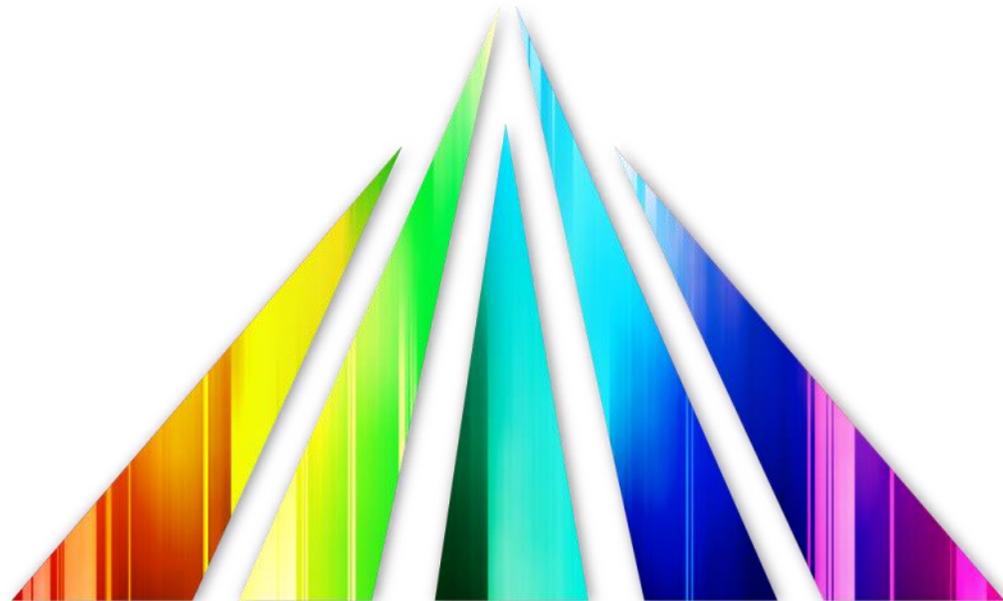


New York Conference United Methodist Women



June 2020



SPECTRUM

2020 Theme:
Beacons of God's Light, Agents of Mission



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.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR JURISDICTION...

Dear Northeastern Jurisdiction Event Attendee,

This year has become a year unlike any other in our lifetime. We know you are making all manner of decisions about what can proceed as hoped and expected and what must be cancelled or postponed, and each of these hard decisions brings with it its own grief. It is with great concern for the health and wellness of our membership that we have decided to cancel the Jurisdiction Events for 2020 and not reschedule them into 2021. Since 80 percent of registrants fall in the “at risk” category of 60-plus it is impossible to guarantee everyone’s safety until a vaccine has been successfully implemented across our country and beyond.

This decision was reached after much discernment, discussion, and prayer. Please know that it is because we want our membership safe during this pandemic, the leadership of the board and each Jurisdiction came together to arrive at this decision.

Please join us by showing support for your Jurisdiction teams as, yet another set of plans is disrupted during this anxious time, when the most marginalized persons are at such egregious risk.

Much time was invested by the 5 Jurisdiction teams over the past 4 years planning details and working with members and staff to make sure all five events were great celebrations of the 150th anniversary. The creative efforts of each team and the hundreds of volunteer hours created bonds of friendship that will never be broken. We are heart sick at missing this time to come together in celebration, study, and planning for the next quadrennium. There will be time allotted to celebrate the work of these amazing teams at the next Assembly.

All UMW quadrennial elections normally taking place at the Jurisdiction Events are now taking place remotely. This includes the Jurisdiction Team elections. All normal election protocols are possible through virtual elections including nominations from the floor. Delegates and nominees will receive direct communications about election training and procedures through their Jurisdiction Committee on Nominations Chairs and the National office.

We ask that everyone who has registered for the Jurisdiction Events wait just a little longer for information about refunds while we work with our teams to share any owed expenses amongst all Jurisdictions so that contributions per person will be minimal. We will email all registrants when ready. Please do not call your Jurisdiction Teams to allow them the time to figure out the best procedures for next steps. A FAQ document will follow to guide Conferences on final reconciliation of any remaining travel purchases.

Stay safe and stay in love with God.

Sincerely,

Shannon Priddy
National president

Denise Snyder
Northeastern Jurisdiction president

MISSION IN THE TIME OF PANDEMICS

“Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.” Esther 4:14b

Dear New York Conference United Methodist Women,

We are living in a time of multiple pandemics. The disruption and trauma of the one that has been front and center for the last several months, COVID-19, the underlying societal chronic pandemics have become glaring: “America’s original sin”—institutional racism and its many related conditions, such as: unjust educational, economic, justice and healthcare systems, fear, hate, inequality, white privilege, broken government, and ineffective “solutions”. Along with communities of color, immigrant communities, and low-income workers, United Methodist Women have long been heartbroken about these inequalities and injustices in our communities and their effect on our sisters and brothers. We have educated ourselves about the causes, we have advocated, we have been in mission. But the more recent violent deaths of so many black lives murder born of these underlying chronic conditions, seems to have brought many more Americans to the point of heartbreak and action. They have realized that they no longer want to live in a society which is unsafe for those whose skin is not white.

There is much talk now about “the new normal”. And who but those in power would want to go back to “normal” living in the time of these pandemics? How shall we respond? In Mark 2:21-22 Jesus says “No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.” Are we ready for just such a time as this? Are we ready to love all of our sisters and brothers the way God loves us all? Are we ready to stand up against continued pandemics? Are we ready to listen to God’s guidance and to help bring into being God’s kin-dom? We need to replace old pandemics with new wine. Let’s become new wineskins ready to be all that God calls us to be.

I pray for us this prayer from Sojourner’s: God, give us the courage to face the truths that inconvenience us and that pull us from understanding the deeper work you are revealing. Amen

Pat Knebel,
President

Here are a few resources for the journey:

- ◆ Statement from UMW, “Black Lives Matter to God and Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women” which includes some ideas of where to start: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/black-lives-matter-to-god-and-united-methodist-women>
- ◆ Resources to get involved in social action issues: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/action>
- ◆ A children’s choir that will inspire you on your way: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b3yy6Xgdybw&feature=youtu.be>

From the Vice President/Program Committee...

Greetings Beloved,

If for nothing else, this deadly covid-19 pandemic has dared to shake us individually and collectively from our comfort zone. We find ourselves challenged and required to think outside the box and try something new. Worship services, bible study, meetings, and visiting with family and friends, all of which normally done in person, are now being done remotely through technology. We even had to embrace new ways of giving our monetary gifts such as Zelle, PayPal, and other cash apps. Some individuals are impatiently waiting for things to return to the way they were, or better stated “Normal.” While others know that things may never fully return to the way they were and are welcoming a “New Norm.” Regardless of which side you fall on, most would agree that change is often not easy, but is essential for growth. Even when we think things are fine just the way they are, there is always room to try something new.

The New York Conference United Methodist Women will still have its Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 24, 2020. Although we would love to have our usual in-person time together, we do not believe a close contact, in-person meeting is feasible at this time. Therefore, we are trying something **new** with a virtual or limited in-person/virtual meeting this year. Unlike our former style of meetings, a virtual meeting has recommendations on how long a meeting should last. As such, and so that we do not prolong your time online, a decision was made along with District Presidents to not include the award ceremonies this year. Another primary reason for this decision is because we understand that while some units were able to continue meeting and able to participate in Mission Today, Charter for Racial Justice Implementation Tool, and/or the Reading Program, other units conference-wide were not. We understand our decision is a tremendous disappointment for those units who actively worked even in the throes of this pandemic, and we apologize in advance for having to do this. However, our goal is to be inclusive of all units in our Conference and give everyone a fair opportunity to participate and receive recognition for their achievements.

Trust and know that your works will not go unrecognized. In the 2021 New York Conference UMW Annual Meeting, local units/circles will be recognized for their accomplishments for **2020 and 2021**. Because all units are not reporting on the same cycle (e.g. for 2020; some are currently reporting Sept 1, 2019 – Aug 31, 2020 or Jan 1, 2020 – Aug 31, 2020, or some other variation), and to make sure we accurately capture the correct status for each year, we ask that local units continue to follow their reporting cycle, and submit the appropriate paperwork to their District President and/or Mission Coordinator for **each year** respectively. To get recognition for both years, the conference team will only consider mission achievements done from **September 1, 2019 – August 31, 2021**.

For those who are wondering if the Annual Meeting is going to be all business? The answer is NO! Even in these pressing times of racial injustice and Covid-19, we want to celebrate YOU. So, get those photos and testimonies ready for inclusion in our slideshow.

I humbly ask for your patience while we navigate these uncharted waters, and that you keep us in prayer. It is only because of your love and dedication to United Methodist Women that we can continue to put Faith, Hope and Love in Action.

Yours in Christ
Sharice Easterlin
Vice President

“Then make my joy complete; be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.” (Philippians 2:2 NRSV)

Report of the Committee on Nominations

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior!

In the midst of this pandemic and racial unrest, I pray that we all remain safe and focused on our mission to put faith, hope, and love into action despite the times we live in.

At this time, we are looking for new faces and talents to serve on the conference team. We are accepting talent banks and recommendations for the following positions on the 2021 Slate of Officers:

- **Secretary** - *She will be informed about the program and the total involvement of the conference organization in order to perform the responsibilities assigned to her and to assist the president.*
- **Secretary of Program Resources** – *She helps the elected leaders of the conference organization and district program resources secretary to be informed of and secure United Methodist Women-related resources for the task of fulfilling the Purpose.*
- **Spiritual Growth Coordinator** – *She coordinates opportunities for spiritual and theological development as related to mission.*
- **Committee on Nominations** - *The committee on nominations is responsible for the nomination of all elected leaders of the conference organization. This requires a clear understanding of the duties of each elected leader.*

If you are interested in joining the Conference UMW Team, or have a recommendation of someone, complete a talent bank and return it to any member of the nominations committee as soon as possible. *A talent bank is included with this issue.*

Grace and Peace,

Hortense Shand

Chair, Committee on Nominations



My Sisters and Brothers In Christ,

We thank God for this day, our lives and all he continues to do for us. Yes! We are going through perilous, tough, and painful times. It seems to be quite unbearable at times. We thought COVID-19 would be the worst experience for us. We loss of over 150,000 people in the United States alone, with the majority being African Americans. The main culprits are systemic racism, health disparities, and socioeconomic status of people of color.

Just as we continue to cope with COVID-19, see the curve drop, and try to move towards resuming our lives in what is considered the “new normal”, a most atrocious act happened. The loss of our African American Brother In Christ, George Floyd life was snuffed out due to severe police brutality. Most of us feel angry, hurt, sad, possibly numb, and etc. We just can’t understand, how another human being (Anglo-Saxon Minnesota police officer) felt it was “ok” to apply pressure with his knee and hand in his pocket on George Floyd’s neck until the breath of life left him. God have mercy! I cried, prayed and asked God, “Why are we having lynching in 2020?” I had a flash back to the 60’s Civil Rights Movement. It was great unrest, but the loss of GEORGE FLOYD is much worse today. It has taken me a couple of weeks to restore my spirit and soul to encourage all of us in the midst of this injustice.

The death of **George Floyd, Ahmad Arbery, Breonna Taylor** all occurred in the last 3 months. There are many other brothers and sisters known and unknown who “**Black Lives Matter.**” We know the loss of their lives is not of God. It is the evil that is within a person.

We know our God sits high and looks low. Our God says we can cast our burdens on him. According to Matthew 11: 28 “**Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.**” Racism and injustice are just a few heavy burdens we carry. Let’s give it to God and leave it there. Our God, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ says to trust him to answer our prayers.

For such a time as this, we have to stay close to God and know that He is always working on our behalf. The answer in this matter of injustice will come from God. He is the only answer. May we remain prayerful, stay in God’s word, lift up and support one another, safely support the ongoing organized protests and grassroots organizations.

Lastly, I want to encourage all of us daily wherever we are at 8:46pm to do a “**breath prayer**” (speak a word or phrase within a single breath). Set a timer for 8 mins. and 46 seconds. Remember, Acts 10: 34-35 “**Peter began to speak: “I now realize that it is true that God treats everyone on the same basis. Those who fear him and do what is right are acceptable to him, No matter what race they belong to.”**”

A CHANGE WILL COME AND JUSTICE IS IMMINENT!

Sister Helena Cooks,

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

RACIAL JUSTICE WITH SOCIAL ACTION

The United Methodist Women through the years have been a mainstay in advocating for racial justice with social action. We have marched, written letters, prayed and yet today we are finding ourselves in the midst of being flooded with news and events that have taken place within our various communities that have rocked us to our very core, again.

The injustice, the anguish, the unrest really brings back some very uncomfortable times. Yet we as women, were able to rise up and look to the future with the hope that comes with prayer and work. Now it seems that history is calling us to action once again within our districts and units in order to bring some release from all this hurt.

So ladies lets continue to work, gather, pray, lead (or even follow) understand that our job is not finished and that we must continue to be a part of these new path leaders and be willing to serve as best as we can.

If your district/units have any ideas as to how we can accomplish some helpful ways to meet any action, that we as a organization can do, please do not hesitate to submit the idea to the body.

Carolyn L. Mc Nair,
Social Action Coordinator
New York Conference United Methodist Women

Take 5: Mission Giving in the Time of COVID-19

“....a creative, supportive fellowship....” That part of the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women is so timely now!

We hope you’ve experienced a creative, supportive fellowship in your local unit, even while you’re not able to gather together yet. In your congregation, worshipping together online. In your household, with every person taking on new responsibilities and learning new skills. In the loving, faithful service of medical workers, delivery drivers, trash collectors, restaurant and grocery employees, and others who are keeping our communities going. In the crucial ministries of our National Mission Institutions. In the quiet heroism of ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

We invite you to strengthen our United Methodist Women’s creative, supportive fellowship within our organization and beyond, in several specific ways in the days and weeks and months to come until we can gather together again safely. Let’s make sure our important mission work continues.

1. Take five minutes to pray for mission and mission workers.
2. Send at least one \$5 Gift to Mission card to someone. (Cards are available from your district treasurer.) A “Thinking of You” card would lift the spirits of your neighbors. “Thank You” cards would let your child’s teachers know how much you appreciate their work. There are also cards for Happy Birthday, Congratulations, Peace, In the Service of Christ, and On Your Special Day.
3. Add at least \$5 to your World Thank Offering collection container. Even in the midst of a pandemic, there is much for which to thank God: springtime flowers, an unexpected kindness, a stroll around the neighborhood, a roll of toilet paper.
4. Add at least \$5 to your Pledge to Mission every time you send a payment to your unit treasurer.
5. Send a contribution (\$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, or even \$1,000 or \$2,000) to your unit treasurer for a Special Mission Recognition to honor someone special. Is there a doctor or nurse or other medical professional who has done extraordinary work in your community? Are there other heroes you’d like to recognize? The person who receives a Special Mission Recognition doesn’t have to be a member of United Methodist Women or of your local church.
6. Take another five minutes for pray for your local unit and your sisters in United Methodist Women.

Please, in the next days and weeks and months, take every opportunity to strengthen the “creative, supportive fellowship” with which we are blessed every day.



WAYS TO GIVE

Pledges: Pledges to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign may be fulfilled over a period of time (e.g. three to five years). Pledges enable the donor to contribute a larger gift than would be possible to make in any one year. Contact Development staff for information.

Text to Give: Text "41444" on your cell phone and enter "Legacy 150" in the message area.

Give by Mail: Those who wish to make an outright gift to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign should make checks payable to United Methodist Women. Please note "Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign" in the memo line. Such gifts are tax deductible to the full extent provided by law.

On-Line: Direct gifts or pledge payments may be made through the United Methodist Women website. Visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund to make a secure credit card payment.



The Legacy Fund

2020 Nationwide Day of Giving Total:

\$400,803.08

A phenomenal outcome factoring in the changes in how we connected and engaged each other in previous anniversary celebrations.

The New York Conference Legacy Fund Goal is:

\$80,000.00

As of April 30, 2020,

Our 2020 conference-wide (*traceable*) payments received:

\$6,585.14

Our cumulative (*traceable*) legacy giving since inception is:

\$151,082.22

We are at 188.85% of our goal!

Catskill-Hudson District United Methodist Women

June 2020

Dearest Sisters in Christ,

How is it with your souls? I pray that you are here today with hope and faith, as we all set forward seeking God' will on our path forward together.

Your sisters in the Catskill-Hudson District have begun to work together again as the quarantine time lessens. As the quarantine was about to being in March, the District UMW team chose during their meeting to read "Stamped", the new book by Jason Reynolds, based on Dr. Ibram Kendi's book "Stamped from the Beginning".

Although we cancelled our May Day Apart due to quarantine issues, we plan to meet in person at our District UMW Annual Meeting in November. The meeting will be "BYOC" (bring your own coffee), without food service, for the required annual meeting, and with a study on "Finding Peace in an Anxious World". Our collection at the November meeting will be for unwrapped multicultural books, games, art supplies, toy and sports balls for the annual Christmas Store hosted by Rural Migrant Ministries (RMM). RMM opens the store for migrant parents to choose items for their kids, paying a portion of the tagged price. RMM has offices and outreach services in Poughkeepsie, Liberty, Lyons, and Riverhead.

We join all in ongoing prayer for open hearts, minds and doors for action and justice for all brothers and sisters. Our UMW Purpose, and Jesus Christ, expects no less of us.

Praying for health, hope and energy,

Barbara Sarborn,

President



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION



New York/Connecticut District United Methodist Women

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I greet you as the new President of the NY/CT UMW District. As an adult, I became involved in UMW. I didn't have any idea what UMW did or believed in. My church, the Red Hook UMC belonged to the Catskill/Hudson District and Joan Murray (my mom), Joan Morrison, Donna Jolly, Barbara Sanborn were all team members. The team needed someone to compose and mail a newsletter. With a lot of persuasion, I said, "Yes" and my first team experience began. What an experience! I was clueless and did not have any idea what UMW was all about. I thought that the UMW fed people at funerals and bought curtains for the church. Was I wrong! As the years past, the districts were restructured and the RHUMC belonged to the NY/CT District. During this time, I took on various roles and began to understand the purpose and the focus of mission. There's still so much I need to know and experience.

As I learn the president's responsibilities, I ask you to help me carry out the Purpose of the UMW. Since the pandemic occurred, carrying out the mission of UMW became even more of a challenge. During the past 4 months, communications has been a major goal. We have been sending out pertinent information through mailings, and emails. The NY/CT District UMW's Facebook page has been reactivated and information is posted periodically.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, many person to person events have been cancelled including our Spring Day Apart. Some of the district team members have discussed alternatives such as virtual meetings, outdoor meetings, drive-in meetings, etc. A final decision hasn't been made and all suggestions are welcome! We're in the beginning stages of organizing a district wide reading program with a bible study.

Many of the units have reported that their members have been focusing on food ministry programs in their local churches and communities. The NY/CT Food Ministry Task Force, (which I am a member) have received reports that there are/were churches that have/had trouble getting food from food banks and financial issues to better able to serve the people in their communities. In order to better communicate churches' needs or resources, Tom Vencuss, NYAC Mission Coord., Lisa Isom, NYAC Dir. of Comm., Trudy Creary, Admin Assistant to Missions Ministries, and I have been coordinating efforts to use Yammer, a social networking service, used for private communication within the NYAC. Access to our Yammer network is determined by a user's Internet domain so that only individuals with approved email addresses may join their respective networks. If you are interested in joining Yammer, let me know. I will forward your email address to Lisa or Trudy.

We continue to pray for all UMW. We thank God for all of their unselfish work, dedication, and support. God bless to each one of you. Stay safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

Kristi Colburn,

NY/CT UMW District President



Tech Help Wanted

Do you have technology skills that you could share with those of us who may be technology-impaired? Your conference team would like to gather a group of volunteers who would be able to, as needed, assist local units, District teams, or the Conference team.

Virtual Meetings: Some may need help finding an appropriate program. Some may need coaching to learn how to be a participant. Some may need someone to host a particular virtual meeting and get all of the digital pieces in the right places.

Website: The current UMW page on the Conference website is several years out of date. Should it be updated or should we have our own site? Can you design a website that will be a central location that would allow our United Methodist Women to access all of the information they need?

If you are interested in helping, please contact me at

pknebel@yahoo.com.

Thanks

Pat Knebel



At Conference Annual Meeting this year, we want to celebrate all the extraordinary things our UMW members have accomplished during the pandemic.

So send us examples of how you are putting faith, hope, and love into action during the pandemic.

We are accepting pictures (with captions) and videos (up to 30 seconds long).

Some examples include sewing masks, serving at a food pantry, being an essential worker, etc.

Send your submissions by email to :

Zuhairah @ zmcrae1@gmail.com

Shanae @ shanaea08@yahoo.com

Deadline: September 15th 2020

The image shows the front cover of the book 'So you want to talk about race' by Ijeoma Oluo. The title is written in a mix of green and black fonts, with 'to talk about race' in a larger, bold black font. The author's name, 'Ijeoma Oluo', is at the bottom in green. The book is placed on a wooden surface.

**So you
want
to talk
about
race**

Ijeoma Oluo

You are invited to join with other United Methodist Women to read and study *So you want to talk about race* by Ijeoma Oluo.

So you want to talk about race by Ijeoma Oluo is a 2020 Bonus Book selection in our reading program.

Want to go deeper in your learning? [Sign up for a free online course](#) designed especially for United Methodist Women as a companion guide to *So you want to talk about race*.

FAQs

How does this online course work?

- Reading Supplement: Take this course after you have finished the book or as a companion alongside your chapter-by-chapter reading. You will want to have your copy of the book before you begin the online series.
- Self-paced: Participate any day/time that works for you.
- 10-Session Series: After you finish one session, start the next. Sessions align with selected chapters in the book.

How do I participate in the online course?

(1) Register. If you are new to BRIDGE, you will need to [register here](#) first.

(2) Enroll. If you already have a BRIDGE account, you can log-in right away and access the [program of courses here](#)

How do I get the book?

- The book is available in paperback, hardcover, Kindle and audiobook. It is available from many local and digital retailers.
- If you want to participate in this reading experience but are unable to afford the cost of the book, please reply to this email with a request for scholarship assistance and we will make every attempt to provide you a copy free of charge.

[Click here to view this message as a webpage.](#)



Conference

United Methodist Women

Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 24th, 2020

Quarterly Spectrum Deadlines:

September 15th

December 15th

Send your submission as a
Word Document to:

pknebel@yahoo.com

with the Subject: *Spectrum*