



Vol 38 Issue 1

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The Growing Edge

Puget Sound Missional District
United Women in Faith (New)

March 2022

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A President's Perspective

*Jasmine Ray-Symms, Interim President
Puget Sound Missional District*

As many of you know, we lost our District President, Arlene Feroe in December. I felt the loss personally as she had helped me in my role as Vice President. Always available for questions, she kept me on track in my new role in the midst of COVID. She stayed on top of things while our world was a bit crazy. I will miss her but know she is with our Lord and Savior and I will see her again.

I've stepped up as interim President. This is a new role for me and I'm sad I won't have Arlene's help in performing these duties. I ask for your patience a "new normal." Thanks!

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Things are Changing for UMW...(from the website)

(Some paraphrasing) You've been hearing about changes on the horizon to our beloved organization and new ways to join the work. We have also promised a new look.

Your wait is almost over.

Our new website debuts in one week. And be sure to tune into our Facebook page on March 1 for the unveiling and appearance of logo from General Secretary Harriet Jane Olson and National Board President Anise Isama'u join in and help us celebrate

March is both Women's history month and the month of our founding in 1858 March is the perfect time for us to appreciating our history by stepping into our future. United Methodist Women is making changes to better reflect how we answer our calling today. It's an exhilarating time for us.

Video to share

<https://www.facebook.com/uwomenfaith/videos/1146469479440903/>



A News Release – From the Top



NEW NAME AND NEW LOGO

Mission u will continue its commitment to learning together for the transformation of the world and expand **NEW YORK, N.Y., Mar. 2, 2022:** United Methodist Women is now **United Women in Faith!** The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

The organization announced the new operating name in the March-April edition of **response**, its bimonthly magazine for members, and is launching the rebrand with a new website and Face Book event March 3 at 1 pm ET.

The new programs are fruits of research conducted over the past five years with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other Christian traditions participating in the surveys, focus groups and interviews. This input informed the prayerful discernment of staff and elected leaders.

The changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement. The new name also aims to welcome current members whose local churches may choose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join.

New and innovative programs will be rolled out throughout 2022, including:

- **A new, easier to navigate website** with a homepage designed to pique new women's interest in United Women in Faith and a special portal set to come online later this

year where members can log in to access additional resources.

- **A new “All-Access” National Membership Option** enabling women to join United Women in Faith via the new website and participate online or in person at local units or larger events
- **Soul Care Retreats**, a pilot recruitment program for members and their nonmember friends and new women focused on nurturing women's bodies, minds, and spirits.
- **Innovations to Mission u**, the organization's longtime spiritual growth and transformative education program. Beginning in spring 2022, Mission u will introduce new curricula each year—one for children, one for youth and one for adults—all focused on a shared biblical theme. The new Mission u curricula will be more adaptable for use in small groups, local churches, vacation Bible schools, retreats, and other settings. Through these vibrant, relevant, justice-oriented, and biblically centered curricula, its impact.

“This is an exciting time for our organization!” said Harriett Jane Olson, CEO of **United Women in Faith**. “Looking back, we see the through lines for our organization—faith in God, love for each other and commitment to putting our faith into action supporting women, children, and youth. These commitments have been expressed in different ways at different times using different names, always calling women to world changing action. This combination of a new look, more accessible resources for members and new ways to participate, positions us for impact in our own journeys and in how we engage the world that God so loves.”

‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, **United Women in Faith** Board President, said the changes express the organization's core values in ways that will excite current members and invite new women to join us.

“I’m confident our members will be excited about these changes,” she said. “Together we are creating more opportunities for engagement with more women through new programs and updates of

long-standing programs that embody our core values. Things change. People change. But God remains, and that continues to be the purpose behind everything that we do in this organization.”

The organization remains incorporated in New York as United Methodist Women and is doing business as United Women in Faith.

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

PROGRAM RESOURCES

Greetings:

Hope everyone is getting an opportunity to get outside and check out the Spring flowers.

In the November/December 2021 issue of “**response**” magazine is an excellent article on the 2021-2022 Reading Program (pages 32-35). The article explains the requirements for each of the four Reading Program Plans. Additional books have been added to the Reading Program for 2022. Also, a brief summary of each book for 2022 is listed.

There are four plans in the Reading Program. You can select books from the 2015 through 2021-2022 reading lists if not read for previous reports.

Plan 1: 5 books a year

Read one book from each category and regular reading of “**response**” magazine.

Plan 2: 10 books a year

Read two books from each category and regular reading of “**response**” magazine.

Plan 3: 15 books a year

Read two books from each category, plus “5” additional books from any category and regular reading of “**response**” magazine.

Plan 4: 20 books a year

Read two books from each category, plus “10”

additional books from any category and regular reading of “**response**” magazine.

A BOOK STUDY

The updated 2021-2022 United Methodist Women Reading Program Guide is available for viewing online at unitedmethodistwomen.org



One of the new books for 2022 from the Leadership Development category is “**Becoming**” by **Michelle Obama**. “Michelle Obama has emerged as one of the most iconic and compelling women of our era. As First Lady of the United States of America---the first African American to serve in that role---she helped create the most welcoming and inclusive White House, while establishing herself as a powerful advocate for women and girls and standing with her husband as he led the nation. In her memoir, Michelle Obama chronicles the experiences that have shaped her---from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing motherhood and work to her time spent at the world’s most famous address.” [UMW Reading Program Guide]

One of the experiences Michelle shared in the book was when she went to an appointment with the school college counselor. Michelle planned on going to Princeton where her brother, Craig attended. The counselor told Michelle that she wasn’t sure Michelle was “Princeton material.” Michelle felt the counselor was planting a “suggestion of failure” before Michelle had even tried to succeed. She felt the counselor was telling her to lower her sights which was the absolute opposite of everything that her parents had ever told her. She switched her method without changing her goal. She applied to Princeton without any more input from the college counselor. She asked a neighbor who knew her and was an assistant principal to write a recommendation letter.

In her college essay, she wrote about her “father’s Multiple Sclerosis and her family’s lack of experience with higher education. She owned the fact that she was reaching.” In a few months, a

letter arrived offering her admission to Princeton.

I'm enjoying reading the book. Actually, I have a hard time putting it down at night. I'm up to page 170 now in the book, and she has just married Barack. Barack always had a lot of "irons" in the fire. He had been given an advance to write a book ("Dreams of My Father"), but he missed the first draft deadline draft; so, they cancelled him. He went to a cabin in S. Pacific to write (gone 5 weeks) and there was Michelle newly married living in apt. in her Mother's house alone. A lesson in giving your spouse space to accomplish his goals. I like the title of the book, "Becoming." In Michelle's mind you just don't become someone, it's the journey of life and the experiences along the way that are constantly shaping you. I'm sure there are more gems in the book about lessons she has learned and I'm looking forward to reading them.

Naomi Foote

Program Resources Secretary

From the website: The Reading Program encourages members to think critically about current issues through an annual selection of member-reviewed books. It offers an excellent opportunity to deepen your spirituality and to broaden your understanding of our mission work. More information about the Reading Program can be found on the UMW National website at the following website. <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>.

The current catalog at this link:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogramcatalog2021.pdf>. Ask questions if you cannot locate the books you want.

Books, books, books

We encourage you to reach out to other churches to find some of the books on the list if you cannot find them at the local library. We realize you do not all have access to electronic versions of the books, so we are still reading real books.

Mission Today

Gold Unit: Complete at least 16 of the criteria, 10 of which must be marked with a star.

Silver Unit: complete at least 8 of the criteria, 4 of which must be marked with a star.

Mission u

Mission u is projected to be July 22-24, 2022, at Wesley UMC, Yakima, WA. This year, we plan to meet in person.

FROM THE WEBSITE: All our 2022 curricula are based on Luke 13, as we turn to stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities in challenging times for over 2 millennia. Our adult curriculum, *Who Can We Be Together*: brings participants deeper into Jesus' teachings to explore what it means to be in community.

"Mission u" is the primary mission education event for the Conference. The event provides opportunities for everyone: women, men, pastors, families, youth, and children to grow in understanding of the mission of the church in the current world context as well initiate opportunities for spiritual and educational experiences. For participants, Mission u is an opportunity to study current issues impacting society with particular attention to the responsibilities of women in fulfilling the mission work of the church. Conference events are open to members and non-members of United Methodist Women who wish to grow in mission understanding of the church in the current world context. Come, enjoy this learning opportunity.

SOCIAL ACTION

Blessings to all of you as we walk through this time of Lent while praying for PEACE and justice in our country and in the world.

March is *Women's History Month* and the month of our founding in 1869. Our UMW has gone through at least 25 name changes to reflect the times, as different women's groups came together, and other reasons, March is the perfect time for us to honor our history by stepping boldly in to our future. March 3rd, our organization adopted a new

name: **United Women in Faith**, a new website, and new materials.

This is an exhilarating time as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action and impact. We are women of passion and power united by God's love in our mission to uplift women, children and youth. Let's stand together to continue to put love into action. What is one thing you are willing to do?

"To celebrate our new look and new name, the March/April 2022 digital issue of response is free for everyone! This issue not only features an article on our new brand, but it's also the special biennial mission maps issue, showing the people and programs your generous Mission Giving supports around the world. Read your issue [here](#), and share with friends!"

There have been wonderfully informative and energizing programs online, thanks to zoom. I encourage you to check out the various links online for both *United Methodist Women* and *United Women in Faith*. I've gotten hooked on the UMW Just Energy for All meetings on the first Tuesday monthly at 4 PM our time. Another site I tune in is the UMW monthly "Faith Talks."

As Covid 19 continues to affect our gatherings, at least we can wear masks and be "socially distanced" for worship services, Bible Studies, meetings, or we connect via Zoom or our church's new "Owl" system. What is happening in your church and women's group? I pray you each stay safe, healthy, happy, and grateful for each day.

Jeannine "Jeannie" Lish
Social Action Coordinator
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**YOUR NOMINATION COMMITTEE.
PLEASE CONTACT ANYONE ON THIS
LIST FOR A DISTRICT POSITION.**

Joanne Hall
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Nominations Member – Open
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Open spots in Puget Sound Missional District Team

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| Secretary | Open |
| Spiritual Growth | Open |
| Membership, Nurture, and Outreach | Open |
| Nominations member (3) | Open |
| | |

Please volunteer to be part of the future.



A Message from Colby UMW

We're Small But Mighty – Colby United Methodist Women

Reflecting over 2 years

Greetings everyone. The Colby UMW, although small in number, has embraced our restrictions in this time of the pandemic and has continued our mission work over the past two years in creative ways.

Holiday Bazaar 2020 - In the Age of COVID

While we were unable to have our annual Holiday Bazaar in-person in November of 2020, we compiled an inventory of the items that members had been working on from home and took orders via email from church members. We grossed around \$500 from this effort. We were able to then continue to support some of our missions in a limited way.

Food Drives

Colby UMW annually supports our local food bank-the South Kitsap Helpline-through a cash donation. Because we did not have the same level of funds due to the decrease in our budget (less money from our Holiday Bazaar), we decided to sponsor “drive-thru” food collections for the Helpline. We held these drive-thru food collections in August, 2020; March, 2021; and July, 2021. We set up a canopy in our church parking lot, masked up and had people drive up, masked and hand us their food items without getting out of their vehicles. The community responded to our advertising on the Helpline website, our church’s Facebook pages as well as other community Facebook pages, posters at three community post offices and our local library branch. We collected well over a **TON** of food. (*Yes, it was weighed.*) (see below)



Discovery Alternative School

Colby UMW also supports our local Discovery Alternative School every year by making hand-tied fleece blankets for the students as well as baby blankets and quilts. Since we could not meet in person in 2020-21 to hand-tie the blankets we each worked on a blanket or two at home and collected the blankets during the March, 2021 food drive (Pictured below). There were 10 baby blankets and five hand-tied blankets.



Despite the challenges we found many ways to stay connected and stay involved.

By Deanna Bedell, President, Colby UMW
Colby United Methodist Women
P.O. Box 4299
South Colby, WA 98384

OPEN INVITATION

*We invite all churches in the District to
share their stories, events, and goals.
Hope you will tell your story in The
Growing Edge.*

Assembly 2022
In-person in Orlando, FL
Virtual – from home

In 2022 we will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new faith-filled women to make a difference in our community and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this, we will TURN IT UP!!

In-person cost \$365.00
Virtual attendance \$235
United Methodist Women –
Assembly
Orlando, Florida May 20-22, 2022



[Join Us For Assembly 2022 | Turn It Up!](#)

Virtual Option

If you can't join us in Orlando, then join us from your living room! Assembly 2022 has both in-person and online experiences allowing even more women to participate and Turn it Up. Virtual attendees get access to all five Community Gatherings. One workshop one Friday and Saturday, exclusive behind-the-scenes speaker interviews, and sisterhood networking.

From the website:

What good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. What if one of you said, Go in peace! Stay warm. Have a nice meal! What good is it if you don't actually give them what their body needs? In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn't result in faithful activity. James 2:14-17 from common English Bible.

Staying in Touch



Communication is so important when we need to update records, stay in touch, remember events, and keep friends updated with important information. This includes our Directory, our church status, changes in leadership and so on.

Let us know if you change officers, change membership, change contact information, or there is a change in church leadership. We are now tracking the membership in 27 churches (a few UMW groups have disbanded.) We need to hear from you whenever there are any changes in leadership

Gay Johnson
Puget Sound Missional District
Communications Coordinator

THE SHARING LINE

The newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Methodist Women is

The Growing Edge:

This is a digital newsletter from Puget Sound Missional District, United Women in Faith and is produced three times per year. It is distributed in PDF format by email.

Copies sent via email to:

- ❖ Local UMW Officers
- ❖ District UMW Officers
- ❖ Conference UMW Officers
- ❖ District Communications Coordinator

LIKE US on our Facebook Page
"Pacific Northwest Conference of United Methodist Women"

OLD LOGO



NEW LOGO



A Note from the Editor

We lost our beloved District President, Arlene Feroe, in early December. She will surely be missed. I look forward the coming year in United Women in Faith and the chance again, to meet in person and meet new people in our District and the Conference. Our world has faced a pandemic that has made it difficult to gather, see friends and family, and move forward on the special efforts of our groups. I still believe in United Women in Faith and the focus we have on helping women and children and youth. In the past week, I have heard two people say “you can’t give up” (you’re in leadership) and that is where I find the work of our groups that are focused on helping people, usually suffering in some way and needing help from others. We are those people. I always remember the hymns that tell us that we are called and we answer, “Here I am Lord.” We just can’t give up. I also remember that 150 years, women have worked long and hard to make United Women in Faith (a new name) the special people in the United Methodist Church that makes a difference in the world.

Gay Johnson,
Communications Coordinator,
gajedmonds1325@yahoo.com



| 2022 PNW UMW Conference Calendar | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|
| March 18-20, 2022 | Spring Conference UMW Exec Meeting | zoom |
| March 23, 2022 | Day of Giving | |
| March 30, 2022 | Annual Membership Census Due Online | |
| April 2, 2022 | Mission u Training Begins | |
| May 20-22, 2022 | Assembly | Orlando, FL |
| May 26, 2022 | Puget Sound Missional District Exec Meeting | Marysville, WA |
| June 9-12, 2022 | UMC Greater NW Shared Annual Conference | WA State Fairgrounds Puyallup, WA |
| July 21-22, 2022 | Summer Conference UMW Exec Meeting | Selah UMC Selah, WA |
| July 22-24, 2022 | Mission u | Wesley UMC Yakima, WA |
| September 10, 2022 | Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting | TBD |
| September 17, 2022 | Inland Missional District Annual meeting | Spokane Valley UMC Spokane Valley, WA |
| September 17, 2022 | Even Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting | TBD |
| September 2022 | Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting | TBD |
| September 2022 | SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting | TBD |
| October 13-14, 2022 | Fall Conference UMW Exec Meeting | Bothell UMC Bothell, WA |
| October 14-15, 2022 | Conference UMW Annual Meeting | Bothell UMC Bothell, WA |
| 2024 | Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting | TBD |
| | | |

Mark your calendars now for upcoming events

Every Day is Beautiful. Find the Joy in Your Heart.

