

SPRING 2023



United Women in Faith

For Such A Time As This...

As I assume this new role as your Conference President of United Women in Faith, my mind can't help but go back to those who've come before me. I want to thank Linda Thayer, past president, for her help in transitioning me into this new role. I also want to thank Diane Miller, former president, for her continued support and encouragement. And I also want to thank the Conference Leadership Team members for their warm welcome as we begin serving together. I don't want to start listing everyone here because I know I will forget someone and there are so many of you that have shared laughs, rides, late nights, long talks and that have taught me, encouraged me, supported me and guided me on my way to this moment. I want to remember and honor you.

United Women in Faith is a unique organization. It is Faith and Sisterhood, in Action. Stories of sisterhood- how it connects us as United Women in Faith, how it enables impactful actions for justice and how it grows and strengthens our faith- were heard throughout the responses to the question, why are you part of United Women in Faith? that I posed at our first leadership team meeting.

We are going through a season of change within our denomination with many churches disaffiliating. We mourn the loss of churches. But disaffiliation does not mean that we lose the relationships, the sisterhood, with the women of those churches. We have done this before. When the general church imposed segregation of Black members, our predecessor organization created regional schools so all women could continue to be in relationship and work toward justice for women, children and youth. When the Central Jurisdiction ended we were strong and able to offer the church leadership, including the Charter for Racial Justice.

Issues of racial justice, economic inequality, human rights, access, climate, environment and many others demand our attention and action. These are times of change, of stress and of anxiety. Yet, in the words of Harriet Olson, CEO of United Women in Faith, "This is an exciting time for our organization". Seasons of change always offer new opportunities for connection and action when we walk in faith.

Let's address the challenges while embracing the excitement of this time. Sisterhood, Action and Faith will continue to serve us well today and as we move forward.

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Treasurer's Report

It seems to me as the weather warms, so do our activities in our Women of Faith groups. We plan fundraisers such as hoagie sales, bake sales, flea market/rummage sales and even maybe having a Mother/Daughter/Friend evening like we do at my church. It is a good time to fellowship with other ladies and have a cookie or a tureen along the way.

For those of you who are treasurers in your local units, you may be in contact with your bank about getting the name changed on your accounts to WPA United Women in Faith. I have gotten approval from the state of PA for the filing of the name "WPA United Methodist Women d/b/a United Women in Faith" (doing business as). Your district treasurer has that authorization. It seems different banks have different criteria for changing the name.

As Western PA UWF conference, we have again pledged \$120,000 to our national organization. Last year, we exceeded our pledge by 9%. These monies allow us to reach many ministries locally, nationally and worldwide that we could not as individual units. It gives you a chance to recognize individuals who you would like to give special honor because of their commitment to your church and community by giving them a special mission recognition pin, which is part of achieving "5 Star" status. We say "thank you"!

Have you ever attended Mission u? Mission u is an annual event offering opportunities for adults, youth and children to grow spiritually, learn about issues affecting society and experience Christian mission in its many forms. In 2022, it was held in person at Camp Jumonville and is scheduled to be there on August 10 - 12, 2023. Scholarships are available. If your local unit would like to support Mission u and help reduce the costs to the attendees, a suggested price per local unit is \$40. The form can be found in this publication and monies should be sent to Linda L. Murdock.

Thank you for supporting United Women in Faith. Enjoy the "Son" and maybe will see you along the way.

Linda

Social Action!

WPA United Women in Faith will continue to advocate in 2023 with a specific focus.

Just Energy 4 All

Bizzy Feekes was a fellow in the 2022 Faithful Climate Action Fellowship, a collaboration with United Women in Faith and five other organizations. For the final project, Feekes created a Bible study and artwork incorporating her experiences as an artist, writer, seminarian, and Indigenous Christian. The 2022 Faithful Climate Action Fellowship was a collaboration with United Women in Faith, Creation Justice Ministries, Wisconsin Green Muslims, Dayenu, Interfaith Power & Light, and Green Faith. Through funding from the United States Climate Action Network, the fellowship was a virtual and paid opportunity for young Black, Indigenous, and people of color aged 18-26 who identify as Christian, Jewish, or Muslim. The fellows participated in different skills-based trainings throughout the summer, completed a faith-based climate justice project for their fellowship, and received mentoring and guidance from the partner organizations.

Using her fellowship project as an opportunity, Feekes created a climate justice-focused Bible study titled "Maanegi Hirera—Belong to Earth," connecting her identities as Indigenous Christian artist, seminarian, and writer.

Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization of Communities of Color

Gifts to A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial 2023 will directly support United Women in Faith's racial justice work, which is helping to create a more equitable society. Your gift supports both our campaign to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline and our long-standing work building members' capacity to implement the Charter for Racial Justice at all levels of the organization.

Find more information here: <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2022/a-call-to-prayer/> You or your local group can make your gift today through your local treasurer by visiting bit.ly/CallToPrayerGift or sending a check to: United Women in Faith att: Call to Prayer 2023 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1500 New York, NY 10115

Let's Get Together

Our quadrennial Northeastern Jurisdiction meeting will be here before we know it. We are scheduled to meet April 19 - 21, 2024 in Providence, RI. Providence is a beautiful city, and all hotels are within walking distance of the convention center. It's a time to elect our representatives to the Board of Directors and the Program Advisory Group, and it's a time to hear amazing speakers; take part in workshops, fellowship with our UWF sisters, and have fun. Mark your calendars. More information coming soon.

2024 NORTHEASTERN
JURISDICTION

Get
Together!



United
Women
in Faith

UMAMN Report

Western Pennsylvania United Women in Faith Conference Leaders have served on the Board of United Methodist Appalachian Ministries Network since it began in 1972. The shared advocacy of improving the lives of women and children across Appalachia has kept the Mission going.

The Hunger & Poverty Grant Program is funded through the Appalachia Hunger and Poverty General Advance Special (#982041). The goals of the program are to assist with and encourage the development of new ministries or the expansion of current ministries that are working to eradicate hunger and poverty in Appalachia and to help meet the emergency needs of ongoing ministries dealing with mounting client populations and decreasing or diminishing resources.

United Appalachian Ministry Network Board Chairman, John Baney announced the recipients of the 2022 Fall Hunger and Poverty grants at the 50th Anniversary Gala during the October Assembly of UMAMN.

MoCo Feeds (Morgan County Weekday Lunch Program) Mcconnelsville UMC, Ohio

Currently, we feed an average of 30-40 each weekday (sometimes 20 or as high as 60). Of those, about ten percent are either living with family/friends or in their vehicle. When we started in 2020, we had a population of about thirty living under the bridges. Beyond the feeding issue we hope to connect our folks with local resources like County Services or educational programs.

For Such A Time As This...

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Connect through Sisterhood- maintain contact and invitation with our siblings in disaffiliating churches. You will find the information regarding disaffiliation and local united elsewhere in this newsletter. But don't stop there. Connect with and invite others that are not currently present- how can you connect with young women, women of other denominations, diverse women. You might begin by being present at their events, getting to know them, and out of that relationship, inviting them to your events. Events that reflect what you have learned from these new relationships.

Connect in Action- United Women in Faith has a long legacy of action to improve the lives of women, children and youth. From our start building schools, through our leadership and model of racial justice when we changed our assembly site when whites and blacks could not share the same hotel, to organizing for fair wages and to remove exploitation of child labor in the chocolate supply chain, to green initiatives such as chlorine free paper and decreasing the use of styrofoam to climate justice. United Women in Faith acts boldly with a focus on women, children and youth. Our current time provides many opportunities for us to act for justice.

Connect in Faith- United Women in Faith engages us in learning and growing in our faith. It is our love of God that

ICC Wesley Agape Food Pantry, Fulton Mississippi

ICC Wesley Foundation is a ministry to, with, by, and for college students. We seek to be a place where students, in the uniqueness of college life, can be continually nurtured in their faith or perhaps encounter Jesus for the first time.

Agape Shelf - stocked with food but also necessities like toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, laundry detergent, feminine hygiene products and soap!

UMAMN strives to award mini grants of \$2,500 per year, but we need your help. In 2022, UMAMN was able to award six grants totaling \$4500 to ministries across Appalachia. We need support from local churches, United Women In Faith groups, and other partners to reach the annual goal of \$10,000 to award through the 2023 grant program.

From your computer: Give thru the Advance Special Appalachian Ministry Network (Advance #982041) <https://advance.umcmmission.org/p-630-appalachian-ministry-network.aspx>

From your phone: You can easily and securely give through the Givelify app. Download it from your Apple or Android device: <https://giv.li/getapp>.

By Check: payable to United Methodist Appalachian Ministry Network, Attn: Angela Kirtdoll, Executive Coordinator 301 North Fifth Street, Steubenville, OH 43952 .

drives and guides us as we make a difference in the world.

As United Women in Faith, we connect spiritual women to act boldly for justice and transform communities.

I encourage you to dig into this statement in your district team meetings, sub district team meetings and local organization programs.

Ask- who are we connecting to and how are we connecting. Who are we not connecting to, do they share our concern for women, children and youth. and how can we connect around our shared focus.

What is happening in our communities, local and beyond. Do we need to learn more? What does our faith require of us about this? How can we grow and engage our faith around this? How can we act boldly for justice with a focus on women, children and youth? Who shares these concerns and how do we connect with them as we grow in faith and action?

Remember: Your leadership team is a resource as we move forward together. Share your stories of what you are doing.

For such a time,
Peggy

Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) Program

A program of The Nyadire Connection (TNC)

PROBLEM In Africa, girls fall behind their male peers academically due to a lack of feminine hygiene items that forces girls to miss school, often for days. In addition to the girls, also affected are African women and those working in and around TNC's orphanage, schools and clinics in Nyadire, Zimbabwe.

SOLUTION To address this issue, in 2011 TNC created the Girl Empowerment Pad (GEP) Program.

GOALS (1) Keep girls in school during their menstrual cycle to avoid learning loss; (2) Give them tools to make their own sanitary supplies; and (3) Provide culturally- and age-appropriate health education.

ACHIEVEMENTS The program has evolved organically, from the "grass roots" in Pittsburgh and Nyadire, via women helping women. At first the program provided schools with pre-sewn, reusable cotton pads. Then it began furnishing kits with all items needed for girls to sew their own pads. Then GEP began to supply U.S. kit items for

local assembly in Zimbabwe. In addition, volunteers trained teachers and paired health literature and education with sewing activities. And they have sent refurbished manual and electric sewing machines to seven primary schools.

IMPACT To date more than 10,000 pads or kits have been distributed; 80 sewing machines refurbished and sent to schools; 20 teachers trained and 500 copies of a book on puberty have been distributed. More than 3,000 girls have participated in this life-changing, confidence-building program. Sewing classes now offer culturally and developmentally appropriate hygiene education, and teach girls to sew not only

pads but also clothing as well as facemasks for COVID-19 prevention.

UPDATE To keep the program sustainable, Zimbabwean partners cannot be dependent on U.S. supplies, and new leadership must be cultivated as teachers move on. For these reasons we are launching two new initiatives, as follows:

•**THE GIVING TREE** Proceeds from cards returned via the Giving Tree effort will allow partners to buy supplies in

Zimbabwe, thereby avoiding shipping container delays and storage fees.

•**THE SEWING SCHOLARSHIP**

This scholarship will fund tuition for a professional tailoring and sewing program at the Tabudira Vocational School. Recipients will be able to earn income by sewing to meet market demand, and will be required to train students on how to sew.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

•Give: \$5 per kit, multiples of \$5 please; \$50 to support sewing machine repair or a set of sewing lessons; \$250 for 50 copies, Growing Up in School, the chosen hygiene book appropriate for young African girls. Make checks payable to TNC, with "GEP Program" in the memo line; mail to Christ United

Methodist Church, 44 Highland Road, Bethel Park, PA 15102.

COLLECT Consider setting up a Giving Tree in a specific, allowed location at work, or at special events where you may have access, such as craft fairs and holiday bazaars. Or bundle checks from family or friends for the Sewing Scholarship at these suggested levels: \$100 for recipient equipment; \$250 for tuition; \$500 for tuition or business startup (approved business plan required); \$1000 full tuition.

CONTACT: Bonnie Lawson, bonnielawson58@comcast.net



MISSION BARN ON THE MOVE

Mission Barn has officially moved to our new location, 181 Columbus Dr., New Castle, PA 16101! Our email is still missionbarn@gmail.com 724-856-8241. Visit us for a tour, donate hygiene kits or cleaning buckets, supplies or volunteer. We are accepting teams from 2-20 people (ages kindergarten and above) - Monday-Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10-2. Reservations are required. Let me know if you would like for me to share with your unit more about what we are doing. We are currently accepting hygiene kits and cleaning buckets. Thank you for your continued prayers and support for me, Katie Peterson, as your missionary, and for Mission Barn as your mission site here in WPA.

Ruth M. Smith Center Update

Warren Gives

The biggest fundraising event of the year for the Smith Center (ruthsmithcenter.org) happens in May. *Warren Gives* is a day of online giving (May 10) with an option for donating by check. A match pool of money (\$60,000 in 2023) has been contributed by large businesses and philanthropic foundations in Warren County. Match pool dollars are distributed proportionally to organizations based on donations received from donors. Last year the Smith Center received \$25,285 in donations. Matching money was \$2,597.64, so the total amount received from the *Warren Gives* event was \$27,882.64.

Donations from \$10 to \$1000 are eligible for matching funds. Donors can...

- Give online Wednesday, May 10, 2023 from 6 am to 10pm - warrengives.org.
- Make a check out to the Community Foundation of Warren and send it to the Ruth M. Smith Center (P.O. Box 576, Sheffield, PA 16347). The Center must receive checks by Wednesday, May 3, 2023. If you wish to send a check directly to the Community Foundation, visit warrengives.org and follow their instructions regarding dates and forms.

Angel Advocates

For the past one hundred years, Methodist Women (WSCS, UMW, and UWF) have been faithful advocates and supporters of the ministries of the Ruth M Smith Center. They have prayed for the Center; they have given time and donations to take care of those in need; they have been messengers, inviting others to partner in the outreach of the Smith Center.

There are some now who call themselves "Advocate Angels" and receive a monthly e-mail keeping them informed of what's happening and what's needed. One of the Advocate Angels, Joyce Myers, tells me she sends the monthly emails to unit members to update and encourage them to support the Smith Center. If you'd like to be an Advocate Angel, email Diane Miller diane.miller2747@gmail.com.

A message sent to Advocate Angels:

The Smith Center Board of Directors is comprised of 16 members (four new each year) and four ex-officio members with vote. Members are from the immediate region (Sheffield, Kane or Warren), or from a distance away (Russell, Franklin area, Port Allegany, Elwood City, Manorville, Pittsburgh).

A little over a year ago the Smith Center entered into a partnership with the Warren YMCA. We allow the "Y" to use our gymnasium as a satellite Y. They have remodeled the building, added exercise machinery, and provide health/exercise services to the greater Sheffield area. Those services are free to residents of the Smith Center.

Our newest board member, Jennifer Goerlich, also happens to be the Supervisor of the "Sheffield Y." Here are Jennifer's words as she introduced herself to the Board and we voted to make her a member during our November meeting:

"I grew up in Jacksonville, FL, and was a public and private elementary school teacher for 14 years. I moved to Clarendon from Jacksonville in 2012 to move in and be the caretaker to my grandparents. Throughout that time I worked part-time at the Warren YMCA. Working with young people and the elderly has been a huge help in coming into a love and understanding of working with the Ruth Smith residents. After both of my grandparents had passed, I found out that the Warren YMCA was opening a location in Sheffield and applied for the supervisor job. I am so thankful for this job, and for the privilege of working with the RMSC residents."

This is Jennifer's description of one of the programs offered to Smith Center residents:

"The Firefly program is a YMCA program designed for adults with special needs. It is a grant-funded program that allows



those who qualify to receive a free YMCA membership. The program specifically allows eight participants in the actual Firefly class that I instruct. In class, we work on memory work, strength training, balance, games, and cardio percussion/drumming, and will be adding a day of art for creativity.

"In the future we hope to take those in the "Drum Fit" group, to nursing homes as a way of giving back and performing for the nursing home residents. It is important that Smith Center residents know that they are valued and have a purpose - that they can contribute instead of always just being contributed to. We are also planning an art show to display some of the arts/crafts of our Firefly group. It will be a "fancy" affair and those attending can purchase the artwork. We will continue to have parties/celebrations at the Sheffield Y throughout the year during the Firefly class times."

--Diane Miller, Board Member, Ruth M Smith Center

Through the Coming Year

There are many challenges coming in 2023. Howard Thurman's devotion ***Through the Coming Year*** seems to speak to where we are as a church so I share it with you as he wrote it. Archaic language and all.

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

There will be much to test me and to make weak my strength before the year ends. In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and do the thing of which I am ashamed. There will be errors of the mind and great inaccuracies of judgment which shall render me the victim of my own stupidities. In seeking the light, I shall again and again find myself walking in darkness. I shall mistake my light for Thy light and I shall shrink from the responsibility of the choice I make. All of these things, and more, will be true for me because I have not yet learned how to keep my hand in Thy hand.

Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart. May I never give approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to weakness, to vainglory, to sin. Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings, let my spirit be free so that Thou mayest take it and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal. Give me the quiet assurance of Thy Love and Thy Presence.

Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

Sara Nute, Spiritual Growth

Opportunity to Serve

Opportunity to serve awaits you. The WPA Conference United Women in Faith have openings on the Leadership Team! Important positions need to be filled. They are:

Education and Interpretation Coordinator
Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator
Communication Coordinator
Member on the Committee on Nominations

Perhaps one of the positions is one you want to say yes to or know a woman who may be interested. Perhaps you and another member would like to co-chair one of the positions. Let the Committee on Nominations know.

2023 imposed term limits to our roster. Thank you to those brought with them their passion for our PURPOSE and have faithfully served! Thank you to those who have stepped up to fill positions! This is the first year of UWF rebranding and it will be an exciting, rewarding, uplifting year of spiritual growth, challenges and yes, OPPORTUNITY!

Mary Hart
Nominations Chair
724-755-7976
twoharts2@icloud.com

Message from the Vice-President

My name is Janice Durmis. I accepted the leadership role of Vice President. Conference Leadership Team is completely new to me, and I have much to learn! Bear with me as I begin to figure my role in the WPA Conference United Women in Faith.

I hope to meet many of you along our journey together. I am always willing to visit your Unit or District and talk about United Women in Faith. Email me to set a time!

Annual Conference is coming upon us. United Women in Faith of WPA Conference will be gathering once again together. Information to follow. The theme this year is *Pressing on to Higher Ground* - Philippians 3:14. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ.

Let us grow in our knowledge of God together and concentrate on our relationship we have with him. We are forgiven and we can move on to a life of faith and obedience. Our life is meaningful because we have hope in Christ.

Save the date for WPA UWF Annual Meeting Saturday, October 21, 2023. Once again it will be a hybrid event.

I attended the Leadership Development Days recently for UWF. It was very informative and set the tone for the year. It was wonderful to be online with members all over the United

States. Worshipping, praying, learning, discussing with sisters in faith. What a few days!

Answering Our Call: Women of Faith Leading in the Midst of Anxiety workshop was very informative and discussed leadership on all levels. I encourage you to look at the session. It had some great take aways to strengthen your district and unit leadership. Think outside the routine box. There are many ways to accomplish a goal. The session is to be posted on the UWF website.

Vice President Training is in mid-February. I will be attending and know this will be a help to our conference and planning our Annual Meeting. Would your unit like to host the Annual meeting? Would you like to help plan? Email me at jdthing2@gmail.com. I am interested in your thoughts and ideas!

I encourage you to take advantage of all the online resources United Women in Faith offer on their website. You will not be disappointed. It will assist you in your personal growth as well as your unit and districts. Presentations on UWF are ready for your use.

Prepare for Faithful Living and Action

Mission u 2023 August 2023 Jumonville

Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation

This study by Riva Tabelisma gives fresh eyes to the Lord's Prayer. Often learned by rote, the Lord's Prayer is a rich guide for how we can live out God's kin-dom in our lives. Tabelisma invites participants in this study to step away from our automatic recitation of the prayer and dive deep into the meaning of each line over the course of eight one-hour sessions. Each of the sessions examines a section of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9-13 as it is recorded in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

Living as siblings in the "kin-dom" of God requires bold faith. Women in the United Methodist tradition have courageously led ministries in race relations, creation care, substance abuse, sexual orientation and inclusion, poverty, relationships with indigenous nations, and other concerns. However, The United Methodist Church and its predecessors have a sometimes uneven history of resisting the evil and violence that damage the world. This book explores this history, empowering us to imagine God's justice and to lead with compassion. Together, we bear witness to God's gracious presence in ways that make a material difference to all of creation, all persons, especially victims of injustice and those who are most vulnerable. This is the moral witness of the church.

Youth Curriculum: Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom

2023 youth curriculum by Rachel Mosher, the youth ministries coordinator at St. Marks United Methodist Church in Tucson, Arizona, leads youth through eight one-hour sessions that teach participants to find the kin-dom in the world around them, how to live what they have learned, and how to share the Good News about the kin-dom with others.

Children's Curriculum: We Are the Kin-dom

This curriculum by Kathleen Stone guides children through an exploration of earthly kingdoms in contrast to God's kin-dom and our role in living out the latter here and now. Children will be introduced to the concept of kin-dom vs kingdom to help distinguish between the flawed human construction of a kingdom that often results in oppression and exclusion, and God's perfect kin-dom that offers freedom and inclusion.

Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action (2nd Edition)

We live on a small blue planet in the midst of a mindbogglingly huge universe. It is a fragile planet, and it's the only one we have to call home. Our responsibility is to learn how to live in right relationship with God, each other, and with the earth itself. *Climate Justice: A Call to Hope and Action* invites you to seek climate justice, which means setting right our relationships with each other and the earth. Climate injustice is

the result of climate change, and we will never be able to bring justice to the planet until we bring justice to all people.

The study will challenge you to see what needs to happen for climate justice to become a reality in the world today—and understand the urgency of these changes. The Church needs to more powerfully model how to address climate injustice. This entails not only focusing on the environment, but also asking hard questions regarding financial profit, a growing economy, our independent way of thinking, and our understanding of efficiency.

(WPA UMW Mission Certificate for past studies is located on the WPA UWF website)

Western PA Conference United Women in Faith
Evelyn Hull Memorial Scholarship
Application for the 2023 Mission u

**Funds are available for a full scholarship to cover Registration, Room and Board.
Recipient is responsible for purchase of study book**

Scholarship Rules: Must be a first-time attendee
Sponsored by a local United Women in Faith unit
Resident of Western Pennsylvania Conference

Deadline This completed form must be received by the Conference United Women in Faith treasurer ???

Selection and Notification: by July 20, 2023

Application is for Mission u at Jumonville on August 10-14, 2023

NOTE: This is an application for a Conference United Women in Faith sponsored scholarship only. You will still be required to register for Mission u by the July 21, 2023 deadline.

Name of Applicant _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip

Telephone _____ **Age** _____ **District** _____

Local Church/Location _____

Pastor _____

Have you ever attended a Conference Mission u? _____

Are you a member of a local United Women in Faith unit? ____ If yes, indicate number of years and list any offices held

Indicate any personal involvement in mission programming in your United Women in Faith unit or your local church.

List work areas/committees in your local church on which you currently serve or have served and any offices held on those committees.

What are your reasons for wanting to attend Mission u? _____

Will you study the texts, attend all study classes and plenaries? _____

Will you attend the school if you are not a scholarship recipient? _____

List ways you might share and interpret your experiences with others: Example: Help resource a mission study in your local unit or church; promote attendance at future Mission u?

Have you also submitted an application for a District Sponsored Scholarship? _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Endorsement and Signature of President of Local UMW unit

Send the completed application to

Linda Murdock
Conference UWF Treasurer
15393 State Route 285
Conneaut Lake, PA 16316

OR LindaLMurdock@gmail.com 814-382-3877

United Women in Faith

Staying Connected through Disaffiliation

Some of you are in local churches that are wrestling with the decision to remain United Methodist or to disaffiliate. You may know United Women in Faith is open to all women that share our Vision and our Mission to women, children and youth.

Mission We seek 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.

Vision We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

We face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.

If this mission and vision continue to be who you are- then continue to be United Women in Faith and work with United Methodist Women and others for women, children and youth.

We can share a mission and vision, even if we do not share the same denomination.

This is how to stay connected:

Contact the district President, or MNO coordinator. The unit has several options to remain as United Women in Faith and operate as it currently does, but as a unit of the district instead of the local church, or as a conference unit. The unit can also choose to join a cluster unit, if available or join the National organization as an All Access Member (online).

Any individual woman that wishes to remain United Women in Faith, even if her unit does not, can be an All access Member (online) of the National Organization.

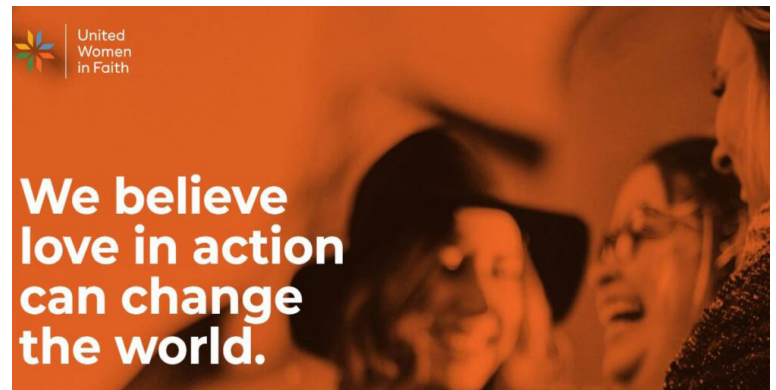
All Access Members and members of units that remain United Women in Faith, even in disaffiliated churches retain all rights of membership that they currently enjoy. The only exception is that the offices of District President, Conference President, and nominee for National Board of Directors must be United Methodist.

We value our sisterhood and connection and want you to continue to be part of the impactful work we have been doing together.

We also know some of you will still choose to leave the sisterhood. If that is true for you, see Diane Miler's article on how to proceed.

Together, United Women in Faith Get It Done!

Peggy



Remaining in the UWF Spirit

I believe the Spirit has used United Methodist Women, and now United Women in Faith as an instrument to form me. It has provided me with sisters to accompany me on the spiritual journey and to hold me accountable. It gives me a way to use my money for ministry not only locally, but beyond - from the Smith Center to other places in the US and the world. It connects me with sister companions to study scripture and struggle with what I am to do in response.

So - I mourn the loss of you my sisters - and hope we can find ways to stay connected if your decision is to break with United Women in Faith. These are the official steps...

- 1. Notify:** The unit president is to contact the district president and membership nurture outreach coordinator to report the decision and request assistance.
- 2. All-Access Membership:** The unit president should offer each individual member an opportunity to remain a member through joining another local unit, district or the All-Access Membership on the UWFaith website (<https://uwfaith.org/all-access-existing-members>). Let the district president or mno know who wants to stay connected as a unit, district or all access member, or who is willing to receive information and stay connected.
- 3. Funds:** The local treasurer should send the final 2023 pledge donation to the district treasurer. Remaining unit funds not designated for a specific project prior to becoming inactive should also be sent to the district treasurer.

Questions? Contact Diane Miller.



Annual Conference

Western PA Annual Conference will be held in Erie from June 15-17. The theme for Annual Conference 2023 is **Pressing on to Higher Ground**. Pray for Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, pastors and laity as decisions are made.

United Women in Faith Luncheon

Erie Bayfront Friday, June 16, 2023

Lunch is included with the Annual Conference registration. If not attending AC, the cost is \$10/person. Make checks payable to WPA United Women in Faith and send to Linda Murdock, treasurer. Register by completing this form online at wpaumc.org/UMWomen or complete this form. Email or mail form to Linda Murdock, 15393 State Route 285, Conneaut Lake, 16216 lindalmurdock@gmail.com. **Deadline for registering is May 8, 2023 (no exceptions).**

Name _____

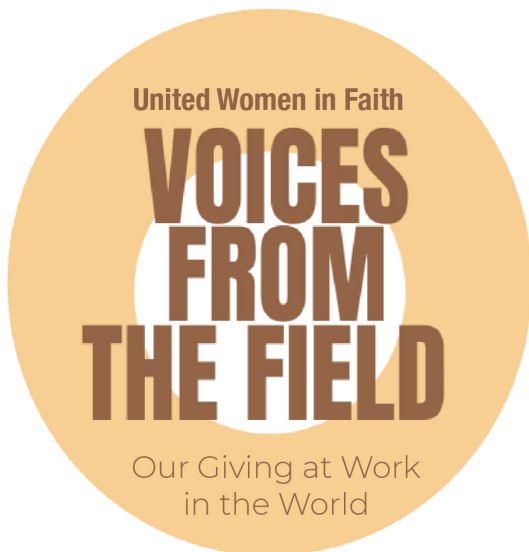
Phone _____ Email _____ Total Number Dining _____

Dietary Request _____ gluten free, vegetarian, etc

Fee for those not attending Annual Conference \$ _____

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