombard Securities and the Board of Trustees' treasurer to keep track of the healthy growth of the securities. The Board of Trustees feels confident that the financial statements received quarterly help the Board of Trustees to make sound decisions in managing these investments. The Board works to uphold the mission statement which is to manage the investment funds and distribute income from these funds to support mission projects of our Conference United Methodist Women. We thank God for the opportunity to be of service in mission on behalf of mission women, children, and youth.

Geraldine Whitley, President
United Methodist Women, Board of Trustees
jacksonwhitley@aol.com

TREASURER

Mission Giving for Women, Children and Youth!

Missions Giving for women, children and youth!

In 1869 our foremothers started saving their coins to send missionaries to foreign countries. In 2019, we will celebrate 150 years of women continuing to give money and time to better the lives of women, children and youth everywhere. The Baltimore Washington Conference United Methodist Women turn faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world!

Those who attended the 2018 Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting voted on our 2019 budget. As it was stated please remember that Mission Giving goes to support United Methodist Women missions everywhere. In response magazine there are many stories that tell about our various missions and how they serve women, children and youth throughout the world. Our missions and ministries include educating women so they can earn money to care for their children, healthcare opportunities, getting access to clean water and many more services. If you or someone else in your unit doesn't subscribe to response, I strongly encourage you to consider subscribing to this United Methodist Women monthly publication.

As this year's financial year-end reporting draws near, I know that our Conference has a way to go to reach our 2018 pledge. As it is fall harvest time, I'm hoping

Treasurer
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and praying that the final remittances from the districts will be bountiful, just as the farmers are hoping and praying that the final remittances from the districts will be bountiful, just as the farmers are hopeful for a bountiful harvest. These remittances come to the district treasurers from you, members of your local unit and/or circle. Please remember that United Methodist Women can and do make a difference. Mission giving starts with YOU and ME!!!

Merry Christmas, and remember Jesus is the reason for the season! As we welcome 2019, may you have a very happy and prosperous New Year!

Grace and peace,
Sabrina White
Treasurer, BWC-UMW
Sve2042@hotmail.com
410-608-9336

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS
HOLD 2018 ANNUAL MEETING IN NYC

Thank you BWC, for your faith in me as I represent you as a director at the national level. It always warms my heart when others speak about our conference's achievements. Here is my report:

United Methodist Women Board of Directors affirmed the implementation of the organization's strategic plan and adopted a \$16.4 million budget for 2019 during its annual meeting in New York City, Oct. 4-6. The 2019 budget included **\$3.9 million** for national and international mission partners helping women, children and youth, and **\$1.2 million** for national mission institutions. In addition to the budget, board members approved \$29,835 in grants to national mission institutions and \$18,800 for the two 2018 Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizens Award recipients.

Prior to the meeting, board members **approved by mail ballot** amounts over **\$10,000 of the \$416,280** in grants and scholarships that United Methodist Women awarded and distributed over the summer. The summer grants included \$176,940 to national and international mission institutions and programs serving low-income women, children, youth and families; **\$46,000** in scholarships to 14 U.S. seminary students, and **\$239, 340** in international scholarships to 41 students in 18 countries.

Board members also approved themes for the 2021 mission studies. The 2021 mission study themes are: **Spiritual Growth:** The Moral Witness of the Church; **Geographic:** The Two Koreas; **Issue:** Mass Incarceration (a two-year study that starts in 2020); and **Youth and Children's studies:** Living as Christians in a Violent Society

2018 CENSUS: The launch of United Methodist Women's 2018 census was also announced. Questions in the Census, open Oct. 9, 2018-March 30, 2019, are designed to inform national, conference and district programs and implementation of United Methodist Women's strategic plan. **All local presidents must complete the census!** Daphne Hurd, conference MN&O is available to assist with this endeavor. Last year approximately 75 units responded, BWC will be counted in full for 2019.

Directors received national staff progress reports on the **strategic plan**:

- to **position** United Methodist Women as a clear leader in the church and wider community;
- to **engage** current and potential members for spiritual growth, leadership development, and membership expansion; and
- to **mobilize** members for action and service;
- and updates on member involvement and the campaigns **on Climate Justice, A Living Wage, Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline, and Maternal and Child Health.**

In her address to the board **Harriett Jane Olson**, United Methodist Women Chief Executive Officer, envisioned members involving their local communities in new ways as the strategic plan comes to life. "The work of the strategic plan is to find ways to support innovation, to make it easier to invite new people and for new units to form and for women at every level in the organization to know herself as loved by God and to respond to God's call to mission service."

Board President **Shannon Priddy** told the directors and all members to expect and welcome new styles of leadership as they step up to their role as leaders in the church and communities. She urged them to embrace new leadership tools while remembering the importance of building relationships. "Leadership looks different today than it did just 5 or 10 years ago," she said, "[But] Women who don't know United Methodist Women are not just going to show up because you made a flyer and sent it out by email. Women want to be invited in, to share in community. The answer is relationship building, breaking down barriers in communication, and meeting people where they are. This is United Methodist Women, and this is the work we are doing today and getting ready to do tomorrow."

Website: We are in the process of developing a new website that is user friendly, and clearly communicates messages. It will be easy and desirable to give to Mission giving and the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign via the website.

Leadership Development Days (LDD): LDD will be held in Feb 2019, Tempe AZ for Conference Presidents and newly elected leaders. This will be the last one in the current format. UMW 101 will be on the BRIDGE Curriculum— an online software. Something new and exciting is coming!

Highlights from Assembly (Columbus, OH - May 17-20, 2018)

- Celebrations: 150th Anniversary, Legacy, 30% increase in giving: \$13,180 Mission Giving & \$117,97 towards Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign
- Staff and Program Advisory Group (PAGs) were leaders
- Communion and Consecration (deaconess and home missionaries)
- Spiritual Nurture through FUN!
- Top rated new programs: Scripture and Songbook, BOLD Talks, Pre-Assembly Action, new Assembly website
- Healthy Lunch and return to preregistration for workshops
- Increased Diversity 46% there were 2 targeted audiences
 - ages 35-49 all ethnicities and
 - African Americans/African
- African American/African Women's Gathering honoring women from Central Conference **975 attending**
- Extending our Reach-marketing techniques
 - Face Book Live 53,557
 - Livestream Users 1,407 and Website Users 19,422
- Budget: came in under budget; froze the 2018 budget at the 2014 budget and came under \$100K!

As your Director, I am a member on two committees:

- the **National Legacy Fund Steering Committee**, acting as a liaison between the Legacy Fund Committees in the BW, EPA and Penn-Del conferences. I offer any assistance, guidance, and encouragement the conference liaisons may need. **Our conference has contributed approximately \$31,000 to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign to date.**
- **the Planning and Assessment Committee:** Our function is to help the Directors and Program Group Advisory members feel comfortable with their positions and offer resources needed to fulfill their duties and obligations to their conferences.

Colleen F Cates
Member-United Methodist Board of Directors
410-488-5369(h) - 410-598-9470(m)
craftyme53@gmail.com



EPWORTH HOUSE MISSION PROJECT

BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON CONFERENCE-UMW

Epworth House is a project of the United Methodist Women of the Baltimore-Washington Conference to the glory of God. We are a supportive community who provide financial assistance through annual scholarships to an international woman student in church studies at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC; it is administered through the seminary. This endeavor perpetuates the vision of the United Methodist Women organization. These scholarships become a church related education enabler that permits Epworth House to spread "faith, hope, and love action" through Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

The Washington East and the Greater Washington District UMW provide the major financial support for the Epworth House Project, and we are blessed by additional contributions from other Districts as well.

We are continuing to look for opportunities where the UMW of the BWC can continue to provide financial support to our International Sisters. There is an opportunity to become involved by filling out the attached form to honor/remember someone special. A \$5.00 donation is requested for each name you submit to honor/ remember. The names will be listed in the program booklet at Epworth House Annual spring luncheon scheduled Saturday May 4, 2019 at the Holiday Inn, 10000 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD. Time: 11:30 a.m.

Please make check payable to Epworth House Mission Project and mail to:

Jane Grays
7118 Piney Woods Place
Laurel, MD 20707-9457

Please contact Jane Grays, Membership Chair, at Ladyjanegra@aol.com, for additional information.

Gertrude White, President
Susan Howes, Vice President

[illegible]

SUSANNA WESLEY HOUSE, INC. (SWH)

SWH Board of Directors President Sabrina White:

"We are excited that the SWH, located at 609 Park Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21201 is open and fulfilling our Mission: providing safe, affordable housing and access to necessary services/programs for needy women and their dependent children to obtain independent living. We are in partnership with MISHA House LLC., and in consultation with TurnAround, Inc. who shares our Vision to positively impact the lives of those in need especially women, children and youth. In these relationships, Susanna Wesley House is able to access assistance for staff in areas of training opportunities as well as referral for the residents such as counseling. The SWH maintains its own staff to conduct the day-to-day operations. Currently nine families are living in the SWH. We are fully occupied and the need in the community is still great. We have a wait list for our facility.

The Susanna Wesley House Inc. is not a homeless shelter. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to providing safe, affordable housing and support services to homeless, low income women, and needy women with dependent children, leading to independent living and striving to end homelessness.

Again, THANK YOU for your past support of SWH. We hope that you can continue your support of programming at #609 and give future assistance with repairs and renovations to our #607 building. Together we can continue to serve women, children and youth in need. Overall your assistance has helped the SWH make a positive difference in the lives of needy families as well as improving the community."

MANY THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS-----2018 HAS BEEN A VERY GOOD YEAR, HERE'S A RECAP:

A DECADE LUNCHEON

Supporters from across the BWC gathered at Grace United Methodist Church located at 5407 N. Charles to celebrate the past Board Presidents of the Susanna Wesley House at the Annual Decade Luncheon and Silent Auction. Hosted by Elizabeth Stemley, President of Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Women, it was an enjoyable afternoon where several past Board Presidents told wonderful stories of the history of the Susanna Wesley House and were recipients of a personalized Glass Sculpture Award.

EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD CEREMONY

Susanna Wesley House partnered with Emmarts United Methodist Women, to provide the school- age children residing at Susanna Wesley House with Education Scholarships in the form of Walmart Gift Cards. The 2018 Educational Scholarship

Award was intended to support the educational needs of students entering the 2018 – 2019 school year.

JAZZ AT HOTEL INDIGO

The Fundraiser "Jazz at Hotel Indigo," located on Franklin Street in Baltimore, provided Supporters and Guests had wonderful evenings (2) of fine food and smooth jazz music. A portion of the proceeds benefited the Susanna Wesley House, Inc. Both Events were a success and on the calendar for 2019 Events.

WE REMEMBER

In Loving Memory: Margaret Isabelle Obert was the President of the Susanna Wesley House from 2012-2016. During that time her commitment to the History and Mission of the Susanna Wesley House strengthened and sustained the house through renovations and challenges. We are forever grateful for her leadership and we are deeply saddened by her passing on March 7, 2017. Margaret Isabelle Obert will always be remembered as leader, a hard worker, and change maker, always leading us forward.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OUR HOUSE:

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ GRANT WRITER

CHERYL BRYANT, on September 4, 2018, Cheryl Bryant joined the staff at the Susanna Wesley House, Inc. as the new Executive Director/Grant Writer. She is a native of Baltimore and has nearly 20 years of experience in fundraising and non-profit management. She has a graduate certificate in Fund-Raising Management from Goucher College and has worked as the Development and Communications Director at The Door, Inc. Ms. Bryant is also the Founder and CEO of The Barnabas Project, LLC, fundraising consultants for faith-based organizations, where she has written many grants for churches throughout Maryland. She is an ordained Associate Minister at Freedom Baptist Missionary Church, 3455 Erdman Avenue in Baltimore.

NEW STAFF MEMBERS:

TRACY STERRETT, Client Specialist:

Tracy is a retired Correctional Case Manager for the State of Maryland. Born and raised in Baltimore city, graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and Coppin State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice.

VICKY STEWART, Overnight and Weekend Supervisor:

Vicky is a Peer Recovery Coach for MedStar Good Samaritan and Union Memorial Hospital in the Emergency Room Overdose Survival Department.

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE GIVING -

GOSPEL CHRISTMAS WITH CECE WINANS, BSO AND THE MORGAN STATE CHOIR, DECEMBER 21, 2018 AT THE JOSEPH MEYERHOFF SYMPHONY HALL, 1212 Cathedral Street, Baltimore MD

TICKETS \$35* a portion of your ticket purchase price will benefit the SWH, CONTACT CHERYL BRYANT AT SWH, 410-837-3787 OR

Purchase via EVENTBRITE www.eventbrite.com/e/gospel-christmas-with-cece-winans-tickets-51272445264.

"AN OASIS OF BEGINNINGS"

The Computer Lab at Susanna Wesley House is "An Oasis of Beginnings." With the donated computers up and running, our residents and their children are afforded access to the Internet for researching and completing their homework and assignments. Parents are also given the opportunity to complete their resumes and apply for jobs online. The two (2) complete setups are heavily used as sharing is stretched. We are in need of additional Computer Sets, the all-in-one-modem, keyboard, mouse is preferred. **If you are able to support this need solely (\$500) or would like to partner with another Donor/ Organization, let us know. The Lenovo All-in-One Units retail at approximately \$500. Two \$250 donations or five \$100 donations are all appreciated. Please designate your gift as "Computer Lab Donation."**

RECRUITMENT FOR BOARD MEMBERS:

INTERESTED?? Applications being accepted for the SWH Board of Directors. Join Sabrina White, President; Tijuana Moore Irons, Vice President; Geoffrey Hart, Treasurer; Barbara Terry, Secretary; Members: Lori Graham Candice Gantt; EX-OFFICIO Members UMW National-Board Colleen Cates; UMW - NEJ Vice President Mikele H. Delmore; BWC-UMW President Elizabeth M. Stemley; District Superintendent BMD, Rev. Dr. Wanda Duckett. CONTACT Elizabeth Stemley for additional information. We welcome your Talent---Legal, Accounting, Skilled Carpentry, Maintenance, Hospitality, etc.

SWH CELEBRATES A CENTENNIAL BIRTHDAY IN 2019:

2019 marks the 100th Birthday of the Organization, the cause and its effect, the past, the future and the path to another 100 years..... We look forward to your joining us and participating in at least one of the many Activities we will be sponsoring to celebrate this milestone. The number 100 will be echoing all during 2019 Fundraisers, Events, and Celebrations.....More information, announcements, and communications of all sorts will be coming to you very soon.

AGAIN, thanks for making 2018 a very good year for Susanna Wesley House, Inc. H-O-L-D O-N and LOOK OUT!!!---you are going to be shocked and pleased to see that **100 Year Old** can look and feel so good inside and out!!!

Susanna Wesley House
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THANK YOU for all you have done and continue to do--supporting us in PROVIDING
"AN OASIS OF BEGINNINGS" for as many as possible!

Respectfully submitted,
Tijuana Irons, Vice-President, SWH
Susanna Wesley House, Inc., Board of Directors
Home: 301-449-0081 - Email: tijuanairons@aol.com

ANNAPOLIS DISTRICT

Happy Holidays from the Annapolis District:

The Annapolis District United Methodist Women are moving like the wind that blow leaves from the trees in fall. As the air grows crisp, our hearts are grateful for the abundance that God provides each of us.

We had an awesome Annual Meeting at Asbury United Methodist Church in Arnold. Our theme was "Juvenile Justice," and our guest speaker was Aisha Braveboy who serves in the Maryland House of Delegates for the 25th District. She was amazing, and we learned of the work she and her counterparts are doing to try to break the school-to-prison pipeline. Many of the UMW in attendance requested her contact information so we can keep abreast of changes in the laws and how they will affect our youth. We had our baby shower and the UMW from across the District brought baby items that were distributed to three organizations that help women and babies in need. Deaconess Gertrude Dailey performed the installation of our officers for 2019, and we had a glorious time fellowshiping with each other.

At the Conference's Annual Celebration in late October, our District performed the skit, "Living My life through My Friends." The play depicted a young woman who was influenced by her friends, and did not listen to advice from her mother or older brother. In the end, when she got in trouble, her mother was there for her, and through her strong faith and prayers was able to keep her daughter out of the youth detention program.

We wish everyone a bountiful and blessed Thanksgiving. And, as we enter the holiest of holidays, may the Christmas season bring you hope, joy, love, and peace as we celebrate the Birth of Christ!

Merry Christmas to everyone.

Emma Krouser
President
Email: 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 the importance of United Methodist Women.

Our Annual Fall meeting was held on September 29th at St. Paul Praise and Worship Center in Pikesville, MD. We were blessed to have our Conference President, Elizabeth Stemley, graciously led our installation service. In addition, we continued to be blessed to have Colleen Cates (Board of Directors Member), bring greetings from our UMW National Organization. The meeting was spirit-filled and fruitful.

As we come to the close of another year, I 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. My team and I are praying to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. Women of 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 Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year. Stay safe!

Love & blessings,

Gwendolyn Brooks
President
gwndlynbrooks@aol.com

BALTIMORE SUBURBAN DISTRICT

Peace and blessings to my sisters in Christ,

This time of year brings happy memories and excitement for the upcoming season of the birth of Jesus. It is at this time I am reminded of the works of Jesus: His healing of the royal official's son; the healing of the man at Capernaum of a demonic spirit; the healing of Peter's mother-in-law; the healing of the leper; the healing of the centurion's servant; and the healing of the woman with the issue of blood. His works show us that anything is possible when we have faith. When we believe that, through Jesus, anything is possible, there is no limit to what we can accomplish.

As United Methodist Women, we are called on to do the hard and sometimes what some consider the impossible. But we serve a God that proves impossible is merely a word. We can do all things through Jesus who strengthens us. I pray that in the upcoming season and the upcoming year we will tap into our faith and continue to do the good works we are charged to do. Matthew 25:40 states, "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'...." This is why we work so hard to carry out missions throughout our communities and the world. We strive to fulfill the Scriptures, to be obedient and to be good stewards over everything God has blessed us with.

I pray you and your families will be blessed with good health and happiness this season.

Respectfully submitted.

Ruthella Lievers
President
ralievers1@comcast.net



CENTRAL MARYLAND DISTRICT

The fall quarter has been extremely busy in the Central Maryland District. Highlights include:

- The charter of a renewed UMW Unit and Installation of officers at Glen Mar UMC on October 28th led by unit President, Fayette Stewart.
- Annual Celebration for the District on October 3rd hosted by our UMW sisters at Howard Chapel – Ridgeville and featuring Coach Donna Rojas and Guest as our Guest Speakers and Deaconess Pat Marks as our worship leader.
- Annual Celebration for the Baltimore-Washington Conference on October 27th where the units in our District received the Silver Award (2nd Place) in the Mission Today Unit competition!
- Hosting the Fall Legacy Event at Goshen UMC - An International Fashion Show, Cultural Event and Fun Family Day on October 20th which included a visit from a special guest from the National UMW staff, Kenya Roberts.
- Hosting a journalist and coordinating interviews for the author of a future Response Magazine article on Mass Incarceration featuring panelists from the CMD's Symposium at the prayer breakfast last May.
- Participating in the U.N. Seminar in New York, NY from November 18th-20th

Upcoming Central Maryland District Events Include:

- 2019 Planning Meeting: December 1, 2018
- Central Maryland District Officer Training: February 2, 2019 with a snow date of February 16th
- Spring District Event: April 27, 2019
- Preparing for the UMW Jurisdictional Meeting in Baltimore in May 2020

Although the end of the year is fast-approaching, it's not too late to join the ranks of those 5 star units or Gold, Silver, or Bronze-level Mission Today Units. The District is close to meeting our pledge for 2018, so please remember to remit any additional mission funds to CMD Treasurer, Julie Benner, by December 12th.

Wishing you a wonderful and blessed holiday season.

Tamara A. Hull
President
tahinspired@hotmail.com

CUMBERLAND-HAGERSTOWN

Dear Sisters in Christ!

There are still functioning units in Cumberland-Hagerstown District. There is still a District Treasurer, Mary Jo Grimm. Units are still asked to send pledges etc. to Mary Jo. If there are units in the Cumberland-Hagerstown District who would like to meet as cluster groups, this is definitely encouraged. We are going to have to put our thinking caps on in order to come together again as a Leadership Team.

Thinking "out of the box" could mean meeting for a tea, a guest speaker, a book signing, a meet and greet for a local dignitary or civil servant, gathering at your kids' or grandkids' sports event, putting together some health or birthing kits for those in need, participating at a soup kitchen with a meeting either before or after, having lunch at a local restaurant with a short, focused agenda, etc. Imagination is our gift from God! Officer training can be set up in a cluster group format as well. Any units having questions or if there is someone in the district who would like to investigate what a leadership position is all about, or would just like to plan a spring meeting, please contact Linda S. Yost, President-elect of the Conference Leadership Team.

May God continue to bless you as we unite in a journey of faith together.

Linda S. Yost, President-elect
410-239-0429 or 443-605-8295
LJYost@verizon.net

GREATER WASHINGTON DISTRICT

Greetings to United Methodist Women:

As we come to the end of another bountiful year with God's grace, it's time to reflect on the outstanding work of the United Methodist Women of the larger WASHINGTON area. By its own mission statement, the United Methodist Women remains poised as a community of women purposed to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through the Savior, Jesus Christ. It's also the ongoing purpose of the United Methodist Women to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

In pursuing this noble purpose, the United Methodist Women of greater Washington area are at a crossroads occasioned by a very different political environment the country, much less the world, has never known. To be sure, we're living in dangerous times in a dangerous world in which there is a downward drift from democratic principles we hold sacrosanct. These principles are being challenged day in and day out by the nationalist fervor that's turning the truth into untruth, and untruth into truth absent the compelling reason, if at all, why this should be so. This hitherto unheard-of development has posed an existential threat to the truth that the United Methodist Women community seeks in its initiative as vigilant warriors of God's word. We live in a world where our core values, and indeed, our fundamental beliefs, are being tested in a divisive, new political era that targets a shadowy concept of the other or others based on artificial differences of ethnicity or religion.

In light of this unprecedented development, the United Methodist Women have their work cut out to do what they do best: to intensify their focus on ministries with women, children and youth; to work assiduously to preach the values of love for all without regard to artificial differences of ethnicity and religious belief system(s); to embrace love and difference while seeking common ground; to serve a cause that's greater than oneself; to spread faith in the power of the word of God; to let it be known that we live in a social climate that requires us to live by the word of God as sons and daughters of the one and only living God the Creator.

Sincerely,

Kunda Musonda
President
careercoachk@gmail.com

Go where your gift is needed. God will make room for you! (John 4:43-45)

WASHINGTON EAST DISTRICT

I want to first thank my Leadership Team of the Washington East District for having my back. I have been ill the last two months and will finally have surgery to remove Thyroid Cancer on November 12th. Because of my illness, I was not able to attend either our Annual Celebration or the BWC Annual Celebration. But our team carried on beautifully.

In order to be successful, you need to have support and training and the United Methodist Women does that. Our Conference President, Elizabeth Stemley, took the time each month to call all of the District Presidents before a meeting. This

proved so important to be able to share not only our accomplishments but our concerns as well. Elizabeth always took the time to educate and share suggestions to make our district not only functional but to exceed our accomplishments.

The best decision I ever made was to join the United Methodist Women. I want to tell you that I have enjoyed every minute of my position as a Treasurer, Vice President, Unit President and finally District President for the Washington East District. I have met so many wonderful people. I have learned so much. One tiny voice can be heard by so many when we share our concerns for Women, Children and Youth. We do make a difference and with God's help we can move mountains. The new Washington East District Leadership is going to be fantastic. All of the positions have been filled. I encourage anyone to consider being a part of any of the vacancies that open up in the future to consider being more involved. You all made me look good! The Leadership Team and the units that work so hard get the job done. I will not hold a position in 2019 but they have put my name in the hat to be apart the North East Jurisdiction in 2020. I hoping that I will be on that team as the Baltimore-Washington Conference is hosting it in 2020 in Baltimore. Wouldn't it be great if we had a United Methodist Women's Day at Camden Yards Ball Park on one of those days?

I love each and every one of you. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the United Methodist Women's organization. I look forward to seeing you all throughout the year; the only difference is I will be in the pews and not up front.

God Bless Each and Every One of You,

Susan Howes

President
showes@chesapeake.net





FOLLOW THE STAR TO BETHLEHEM

*Follow the Star to Bethlehem that shone on us that night. . .
The night that Jesus came to earth in radiant heavenly light.
Follow the Babe of Bethlehem who was born in a manger small.
Follow the Star of David who was born to bless us all.
Follow the Son of Man, the only Begotten of God.
Follow the path he left us on the thorn-strewn earth He trod.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem, for He is the Heavenly light.
Who leads us forth from darkness, our Beacon in the night.
Follow the Babe of Bethlehem, oh be reborn in Him.
The Lamb who has redeemed us and cleansed us of our sin.
Follow the Star of Bethlehem, the precious Son of God.
Follow in His footsteps on the thorn-strewn path
He trod.*

By Elizabeth B. Delea

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
From the BWC-UMW Leadership Team*

*Elizabeth Mitchell Stemley, President (Outgoing)
Linda Yost, Vice President (President-elect)
Gertrude White, Communications Coordinator (Task Force) (Outgoing)*

