A Publication of United Women of Faith — Pacific Northwest Conference

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# **DEB'S DISPATCH**



Greetings, my Beloved Sisters in Faith!

As I write this, I am humbly beginning my 4th year serving as your conference president. I

continue to be inspired by your passion for mission and justice! I feel blessed to be a part of a vital leadership team, as this makes our voices and actions even more bold! Thank you to all who have been willing to "say yes" to leadership calls on so many levels.

During our recent Annual Gathering of Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith, we joined with the focus: "If Not Now, When?" With our eyes on the scripture for our time together, Micah 6:8, we were challenged by an amazing panel of women as they responded to the question...How has your life been impacted by United Women in Faith? We also heard about their hopes for where our organization is

being called to be in Mission in the future. We were blessed to hear from our Bishop as he also shared his story of engagement with United Women in Faith and challenged us to take a very reflective view of where we have been called and where we may yet be called as we continue to keep our eyes on justice and bold action. It was a blessing to have our National President of United Women in Faith, Jana Jones, share with us on so many levels, and I know we all look forward to hearing more as she continues in this role.

Linda Hay (Walla Walla, Pioneer UMC) received the Racial Justice Award for her leadership in engagement with persons on the margins in the surrounding area.

We had discussions around the tables, participated in leadership development as we visited various informational displays, and we had our souls and bodies nourished as we were warmly welcomed by United Women of Faith at Bothell UMC. For those of you who were not able to attend, please know that you WERE missed.

(Continued on page 2)

# 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.



(Continued from page 1)

I continue to be blessed by those who are flexible in sharing their gifts through music, connecting, leading, and worship. I know that God has led these persons to places of ministry, sometimes spontaneously. What a beautiful service of remembrance as we honored our sisters who passed away since we last met. It is important to hold these women as sources of light and strength as we continue our legacy that has been so vital for the past 156+ years.

Our elected leadership team members for 2025—26 are devoted and eager to lead where they are being called!

Indeed, it was a power-packed 24 hours, and we eagerly await more opportunities to gather in 2026...

Assembly in Indianapolis, May 15—17; Mission u at Lazy F in July; and our 2026 Pacific Annual Gathering of United Women in Faith hosted by SeaTac Missional District, October 16—17.

My prayer for each of you is that you will continue to be blessed in your call to ministry, that you will continue to find strength for your journey, and that you will be given many opportunities to reach out to other women as you share how God is calling us to be Bold and put Love into Action...If Not Now, When?

Blessings,

Deb Avery PNW Conference President United Women in Faith

### FROM AN ASSEMBLY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

I first went to Assembly because the Women's Division invited one female seminary student and one seminary student's female spouse from each UMC—related seminary. The purpose was to bring us into the UMW mission as members and advocates in local churches, districts, and conferences at a time when pastors and pastors' wives were distancing themselves in many regions.

It was exciting to meet women from our 13 UM seminaries, exchanging stories about how life was for us. Very thoughtful to provide space and time for us to build some connections. I don't know if this is still done, but I've always been grateful for this wise decision.

The number of women was overwhelming, and the international flavors of the presentations were engaging. The speakers were amazing, and I have not forgotten.

It was there that I learned about domestic violence and how the wedding ceremony seemed to be implicated in men who started beating their wives after marriage.

It was there that I realized that we could have communion every Sunday worship. If we could serve thousands of women in 15 minutes, we could surely serve our not very large congregations if we organized the distribution.

Outside, there were people protesting our gathering, and many women stopped and patiently engaged in dialogue. At that time, the dominant issue was abortion, and also whether women should be leading in churches.

These are some of my memories. I always encouraged women from my local church unit to attend, but I always seemed to have obstacles to my returning.

The first time, I was beginning my ministry. I was among the young ones. Now, I am retired and will be one of the elders. I am very excited to have a second chance to attend Indianapolis in 2026 after Louisville in 1978.

Rev. Leslie Ann Knight

1981 Assistant, Tacoma 1st 1983 Elma 1984 Elma Satsop 1988 Spokane Manito 1995 Bellingham Garden 2003 Spokane Audubon Park 2007 Mercer Island 2010 Fircrest



Assembly is your chance to step away from the noise of daily life and dive into a weekend of learning, connecting, and recharging. Open your heart to renewal and inspiration!

As you get ready, reflect on these thoughtful prompts:

- What are you most excited to experience at Assembly?
- What lessons or experiences will you take back to your community?
- How can we help strengthen your journey of faith?

#### **BE PART OF THE EXPERIENCE**

This only happens once every four years. Don't miss your chance to grow in faith, find inspiration, and take action!

Let's come together to celebrate faith, empowerment, and sisterhood like never before. Will you join us?

Be ready to reserve your spot for Assembly 2026 and be part of something truly transformative!

MAKE YOUR
RESERVATION
TODAY!



### **REGISTER FOR ASSEMBLY 2026!**

**NOVEMBER 30, 2025: EARLY REGISTRATION CLOSES** 

Registration closes April 13, 2026



#### **PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE**

#### Thursday, May 14, 2026

10 a.m. Ubuntu Day of Service (optional, additional fee)

10 a.m. Soul Care Event (optional, additional fee)

#### Friday & Saturday, May 15-16, 2026

8:45 a.m. Community Gathering

10:45 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Workshops, Townhall Meetings, and Experience Hall

4:30 p.m. Community Gathering 6:30 p.m. Networking Dinners (Friday only, optional, additional fee)

7:00 p.m. Legacy Banquet (Saturday only, optional, additional fee)

#### Sunday, May 17, 2026

9 a.m. Community Gathering Assembly ends at noon

### **KEY NOTE SPEAKERS**

We are thrilled to share that Assembly 2026 will host longtime United Methodists Stacey Abrams and longtime UWFaith member Rev. Carolyn Abrams in conversation as our Inspiration Speakers.

# PARTIAL SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Find the Application on page 4 or <u>Online</u>



FIND OUT
MORE ON
THE
ASSEMBLY
WEBSITE:



assembly.uwfaith.org/ website/82390/

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ASSEMBLY

The Pacific Northwest United Women in Faith is offering scholarships for Assembly 2026 in Indianapolis, Indiana, May 15-17, 2026. Visit <a href="https://assembly.uwfaith.org/website/82390/home/">https://assembly.uwfaith.org/website/82390/home/</a> for further information about Assembly.

#### The criteria that the Scholarship Committee will look for are:

- Priority given to first-time attendees to a UWFaith Assembly.
- Have a passion for mission with women, children, and youth.
- Will be expected to share the experience with the Pacific Northwest UWFaith Conference, and at the local level upon return in either person or in writing.
- The recipient is expected to participate in two workshops, two townhalls, and three community gatherings.

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Personal Check amount of \$					
Total \$					
e amount that you are requesting \$					
Why you should receive a scholarship					
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Please complete and mail this Scholarship Application form along with your Registration Form by Date: November 20, 2025

Recipients of the Scholarships will be notified by November 28, 2025 Send To:

Jenny Bygland, 21445 94th Pl S, Kent, WA 98031 <a href="mailto:jbygland@kentmethodist.com">jbygland@kentmethodist.com</a>, 206-794-3379 (text ok)



In 1776, the American colonies began a political revolution.

In 1738, John Wesley's heart was strangely warmed, and he started his bloodless faith revolution which spread through England and this country.

In 1784, John Wesley dispatched Thomas Coke from England to found the independent Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

But small revolutions happen every day, minute by minute, through our choices and God's prodding.

United Women in Faith (UWF) is changing, too.

'Mission Today' has ended, but we must share steps towards growth, faith, and mission, as a way to inspire our communities.

Our new program is a framework for progress toward the next revolution—

REVOLUTIONS PER MINUTE!

# Share Your R.P.M.s...Startable

Reading Program

People

Membership

**Startable** 

Resources

**Programs** 

Mission

Unstoppable

Retreats

Publicity

Money

Contact Joan Hackett: revkeithjoan@hotmail.com or (360) 696-1615

Materials and ideas on RPMs can be requested on each topic by email.

Revolutionary Minutes or Startables on one or more topics about your unit can be sent to District E&Is and Joan by June 30 each year.

#### SUPPORT THE LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

Legacy Endowment Fund of United Women in Faith is a permanently invested endowment that supports the work of improving the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. The interest (\$2,000,000 so far) generated by the fund helps underwrite administrative costs, allowing more money to go directly into the mission. These financial resources ensure we can carry out our vital programs and activities for many years to come.

**Inspire**—Online Community Gatherings, Soul Care, Mission u, Faith Talks, Program Resources, Daily Prayer Guide, and Reading program.

Impact—National and International Mission Institutions, Just Energy for All/Climate Justice, Interrupt School to Prison Pipeline, Racial Justice, Office of Deaconesses and Home Missioners.

**Influence**—Membership, Leadership Development Days, and, of course, Legacy Endowment Fund.

# **WAYS TO GIVE TODAY:**

Scan this QR Code to be directed to the giving page.

Text "LEGACY" to 20503



Thank you! Together, we are building our Legacy!

# OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT THE LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

- Legacy Builders: \$18.69 or more a month
- Friends of Legacy: Major gifts or pledges of \$5,000 or more



- **1869 Society:** Planned estate gift
- Trifecta: Do all three!

Here are just three ways we make a difference: Providing healthy snacks to an after-school program for children living in poverty, supplying books for international scholarships, and purchasing baby chicks to create opportunities for women and children.

Thank you and blessings,

Marsha Aufenkamp, Legacy Liaison Coordinator.

#### **MISSION GIVING IN 2025**

Greetings, UWFaith Leaders!

I am writing to share an update on the Mission Giving received by the national office for the **Pacific Northwest** Conference of United Women in Faith.

Pledge 2025	\$70,000
Giving Through September 2025	\$80,657
Giving Through	
September 2024	\$20,690
(for comparison)	

Thank you for your support of our wider mission and for exceeding your pledge! And please read and share the <u>Annual Report 2024</u> when you get the chance. It has some great highlights from amazing things that were done last year!

Peace...

Tamara Clark, CPA Treasurer/CFO 332.240.2824

#### **United Women in Faith**

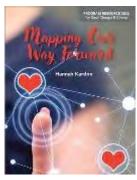
New York, NY 10017

Church Center for the United Nations 777 United Nations Plaza, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor

# **PLAN YOUR 2026 WITH THESE RESOURCES**

# 2026 PROGRAM RESOURCE GUIDE

The 2026
Program
Resource by
Hannah
Kardon,
Mapping Our
Way Forward,
is available in
digital and hard



-copy formats. To order, go to:

<u>uwfaithresources.org/</u>

<u>prodDetail.cfm?</u>

<u>productID=13206&catid=2177</u>

for a 20% offer available through December.

The resource title alone resonates with me. I rarely travel without the benefit of a map – on my phone, the car's navigational app, or a paper map/atlas. Guidance and reliable direction are essential. Whenever and whatever uncertainties we encounter, holding onto God and our core values will equip us to face challenges and remain grounded. Each program features a thematic Bible reading, a map to explore, discussion questions, and a closing prayer. Most months will have a specific connection to a United Women in Faith program, such as National Mission Institutions. The content could readily be pared down, used for a brief devotion, or expanded to a full program. Feel free to select the content based on your group's interest/focus rather than using the monthly calendar alone. Hannah Kardon is undoubtedly a familiar name to some. She is a UMC pastor and also serves in extension

ministry at Interfaith America. Or maybe you have read her previous writings as co-author of Finding Peace in an Anxious World and author of Healing & Joy on Our Journey to God. Her work offers perspective, insight, and challenges the reader to apply and go beyond superficial observations.

Also, take advantage of the United Women in Faith community gatherings. They are a monthly presentation and discussion of the upcoming program, guided by the author, accessed via a live Zoom. With time dedicated to small-group breakout sessions, I have found them to be a wonderful way to expand my connection with faith sisters across the country. Go to uwfaith.org/digital or subscribe to one of the paid resources.

Kathy M Johnson Conference Program Resource Mission Coordinator (304) 667-4820 kmjwvmo@gmail.com

# RESPONSE MAGAZINE,

The response is the award-winning official magazine of United Women in Faith. We explore spiritual growth and living our faith and report on our local, national, and international work.

Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind with features such as:

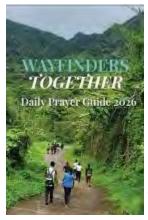
- Bible studies
- Opportunities for spiritual growth and development
- Articles on people and projects supported by your Mission Giving
- Regular features such as "Bright Lights" and "Responsively Yours"

Want a taste of response? Check out our free digital samplers—select stories from each issue.



**Subscribe** 

# **2026 PRAYER GUIDE**



We are grateful to offer you our beautifully crafted *Daily Prayer Guide* designed to inspire and equip you on your spiritual journey.

Whether you're enhancing your

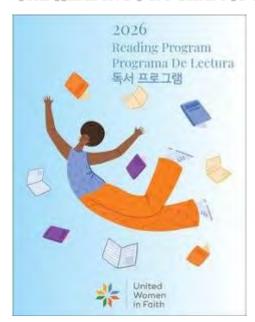
personal quiet time, leading a small women's group, or enriching programs, is a perfect companion.

Now through December, 20% off for both the 2026 Program Resource

and Prayer
Guide! Available
in print and
digital formats—
today!



### THE READING PROGRAM IS FOR EVERYONE



Dear United Women in Faith Members and Friends, We are delighted to announce the release of the **2026 Reading**  Program! It is available on the Reading Program webpage. https://uwfaithresources.org/ prodDetail.cfm?productID=13204 The Reading Program is a beloved tradition with a powerful future. Through the Reading Program, members and friends of United Women in Faith read and grow together, engaging contemporary books on spiritual growth, social action, leadership development, nurturing for community, and education for mission. We are for readers (and listeners) of all ages, with titles available for adults, youth, and children. We have programs available in English, Korean, and Spanish.

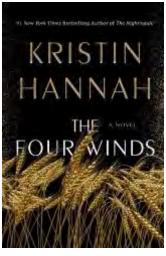
You can get the books wherever you'd like. You can borrow your books from the local library or purchase them from the bookseller of your choice. If you're looking for a centralized spot to buy Reading Program books while earning cash back for the organization, you can do so at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith. Finally, if you would like to stay in touch with the Reading Program throughout the year, including receiving invitations to author talks, book discussions, and volunteer

opportunities, please join our email list here.

Blessings, Emily Jones



# **BOOK REVIEW: THE FOUR WINDS BY KRISTIN HANNAH**



Kristin
Hannah's
The Four
Winds is a
powerful
and deeply
moving
novel set
during the
Great
Depression
and the
Dust Bowl

era of the 1930s. Through the eyes of Elsa Martinelli, we experience the harsh realities of poverty, drought, and displacement—but also the unyielding strength of a woman determined to protect her family and hold onto hope, a woman who discovers her inner courage as she struggles to provide for her family, amid hardship and loss.

Elsa's journey from a quiet, uncertain young woman to a courageous mother who fights for justice and survival is both heartbreaking and inspiring. Hannah vividly captures the suffering of those called "Okies" as they fled the Dust Bowl for a better life in California, only to find new struggles awaiting them there. Through Elsa's journey, we witness the incredible resilience that grows from love —especially a mother's love —and from the unshakable

hope that things can get better, even in the darkest of times.

One line that truly stands out says. "Courage is fear you ignore." This simple, profound reminder calls us, as women of faith, to continue standing strong in times of uncertainty—to care for others, to advocate for justice, and to trust that God is with us in every storm.

Much like Elsa, we, too, are invited to move forward with hope, grounded in faith and guided by love.

Marilyn Reid

### **YOUTH BOOK SELECTIONS**

After the PNW UWF annual gathering, as the newly installed Program Resources Coordinator, I reflected on messages shared by presenters and leadership. While there were many inspiring and informative points, I remain drawn to the important ribbon of thoughts and ideas prioritizing children/youth and young adults.

UWF consistently prioritizes children/youth among those we serve through National Mission Institutions. We recognize the importance of healthy children/youth in all communities. Social action efforts, including efforts to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, are intended to benefit children/youth. As a multi-generational organization, we offer youth curriculum at Mission u. The Reading Program includes identified children and youth selections.

Books, encompassing the reading program, help readers understand the world, grow in faith, and impact in meaningful ways. I encourage selecting 1-2 youth books as part of your reading. Read to understand the subject matter, but also consider what the book's style, word choices, and content help you appreciate about the target audience of youth. Better yet, take opportunities to read with or share the book, then discuss it with youth. The insights we glean from the perspectives of others can be just as valuable as the words on the page.

I recommend the youth books *Other* 



Words for Home by Jasmine Warga (2024 list) selection. Discussion questions appropriate for multi-generational conversation are in the **Reading Program catalog.** 

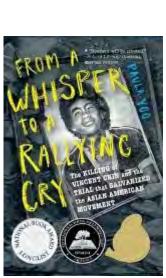
(<u>uwfaithresources.org/</u> prodDetail.cfm?productID=13204)

Finally, a special thank you to those, at the annual gathering, who contribute gently used reading program books for resale – a

wonderful reuse/recycle effort, and the monies are used to support the UWF mission.

Kathy M. Johnson (304) 667-4820 kmjwvmo@gmail.com

and *Starfish* by Lisa Fipps (2025 list).



This year, in the social action category, the youth book

From A

Whisper To A Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial That Galvanized the Asian American Movement by Paula Yoo is a bonus

# **CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB**

"We recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons. We rejoice in the gifts that ethnic histories and cultures bring to our total life. We commend and encourage the self -awareness of all racial and ethnic groups and oppressed people that leads them to demand their just and equal rights as members of society."

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." – Galatians 3:28



# HOW TO BECOME A CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB



For a local unit to become a Charter for Racial Justice Club member, the unit must carry out one

activity from each section during a calendar year. After that, the unit must complete one activity annually. If membership lapses, the unit must begin again with three activities.

Local units will work with a report to their District Mission coordinator for Social Action. The Racial Justice Committee will meet to consider the revisions of criteria annually.

Units will be recognized for becoming a Charter for Racial Justice Club.

Questions? Contact your District Mission Coordinator for Social Action.

# PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE RACIAL JUSTICE CHARTER COMMITTEE

- •Conference President
- Conference Vice President
- Nominations Committee Chair
- •Conference Social Action Coordinator
- District President
- Language Coordinator
- Member at Large

Annually, every Charter for Racial Justice Club Unit must read and review the Racial Justice Charter. This will be found on the website of <a href="mailto:pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/racial-justice">pnwumc.org/uwfaith/resources/racial-justice</a>, printable or downloadable.

The Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith Charter for Racial Justice Committee has worked to create new and universal (2018) criteria for the CRJ Club that will make participation both more accessible and more meaningful.

# **Purpose**

The organized unit of **United Women in Faith** shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

The United Women in Faith adopted the Charter for Racial Justice (CRJ) in 1978. The CRJ was adopted by the whole United Methodist Church in 1980.

### **OPTIONS FOR FULFILLMENT**

#### **UNIT PROGRAMMING**

From Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice, complete one Bible study, workshop, or worship service included within the Charter.

- In your unit or a small group, study the portion of the Racial Justice Timeline that spans your lifetime.
   Make written reflections and share them with other group members.
- Share (both positive and negative) local newspaper articles, United Women in Faith reading program books, and documentaries relating to racism. Forward the information shared with a short report to your District Mission Coordinator for Social Action. We may use them for display at either Mission U or the United Women in Faith Conference Annual Meeting
- Hold a letter-writing or postcardwriting correspondence party supporting or lobbying for racial justice legislation or policy.

#### **UNIT ENRICHMENT**

- As a unit, attend a worship service of a church, synagogue, or temple with a majority ethnic background different from your own. Be certain to inform the leadership of your intended visit.
- Watch a documentary or read a book containing racial justice themes with your unit, circle, or church small group. Discuss the movie using these three questions: Who is being exploited? Who benefits from the exploitation? What are we going to do about it?

- Have a member of your unit sign up to receive free email updates from:
  - The Sentencing Project, sentencingproject.org
  - Colorlines, colorlines.com
  - Equal Justice Initiative,
     eji.org.
- Be creative, and develop a Racial Justice learning experience for your unit or church.
- Present a program on equal education, housing, employment, or medical care exploring how race may have been a factor or implicated in the area.
- Plan jointly with a group of different racial/ethnic backgrounds:
- Programs from the United Women in Faith Program Resource Book at one or more meetings.
- Book reviews using books from the Reading Program with special emphasis on books related to minority groups and persons.
- Study groups using one of the current (racial justice) study themes.
- Ecumenical resources on social justice.

#### **BEYOND THE LOCAL UNIT**

- Host an international tasting party, cultural fair, or other event. Be certain to integrate a racial justice element into the programming.
- As a unit or with the church, sponsor a refugee family.

- For one month, scan the daily news media (TV/newspaper, advertising, pictures, and/or children's literature) to ascertain the degree of ethnic/racial/minority stereotyping portrayed.
- Use the information in one of the following ways:
- Design and present unit programs.
- Share information with the administrative body of your church.
- Share with Sunday School classes.
- Share with a youth group.
- Publish results of a survey in local church news media.

### TOOLS/REFERENCES

The following resources may be obtained at **uwfaith.org** 

- Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice (174 pages)
- Books from the United Women in Faith Reading Program
- Response Magazine
- Racial Justice Timeline
- History of Racial Justice

# PNW UWF CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUBS 2024–25

#### **INLAND DISTRICT**

Asotin (8th year)

Audubon Park (6th year)

Boners Ferry (10th year)

Clarkston (5th year)

Community/CDA (1st year)

Fowler (7th year)

Rockford (9th year)

Sandpoint (10th year)

Spokane Valley (11th year)

#### **PUGET SOUND**

Sedro Wolley Central (4th year)

#### **SEATAC**

Previous Year: Beacon, Haller Lake, Fairwood, and Ronald, but no reports submitted in 2025

#### **SEVEN RIVERS**

Omak (15th year)

Bridges (Wenatchee) (14th year)

Wesley Yakima (14th year)

# LINDA HAY, RECIPIENT OF 2025 RACIAL JUSTICE AWARD



### **MEET THE CONFERENCE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**



Tricia Bate, Puget Sound, Marsha Aufenkamp, Chair, Seven Rivers, Judy Dirks, Inland

Consider whether you will find your place on the United Women in Faith Conference Team. We can use someone from the Seven Rivers and SeaTac Districts to serve on the Nomination Committee.

You can find job descriptions and a fillable form on the Pacific Northwest

Conference website.

Blessings and Peace,

Marsha Aufenkamp Chair of the Committee on Nominations United Women in Faith Pacific Northwest

# **MEMBERSHIP, NURTURE, AND OUTREACH**

Recently, the annual meeting of PNW Conference UWF was held at Bothell UMC. We gathered, we listened, we worshiped, new and returning officers were installed, business was completed, and now it is time to ACT. Like the conference theme says, "If Not Now, When."

I am returning to the Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator position for the PNW Conference UWF Team. I want to share a little about myself with those who are new. After teaching for 22 years, I retired from my position as a preschool special education teacher. I also have a degree in occupational therapy. Before teaching, I worked as an occupational therapist for 20 years in schools and rehabilitation settings. As a clergy spouse, I have been involved in multiple church groups. Before retirement, I was the Spiritual Growth Coordinator for what was then the Columbia River and Vancouver Districts of the UMW. Once I retired. I answered the call to be on the conference team.

If we are to reach out to others, we need to remember to care for ourselves. Throughout the year, there are a variety of programs for one to participate in. Soul care retreats have taken place in various districts. Check with your district officers and/or your local units to see if a Soul Care retreat is happening near you. If not, think about having one at your church. Maybe join with

another unit and share the work and benefits.

Assembly 2026 is happening in Indianapolis, May 15-17, 2026. The theme is "Dream it! Believe it! Do it!" Promote this event at your local unit. Encourage young women to participate. Scholarships are available. Check out the information in this Sharing Line. Early registration is due by the end of November. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask at your unit, the district, or a conference officer. We are here to help.

Mission u will have a new location this summer. It will be held at Lazy-F Camp and Retreat Center. The dates are July 10-12, 2026. If you have ever attended Mission u, be a promoter in your unit. Invite new members to attend with you. Having this event on Friday night through Sunday morning will hopefully allow young women to attend. There are classes for adults, youth, and children. This will allow for family participation.

Later in the year, there will be district annual meetings and the conference annual meeting. These are not the only events that need to happen. If we have cared for ourselves, we will hopefully have more energy to reach out to those around us. At the recent annual meeting, women had the opportunity to share ideas that their units have been doing. Many units feel they are too small. It was suggested that, rather than limiting

the participants to members, we invite the whole church to an event. Also, if you know someone is a knitter, invite them to help with a prayer shawl ministry. Participants can take part in one or all the activities that are going on.

Another suggestion was to develop a Welcome Packet. When you talk to someone about your unit, share the packet. Listen to ideas that interest women. Help start a group that focuses on what is important to them. As we nurture and support each other, we will be allowing others to see more of what UWF is all about. Let us invite new members to join us as we carry out the work of Jesus Christ.

There are more ideas that will be shared in the future. What works in your unit? I would love to hear from all of you. Feel free to email me with your ideas. Sharing them with others will allow all of us to benefit from the work that has already been done. Thank you for working to spread love to the whole world.

Gail Simpson
Conference MNO Coordinator
jsimpsfam@comcast.net
253 2290343

### REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED BEFORE US

At the recent UWF Annual Meeting Memorial service, 86 women from 35 units across the PNW conference were remembered. See the list below. As you look through the list, you may know more than just those from your unit. Remember a story or work that these women accomplished. Share those memories with others so the journey can continue to reach many women around the conference.

**Crest To Coast District** 

Longview

Sharon Fosburg

Olympia 1st

Sandee Bloomfield

Elma Lu Casebolt

Mary Flotree

Judy Hollar

Fay Hovey

Sharon Johnson

Margaret Neff

Donna Rennick

Mary Snyder

**Arvil Crase** 

Vancouver 1st

**Dovey Landerholm** 

**Inland District** 

Asotin

Sharon Fitzgerald

**Audubon Park** 

Melonie Tantnev

Leonna Bowers

Ann Fritz

Karen Peacock

**Bonners Ferry** 

Norma Gorman

Clarkston

Sheila Manis

Community

**Bev Baslington** 

**Judy Cordes** 

Grangeville

Barbara Essen

Moscow

Katharyn Mattson

Sandpoint

Eva Whitehead

Helen Newton

Joann Chronic

Loris Michaels

**Spokane Valley** 

Ida May Remington

Sherri Robinson

**Puget Sound District** 

Bothell

Carol Russell

Central

(Sedro Woolley)

Sally Lund

Alice McConnell

Coupeville

Pat Coffee

Jan Martin

**Edmonds** 

Virginia Lowe

Pat Beaudry

**Garden Street** 

(Bellingham)

**Doris Randall** 

Joyce Schiffler

**Gig Harbor** 

Marjorie Colglazier

Sydney Lybecker

Marysville

Martha Taschereau

Jean Murril

**Port Angeles** 

Valerie Gross

Stanwood

Alice Alan

Sandy Cartwright

Claudette Cody Donna Kellicott

SeaTac District

Aldersgate

Barbara Brackbill

Lorene Ellis

**Fairwood** 

Joanne Flagel

**Hope UMC** 

(Bellevue 1<sup>st</sup>)

Lorraine Newman

Judy Pake

Lois Willis

(St. Peter's)

Rosemary Clark

Carol Ann Jones

Joe Ann Rucker

Kent

Lois Byers

Benny Lou Pierce

**Ingrid Walters** 

Mason

Audrey McKnight

(at 105 years)

Marliss Swayze

**Trinity** 

Virginia "Ginny" Roraback

**Seven Rivers District** 

Ellensburg

Sue Briggs

Goldendale

Barbara Fridley

**Kennewick First** 

Joyce Norman

**Opal Smith** 

**Ruth Mathis** 

Pat Walker

Elise Brand

Patty Hornburger

Pasty Hull

Paula Wintz Kay Marker

**Moses Lake** 

Pat Pedersen

**Betty Holben** 

Selah

**Lois Cummings** 

**Wesley Yakima** 

**Shirley Barnes** 

Janis Tate

Myra McLain

**West Highlands** 

(Kennewick)

Carla Gatske

Marguerite Hilgers

Joan Adele Golri

Anne Carolyn Walters

# **NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS**

### **CREST TO COAST DISTRICT**

Crest To Coast Missional District just completed its annual fall gathering on September 20. We had a successful meeting with over forty attendees and presenters, with seven Units represented. Our theme was "Carrying Our Faith Forward." Our featured speaker was Brittany Gilliland, Youth Director of Olympia UMC. Centralia UMC hosted the event, although they no longer have an active Unit. Rochester UMC provided a delicious soup and salad lunch.

We opened with singing of some familiar songs and devotion given by Sue Raymond (Spiritual Growth). Joan Hackett (Membership, Nurture and Outreach) introduced a new program that will probably replace our Mission Today called Revolutions Per Minute (RPM) using volunteers from the Units to give examples of information sharing used in the new program. She and Sheree Fitzpatrick (E&I chair) will fine tune it and give it out to the Units to try this year. Joan also did the memorial remembrance for members that have passed. Brittany Gilliland then gave her presentation that emphasized that being invitational is being intentional when it comes to growing your membership in programing. She works with the youth but a lot of the examples she used applies to older ages and adults as well. A lot of information was gained to try in our own church situations. Our business meeting followed in the afternoon with election and installation of officers followed by communion led by Alexa Eisenbarth, Associate Pastor of Olympia UMC.

We continue to work on our Soul Retreats which have been well received. Four have been done this year. In our reading program we have over 22 readers reading 115 books. As President, I continue to view Faith Talks, Emily Jones and other podcasts from the National office and attended Mission U this summer. We continue to try to increase the number of our Units and fill our officer roster. We were successful adding Teresa Rivera as our Secretary this summer.

Bev Thomas, Crest to Coast District President

# INLAND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

Greetings from the Inland District! Fall is my favorite season—and we enjoyed a lovely day at our September 20<sup>th</sup> Annual District Gathering. Thirty women from all over our District gathered at Spokane Valley UMC for a day of business, remembrance, worship, education, and leadership development. Julia Peterson, of the conservation organization Evergreen Foundation, spoke about being "the Stewards of Creation—the role of the feminine voice in climate awareness and beyond." We enjoyed yummy breads brought by our leadership team and a wonderful lunch made by the ladies of the Spokane Valley Unit. We lovingly celebrated the lives of 17 of our sisters who passed in the preceding year, and thanked our two departing IMD officers, Patsy Charlton and Charlene Mullis. Impressively, we

had a brand new IMD member, Nanette Zorn, volunteer to become our new Social Action Chair at the meeting!

We had eight units participating in our reading program this year—with 59 readers reading 428 books! Our District has elected to continue with the Mission Today program, where each unit meets certain requirements to become a gold or silver star unit (6 units participated), and units are also awarded 5-star or 5-star+2 status based on their participation in giving via the five channels of giving for United Women in Faith. We had one 5-star unit (Clarkston) and four 5-star plus two units (Bonners Ferry, Community/ CDA, Rockford, Spokane Valley). Additionally, we had nine units complete the requirements to become members of the charter for Racial Justice. In total (as of 9/2/25), we have disbursed \$15,725.31 toward our pledge to the mission goal of \$20,000.

In other exciting news, the congregations of Lewiston Orchards, Lewiston, Clarkston, and Asotin have combined to form the New Connections UMC! There is now a new United Women in Faith unit formed (from Lewiston, Clarkston, and Lewiston Orchards), and Asotin will remain its own unit for now. Remember that units do not have to be attached to a church and can meet anywhere they like. There can be power in combining the strengths of several smaller units—imagine how exponentially effective this new unit will be in spreading love, faith,

and support to each other as well as to their community. Though we are going from 12 Inland Missional District units to 10, I have faith that this merger will be fruitful for our United Women in Faith mission. Some of our units have been meeting together for programming while maintaining their individual financial structures. Our 2026 Annual Gathering for the Inland Missional District is already being planned. We will include a wonderful Mini Soul Care retreat in the afternoon! Date and location to be determined.

Finally, nine of us from the Inland Missional District went to Bothell, WA, for an enriching PNW Conference Annual Gathering, October 17—18. We had a great time and an engaging conversation with our own UMC Bishop Cedric Bridgeforth and United Women in Faith National President Jana Jones! The bishop challenged us to stop trying to get young people to "come to us" and start "going out to them" where they are doing mission work that matters. Jana joined a panel featuring United Women in Faith PNW conference's new social action chair, Cecille Corsillis-Sy, and her daughter, Nika, to discuss United Women in Faith as it heads into the future of mission work. It was great to see many of you, and I hope to see even more next year. Thanks to Stell Wallace and her team for putting on a fabulous United Women in Faith PNW event.

I hope you all have a wonderful Fall and a blessed Christmas!

Robin Gregory, Inland Missional District President

# PUGET SOUND MISSIONAL DISTRICT

#### June Activities:

2 Took part in the UMC Plenary Session online with Bishop Bridgeforth. Phone calls to potential pianists for our District Annual Gathering (AG)

10 United Women in Faith PSM District Team Zoom planning meeting for AG.

25 Visited Stanwood UMC with Susan Alderin, re/ location for our PSMD AG Sept 20. Will rent Wesley Hall (\$75) and use the narthex for 4+ displays.

26-28 Thurs—Sat UMC Annual Conference with Bishop Bridgeforth at Bothell UMC and Bothell HS Theatre. 'Suggested postponing some of the evening events till Sat; folks and kids were tired! This was done!

#### **July Activities:**

3 helped our new Pastor Glenn and Jackie Hoskins move into the AUC Parsonage, then weeded some of the flower beds.

16 Participated in lively discussion at AUC Council Meeting re/ Lay Lay Leader having voting privileges at Bd. Mtgs. (I've been a Lay Leader!)

18 Wrote Quarterly President's Report for United Women in Faith Conference.

19 Email Tac. Comm. House re/video for our AG.

21 PSM District Team Zoom meeting working on our District. AG.

23 Rode to Yakima with Judy Jewell for PNW Conf. Leadership Mtg.

24 9+ AM Conf. Leadership Team Planning Meeting at Wesley UMC.

24-26 Mission u "Practicing Hope Together" by Tabatha Folley.

#### **August Activities:**

4 United Women in Faith PSM District Team Zoom planning meeting for AG.

21 Faith Talks Podcast w/ Jen Farmer and Julia M Freedman

26 Virtual; Holding Court ADA w/ Michele Uzeta (sp?) Virtual; Sierra Club and National Park Service w/ Hillary Larson

27 Phone call interview from The Marquis Who's Who in America! I was accepted based on my life's work in teaching, many years in Christian leadership and community organization, and 35 years of volunteering. In BSA, and service in other organizations.

#### **September Activities:**

2 PSM District Team Zoom planning meeting for AG.

9 Mtg. in my home with Kendra Smith, temporary Treasurer for Our PSM District. Discussed concerns re/ finances, budget, etc.

16 PSM District Team final Zoom meeting before AG.

20 PSM District Annual Gathering in Stanwood UMC's Wesley Hall; Theme: "Through Community, We Find Hope!" Romans 15:13. Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mary Boyd, from Coupeville. (Continued from page 16)

"Gathering Hope," using a flip chart, she shared interpretations from famous people, then encouraged women to say what hope means to them. Very good, interactive presentation!

27 Participated in "Roots and Wings" at Sedro Woolley—Central UMC.

#### **October Activities:**

7 PSM District Team Zoom debriefing AG; begin planning for our Local Leadership Training Event. Confirmed location: Snohomish UMC on Sat, March 21st!

8 Joined 12+ AUC Women for a weekly new Life Guide Bible Studies by Rob Suggs, covering "Christian Community" in 10 studies.

16 Tuned into Podcast with Jennifer Farmer, "Faith Talks", "Making an Impact at Every Age"; interviewed Frances S. Strickland, 1st Lady of Ohio, who wrote a child's biography of Kentucky's 1st woman Governor, who was passionate for children and youth.

17-18 PNW Conference United Women in Faith ANNUAL GATHERING at Bothell UMC. Conf. Leadership Meeting 9-2; Greet attendees 2-4. Participate in both days.

28 4-6 PM watch Podcast "Stop Plastic and Pollution"! Despite infections, illnesses, frustrations with both my computer and my cell phone, several appliances quitting, and having our records hacked, I/we have been blessed by a short visit from my mid-west niece and her hubby, our three sons and their families celebrating a belated 80th birthday for me, and being recognized for accomplishments in the past. Family and friends are very important, and I treasure my sisterhood with other UWFers!!

Shalom, love, and hugs!

Jeannine Lish, Puget Sound President

# SEATAC MISSIONAL DISTRICT

July 10 – SeaTac District Board United Women in Faith Book Club

July 16 – Surgery at Harborview Medical Center, work paused

August 21 – SeaTac District Board Book Club

August 23 – Organized Memorial for founding member of St. Peter's UMC

August 28 – District Board Planning for Annual Meeting

September 9 – Hope Church Book Club

September 27 – District Annual Meeting at Kent United Methodist Church

Various emails sent from July to October for planning our annual meeting and discussing conference annual meeting. Preliminary plans for Conference Annual meeting to be held in SeaTac District in October 2026.

SeaTac District Annual Meeting. September 27, 2025, at Kent United Methodist Church. Our theme was "Here I Am Lord" and our scripture was Micah 6:8

We decided to increase our attendance by changing our type of

keynote speaker. The board decided to choose Debbie Dimitre, a well-known and popular local storyteller and Methodist woman, to present her historical story about Eleanor Roosevelt. Eleanor was an extraordinarily strong and smart woman as well as wife of Franklin D. Roosevelt. She was incredibly involved in volunteer work for social justice and rights for women. This aligned with our scripture. We had 60 women registered for our annual meeting. This was a significant increase from last year.

We conducted our business meeting and installed our officers by Marilyn Reid, National Board of Directors for United Women in Faith. We collected an offering of \$782.00 for Mission Giving. Awards were given for the Reading Program and for the 7 Stars of Giving. We had a Service of Remembrance and remembered women from seven churches. We were served a wonderful continental breakfast and a delicious homemade lunch by the United Women in Faith at Kent UMC.

#### Communications

**Newsletter – "Circuit Writer"** I wrote and assembled the September issue of the newsletter.

I sent various emails and texts to coordinate activities and keep the SeaTac Board informed.

#### **Reading Program**

The SeaTac Board book club read 4 books during the last year. We enjoyed this so much we are continuing for 2025-2026.

#### Church

I still spend time each week sorting

(Continued from page 17)

contents from St. Peter's UMC and giving away to other churches and individuals. We expect our sale of the church to be funded by the end of the year and the sale completed. This has taken more time than we anticipated. Through my various United Women in Faith contacts we gave away tables,

files, choir robes, choir music, library books, dishes, kitchen items and more to Fairwood, Aldersgate, Ellensburg, Oakville churches as well as, Skyway Tutoring Program. We also gave away a significant donation to assist with a startup business in Enumclaw for a Low Income Child Care Center.

I am still serving on the Board of

Trustees and the Finance Committee and the Building Committee of St. Peter's.

We are now working to change our St. Peter's UWF to Hope UWF.

Submitted by Diana Wilson, SeaTac District President

# **SEVEN RIVERS MISSIONAL DISTRICT**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**



Racial Justice discussion with Ja net' Crouse, Marsha Aufenkamp, and Eualalie Short.



Suzanne Taylor, Treasurer, shares our goals.



Installation of Officers is the same as last year, except Tressa Cummings, Past President, stepped in to Spiritual Growth, and Lisa Riedinger is on Nominations.



Memorial Service by MNO Marsha Aufenkamp and Ja net' Crouse, Social Action. Next year, our Annual Meeting will be in Kennewick.

# JOIN UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH DIGITAL!

Join our community online at United Women in Faith Digital on your computer or phone through the Mighty app. You'll find a place to get new ideas, share questions, and find sisterhood. National offers regular Digital open houses to help you get started, so please go to <a href="https://www.uwfaith.org">UWFaith.org</a> and create an account. Once there, you'll also get access to all sorts of resources, including a calendar with upcoming events. If you need assistance, contact Jenny Bygland at jbygland@kentmethodist.com or (206) 794-3379.

# MEET DEACONESS SARA



**CULP** 

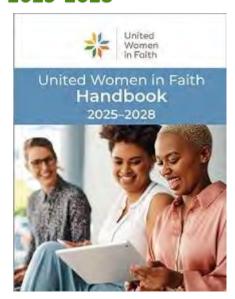
Growing up cherishing the beauty of nature, enjoying the sense of belonging found in a church community, and

being driven by a desire for growth have shaped my motivation. I have hope for our future and a desire to see more justice in our world. I want to help communities thrive. Pursuing the Deaconess path allows me to be intentional in putting these hopes into action. Sharing this work with a wider community brings support, encouragement, and tools for a greater impact.

It's a privilege to participate in work that shares God's love through service, care, and the pursuit of justice in the world.

Sara Culp

# GET YOUR UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH HANDBOOK 2025-2028



Order Your 2025–2028 United
Women in Faith Handbook! This
comprehensive guide contains a
wealth of information and resources
essential to all organization
members.

This handbook is a valuable resource and overview of the opportunities available through United Women in Faith. You'll find practical tips, mission funding guidelines, program and resource descriptions, and best practices for elected leaders and members. Discover our mission and vision, driven by a shared commitment to spiritual growth, creative fellowship, education, and advocacy, putting love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

Download the Constitution and Bylaws here.

Download the Roles and Responsibilities <u>here</u>.

# GET LOVE RIBBON CARDS AND SUPPORT MISSION GIVING

BRING JOY IN THE MORNING, AFTERNOON, AND EVENING ALL YEAR ROUND!

We are the only Conference to have a Love Ribbons ministry, a lovely way to celebrate our friends and family while supporting the United Women in Faith mission.

The cost of each card is \$2.00. Love Ribbon income is part of Mission



Today and included in *The Pledge To Mission*. Units must go to their District Treasurer for supplies and purchases, and credit goes to your unit.

#### **ENCOURAGE PURCHASES!**

There is a wide variety for all occasions. I'm here to help in any way I can! With God, Anything Is Possible!

Fran Houser timandfran1952@gmail.com (509) 882-4239

You can contact us about Love Ribbons through our website. https://www.pnwumc.org/uwfaith/ resources/love-ribbon-cards/

# 2026 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
January 10	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST	Winter Conference Executive Team Meeting	Zoom
January 25		Idaho Legislative Forum	Zoom
January 31		Washington Legislative Day	Spokane
February 1		Idaho Legislative Forum	Zoom
February 12		Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day	Olympia, WA
February 23		Idaho Advocacy Day at the Capital	Boise, ID
April 25	9 a.m. to 1 p.m. PST	Spring Conference Executive Team Meeting	Zoom
May 15-17		Assembly — "Dream it, Believe it, Do it!"	Indianapolis, Indiana
June 22-24		Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session	Spokane Valley UMC Spokane Valley, WA
July 10		Summer Conference Executive Team Meeting	Lazy F Camp
July 10-12		Mission u	Lazy F Camp
September 19		Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	Kennewick 1st UMC Kennewick, WA
ТВА		Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	ТВА
ТВА		Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	ТВА
ТВА		Puget Sound Missional District	ТВА
ТВА		SeaTac Missional District Annual Meeting	ТВА
October 16		Fall Conference Executive Team Meeting	SeaTac District Location TBA
October 16-17		Conference United Women in Faith Annual Gathering	SeaTac District Location TBA

CHECK THE <u>CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE</u> FOR THE LATEST UPDATES.

### **JOIN US ON FACEBOOK**



Our FACEBOOK
PAGE helps us
promote
upcoming District,
Conference,
Western
Jurisdiction and

National Events. It is also a great place to share and learn about Social Issues and Action Alerts.

**Help us utilize this tool** in our mission work by sharing local events or social issues that you are aware of. Find this information and more at our website: <a href="mailto:pnwumc.org/uwfaith">pnwumc.org/uwfaith</a>.

# OTHER UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH RESOURCE ONLINE

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# PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OFFICERS FOR 2026

President—Deb Avery

Vice President—Stell Wallace

Secretary—Sharon Stovall

Treasurer—Roberta Headley

Legacy Liaison—Carol Gruen

**Program Resources**—Kathy M Johnson

Communications—Jenny Bygland

Education & Interpretation—Joan Hackett

Membership Nurture & Outreach—Gail Simpson

National Director & Program Advisory Group—Marilyn Reid

Social Action—Cecile Corsilles-Sy

Spiritual Growth—Janice Catrell

Committee on Nominations Chair—Marsha Aufenkamp, Seven Rivers

Committee on Nominations Member—Judy Dirks, Inland

Committee on Nominations Member—Tricia Bates, Puget Sound

Committee on Nominations Member—OPEN, Crest to Coast

Committee on Nominations Member—OPEN, SeaTac

**Missional District Presidents:** 

Crest to Coast—Bev Thomas

**Inland**—Robin Gregory

Puget Sound—Jeannine Lish

SeaTac—Diana Wilson

Seven Rivers—Robin Inlow

# **SIGN UP FOR YOUR NEWSLETTER**

**THE SHARING LINE** is the newsletter of the Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith published four times a year. Complimentary copies are sent to the following: Pacific Northwest Conference leaders, local unit presidents, District officers, Conference officers, pastors and District Superintendents.

This newsletter is available online at <a href="mailto:pnwumc.org/uwfaith">pnwumc.org/uwfaith</a>. To receive email notification when new issues are published, or you wish to receive an email copy, send your email address to: Jenny Bygland at <a href="mailto:jbygland@kentmethodist.com">jbygland@kentmethodist.com</a>

### **SHARING LINE DEADLINE**

Anything for the <u>Winter Sharing Line</u> should be emailed to Jenny Bygland (jbygland@kentmethodist.com) by <u>Monday</u>, January 19. Late articles will be included as space permits.

### THE SHARING LINE

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
PO BOX 13650
DES MOINES WA 98198





# THIS ISSUE

**REGISTER FOR ASSEMBLY!**PAGES 3 & 4