

THE Link



THE ORGANIZED UNIT OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN 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; TO EXPAND CONCEPTS OF MISSION THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHURCH.

VA CONFERENCE UMW NEWSLETTER *THE LINK*

August 2020

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I know that most, if not all, of the registrants of the Southeastern Jurisdiction have already received their refund for the full amount of their registration. We would recommend that you save that and add to it to join us at Assembly 2022! We were grateful to be able to return the full amounts in all jurisdictions after negotiations with the hotels for cancellation fees and all outstanding accounts were paid. It has been a privilege for me to represent Virginia with the Southeastern Jurisdiction.

Thanks,
Sue Boltz

Some of the Virginia women who were to attend the SEJ Quadrennial Assembly.



Marlene Dakita, Suzanne Dorick, Phyllis Foltz, Phyllis Geoghegan, Sharon Harold, Lisa Hite, Barbara Phillips, Mary Jane Rawley, Delores Reid, Sylvia Rumsey, Dottie Thompson, Janice Webb, Melissa White, Joyce Winston, Nancy Yarborough



President

Mary Jane Rawley



Vice-President

Nancy Walsh

Official Call to the Virtual Annual Meeting of the Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
October 24th, 1:00 PM
Registration will be required

When I was the Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator years ago one of my job responsibilities was to organize the Young Women’s Event. My first year doing this the theme was “If You Want to Make God Laugh, Tell Him Your Plans”. Many plans made by many people have not happened the way we expected or planned this year. Most of us are having the same feelings of concern for the future caused by the Covid-19 virus, riots over racism, presidential election bickering, loss of not seeing our loved ones in nursing homes, not attending worship in our church buildings, schooling for our children because of the virus, etc., etc. I could go on and on.

During this time of uncertainty in our world, there is one thing we can all be certain about and that is that we serve a risen Lord who loves us very much. We, as United Methodist Women, are connected because of our belief in God and our work with those women needing our help to overcome the hardships in their lives as they work to have better lives for their children and families. We have 151 years of history behind us as we move into the future as women of faith willing to make changes to get the work done. We must keep the faith and work to put our faith, hope, and love into action in this world. We can do it. I know we can. We have our Purpose and we are committed to it.

Our 48th Annual Meeting on October 24th will be a change from past years as we go to having a Virtual Meeting to keep everyone safe. I look forward to connecting with many of you during Annual Meeting.

Blessings,
Mary Jane Rawley, President

District Meetings

As it is one of the responsibilities of a Vice President to plan meetings, please be encouraged to plan District meetings with the utmost thought of safety in mind. Although this is a most unusual time, all effort should be toward ensuring the health and safety of members. The national office has been forthcoming in stating that if even one person is harmed because of too close contact with others, it is one person too many. Our Conference United Methodist Women president has also encouraged districts to plan accordingly, and, indeed, our Conference Annual Meeting will be virtual.

48th Conference Annual Meeting

Yes, October is the month. Online is the vehicle. Zoom is the way. For those of you who have not used Zoom before, you are in for a treat! It is amazing to see faces and hear voices – especially of those we have not seen or heard in a year. You will need a computer with camera, a tablet, or a cell phone.

Join us **October 24th**. The meeting will begin at 1:00 PM, but you are encouraged to join fifteen (15) minutes early so that everyone is logged-in on time. Please be sure to register by **October 12th** when an Annual Meeting booklet will be forwarded to you. Then you can see the Agenda, District participation in Five and Six Stars, Living Into Our Purpose, and the Reading Program.* Also, for your perusal, the names of United Methodist Women who are now resting in God’s arms will be included. The registration flyer is in this issue of *The Link*.

All the Executive Committee are looking forward to meeting with you.

Nancy D Walsh

*Even if you do not join us on Zoom, after October 12th, you can find the booklet at vaumw.com.



Nominations

Karen Bragg

The Committee on Nominations is proud to announce the following excellent 2021-2022 Slate of Officers for our Virginia Conference United Methodist Women. You will see that we are privileged to have a diverse group from around almost all districts in the state. The goal was to have each district represented.

This slate is the result of many phone calls, emails, texts, and face to face conversations by our committee. We feel that this is a strong group of ladies to work through this unsettling time.

Should you however, feel that you have a candidate to present from the "floor", please forward the name of this candidate by September 10th so that our nominations committee will have time to interview her to determine her abilities. Contact me and I will send a nominations form to use for the nomination. Mailing instructions would be sent also to expedite the process. All reviews will be final per the decisions of the CON.

Karen Bragg, Chair
Committee on Nominations
braggk17@gmail.com
434-548-3574

Slate of Officers for 2021-2022

President – Nancy Walsh
Vice President - Melissa White
Secretary - Frances Ellis
Treasurer - Linda Borrer
Spiritual Growth Coordinator - Mary Jeffries
Social Action Coordinator - Jeanette Yoh
Membership Nurture, & Outreach Coordinator -
Marlene Dakita
Secretary of Program Resources - Marilyn Blagg
Communications Coordinator- Sarah Park

New Nominations Committee Members:
Julia-Meade Gallier, Libby Keyser, Debbie
McDaniels, Mary Jane Rawley

(Note: Brenda NeSmith, Education & Interpretation Coordinator, term was for 2020-21. Karen Bragg, Nominations, was also inducted for 2020-21.)

Submitted by 2020 Nominations Committee:
Karen Bragg, Chairman
Annita Nelson (2021)
Nancy West (2021)
Phyllis Foltz (2022)
Carolyn Patterson (2022)
Sarah Park (2022)
Betsy Hanmer (2023)
Jeanette Walker (2023)





Secretary

Dottie Thompson

Greetings Sisters in CHRIST!

What a time we are living in.... never in my life have I had anxiety over everyday living as in the past six months, but through it all I rejoice that I have the LOVE of our Lord Jesus Christ in my heart to comfort me. As Secretary for the Virginia Conference, I have been so blessed getting to know some beautiful, awesome, women in this organization called The United Methodist Women.

We have missed out on so many gatherings in 2020, but now as we are nearing the Annual Meeting, I reflect on "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" Philippians 4:13. We will meet virtually on Zoom and move forward to continuing HIS work as United Methodist Women! I will be emailing UMW District Secretaries and copy District Presidents with Secretary training and information. After your District meetings, **please send me (datgirl1019@gmail.com) your 2021 incoming officers and any updated information** for the next Annual Report, which is vital to include correct information.

I look forward to seeing all those that can attend a first "virtual" UMW annual meeting. PRAISE GOD! "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" 1 Corinthians 15:57

Blessings!
Dottie Thompson
Datgirl1019@gmail.com



Treasurer

Linda Borrer

Scholarship information and the application for the Katherine Kyle Memorial Fund and the Carroll Palmer Estate Fund are available on the VAUMW website and are published in this newsletter. Written applications for these grants are to be submitted to the Conference Treasurer by **October 1, 2020**, along with letters of recommendation.

As of June 30, 2020, we have met 30% of our Conference Pledge to Mission, which is \$645,000 and of course it is down from last year. However, Districts are still sending in requests for Special Mission Recognitions and a lot of these are from Rainbow Givers. Keep up the good work in these difficult times.

The usual reports are still needed for our Annual Meeting; i.e. number of 5 & 6 star units and number and name of rainbow givers. Notification has already been sent to each District Treasurer of these reporting requirements.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions about the work of the Conference Treasurer or District Treasurers. My phone number is **540-664-5912** and **email linda.borrer1@gmail.com**.

Blessings
Linda



Virginia Conference United Methodist Women Scholarships

Scholarship funds listed below are offered by the United Methodist Women and are available to women and youth who would like to apply by the **deadline date**. Applications are available from your District President/Treasurer, Conference Treasurer and online at vaumw.com

Jean Frances Craig/Agnes C. Burr Mission Fund, established 1998 and 2007

It is stipulated that the income shall be used for missionary projects at home and abroad. Written application for grants must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer by **March 1** and shall include the following information: name and nature of the project, amount requested and how it shall be used, name of person or institution requesting the grant, and complete contact information.

Recommendations shall be submitted by the Finance Committee to the Executive Committee for approval.

The Lucy Clyde Blanton Scholarship Fund established 2006

It is stipulated by the donor that the income shall be used to assist students preparing to become nurses or missionaries. Written application for scholarship must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer by **March 1** and shall include the following information: name and nature of the request, amount requested and how it shall be used, name of person or institution requesting the scholarship and complete contact information. Recommendations shall be submitted by the Finance Committee to the Executive Committee for approval.

Katherine Kyle Memorial Scholarship Fund established 1993

This scholarship is awarded annually to a woman or youth for scholarship assistance for school tuition, short-term mission work or other as recommended by the Finance Committee and approved by the Executive Committee preceding the Annual Meeting. Application forms are available from the district president and must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer by **October 1**.

Carroll Palmer Estate Fund established 1984

It is stipulated that the income shall be used ½ for needy children and that ½ be used for educational materials (scripture portions, bibles, etc. in India and elsewhere where the need is greatest.) Written applications for grants must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer **by October 1** and shall include the following information: name and nature of the project, amount requested and how it shall be used, name of person or institution requesting the grant, and complete contact information. Recommendations shall be submitted by the Finance Committee to the Executive committee for approval.

Linda Borrer

VA Conference UMW Treasurer

849 Grim Road, Stephens City, VA 22655

Linda.borrer1@gmail.com

(540) 664-5912

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
(Name of Scholarship) _____
Application Form

This scholarship assistance is awarded annually (when money is available) to an applicant for school tuition, short-term mission work, mission projects, etc. or other help as approved by the Executive Committee.

(See attached criteria for each scholarship.)

Applications forms are available from the district president or conference treasurer and must be submitted to the Conference Treasurer.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____

Email address: _____

College/Seminary/or Project: Name and Address: _____

Church Activities: _____

Future Plans: _____

Special Interest: _____

Amount Requested: _____

Please attach separate sheet with additional information explaining how this amount will be used within the purview of the scholarship.

Recommended by _____

(Attach written recommendation)

Phone number _____

Address _____

Return to: Linda Borrer, Treasurer
Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
849 Grim Road
Stephens City, Virginia 22655
Email: linda.borrer1@gmail.com



Mission Education & Interpretation

Brenda NeSmith

A Letter of "Thanks" to Virginia Conference United Methodist Women:

I am sharing a letter that was written to Virginia Conference UMW from Reverend Mikang Kim, pastor of Epworth United Methodist Church on the Eastern Shore District where she is the first Korean female clergy serving in this position on the district. At the Conference Executive UMW Meeting, October 2019, Joyce Bowen, Vice President, Eastern Shore District UMW, read the letter to the group, and since that time I have wanted to share the letter with everyone. I am now sharing excerpts from the letter with you.

Reverend Kim was inspired when the 2019 Session of the Virginia Annual Conference recognized our 150th Anniversary: "The Holy Spirit nudged me to share how grateful I am as a Korean for the ministry of the United Methodist Women in Korea. Your ministry was deeply rooted in Korea with your love and compassion from God and brought good fruit in the Korean church. I am one of the fruits of your ministry."

In her letter, Reverend Kim recounted the contributions of three pioneer missionaries to Korea: Henry Appenzeller, the first Methodist Missionary to Korea; Mary Scranton, the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society representative to Korea and her son, William Scranton, a physician. "Henry and Mary were in charge of the educational missionary work and William was in charge of the medical missionary work. Briefly, they built schools, hospitals and churches which became the strong foundation of Korean civilization today. Appenzeller founded the first Korean Methodist Church in Seoul, Chong Dong." Mary Scranton, founder of Ewha Girl's School, "saved so many girls who were dying on the street. Back then, women were not respected in Korean Society- no names, no educations and no freedom. With Christ's love, she first gave names to these name-

less Korean women, found good clothes and food for them and educated them. All her ministries were possible with prayers and support of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society."

Reverend Kim gave this testimony: "Mary and William Scranton came to Korea thanks to your ministry. Without them, I wonder if I could have my name Mikang, if I could have a good education in Korea and the United States, and most of all, if I could have this freedom of salvation through Jesus Christ. I owe it to these missionaries as well as our United Methodist Women."

Reverend Kim concluded her letter with hope and encouragement. Noting at that time, "we are going through a time of trial in our church and it is difficult to dream God's hope. That's why I am writing this letter to you. For 150 years, God's light has been delivered over the world through your service, prayers, supports and ministry." Reverend Kim's letter reminds us of our legacy and calls us to "dream God's hope" as we live out our PURPOSE. Those whose lives are touched by our service and gifts probably will not pen us a beautiful, testimonial letter like Reverend Kim and we don't require that of them; Our love and service is our response to God's great love! I leave you with this blessing from our July/August response: "May you find peace in the love you've given so many and in the love you receive from the sisterhood of grace and strength that is United Methodist Women."

Brenda NeSmith
Mission Coordinator,
Education and Interpretation





Membership Nurture and Outreach

Marlene Dakita

Remembering Our Sisters Who Have Moved on to Eternal Life

It may look a bit different this year at the Conference UMW Annual Meeting, but we will remember the legacy of our UMW sisters in the Virginia Conference who have passed away during the current reporting year (September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2020). Please submit their names as follows:

- 1) Local organizations or units should send the names of the deceased along with the name of the local unit name to which they belonged to their District MN&O, President or whoever that Mission Team designates so as to be recognized at district annual meetings. Remember to include District Members who are not part of a local unit and pastors, as well as anyone inadvertently omitted from last year's report.
- 2) District MN&O, President or other designee will compile the names, listed alphabetically by church, then alphabetically by person's name. Please send them to me by September 25. Preferably, put the information in the body of an email; otherwise, attach to the email or send by mail. mdakita@comcast.net or Conference MN&O Marlene Dakita, 200 N Pickett St. #1410, Alexandria, VA 22304.

District presidents and MN&Os should have already received this and additional information by email on August 24.

2019 UMW Census

At the end of July, I received the Virginia Conference final 2019 Census report from the National office. I forwarded to District presidents and MN&Os (or other reps) the PowerPoint, a visual presentation based on the compilation of units' responses to the census questions, and the Excel spreadsheet, which shows the units' individual responses to questions on the census. The pur-

pose is to help all levels in planning and/or further exploring strengths and gaps at the local level.

On August 11, I "Zoomed in" to hear the staff review of the reports. They plan to send a summary of points discussed. In the meantime, here are a couple of takeaways: Of the 52 conferences reporting, the Virginia Conference reported the most units and the most members. For across all conferences, 94% show members in the 56-70+ age category. For the question, "How do you define a thriving unit," the largest percentage response was "inviting and attracting new members." However, right now we probably want to focus on current members, on mission and our Purpose.

Marlene Dakita
Mission Coordinator for Membership Nurture & Outreach

Program Resources



Blessing to all! We are now wrapping up our reading program for 2019-2020 and the 2021 Reading List is now available. The list has been sent to all District Program Resource officers and they should be distributing to individual units. However, you may obtain your own copy by going to unitedmethodistwomen.org under the Members/Leader tab. Click on the 2020 Reading List which will take you to the site needed to print the 2021 List. It is right below the 2020 catalog. At this time, the books on the 2021 list are not available from the Lending Library. Please keep in mind while planning your reading that the books on the 2015 list are only eligible to be counted if read by December 31, 2020. Program Books are now available for order from UMWMissionResources.org. 2021 Prayer Calendars will be available later this fall. I want to Thank You for all your support during the last 4 years. It has been a real pleasure to serve in this capacity.

Jeanette Yoh



Social Action

Karen McElfish

Democracy, Values and the 2020 Election

In just a few months we will be deciding on issues and candidates likely to shape the future. How do we as people of faith respond? What values do we uphold? As United Methodist Women we work to turn faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Our social action priorities include climate justice, economic justice, racial justice, and maternal and child health. These priorities are evident as we read the recent issue of response magazine, with a lengthy article on the Just Energy for All campaign. Faith Talks, conversations hosted by United Methodist Women, have recently covered topics including COVID-19 and incarcerated loved ones, creation care and paid family leave. Our new Program Guide, “Knitted Together for God’s Good Work” draws our attention to issues ranging from support for living wage initiatives to access to health care. Historically we have worked for justice, advocating for women’s rights, civil rights, voter rights and immigrant rights, just to name a few. It is with this history and set of priorities in mind that United Methodist Women supports “Democracy, Values and the 2020 Election: Reflection Guide for Faith Communities”.

Developed by Faith in Public Life and Interfaith Power and Light, the voter guide focuses on 8 key areas of engagement, with questions to help faith communities in conversation and discernment on each policy area, as well as questions to ask of political candidates. While not exhaustive, these issues are broad-ranging, and include voting rights, climate justice, loving our immigrant neighbors, economy of inclusion, moral health policies, restorative and racial justice, respecting the dignity of LGBTQ people and the global common good. Sample questions include: What does your faith teach about our responsibilities for the Earth and to others? How are they interdependent? What can we do to ensure that all Americans

are able to provide for their families and live with security and dignity? How do we build safe communities for everyone, particularly people of color? How can your faith community advocate for policies to create a more peaceful world? How can we, as people of faith, help shape our future? How do we renew our fragile democracy? How do we honor the human dignity of every person? And protect God’s good creation for generations to come? The challenges we face require us to envision who we want to be as a nation. We need to affirm that all of us are created in the image of God. This guide is intended to help us grapple with very important issues we are called to address at every level in this upcoming election.

Take the time to read the guide. Gather family members, sister UMW members, church members and people from your community to discuss the questions. Prepare to meet candidates with questions sparked by the guide. The full guide can be downloaded from United Methodist Women: <https://forms.gle/wrUgqbbq1CS088Rd6>

Karen

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women about timely topics. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

To listen to past talks, go to

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>

Some of the topics include:

Voter Guides & Voter Suppression, Dismantling Racism, Caring for the Body, Education Inequality, Emotion and Anxiety, Mass Incarceration, Grief, Coronavirus, Faithfulness, and Online Worship Online (part 1&2), Paid Family Leave, Creation Care, Sustainability and Climate Justice, Mary, Maternal Health and the Role of Caregivers



Spiritual Growth

Melissa White

I have spent the last month collaborating with a wonderful group of VA Conference United Methodist Women as we study and discuss together via a Zoom Webinar the important UMW Reading Program book **So You Want to Talk about Race** by Ijeoma Oluo. An article I came across earlier this year, originally posted on a blog by Rhett Smith on January 20, 2008 in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, seems appropriate to share now. His blog post is a result of his thinking about the “importance of how we not only help people, but how we address the systemic issues that keep people trapped in certain patterns of helplessness.” Rhett Smith’s post focused on King’s idea of **Fixing the Road to Jericho** which seems to be attributed to a conversation King had with Ambassador Andrew Young after returning with his wife from a trip to Israel where they had rented a car and traveled that road from Jerusalem to Jericho:

“...Andy, I think the Good Samaritan is a great individual. I of course, like and respect the Good Samaritan....but I don’t want to be a Good Samaritan.” Dr. King continued, *“...you see Andy, I am tired of picking up people along the Jericho Road. I am tired of seeing people battered and bruised and bloody, injured and jumped on, along the Jericho Roads of life. This road is dangerous. I don’t want to pick up anyone else, along this Jericho Road; I want to fix... the Jericho Road. I want to pave the Jericho Road, add streetlights to the Jericho Road; make the Jericho Road safe (for passage) by everybody....”*

In Dr. King’s “I’ve Been to the Mountain Top speech” delivered the night before he was assassinated in Memphis, TN, he was speaking in support of the city’s striking sanitation workers at the Bishop Charles Mason Temple. In this powerful speech he talked about the need in all to “develop a kind of dangerous unselfishness”. He talked about this Parable of Jesus, The Good Samaritan. “And finally, the man of another race came by. He got down from his beast, decided

not to be compassionate by proxy. But he got down with him, administered first aid, and helped the man in need. Jesus ended up saying, this was the good man, this was the great man, because he had the capacity to project the “I” into the “thou,” and to be concerned about his brother.” Why didn’t the Levite and the Priest stop to help this man, ponders King. Were they on their way to Jerusalem or Jericho to organize a “Jericho Road Improvement Association? He says: “That’s a possibility. Maybe they felt that it was better to deal with the problem from the causal root, rather than to get bogged down with an individual effect.” Were they scared the robbers were still around? Was the injured man faking in order to seize them? Dr. King concludes his speech that night in Memphis in 1968 with a really important question:

“The question is not, “If I stop to help this man in need, what will happen to me?” The question is, “If I do not stop to help the sanitation workers, what will happen to them?” That’s the question. Let us rise up tonight with a greater readiness. Let us stand with a greater determination. And let us move on in these powerful days, these days of challenge to make America what it ought to be. We have an opportunity to make America a better nation. And I want to thank God, once more, for allowing me to be here with you.”

The last chapter of Ijeoma Oluo’s book “So You Want to Talk about Race” is *“Talking is great, but what else can I do?”* As United Methodist Women, we discussed that last week (August 20th) at our final webinar meeting. Our heritage in this organization is our guide to be change makers and part of the solution to the evil of racism. Lord God, hear our prayer that this be so.

Melissa White, Spiritual Growth Coordinator

(Source: <https://rhettsmith.com/2008/01/martin-luther-king-jr-and-fixing-the-road-to-gericho/>)

Around the Conference

The **Halesworth** (Danville) United Methodist Women met on July 27th, via Zoom. The meeting was opened with prayer. Shannon Miles, MSN RN-C, Nurse Manager Women & Children's Services at Virginia Baptist Hospital, was our guest speaker. In Ms. Miles introduction, she shared that "as a state advocate for Women and Children, I am passionate about Maternal & Infant Mortality, specifically at the inequalities between white and non-white populations. All people deserve equal care and services no matter their race or socio-economic status." Ms. Miles pointed out some startling numbers, that the African American women's death rate is 2-3 times higher during pregnancy and through one year of post-partum. 43% of the deaths of these women occur after 12 weeks of birth, with 2 of the highest causes of death being mental health issues or substance abuse. As one member pointed out, it used to be that families lived near each other and could help with the newborn, but now families are spread all over the country.

There are many challenges with helping mothers. One of the most effective ways to help is by listening, listening to the stories of the doctors not listening to them, listening to the stories of inequalities of treatment, and stories of shortages in the rural areas of the state. Senator Tim Kaine came to one of the listening sessions and has a bill in Congress to address some of these issues. As a church, we can listen to, but not judge, pregnant women and new mothers. The church family can help by hosting a baby shower before the baby arrives, a meal train during the first month of the baby's life, regularly checking in and helping with resources. As the baby grows, the church can be especially helpful during the crucial fourth trimester, or first year of the baby's life, when most maternal deaths occur. Ms. Miles will bring information and flyers to share. Halesworth UMW members discussed how we can help. Suggestions included checking with LCM and Henry Fork, to share flyers and research needs, since we don't have pregnant women or new mothers in our congregation, finding out more about the Faith Alliance, that works with these needs, and most importantly, praying for this ministry. We ended the meeting with Scripture, Exodus 22:21 and Psalm 12:5, and the UMW purpose. We discussed the challenges of having a food drive during the pandemic. Riddles were used to help us think outside the box, and the meeting was closed with prayer.

The **West Point** (York River) United Methodist Church Women's Thrift Shop is open Friday mornings from 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Before Covid-19 we ran from the first week in May until the last week of October. This year 2020 we opened on Friday, July 3rd after we started back with in-visit church services on Sunday and hope to continue until the end of October.

This year we have had anywhere from 10 to 25 people visit us each Friday. Two or three families will visit.

We would love donations but right now if people want to donate, they should bring items during our Thrift Shop hours or contact Bonnie Ward, organizer of our shop. We do not have room for big items like large furniture as our space is limited nor are we handicap accessible, but we have sold a flat screen TV this year that was donated. We prefer smaller household items/accessories and clothing. Our wish list from shoppers in previous years has included infant items and children's clothing. However, we are now in a place where the Thrift Shop is thriving with children's clothes as well as men's and women's items and kitchen and holiday finds. We are very fortunate to have several members of our congregation who in downsizing have donated.

Each year after we close, we donate most items to a local charity organization to start over with fresh items for the next year.

Around the Conference

Greetings from **Herndon** (Arlington) United Methodist Women! We are finding new ways to adapt in this time of quarantine. Zoom meetings have proved to be an invaluable resource to keep us connected. Typically, our leadership team meets monthly to discuss business, but we have instituted a twice-monthly schedule with Zoom to provide an extra “check-in” meeting as a time for additional fellowship. Many of our circles are continuing to meet via Zoom. We’ve found the silver lining of “virtual” meetings is that it has allowed some of our groups to grow with added members whose constraints made it challenging to get to in-person meetings, such as mothers of small children, those with mobility issues or health concerns, or those without transportation. Our UMW book club just met virtually to discuss “America’s Original Sin,” and has added members who would otherwise not be able to join us in person during the pandemic. Additionally, we have added a mid-day Bible study of Ruth and Esther, and Zoom allows some women to join in during their lunch break from work! We are preparing a half day virtual Leadership Retreat via Zoom to see how we can continue to serve United Methodist Women’s purpose while our church building is closed. Our fall Women’s Retreat is in the planning stages, and while we hope to have an in-person gathering, we will also meet virtually if necessary and perhaps even have a combined retreat to reach those beyond our community. We are seeing the advantages of the virtual meeting technology and encourage other units to utilize it as well. If your church is not offering Zoom, it costs \$15 a month and your UMW could purchase an account. Even when we are ready to gather in person again, we see the “virtual” options as part of our mission going forward.

Williamsburg (York River) United Methodist Women have been sheltering at home along with everyone else in Virginia. During this time, some of our ladies were involved with contacting church members who don’t have the internet by phone or by letter to keep them involved, to do a wellness check and just to let them know the church was thinking of them. Also, the Williamsburg area churches banded together to provide lunches for children who normally get meals at school. The program called Summer Meals for Kids, operates daily throughout the summer. Several ladies from WUMW joined the volunteers to pack meals for 92 households. Other WUMW helped deliver those meals to motels and apartment complexes throughout the area. The comradery with other church women was wonderful. As we move toward the autumn, most of our activities will continue to take place via Zoom until our members feel comfortable and safe with face to face meetings.

St. James (York River) United Methodist Women had a successful event to collect food donations on August 15th. St. James UMW Food Drive collected 1,160 pounds of food, estimated feeding 1,200 families. Our food drive was successful with the help of our St. James family and beyond even though we had a downpour of rain all day!

The ladies at **First Fox Hill** (York River) zoomed our last Executive meeting and are encouraging our members to write cards and make phone calls to keep in touch. We miss hugs so very much but will make up for that in the future. Some of us are worried that if we ever get to hug again, we will not let go!

Around the Conference

When the Government shutdown paralyzed many in our community in December 2018, the United Methodist Women of **Bellamy** (York River) United Methodist Church in Gloucester saw a need and began a diaper ministry. Many struggling families in our area and surrounding counties were touched and helped by this ministry. After the shutdown ended in January 2019, the collection of these items continued and remained available to families in need. When the pandemic hit this year, many of these young families and so many more were in need. Families were facing weeks without paychecks and feared for their children's welfare.

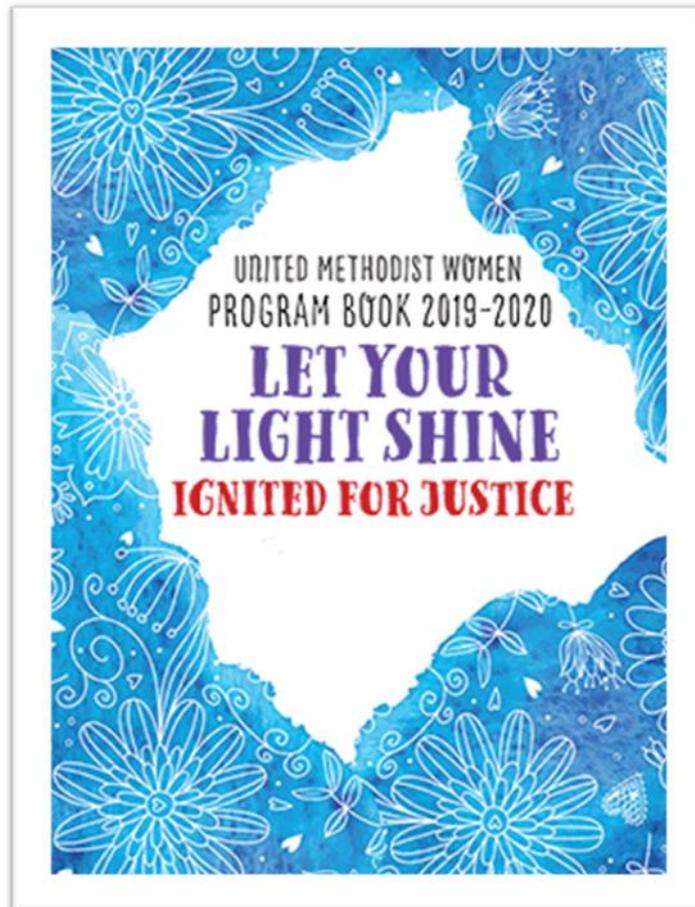
Through the leadership of our Director of Children's Ministry, both Bellamy UMW circles got to work collecting items that were in highest demand. Through word of mouth and social media, drive-by pickups became a weekly event. In addition to Bellamy's congregation, many other churches began collecting baby food, wipes, pull-ups, diapers, and canned goods and brought the items to us, along with monetary donations. Each Tuesday morning and Thursday evening, cars line up and volunteers get to work loading vehicles through car windows and filling up van trunks, all the while staying socially distant and wearing masks and gloves. As of the end of July, more than 300 families received over 140 bags of canned goods and 8,516 diapers, wipes, etc. We are excited to continue this great ministry as long as it is needed, and we are very thankful for those in the community that have worked so closely with us. God is good, all the time.

Harrisonburg, Richmond, and Winchester districts have been busy making masks.

Ideas for helping during this continuing pandemic:

- ◆ Check on other people with a call or note.
- ◆ Make deliveries for others.
- ◆ Buy a gift card from a local establishment you want to support.
- ◆ Make a donation.
 - Money, food, PPE, hard-to-find supplies
- ◆ Give blood.
- ◆ Volunteer with Be My Eyes.
- ◆ Spread some good news.
 - Our youth group is leading our worship service this Sunday and that is the theme of their service.
- ◆ Continue to practice social distancing and self-care.

Your presence is requested for Saturday, October 24, 2020
Virginia Conference United Methodist Women
48th Annual Meeting
via Zoom from 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM



Please register via

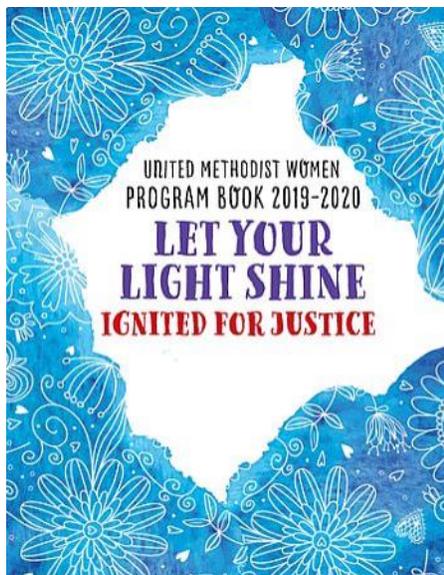
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUlcOCgqTwrHdDBtKIUB4yOQlu5C33oZy1T>

to Frances Ellis by October 12, 2020

Include name, email, church, district
Zoom instructions will follow after registration

Virginia Conference United Methodist Women 2020-2021 Calendar

October 23	Mission Team & Exec. Committee Meeting, via zoom
October 24	UMW 48th Annual Meeting, via zoom
January 9, 2021	UMW Mission Team Meeting, UM Center
January 28	UM Day at the General Assembly, Richmond
March 27	UMW Executive Committee Meeting, UM Center
May 14-16	UMW Spiritual Life Retreat, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
June 5	UMW Day at Ferrum College
June 18	UMW Breakfast at Annual Conference, Hampton
July 23-25	Mission Encounter, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
September 10-11	UMW Young Women's Retreat, Camp Overlook, Keezletown
October 2	UMW Budget Meeting, UM Center
October 22	UMW Executive Committee Meeting, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center
October 23	UMW 49th Annual Meeting, Smith Mountain Lake 4H Center



CONTACT INFORMATION



VIRGINIA CONFERENCE MISSION TEAM 2020

<p>President Mary Jane Rawley (540)820-8692 dwwalley@msn.com</p>	<p>Spiritual Growth Coordinator Melissa White (757)898-1861 mel49white@yahoo.com</p>
<p>Vice President Nancy Walsh (540)662-5055 walshpn@visuallink.com</p>	<p>Secretary of Program Resources Jeanette Yoh (757)871-1459 Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com</p>
<p>Secretary Dottie Thompson (757)675-8958 datgirl1019@gmail.com</p>	<p>Communications Coordinator Frances Ellis (703)476-1127 fwellis@aol.com or umwlink@gmail.com</p>
<p>Treasurer Linda Borrer (540)664-5912 Linda.borrer1@gmail.com</p>	<p>Chair Nominations Karen Bragg (434)369-4666 BraggK17@gmail.com</p>
<p>Education and Interpretation Coordinator Brenda NeSmith (804)323-9134 BrendaNesmith1@gmail.com</p>	<p>Korean Language Coordinator</p>
<p>Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator Marlene Dakita (703)244-4524 mdakita@comcast.net</p>	<p>Hispanic Language Coordinator</p>
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