

# THE Link



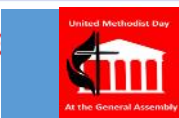
United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



Virginia  
United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

VA CONFERENCE UMW NEWSLETTER THE LINK



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Officer Reports	1 – 9
Report on LDD 2021	10
UMW e-News	11
2021 Mission Encounter	12 -13
2021 Calendar	14
2021 District Presidents	15
Mission Team 2021 Contact Information	16
VA UMW Scholarships Information and Application form	17 -18
Announcements	19 –20

## PURPOSE

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;  
and to expand  
CONCEPTS OF  
MISSION  
through participation  
in the global  
ministries of the church.

February 2021



Nancy Walsh

## President's Message

### *United Methodist Women Equips Ordinary Women to Do Extraordinary Things*

First, I want to publicly thank Mary Jane Rawley for her presidency for the past four years. She led not only with grace but with a firm knowledge of United Methodist Women policies and practices. We should all thank her.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in my new position as President. I pray that you are patient with me as I ask God to guide me in leadership of our Virginia Conference United Methodist Women.

Next, I want to share with you this which was shared with me from United Methodist Women, national office:

"As United Methodist Women leaders, you have embraced the fullness of the opportunity to lead God's people toward a life full of faith, hope and love. Some of us come to this opportunity with a wealth of knowledge and experiences while others are brand new to leadership. No matter the case, we believe that you bring a particular skill and grace to your role, and we are grateful to have you as part of this work."

Thank you for stepping up and stepping into the blessings you will receive for the work you do for United Methodist Women.

&

As we are continually aware that caution is paramount for the safety of all of our members, the Mission Team (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, 4 Mission Coordinators, Sec. of Program Resources, Communications Coordinator and Committee On Nominations Chairwoman) has made the decision to hold all of this year's meetings and events virtually by Zoom. Zoom or no Zoom, we are ever ready to help any who desire assistance.

&

Please look for information regarding our Spiritual Life Retreat, May 15<sup>th</sup>.

&

The Lending Library under the new leadership of Marilyn Blagg,  
[marilynblagg@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynblagg@hotmail.com), 540-396-6172, is up and running.

Nancy Walsh, President

Today, at the start of Black History Month, we lift up Theresa Hoover, the first African-American chief executive of the United Methodist Women.

More Christ-centered, spiritual growth resources,  
United Methodist Women



**Vice-  
President**

**Melissa White**

I know many of you participated in the opportunities that the VA Interfaith Center for Public Policy offered the week of January 18 – 22 to be involved in Advocacy and Action for the betterment of all peoples in our Commonwealth! I know this because I saw your names in the chat box during workshops and I even got to glimpse you in your little Zoom box at the Methodist Meeting on Friday of the week!

When we haven't been able to be together in person...aren't we blessed to live in an age of technology that keeps us connected digitally during difficult times when we are separated for safety sake! The week of "Days for All People" reminded me again of how special it is to be a part of United Methodist Women where we focus on Leadership Development, Service & Advocacy, Spiritual Growth and Transformative Education!

At our first Conference Mission Team meeting of the new year, your Conference officers voted to conduct all our events on-line for the remainder of 2021. By the time you receive this newsletter, Spiritual Growth Coordinator Mary Jeffries and I will have met with our speaker, Rev. Ileana Rosario, for our First Ever Virtual Spiritual Life Retreat (May 15, 2021) to plan for "creating space for a meaningful retreat".

Let me tell you, our national organization has great ideas and suggestions and, as the Program Chairman, I am eager to hear your suggestions for this new way of connecting!

In the meantime, put Saturday, May 15, 2021 on our calendar for a time to get away....to your Zoom Room(!)...with your United Methodist Women Sisters to relax, refresh and reflect on the Peace of Christ!

To *every* thing  
there  
is a *season*, and  
*time* to *every* a  
purpose  
under the heaven.  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

### **New Year Thoughts from Melissa**

I've been accepting the challenge to read through the Bible in a year for the past several years as Bishop Cho and Bishop Lewis have encouraged. For 2021, I decided to read, study and ponder the lectionary texts from the Upper Room Disciplines devotion, and the United Methodist Women Prayer Calendar each day and write a reflection each day in my Prayer Calendar.

A text for January 1 is the familiar passage Ecclesiastes 3:1-13: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens....*

Here's what I wrote on January 1, 2021: What season of life am I in?

I am in a time of hope...for a beloved family member going through struggles...but prayerfully, with opportunities for healing ahead. How can I serve my family and friends?

I am in a time of healing for all those who suffer from sickness and despair. How can I serve my community?

I am in a time of throwing away all things that are burdensome and a time of preparation for what the new normal will be. How can I contribute to a more peaceful, loving world?

I look forward to what lies ahead in 2021 and for opportunities to learn, grow and be bold in action as United Methodist Women!





## Secretary

**Frances Ellis**

I am looking forward to my new position of Secretary. Please keep me up to date on changes in your district.

I am concerned about the large number of openings on all the district teams and the number of churches which no longer have UMW units.

What is our reputation and how did we get it? Do we have the reputation of a bunch of old ladies who cook church dinners? The work we do with women and children, racial justice, the poor, the immigrants, the Native Americans, human trafficking, fighting against violence is so relevant and needed.

If we are not willing to stand up for other women, who will? How can we make UMW programs and membership more 'popular', more appealing? I think every district needs a designated cheerleader. What do you think?

I have learned so much by having the privilege to sit in on zoom meetings this past year. I have learned the responsibilities of many UMW offices. I have gotten to participate in a book study that I do not know if anyone would have thought of attempting when we were focused on gathering in person.

Several years ago, I took a class on the Americans with Disability Act. I learned something about accessibility, that as construction was being done, there was no need to build separate access points if you consider the common denominator. Everyone can use a ramp. Steps are not a requirement.

In the future I hope we have learned there is no need to make people travel outside of their homes as a prerequisite to participate in UMW events if they do not care to or are unable to travel. Getting together is nice but being able to participate without worrying about weather, traffic, pollution, distance opens attendance up to so many more of our sisters.

My vision and hope on a personal note - My mother has been moved twice within the Hermitage at Richmond since I was allowed into her room. She has received her first dose of vaccine. I am looking forward to the day I can visit her again.

Frances Ellis

[VAUMWSecretary@gmail.com](mailto:VAUMWSecretary@gmail.com)



## Treasurer

**Linda Borrer**

I welcome three new District Treasurers to begin the 2021 year: Alexandria – Marty Bickford; Arlington – Debra Fairweather; and Roanoke – Helen Watson.

The Virginia Conference met 74% of our Pledge for the year 2020 and I congratulate all for achieving that percentage, especially in the difficult year with having to face the many obstacles forced on us by this terrible pandemic.

Please remember to have your 2020 files audited and a copy mailed to me and your District President for file. All of our Districts have not kept up with this in the past and this can possibly cause difficult situations in the future. This responsibility and accountability lies with the Conference Treasurer, District Treasurer and District President.

Scholarship information and the application are available in this newsletter for **the Jean Frances Craig/Agnes C. Burr Mission Fund and the Lucy Clyde Blanton Scholarship Fund**. Please be sure to instruct applicants to send the completed application to the Conference Treasurer prior to the deadline date of March 1, 2021. They can be mailed to Linda Borrer, 849 Grim Road, Stephens City, VA 22655 or by email: [linda.borrer1@gmail.com](mailto:linda.borrer1@gmail.com)

Blessings  
Linda Borrer  
Conference Treasurer  
540-664-5912

When we put the needs of women, youth, and children first, we foster culture-shifting attitudes and social norms that promote the wellbeing of society's most vulnerable.







## Social Actions Coordinator

**Jeanette Yoh**

Beginnings! Each January 1<sup>st</sup> a time for new resolutions, a new way of life. Often it is for weight loss, eat better, spend more time with my family and goal settings is good, it gives direction for your life. My hope for this year is to concentrate on those less fortunate and I am not only talking about those who are homeless, in abusive relationships or other unfortunate circumstances because I know that my Sisters in Christ are always fighting the long fight and you will continue to be there. But what about are neighbors that have that place to sleep at night, have the money for groceries but they are in need of a ride to the doctor, a card that says I am thinking of you, the help with yard work. There are so many needs out in the world and I would pray that we would allow our voice to be heard far and near. Have a blessed Year!



United Methodist Women continues to build upon the foundation set forth by our founders almost 150 years ago. Yet the difficulties encountered by women, children and youth around the world continue to sustain separation from life affirming compassionate care and support that heals, restores and empowers. Imagine what is achievable, what is possible, if United Methodist Women had the resources to deepen and expand its mission to transform lives and ignite change in places near and far.

In 2014, the Board of Directors launched the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, setting a goal to raise \$60 million. The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign is both historic and unprecedented, with the campaign's theme, *Together, we are building our legacy*, celebrating the **legacy** of the courageous women who founded this mission movement, as well as the **legacy** that today's members will leave for future generations of United Methodist women, to create their **legacy** to carry the mission of *faith, hope, love in action* forward in the world for years to come.

**GIVE**

As I sit here with the sun's heat hitting the window panel and then warming my face, I have to wonder how many others out there are as fortunate as I am. **Proverbs 31:8 "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed."** Blessing to all you for what you are doing and for what you will do in the future to support those that are less fortunate.

I am your new social actions coordinator and this last month has been a time of challenge, learning and getting involved but with the spirit inside of us we will all move forward with a new strength that we never knew we had.

First I want to thank all of you for your support during the DAYS FOR ALL PEOPLE January 18 - 22. It was definitely in a different format (zoom) and the presentations were exceptional. The plenary presentations were recorded and should be up on the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy ([virginiainterfaithcenter.org](http://virginiainterfaithcenter.org)) platform.

Our Social Action Priorities have changed for this quadrennium (2021-2024), United Methodist Women will focus on climate justice and the criminalization of communities of color with particular focus on the Just Energy for All and Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline campaigns.

To start us off this year UMW National will be offering a 3 part webinar series, Just Energy For All, Feb 22, Mar 8 and Mar 22nd. You can register by visiting [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org). In addition Faith Talks take place once a month and there are currently 26 episodes covering a variety of subjects. Many directly related to social action priorities.

Again visit [unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org) and Faith Talks are listed under the "Leader and Members Tab".

Please contact me anytime at [Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com](mailto:Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com) or (757)871-1459 (text messages are welcomed).



**Karen Bragg**

## Nominations

Happy New Year to all. One of my goals for 2021 is to be as good at my position as I possibly can.

The 2021 Mission team is so focused and devoted to UMW that I simply must try to keep up with my peers. The Virginia UMW Conference is so very fortunate to have this strong group of leaders.

Please follow their guidance to complete the Mission focuses in 2021.

### **Committee on Nominations Report First Quarter 2021**

The Committee on Nominations has been sending notes between members and plans to meet before the Executive Meeting in March. The 2020 year was a tough time working to put together the Mission Team with the Covid-19 issues.

We were not able to meet with our candidates in person, but did have lots of phone and email conversations.

I hope that the Districts are doing well with the new officers. Please remember that the Conference CON is here to work with you if you need help!!

The CON will be looking for 4 new members and a new Treasurer, so if you have suggestions----  
**Please let me know.**

Karen Bragg, Chair  
Committee on Nominations  
[braggk17@gmail.com](mailto:braggk17@gmail.com)  
434-548-3574



### **Officers for 2021-2022**

President - Nancy Walsh  
Vice President - Melissa White  
Secretary - Frances Ellis  
Treasurer - Linda Borrer

#### **Area Chairs:**

Spiritual Growth - Mary Jeffries  
Social Action - Jeanette Yoh  
Education & Interpretation – Brenda NeSmith  
Membership Nurture & Outreach - Marlene Dakita  
Program Resources - Marilyn Blagg  
Communications - Sarah Park  
CON – Karen Bragg, Chair

Nominations Committee Members:  
Debbie McDaniels, Julia Meade Gallier, Libby Keyser, Mary Jane Rawley, Betsy Hanmer, Carolyn Patterson, Nancy West, & Carolyn Woodrum





Brenda NeSmith

## Mission Education & Interpretation

Greetings in these early months of 2021!

I am excited about the fresh start that a new year offers and to have another year of life to serve God and others. My hope and prayers during 2021 is for our deeply divided country, for freedom from the things that are separating us from one another. The now famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" written by Dr. Martin Luther King contains many powerful quotes. This one describes our moral and spiritual challenge:

**"In a real sense all life is inter-related. All men are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be... This is the inter-related structure of reality."**

I am committing this year more than ever to regularly pray for peace for our nation, to speak and act in peaceful ways, and to recognize and affirm peaceful interactions when I experience them.

Speaking of new beginnings, our Conference Connectional Ministries has been restructured with new staff persons that will relate to United Methodist Women. The new structure is based on the Conference Vision: "to be disciples of Jesus Christ who are lifelong learners who influence others to serve." We welcome the following:

Rev Steve Summers, Director of Connectional Ministries;  
Rev. Seungsoo "RJ" Jun, Associate Director of Serving Ministries  
Dwayne Stinson, Associate Director of Influencing Ministries  
Rev. Nickie Howard, Associate Director of Learning Ministries

The new staff persons are featured on video on Va. Conference e-Advocate, January 19, 2021.

The staff relationships to United Methodist Women will be as follows: Rev. "RJ" Jun in Serving Ministries will be our primary staff person based on our organization's mission work. Our justice work will fall within the purview of Influencing Ministries.

A few tidbits:

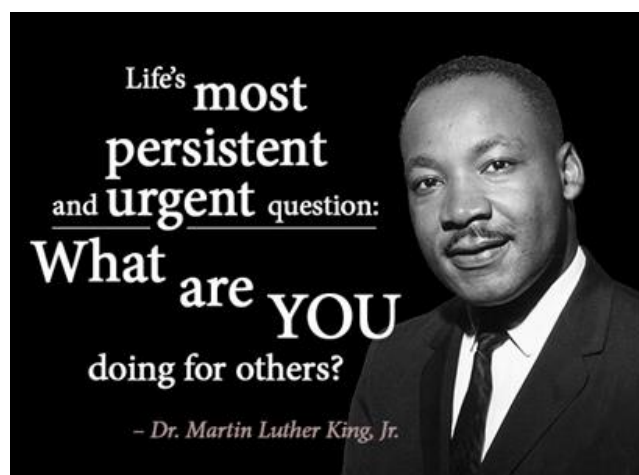
\*Keep July open on your calendar. Mission Encounter 2021 will be virtual this year. Plans are underway and will soon be publicized.

\* Take a critical look at your "2021 Living Into Our Purpose" form to make sure that your unit is staying "on track."

\*As always, do the best that you can!

Peace and love, Brenda NeSmith,

Coordinator, Education and Interpretation





**Membership  
Nurture and  
Outreach**

**Marlene Dakita**

I begin my third year as Mission Coordinator for Membership, Nurture and Outreach (MNO) with renewed purpose and energy for our United Methodist Women.

My goals for 2021 include:

- Check in on individual District MNO coordinators or other key representatives regularly to give support and have a periodic check-in as a group.
- Encourage Districts to complete the 2020 Unit Survey (formerly Census) online [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) before the end of February.
- Encourage Districts to have individual members register their membership at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) in myUMW and get their membership card. The new myUMW will allow units more direct access to the national organization.
- Provide newly-branded resources and guidelines for more flexibility, ideas for staying connected, and for renewing a commitment to UMW. Encourage members to take UMW courses from The Bridge.
- Provide guidelines for units that are looking to go inactive (NOT disband).
- Engage one or two young women (18-40) for input on structuring the virtual Young Women's Event in September.

Please note that this role in UMW is now Membership, Nurture and Outreach. This is a change from the national organization. (Comma added after "Membership") *(PREVIOUSLY, THERE WAS NOT COMMA THERE)*

I look forward to supporting districts and units this year on renewed energy and purpose as members of United Methodist Women.

Marlene Dakita, MNO Coordinator  
703-244-4524  
[mdakita@comcast.net](mailto:mdakita@comcast.net)



**Secretary of  
Program  
Resources**

**Marilyn Blagg**

Greetings

We are looking forward to a better 2021 than last year. We have now had lots of practice doing our work in new ways. We may not like it, but that is our reality.

Blessings, Marilyn Blagg,  
Secretary, Program Resources

\*\*\*

Hello all! I am the latest in a long line of Secretary, Program Resources.

I look forward to serving you as host of the Lending Library. You may access the titles and categories of the books on the United Methodist Women Conference website. The books will be available until 2022.

While the reading list will be current until 2022, we will still have reports due in August. All remains as in previous years. There are many fascinating books on the list, so read as many as you can, especially while we are still confined.

Since all our meetings this year will be "virtual", you will need to order your own study books for Mission Encounter, prayer calendar and program books. The best value is the Sampler available from United Methodist Women website and store. You will receive the current program book, prayer calendar and study book for Mission Encounter. Check it out.

Thanks to all the district Secretary Program Resources. They are a wealth of information and have been on the job for several years.

Blessings to all, Marilyn Blagg

Secretary, Program Resources  
[marilynblagg@hotmail.com](mailto:marilynblagg@hotmail.com)  
(540) 396-6127





## Spiritual Growth

Mary Jeffries

Blessings to everyone!

I hope that this new year finds you well.

We certainly have been living in challenging times. Our lives have been turned upside down.

We are living in a pandemic that we never would have imagined. We are dealing with working from home to the loss of jobs. Our children learning virtual to in person to back to virtual. There is the sickness of Covid and the sadness of death that it brings. Our way of worship has been challenging. All these changes in our life. But....God's love never changes. We must hold on to his unchanging hand.

Let's spend this time to slow down and draw near to God. Be in His presence. If you are already doing so, great! Do it even more.

"All this has come upon us,  
but we haven't forgotten you  
or broken your covenant."

Psalm 44:17.

We are in the planning stages of our Virtual Spiritual Life Retreat for this year. It will be May 15. Please put this on your calendar and plan on attending. More information will be coming your way.

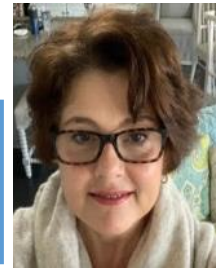
May God's peace be with you all.

Mary Jeffries

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

When we provide spiritual guidance for women, we build a strong foundation for revolutionary change.

**Yes, when women thrive,  
we *all* thrive.**



## Spanish Language Coordinator

Margie Hernandez

I am looking forward to being in fellowship with women that are excited about the lives of all of God's children. Women that seek to make a difference in this world and fill it with the Hope and Love of Christ. It is in building strong relationships that we better understand one another and are able to help heal the hurts of the world. I am committed to being an active part of the solution and not standing idly by in the face of social injustice, systemic racism, and oppression. We are all God's children. Please join me in prayer year-round for peace and JUSTICE.

When we equip strong women leaders with the knowledge and tools to eradicate injustice, we further the fight for justice.



### James 1: 19-27

**19** Know this, my dear brothers and sisters: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry. **20** This is because an angry person doesn't produce God's righteousness. **21** Therefore, with humility, set aside all moral filth and the growth of wickedness, and welcome the word planted deep inside you—the very word that is able to save you.

**22** You must be doers of the word and not only hearers who mislead themselves. **23** Those who hear but don't do the word are like those who look at their faces in a mirror. **24** They look at themselves, walk away, and immediately forget what they were like. **25** But there are those who study the perfect law, the law of freedom, and continue to do it. They don't listen and then forget, but they put it into practice in their lives. They will be blessed in whatever they do.

**26** If those who claim devotion to God don't control what they say, they mislead themselves. Their devotion is worthless. **27** True devotion, the kind that is pure and faultless before God the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their difficulties and to keep the world from contaminating us.





## Communications Coordinator

### Sarah Park

It is my privilege to introduce myself as the new Communications Coordinator.

I look forward to answering challenges to serve the Virginia United Methodist Women in coordinating communication during this especially difficult times. I am, at the same time, grateful for the technology that enables us to connect us in somewhat unfamiliar yet consequential ways!

One of the first things I did as Communications Coordinator was to attend the Leadership Development Days 2021 that was held virtually by the national United Methodist Women from January 26th through 30th. I had chances to meet with other communications coordinators from various jurisdictions and conferences and picked up some great tips. I hope to use them to do my duties with the Virginia UMW.

This is my first stab at publishing our quarterly publication LINK. It may look slightly different from previous issues as I begin to incorporate new ideas I learned. I started a page on e-news items from the national UMW that may be useful for use.

I am also looking into introducing a page dedicated to highlight items from various Virginia districts. I may add some special columns from invited guests on topics that may be of interest to our members in future issues.

I know I have much room for improvements, so I ask all of you to offer suggestions as to how to make this publication so it will serve as an important communication tool for Virginia UMW.

Please email [umwlink@gmail.com](mailto:umwlink@gmail.com) or [shinjds1004@gmail.com](mailto:shinjds1004@gmail.com) or call me at (240)328-4196.



### A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition (Contemporary Version)

I am no longer my own, but yours.  
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.  
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.  
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,  
Praised for you or criticized for you.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.  
And now, O wonderful and holy God,  
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,  
you are mine, and I am yours.  
So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let it also be made in heaven.  
Amen.

### A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT THINE.  
PUT ME TO WHAT THOU WILT,  
RANK ME WITH WHOM THOU WILT.  
PUT ME TO DOING, PUT ME TO SUFFERING.  
LET ME BE EMPLOYED BY THEE OR LAID ASIDE BY THEE.  
EXALTED FOR THEE OR BROUGHT LOW FOR THEE.  
LET ME BE FULL, LET ME BE EMPTY.  
LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, LET ME HAVE NOTHING.  
I FREELY AND HEARTILY YIELD ALL THINGS  
TO THY PLEASURE AND DISPOSAL.  
AND NOW, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,  
FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT,  
THOU ART MINE, AND I AM THINE.  
SO BE IT.  
AND THE COVENANT WHICH I HAVE MADE ON EARTH,  
LET IT BE RATIFIED IN HEAVEN.  
AMEN.

# LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2021



## A report on Leadership Development Days 2021

Anchored, Adrift, Ashore

January 26 - January 30, 2021



Leadership Development Days were held virtually this year. It was a holistic weekend that built on women's skills and further equipped them to lead in United Methodist Women, the church, and the world.

Leaders of the UMW were spiritually uplifted by time worshipping together and time for renewal as they prepared to assume their leadership roles within United Methodist Women through training and workshops; and deepen their connection to the work and community of United Methodist Women.



Trace your finger along the path of the labyrinth meditating on a specific care, a Scripture verse, a question or a joy.



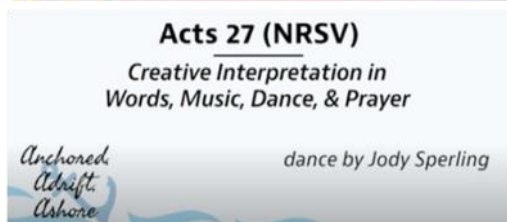
United Methodist Women is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All rights reserved. © 2021 United Methodist Women.

### Participants set up personal prayer spaces

#### Opening worship

Keynote Speaker Garlinda Burton

#### Morning Devotion



#### Workshops

### Just Energy for All Why Should I Care?



#### Closing Worship

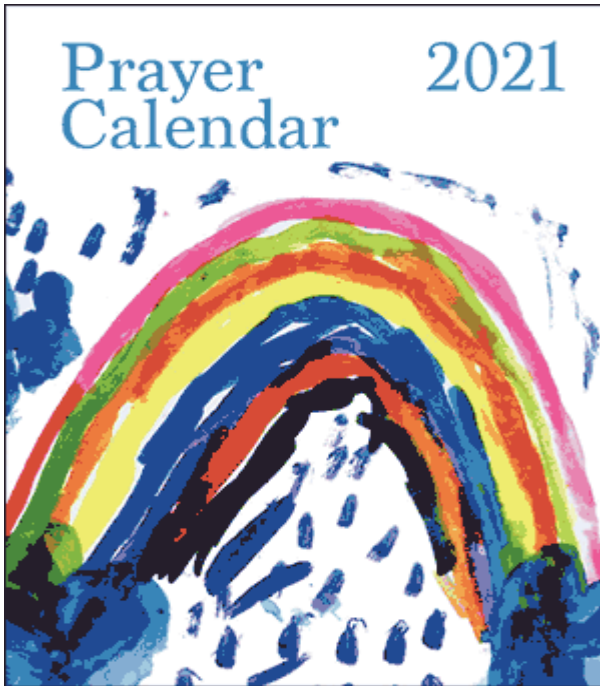
Harriett Jane Olson spoke during our closing worship. She has been the General Secretary and CEO of the United Methodist Women's national administrative and policymaking arm since 2007.





# UNITED METHODIST WOMEN e-news

## The United Methodist Women Prayer Calendar



The beloved calendar helps put your faith, hope and love into action with a daily mission focus, birthdays of people in mission, holidays and space to plan your schedule.

The 2021 Prayer Calendar features art made by children, provided by the national and international partners in mission of United Methodist Women and Global Ministries.

**[The 2021 Prayer Calendar is now available on the e-store!](#)**

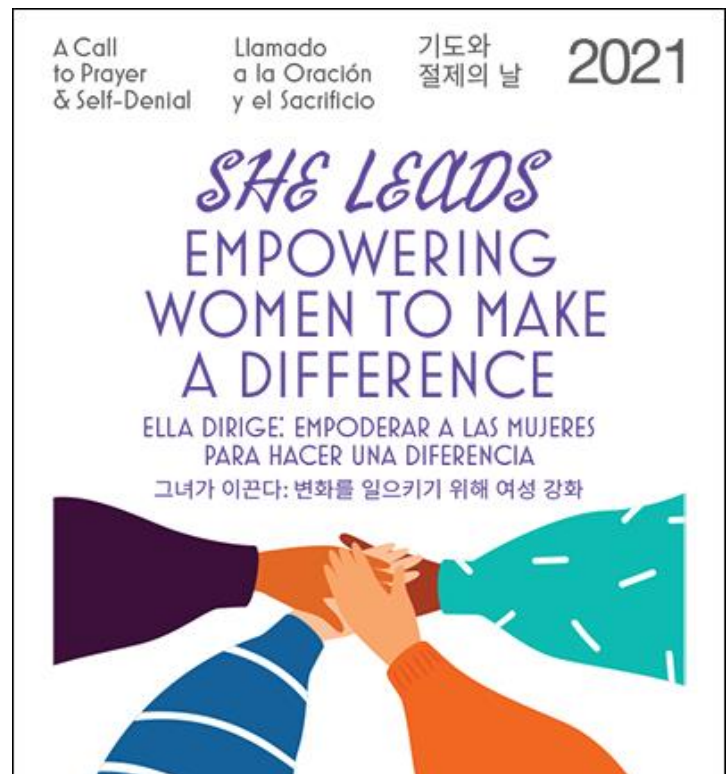
## She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference

### You Are Invited

United Methodist Women invites you to be part of an observance in sisterhood with women from the local unit and your community. Every year, “A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial” encourages women to step out in faith and bring the love of Christ into a hurting world through their prayers and selfless giving.

### This Year’s Theme

In 2021, we will come together around the theme “She Leads: Empowering Women to Make a Difference.” We welcome you to come pray, learn and offer your gifts that will make a real change in the lives of women, children and youth around the world. PRAY - As we unite in prayer, we prepare ourselves to listen. LEARN - As we learn about the impact of the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial, we also learn about the impact our giving has on the world. GIVE - As we generously give, we remember with confidence all that God has already done in and through us and all that God has yet for us to do. Join together to bring justice and inspire change, living into United Methodist Women’s faith and action.





**Darlene Runaldue**

**Dean**

## Mission Encounter



**Phyllis Geoghegan**

**Assistant Dean**

### Message from the Dean, Mission Encounter

What a year it has been! Our planning team has been hard at work and each of us are eager to present to you the virtual model Mission Encounter to be held this summer in July. Lots of opportunities for more friends to join us and for churches to use the materials in new and exciting ways. We hope you help us pass the word along and that this year is our biggest attendance yet with multigenerational and an outreach beyond our church and conference limits.

In Christ, Darlene Runaldue, Dean

\*\*\*

### Message from Assistant Dean

I am honored to serve as Assistant Dean for Mission Encounter 2021 representing United Methodist Women. As far as I know, we are the only conference who has a mission study event supported by two conference entities, by the Board of Missional Ministries (Serving) and our United Methodist Women. By doing this, our Mission Encounter is open to all VA Conference members. So please extend the invitation to participate to all your friends and fellow members of UMC and even beyond.

This year all classes will be presented to adults virtually by our experienced and certified facilitators. The content for the youth and children's studies are so sensitive and serious that only the leaders, teachers and parents will participate in our virtual presentations.

Please pray for our committee's work and for our facilitators. Promote the event in your churches and on your districts. Be conduits for the Gospel of Christ as we seek to serve and reach as many as we can this year in His name.

Blessings and Peace, Phyllis Geoghegan

### Mission Encounter 2021

**Theme:** There's Far More Here

#### Studies:

- Finding Peace in an Anxious World by Erin James-Brown
- Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools by Monique Morris
- Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship by Darryl Stephens
- A Curriculum for Youth Leaders: Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence by Jay Godfrey
- A Curriculum for Children's Facilitators: Responding to Violence by Sue Raymond

Books may be ordered from [unitedmethodistwomen.org/store](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/store)

Mission Studies 2021 (\$10.00)

### Virtual Event Registration begins April 1

\*\*\*

The theme is based on 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

*"So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without his unfolding grace. These hard times are small potatoes compared to the good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever."*

(The Message)



## Mission Encounter 2021

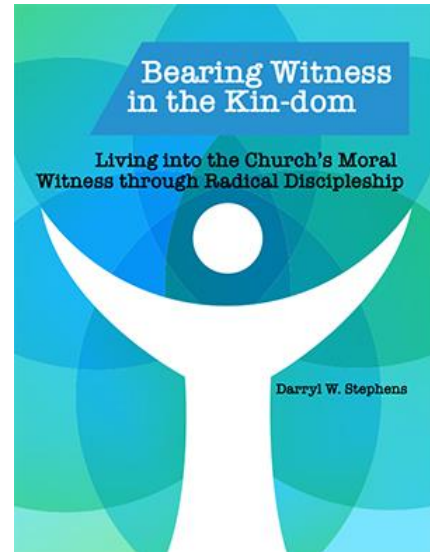
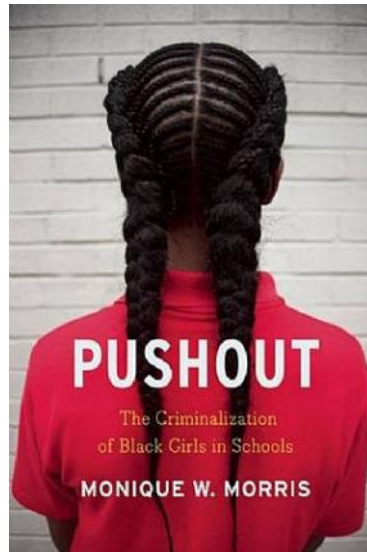
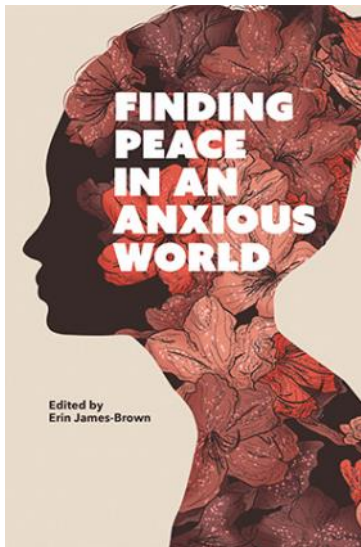
**Theme: There's Far More Here** (based on 2 Corinthians 4:16-18)

### Studies:

**Finding Peace in an Anxious World** by Erin James-Brown

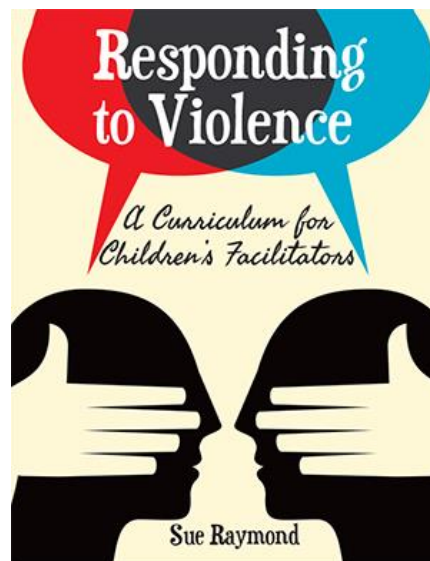
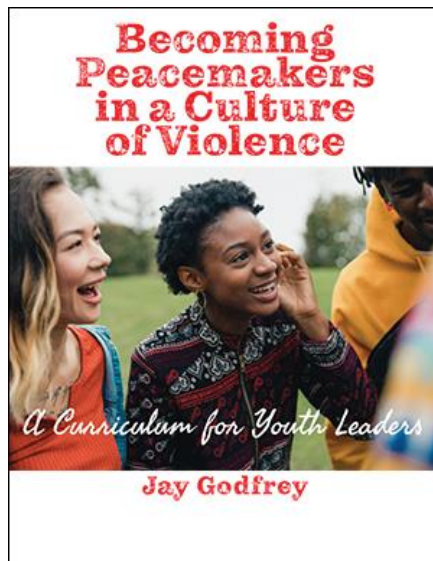
**Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools** by Monique Morris

**Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship** by Darryl Stephens



**Youth: Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence** by Jay Godfrey

**Children: Responding to Violence** by Sue Raymond



Books may be ordered from [unitedmethodistwomen.org/store](https://unitedmethodistwomen.org/store) Mission Studies 2021 (\$10.00)

Virtual Event Registration begins April 1



## Virginia Conference United Methodist Women 2021 Calendar

Jan 09, 2021	Mission Team Planning Meeting	Zoom
Jan 22, 2021	UM Day at General Assembly	Zoom
Mar 28, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom
May 15, 2021	Spiritual Life Retreat	Zoom
June 17-19, 2021	Virginia Annual Conference	Hampton ?
July, 2021	Mission Encounter 2021	Zoom
Sept 10-11, 2021	Young Women's Retreat	Zoom
Oct 02, 2021	Budget Meeting	Zoom
Oct 22, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting	Zoom
Oct 23, 2021	49 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	Zoom

### Join 3-Part Just Energy For All Webinar

Do you ever wonder what we mean by *Just Energy For All*?

Then join us at 3:00 pm EST on Feb 22, March 8 and March 22, 2021, to learn more about the *why* and *what* of United Methodist Women's Just Energy for All campaign, as well as *how* your United Methodist Women unit, district or conference can be involved. These 90-minute webinars will include presentations, breakout sessions, and opportunities to connect with other UMW members and people of faith. You don't need to be a United Methodist Women member to join us—all are welcome!



**Part 1 (2/22/21): *Why* Just Energy for All?** Why should United Methodist Women and people of faith care about just energy for all?

**Part 2 (3/8/21): *What* is Just Energy for All?** Fossil fuels? Solar? Wind? All renewable energy? Nuclear?

**Part 3 (3/22/21): *How* do we advance Just Energy for All?** How can United Methodist Women and people of faith be part of the solution?

▶ [Register today](#) for the Just Energy 101 webinar series



2021 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS (The list for UMW use only, not for public postings)

Alexandria	Maria Ward	<a href="mailto:Alexandria.UMW.President@gmail.com">Alexandria.UMW.President@gmail.com</a>	(703)548-8031
Arlington	Doris Douglass	<a href="mailto:DorisDouglass@msn.com">DorisDouglass@msn.com</a>	(703)642-0061
Charlottesville	Sandra Thornton	<a href="mailto:sgb.thornton0612@gmail.com">sgb.thornton0612@gmail.com</a>	(757)442-0847
Danville	Phyllis Lavinder	<a href="mailto:VirginiaHeartGirl@Yahoo.com">VirginiaHeartGirl@Yahoo.com</a>	(540)483-4905
Eastern Shore	Joyce Bowen, VP	<a href="mailto:bonniejoyce38@yahoo.com">bonniejoyce38@yahoo.com</a>	(757)442-6912
Elizabeth River	Marta Pizeck	<a href="mailto:ERDUMWPresident@gmail.com">ERDUMWPresident@gmail.com</a>	(757)739-6491
Farmville	Becky Thompson	<a href="mailto:Thmpsnrbcc@Yahoo.com">Thmpsnrbcc@Yahoo.com</a>	(434)390-2178
Harrisonburg	Barbara Phillips	<a href="mailto:GrammyBP@Gmail.com">GrammyBP@Gmail.com</a>	(540)896-7664
James River	(Vacant)		
Lynchburg	Kim Millner	<a href="mailto:SavedByGraceofGod2@Gmail.com">SavedByGraceofGod2@Gmail.com</a>	(434)238-2399
Rappahannock River	Penny Kelly	<a href="mailto:grvbstr@yahoo.com">grvbstr@yahoo.com</a>	(660)624-0935
Richmond	Linda Porter	<a href="mailto:LPFromNC@Msn.com">LPFromNC@Msn.com</a>	(804)674-5220
Roanoke	(Vacant)		
Staunton	Betsy Daughtrey	<a href="mailto:merdey@comcast.net">merdey@comcast.net</a>	(540)463-9337
Winchester	Mary Preston	<a href="mailto:K4LJH@Comcast.net">K4LJH@Comcast.net</a>	(540)338-4152
York River	Sylvia Rumsey	<a href="mailto:randsrum@aol.com">randsrum@aol.com</a>	(757)827-8469

# VIRGINIA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

## 2021 Mission Team

### CONTACT INFORMATION (The list for UMW use only, not for public postings)

President 112 Country Club Circle, Winchester, VA 22602	Nancy Walsh	540-662-5055 c)540-303-5055	<a href="mailto:Nancy.walsh2019@outlook.com">Nancy.walsh2019@outlook.com</a>
Vice President 109 Dawson Cres, Seaford, VA 23696	Melissa White	757-898-1861	<a href="mailto:Mel49white@yahoo.com">Mel49white@yahoo.com</a>
Secretary 2933 Fox Mill Rd, Oak Hill, VA 20171	Frances Ellis	703-476-1127	<a href="mailto:VAUMWSecretary@gmail.com">VAUMWSecretary@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer 849 Grim Rd, Stephens City, VA 22655	Linda Borrer	540-664-5912	<a href="mailto:Linda.borrer1@gmail.com">Linda.borrer1@gmail.com</a>
MISSION COORDINATORS			
Spiritual Growth 10839 Dyke Rd, Standardsville, VA 22973	Mary Jeffries	434-227-0457	<a href="mailto:maryejeffries@gmail.com">maryejeffries@gmail.com</a>
Membership, Nurture & Outreach 200 N Pickett St, #1410, Alexandria, VA 22304-2130	Marlene Dakita	703-244-4524	<a href="mailto:mdakita@comcast.net">mdakita@comcast.net</a>
Social Action 961 Edgewater Dr, Newport News, VA 23602	Jeanette Yoh	757-871-1459	<a href="mailto:Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com">Jeanette.yoh@gmail.com</a>
Education& Interpretation 2300 Cedarfield Pkwy, Apt, 379, Richmond, VA 23233	Brenda NeSmith	804-323-9134	<a href="mailto:Brendanesmith1@gmail.com">Brendanesmith1@gmail.com</a>
Secretary of Program Resources 780 Little Mt Trail, Doe Hill, VA 24433	Marilyn Blagg	540-396-6127	<a href="mailto:marilynblagg@hotmail.com">marilynblagg@hotmail.com</a>
Communications Coordinator 31 Riggs Rd, Fredericksburg, VA 24405	Sarah Park	240-328-4196	<a href="mailto:umwlink@gmail.com">umwlink@gmail.com</a> , <a href="mailto:shinjds1004@gmail.com">shinjds1004@gmail.com</a>
Committee On Nominations Chairwoman 184 Acres Ct, Lynch Station, VA 24571	Karen Bragg	434-369-4666	<a href="mailto:Braggk17@gmail.com">Braggk17@gmail.com</a>
Hispanic Language Coordinator 235 Northumberland Dr, Stephenson, VA 22656	Margie Hernandez	703-431-7400	<a href="mailto:Hernandez429@comcast.net">Hernandez429@comcast.net</a>



## **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](http://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](mailto: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**

# Faithful Climate Action Fellowship



WISCONSIN  
GREEN MUSLIMS



INTERFAITH  
& Power  
& Light



CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES  
JUSTICE FOR GOD'S  
PLANET AND GOD'S PEOPLE



**A COLLABORATIVE FELLOWSHIP WITH CREATION JUSTICE MINISTRIES, INTERFAITH  
POWER & LIGHT, WISCONSIN GREEN MUSLIMS, GREENFAITH, &  
THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

## What is the Faithful Climate Action Fellowship?

Young Black, Indigenous, and people of color (18-26) in the Midwest and Southeast are invited to apply for the Faithful Climate Action Fellowship. Fellows will engage in 9 months of joint study, leadership training, and action. Monthly interactive webinars from March through November 2021 will provide a chance to meet young faith and climate leaders in your region, and both peer leaders and professional mentors will guide you in developing your own voice as a faith and climate activist.

Apply or nominate a candidate by 2/15/21

### Compensation:

**This is a time commitment of only 2-3 hours per month and is designed to fit with full time employment or school work. A \$500 stipend will be provided.**

### Fellowship Responsibilities:

- Deliver a message to your house of worship
- Publish an Op-Ed
- Participate in faith-based environmental justice resource development
- Participate in the US Climate Action Network Asset Mapping

## Who Can Apply?

### 1. Young Adults from the Midwest & Southeast

- Midwest: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, & Wisconsin

Southeast: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, & West Virginia

### 2. Christians and Muslims who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color

### 3. Young Adults between the ages 18-26

# Apply by 02/15/21!

Self-Apply [HERE](#)

Nominate A Candidate [HERE](#)



## Loving People and Planet in the Name of God: Engaging the Local Church

Join the United Methodist Creation Justice Movement in a 5 part Workshop Series.

February 28, March 4, 7, 11 & 14, 2021 -- 7-9 pm ET

Cost: \$15

This workshop will prepare you to understand creation care and climate justice in the Wesleyan Tradition; to recognize environmental concerns and solutions; to incorporate creation care into your worship; and to exercise environmental stewardship in the life of your congregation and community. It will focus on practical approaches to greening your buildings, your grounds, your ministry, and your witness.

### Five 2-Hour Sessions:

- Our Theological Grounding
- Climate Crisis and Creation Justice: Connecting the Dots
- God's Good Gifts: Called as Stewards and Prophets
- What Can Churches Do?
- Your Green Team, Your Plan

The primary text will be ***CLIMATE JUSTICE: A CALL TO HOPE AND ACTION*** edited by Pat Watkins and used in the 2016 & 2017 United Methodist Women's Mission U curricula. You may be able to borrow a copy from an attendee to Mission U. If not, provide your mailing address to [bobdowns@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bobdowns@sbcglobal.net) no later than 15 Feb 2021 and we will send you a paperback copy.

More information and a link to Register [Here](#).

[Details and Registration](#)

I hope that creation care will be embraced as part of our churches' evangelism efforts. Creation care is good news for people and good news for all life on the planet. A sustainable revival of churches is dependent on creation care.

– Rev. Dr. Mark Y. A. Davies ([source](#))