



United
Women
in Faith

Timely Reflections

August 2025

INAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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WEBSITES: uwfaith.org

pnwumc.org/uwfaith

**Inspire, Influence, Impact with
a message of HOPE. Show
your love with words, service,
and deeds.**

THE PURPOSE

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

CALENDAR 2025

September 20 IMD Annual Gathering
Spokane Valley, WA

October 17-18 PNW Annual Meeting
Bothell, WA

November 7 Newsletter deadline

November 8 IMD Exec Mtg Zoom

UWF National Assembly in

**Indianapolis, IN May 15-17,
2026**

Save The Date



**WFMUCW
15TH WORLD
ASSEMBLY**

25-29 AUGUST 2026

Auckland, New Zealand

Delegates & Visitors arrive on 24th
and depart on 30th August 2026

The Scoop

President Report Inland Missional District Summer 2025

I hope your summer has been going well. I have been reading and REALLY enjoyed the book “Seven Transforming Gifts of Menopause: An Unexpected Spiritual Journey”. It really helped to normalize all I was experiencing in my menopausal journey and put things in a spiritual context. It’s a quick read and worth the time. I also thoroughly enjoyed unit visits to Rockford and to the newly forming Lewiston/Clarkston/Asotin/Lewiston Orchards UWF unit(s).

Rockford is using all the UWF resources like the program book, prayer guide, and Response magazine and they are utilizing opportunities for mission fundraising like Prayer and Self Denial offerings. They have a very active reading program and have delivered over 50 quilts to Ronald McDonald House, Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery, and the Martin Luther King Center in Spokane. As a racial just-focused activity, they visited a Tlingit display at the local MAC museum in Spokane.

At our visit in Lewiston, I facilitated a conversation about the possibilities and opportunities for the newly forming unit(s) as the four churches combine their congregations. Each individual unit has a different perspective and missional emphasis, but they found that they might be interested in mission focuses from each other’s units. Lewiston Orchards is very focused on their work with Samaritan’s purse, creating 175 boxes to donate for those in need. Clarkston has an annual bazaar in addition to yard sale and various luncheons used as fund raisers for local needs like the food bank and Snake River Clinic in addition to their regular mission giving to UWF. Asotin is very involved with Operation Christmas Child- compiling boxes for Children and hosting yard sales to fund this work- including recycling cans to cover the cost of shipping boxes to children. They hold a luncheon to adopt a family in this project as well. All this wonderful work will undoubtedly continue as the units discern whether/how they want to combine. We talked about the possibility of having mission-specific circles within one unit, but they will be prayerfully discerning their future this summer.

I want to send out a personal “kudos” to Kathy Johnson, our UWF Inland Missional District Spiritual Growth Coordinator, who graciously served as guest speaker for Spokane Valley UMC’s United Women in Faith Sunday last month. I had the pleasure of hosting Kathy the evening before she spoke and found our conversations to be deep and connectional. I am grateful that she has been willing to share her wisdom, speaking gifts and openness with others- our District is lucky to have her! Thanks Kathy!

I know several of you have been dealing with personal health challenges or losses and the stress of caregiving for ill family members. I want you all to know that you have a wider circle of women who care about you and would love to extend compassion and support in your time of need. Please let us know if you have a desire or need for companionship or just a phone call now and then if you are feeling lonely or going through a difficult time. Reaching out can be hard but rewarding, and I know we have a lot of caring women ready to lend support.

On a final note, I am excited for a meaningful time of gathering and study and worship at Mission U next week (as I write this letter)! In addition to that, I look forward to other exciting events coming up- our own Inland Missional District Annual Gathering at Spokane Valley UMC on Sept 20, 2025, and our Pacific Northwest Conference Annual Gathering in Bothell, WA OCT 17-18, 2025. If you’re looking for a great getaway with a couple thousand like-minded women, be sure to put UWF National Assembly on your calendar- May 15-17, 2026.

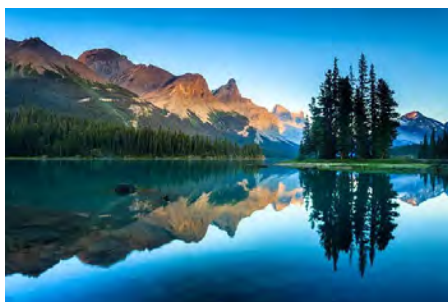
Take care everyone! I’ll see you all at our Saturday August 2nd Meeting at 9:30am-1pm on site at Spokane Valley UMC in room 115 (next to the kitchen) for our finishing touches and preparation for Annual Meeting. Please bring a sack lunch and your own beverage.

Take care everyone! Robin

From your Vice President...

Save the Date!

**Inland Missional District Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025 at
Spokane Valley UMC in Spokane Valley.**



District Annual Gathering is almost here!

The time is drawing near for our District Annual Gathering being held at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church. Mark your calendar for Saturday, Sept. 20, 2025. Registration begins at 8:30 so join us for an exciting learning opportunity discussing our national focus of *Climate Justice* and what we as women of faith can do to affect change in our communities to bring better and brighter futures to children, youth and women locally.

Please fill out the registration located in this newsletter and get it sent in before the early bird deadline of Sept. 4 and we will see you on Sept. 20th!

UWIF Pacific NW Conference

Annual Gathering

October 17-18 at Bothell UMC

IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

Keynote speaker: Jana Jones

United Women in Faith

National President

See Registration Form on page 4





Registration Form

2025 Inland District United Women in Faith Annual Gathering
September 20, 2025 - Spokane Valley United Methodist Church
"Stewards of Creation"

8:30 – 9:00 Registration; 8:45 – 9:20 Coffee and Snacks; 9:30 a.m. start at SVUMC, 115 N. Raymond Rd., Spokane Valley, WA.

Arrive early to greet your sisters in Christ over coffee, juice and snacks. With the UWF focus on climate justice, we have invited Julia Petersen to speak from the *Evergreen Foundation*, a non profit agency in the Pacific Northwest. After lunch, we will break out into small groups to learn more about how the local and district leadership fulfills the work of United Women in Faith.

Find the registration form for our Inland District Annual Gathering below. Please fill it out and send it to Roberta Headley. Early bird registration (due Sept. 4, 2025) is \$20.00. Cost at the door will be \$25.00. Share with your units and we hope you all will join us!

+++++

NAME: _____ UNIT/CHURCH: _____

LOCAL OFFICER? --__ NO __ YES If so, which office? _____

FOOD RESTRICTIONS: _____

REGISTRATION \$ _____

Please mark 3 offices (1st, 2nd, 3rd) of which you would like to learn more:

___ President or V. Pres./Planning ___ Secretary or Communications Coordinator

___ Treasurer ___ Program Resources or Spiritual Growth Coordinator

___ Education & Interpretation or Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator

___ Social Action Coordinator or Nominations Committee Member

Send form and money to Roberta Headley, Treasurer, 17008 E. Bill Gulch Road, Mead, WA 99021; beancounters87@yahoo.com.

***Checks should be made out to PNW Conf. UWIF Inland District.**

Annual Gathering Registration Form
Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith
October 17 and 18, 2025

Bothell United Methodist Church — 18515 92nd Ave NE, Bothell, WA 98011

REGISTRATION DEADLINE—SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Name for your Name Badge _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____ Email _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Church _____ District _____ Conference _____

Are you an officer? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, position _____ Home hospitality
needed Yes ☐ No ☐

Dietary: We will work hard to accommodate most diets by providing various options. Gluten-free and diabetic choices will be available.

Food Allergies: _____

ADA needs: We are happy to help you prepare for an enjoyable experience! Please share your challenges or concerns. If we don't know before the event, we may not be equipped to assist: _____

Childcare will be available. Please note the ages and number of your children:

Infants _____ 2 to 3 years _____ 4 to 5 years _____ 6 to 8 years _____
9 to 11 years _____

Do you need a lanyard for your name badge? Yes ☐ No ☐ (Please bring a name badge holder if you have one.)

Are you interested in purchasing a sack lunch for Saturday, October 18? Yes ☐ No ☐

(Veggie or turkey/cheese sandwich, chips, fruit, dessert, and water bottle.)

Can we use your photo in promotional materials? Yes ☐ No ☐

311 E Marshall, Spokane, WA 99207-5438

For questions, call Sharon at 509-534-2083 (Home) or 509-939-8677 (Cell) or email: shrstovall@peoplepc.com

Causes of Women Being Incarcerated

in Idaho

Continuing my research on the reasons Idaho has the highest incarceration rate of women, I found some interesting facts about this topic. In the articles I found, they classified the situation a “crisis ” **due to the disproportionate number of women involved with the criminal justice system in the state.”**

Over the past four years, Idaho has ranked 1st in the country for women in jail. The largest proportion of the women were convicted on drug-related charges (62%) while 16% of women were convicted on violent crimes.

The articles also listed some reasons for women being incarcerated. Some of those are experience with “trauma, abuse, and physical or sexual violence.” These women are often suffering from depression or PTSD which leads them to drug possession or abuse and subsequently, incarceration. Most of the women serve about 22 months in jail before they are released. The effect this has on their families, education, employment, healthcare, childcare can make it difficult for everyone involved. Idaho spends approximately \$27,134 a year per person. Other states, such as Texas, have been successful at reducing the number women in their jails

The second article I read listed some ways for Idaho to decrease the number of women incarcerated each year:

Policy Solutions to End Idaho’s Status as the Lead Incarcerator of Women

Resources for community-based treatment should be expanded

Existing diversion programs should be expanded and new diversion programs that focus on the unique needs of women should be created.

Drug courts with a track record of success should be expanded.

Idaho should consider sentencing reform.

Jails and prisons should expand Medically Assisted Treatment.

Prisons should offer gender-responsive programming.

Idaho should pass a law allowing credit for good time.

Idaho should consider changes to the parole system.

Prison and reentry programs should be designed to address the specific needs of women.

This is a social justice topic that needs to be looked at in our own communities, talked about, and hopefully, action can be taken to help those who are affected by this problem.

Education & Interpretation

I have received the information on the Gold or Silver Units. I'll need the information for the 5 Star or 5 Star plus 2 certificates. I attended Mission U and it went well. I helped make sandwiches this year. Remember to send your Pledges to Mission if you haven't done so already.

Charlene Mullis

Making Sandwiches For the Homeless



Packaging Feminine Hygiene Kits



**Inland District women attended Mission U in Yakima, Washington
to enjoy the experience of fellowship and sharing of hope.**



Altar of Hope





Program Resource Report August 2025

Tana Truscott

Summertime gives us lots of opportunities for relaxing, sipping a cool drink, and hopefully reading a good book from the numerous UWIF resource list. I have been reviewing the books read from several units, and the variety is impressive.

I was reminded of the past when our boys were teenagers. Each dinner hour was lively with conversation of their days at school, activities, and often the books they were reading. Some books my husband and I had read so we could engage and participate in critiquing that particular book. We talked about the courage, honesty, and principles displayed by the characters, and overall moral lessons to be discerned. In significant ways, our children's values were formed and cemented, not only by us, but by their teachers, coaches, pastors, and community mentors.

Reading books that give us a glimpse into others life challenges can spark a lifetime of activism and commitment to change.

Reading and discussing issues of importance is just one benefit of an UWIF book group. It can open ones' eyes to bravery and compassion, and often the unfairness and corruption that policies inflict on humans across the planet.

I invite you to participate in the Inland Missional District's annual meeting and learn more about our reading program; bring a book to resell at the Program Resource Table, and have a conversation about a good book you have read. Our reading program continues to grow- hope to meet you on September 20 at Spokane Valley.

Spiritual Growth

Centered In Our True Nature

Good and bad, emotions are not meant to last. Emotions are supposed to come and go because they're nothing more than signals from our brains to say that something is an opportunity or a threat. Interestingly, the emotions of anxiety and excitement are quite similar. Though there is one significant difference, anxiety is backward focused while excitement is forward focused. It is important to note our physical body is in the present and will try to keep you centered in our true nature. We are God's creation. We are nature. At times, we mistake feelings/emotions with who we truly are. We are God's beloved. We are luminous, bright, compassionate and present.

The intent of UWF Soul Care is to align mind, body and soul with God, allowing us to be present, living in our true nature and fulfilling The Holy One's purpose for us. 2026 will bring a soul care event to the Inland District. This is an opportunity to practice being centered, nurturing self, while actively being part of a sisterhood.

Your input is being sought to define/shape a meaningful Soul Care event. Share your input by responding to the questions and feel free to offer other in depth ideas and suggestions. Provide input to **Kathy M Johnson, Inland District Spiritual Growth Coordinator**, via mail: 1860 Frederickson Drive, Clarkston, WA 99403; email: kmiwvmo@gmail.com or text/call: 304-667-4820.

Are there specific topics/issues you would like addressed at a retreat?

What are the biggest spiritual or personal challenges you are facing now?

What would you find supportive in your spiritual growth and walk with Christ?

What activities would help you feel more fully connected within women of faith?

- Bible study
- Small group activity
- Fellowship meal
- Service/Outreach "hands on" opportunity
- Other (please specify):

Make an Impact

Small-Scale Grant Opportunity for Districts and Units Working to Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Deadline to Apply: September 1, 2025

The Office of Racial Justice invites United Women in Faith Districts and Units to apply for funding to support their local work to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and/or end mass incarceration.

Goal of Funding Support – To advance UWIF’s efforts to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and end mass incarceration by providing small-scale seed funding to support district and local unit projects.

Available Funding Support—Consideration will be given to funding requests of \$100-\$,1500. Funding is limited. Please budget responsibly and request only the amount needed. Request for funding support in excess of \$1,500 will not be considered.

Criteria for Evaluating Applications for Funding Support—Your project should have a **clear goal** connected to interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and/or ending mass incarceration. Goals may be at any level, from changing the practice of an individual school to shifting federal juvenile justice policy. Project goals should demonstrate a healthy mix of ambition and realism.

Your project should **include the voices of directly-impacted people** in the leadership and/or decision-making process. Depending on your specific context, this may include students at risk of pushout, currently-or formerly-incarcerated people, or others.

We believe we do our best and most sustainable work when we work together. With that in mind, UWIF groups are welcome to apply for funding to support **collaborative work** in coalition/partnership with other local organizations, as long as the work involves substantial and active participation from the United Women in Faith Unit or District, as well.

Groups that receive funding will be asked to report on their results, including:

- * What was done; *Who was involved; *How the community was impacted; *How funds were spent; *What next steps are planned; and *What was learned.

Timeline

Application deadline—September 1, 2025

- * Groups notified of funding support decisions—by October 15, 2025
- * Groups confirm plan to move forward (or not) - By November 1, 2025
- * Selected groups(s) receive funding—by December 15, 2025
- * Implementation of project—Calendar Year 2026
- * Report on results due—by February 1, 2027

Emily Jones, UWIF ejones@uwfaith.org to get link for directions and application forms

You're Invited
Bible Study Series: Embracing God's Call:
A Bible Study on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Led by Dr. Faye Wilson and Ellen Lipsey
5 Wednesdays: September 10, 17, 24, and October 1, 8
4PM-5:30PM PT



Dr Faye Wilson



Ellen Lipsey

Pre-Registration is required. Please copy and paste the following text
Into your browser window:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SZS9FHG>

You can reply-To:

us6-84ea32fa43-a0d0f25f3e@inbound.mailchimpapp.net

Inquiries may be made to ejones@uwfaith.org

Dear Conference Presidents and Program Advisory Group members,

United Women in Faith shares ecumenical ties with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW). www.wfmucw.org. We are part of the North American Area affiliated units.

One of their programs, designed to offer leadership development training to young women is called the Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship. Every 5 years, 2 women between the ages of 18-30 are chosen from each of the 9 world areas to participate in this leadership training, and every unit may submit 2 names for consideration.

We would like to offer the opportunity for each conference to submit one woman's name for consideration. This is not an academic scholarship, but an opportunity to attend the world assembly (which will be in Auckland, NZ in August of 2026), to learn and network with women from all over the world. You can read more about the program and current recipients at [Helen Kim Memorial Scholarship – World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women](#).

Eligibility for selection criteria includes:

- aged between 18 and 30 years at the time of the World Federation World Assembly.
- committed members of a Methodist, United or Uniting Church;
- involved in women's issues and/or church work;
- persons who have shown leadership abilities;
- able to state ways in which they would be able to share their newly acquired skills;
- nominated by a member of their local World Federation Unit;
- endorsed by their minister and Unit President.

Completed applications must be returned to me by September 30, 2025. You can send scanned applications directly to me at uwfaithnationalpresident@gmail.com or mail them to me in care of the national office.

And perhaps you have women interested in traveling to Auckland for the World Assembly! Below you'll find the promo information. It is sure to be an amazing experience!

Thank you for all you do, putting Love into Action.

Sincerely,

Jana

Jana Jones

President

Board of Directors, Program Advisory Group

United Women in Faith

Church Center for the United Nations
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Save The Date



WFMUCW
15TH WORLD
ASSEMBLY

25-29 AUGUST 2026
Auckland, New Zealand

Delegates & Visitors arrive on 24th
and depart on 30th August 2026



Empower Mission Giving Today!

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38 (NIV)

In 1869, a group of 8 women in Boston put their love in action by responding to the spiritual and physical needs of their sisters in India. They founded the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, setting dues at one dollar per year, "that membership might be within the means of every woman in the church." Within six months, these fearless women grew their community to hundreds of women who raised enough money to send educator Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain to India, opening the first women's college and the first women's hospital in Asia, both of which still serve the people of India to this day!

Today, United Women in Faith continues to be powered by acts of love, from women just like you!

Through your Pledge to Mission, you provide a foundation of support to United Women in Faith, ensuring the continuation of millions of dollars in grants and scholarships for organizations and individuals in need around the world, including 80+ community-based National Mission Institutions!

But that's not all. Mission Giving empowers our community to take positive action on issues around racial and climate justice and to develop our next generation of women leaders.

Will you join me today in helping to sustain the heart of our Mission: to improve the lives of women, children, and youth, by fulfilling your pledge early or increasing your pledge?

Your gift, when combined together with gifts from thousands of our fellow sisters, fuels a mission enterprise that puts love in action every day. I am truly humbled by your generosity, and steadfast commitment to United Women in Faith. Thank you for all you do, every day, to put love in action for a better world!

Faithfully forward, Jana L Jones, National President, UWIF