#### **AURORA DISTRICT UMW**



## REACHOUT

September 2020

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The sun is rising later and is setting earlier. This must mean summer is coming to an end, and it is time to start thinking about United Methodist Women and our purpose and mission.



But before I get to that I want to reminisce about this summer. Many in the Aurora/Elgin districts used their special talents and creativity to help us Celebrate at the Well. And Celebrate we did! I wish to thank all from both districts that put their hearts and souls into this project. It has paid off mightily both spiritually and financially. The totals are in, and after taking care of the honorariums and book sales, we are doing well. Each district, Aurora and Elgin (from registration fees), will be sending \$537.50 to UMCOR and \$747.50 towards Pledge to Mission. From the AM&D fund we will be honoring with Gifts to Mission those who also used their special talents to help make the morning a success.

And even though we are not meeting in person, Mission u has not been stopped either. By Finding Peace in an Anxious World we are learning how to reduce our stress and learn to better cope with our new normal in this different world.

I look forward to meeting all of you at our first Zoom Annual Meeting on Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>. Until then stay strong, healthy and safe.

With Gratitude Betty Erickson

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# Join Us Virtually for the Aurora District Annual Meeting Saturday, September 26, 2020 9-11 a.m. via Zoom

By Phyllis Pepiot, District Vice President

Recently we announced we would have a presentation on human trafficking at our annual meeting on September 26. Due to the pandemic, it was decided to not risk having an in-person meeting until it was safer to do so.

Our presenter Esther Holiday and a person with whom she works will share about the response to human trafficking in the Morris area. We thank Joliet Grace United Methodist Women for their willingness to host and will get back to them with a time for a future district meeting at a safer date.



Pastor Esther Holiday

I hope you will join us on September 26 and meet by phone, computer, or tablet with Zoom. The link to register is below:

#### https://aurora-district-annual-meeting.cheddarup.com

After registering, you will receive Zoom instructions, which will involve downloading the Zoom software app to your device (if it isn't already there). Registration is free, but you will have the opportunity to make an online offering toward our district's Pledge to Mission. You will also be emailed the link to click on to join the meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 26.

Does Zoom seem intimidating to you? I'm willing to practice with anyone who doesn't feel comfortable downloading and using the Zoom app. You can call or text me at 630-253-6326.

### Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women's Annual Meeting SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 24, 2020

The Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women's meeting will be held via Zoom video conferencing on Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme is "Listen: With Fresh Ears and Eyes." Watch for details in the coming weeks.

We are encouraged to proceed in Faith, Hope, and Love in Action as United Methodist Women supporting each other, continuing on the forefront of advocating and bringing awareness to issues of maternal/child heath, inequities of pay, and unjust prison systems.

# Aurora and Elgin Districts United Methodist Women Meeting "Celebrating at the Well" August 1, 2020

#### **MINUTES**

The first combined Aurora and Elgin District meeting was conducted via livestream on Facebook. Music and ice breaker questions were presented at 8:45 a.m. Lois Voss, Elgin District President, and Betty Erickson, Aurora District President, provided words of welcome, thanks and acknowledgment to all who aided in the program.

Deaconess Catherine Inserra offered the opening invocation. "On Eagles Wings" was performed by Michael Joncas, Penny Libert, Paula Golemba, and Deborah Nelson, followed by Donna Burkett reading Genesis 12:1-3.

Jane Rubietta began Session I, Invitation to the Well, by discussing how God calls. Using the Hebrew Lekkh Lekha, we were encouraged to leave and go. God calls and promises to be with us. We are to listen to His voice and live today, letting go of expectations of the future. Jane reminded us that a blessing is anything that directs our attention to God.

Following a response break and music by Alexandra Halterman and Demetrio Antunez, Cassie Weddle read Isaiah 61:1-3 as a backdrop to Session 2, To the Well: Obstacles En Route. During this session, Jane reminded us that all change involves loss, and all loss requires grief. Loss can refine us; it need not define us. Though we want to be free from loss, God says to leave and go; he will bless. We fear God will not be faithful. Jane encouraged us to be found by God. Loss reveals us.

Ms. Rubietta responded to questions and discussed her available books prior to beginning Session 3, Celebration at the Well.

During this session we were reminded that our relationships will be impacted if we leave and go. Not all of our relationships are healthy. People will hurt us and abandon us. We must find our wellspring. Following a musical interlude, Deaconess Catherine Inserra lead the call to worship for the memorial service. "Blessed Be Your Name" was sung by Kayla Bivin, followed by the memorial service prayer lead by Erica McIntosh. Names of those remembered were read by Erica McIntosh and Deborah Nelson for Aurora and Elgin District, respectively.

Deaconess Catherine Inserra provided the message: "It's Personal" with Erica following with doxology and offertory prayer.

Deborah Nelson read "The Weavings" by Corrie ten Boom and a litany from the 1996 prayer handbook. The closing music, "Sovereign King," was performed by St. Andrew singers. Jane Rubietta closed the meeting with final comments and a sending forth blessing at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Pam Stare Aurora District Secretary

### **Membership Report**

By Gail Helland

In my last *Reachout* article, I asked if anyone would like to share what they found intriguing to read. I received an email from Linda Priest.

Linda recommends *I Came a Stranger: The Story of a Hull-House Girl* by Hilda Satt Polacheck. Hilda Satt Polacheck, a Polish immigrant and activist, brought old world Jewish traditions to Chicago during the Industrial Age. Hilda supported the civil rights and the woman's suffrage movements, and writes about her work with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom as well as her experiences as a writer for the Works Progress Administration.

She describes urban life for her, her family, and her family after marriage, as well as her involvement in politics and the times when she encountered Jane Addams.

## Submit Your Unit's 2020 Reading List!

There's still lots of time to participate in the UMW Reading Program for 2020. You can find the Reading Program Catalog online at <a href="https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram">https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram</a>

Join with your unit to read some of the books on the list and complete the form on the following page.

Forms are due to Gail Helland by December 1, 2020. Contact her at GailPaint@aol.com for more information.

There are times when it is funny, times when you may say "Wow!" and times which are sad, but Linda found it to be very interesting especially after visiting Hull-House during the summer of 2019, and of course, after reading bits and pieces about Jane Addams in the 2019/20 mission study, Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission.

Hopefully you have been safe and healthy. Continue to share your reading experiences with me. The last book that I read for book club was <u>When Others Shuddered Eight Women Who Refused to Give Up</u> by Jamie Janosz. The ties to Chicago were numerous in the book. The strong will and determination of each woman was remarkable. So, what has enlightened you this summer?

Gail Helland, GailPaint@aol.com

#### **Aurora District United Methodist Women**

Reading Program 2020 Participation

Participation in the Reading Program shows that your unit is interested and engaged with a variety of issues from the personal to the global. Participation fulfills a requirement for Mission Today units. Please complete the form below so that we can recognize your local unit's participation in the 2020 Reading Program.

Local Unit:
President:
Phone Number:
Email:
Total number of women in our local unit participating in the 2020 Reading Program.
 Plan 1—5 books each year, one from each category, selections for 2015-2020 Reading Lists and regular reading of Response Magazine.
Plan II—10 books each year, at least 2 from each category, selections from the 2015-2020 Reading Lists and regular reading of the Response Magazine
Plan III—15 books each year, 10 books with at least 2 from each category 5 additional books from any category, selections from the 2015-2020 Reading Lists and regular reading of Response Magazine
Plan IV—20 books each year, 10 books with at least 2 from each category, 10 additional books from any category, selections from the 2015-2020 Reading Lists and regular reading of Response Magazine

Please return this form by email or mail by December 1, 2020 to:

Gail Helland 4010 Wood St. Morris, IL 60450

Email: GailPaint@aol.com

# 2021 LOCAL UNIT PLEDGE FORM AURORA DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE

Each unit is asked to prayerfully consider its 2021 Pledge. Please pledge what you can. Every year the Aurora District works hard to make our pledge to the Northern Illinois Conference. 2021 surely will be no different. With the continued support from all local units, we will meet this goal.

Please send the lower portion of this form to the Aurora District Treasurer, Chyrlie Soltau, 5300 Walnut Avenue, Unit 17C, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Knowing we are in the midst of different times, our Pledges are still needed and as the Aurora District are grateful for all of your gifts

## 2021 PLEDGE TO MISSION

The Membership of the United Methodist of

	(name of church)
	(name of town)
C	of the Aurora District, pledges to Mission the amount of \$
	Treasurer:
	Address:
	Phone:
	E-Mail:

	2020	YTD	2021
Disbursements to Northern Illinois Conference	\$85,000	\$20,000	\$42,500
(From local unit pledges and gifts sent to the District)			
PROPOSED BUDGET FOR ADMINISTRATION & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT			
(Funded by NIC-UMW)			
	2020	YTD	2021
CHILDCARE	\$250		\$100
MATERIALS & LITERATURE	\$50	\$25	\$50
MEETING EXPENSE	\$600	\$15	\$150
MILEAGE	\$400	\$65	\$200
MISSION GIFTS (CARDS & PINS)	\$500		\$250
POSTAGE	\$200	\$44	\$100
PRESIDENTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE	\$100		\$100
(2019 NIC moved to a new spot)			
SCHOLARSHIP	\$700		\$500
	4	4	4
SPEAKERS/HONORARIA	\$650	\$125	\$650
	400	440	
SUNSHINE FUND	\$20	\$10	\$20
	40.450	4004	42.422
TOTAL BUDGET	\$3,470	\$284	\$2,120

DUE TO THE COMBINED SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MEETING WE WILL ALSO SEND \$245 IN HONORARIA FROM OUR A&MD FUND TO EXTRA PARTICIPANTS, WHICH IS NOT REFLECTED IN THE ABOVE TOTALS

# 2020 REPORT OF AUDIT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

I have audited the Treasurer's books o	of the United Methodist Women
of	_Church for the year January 1, 2020, through
December 31, 2020, and found them t	o be
	Signed
	Data

Complete and send form to: Chyrlie Soltau, 5300 Walnut Avenue, Unit 17C, Downers Grove, IL 60515

#### THE REMITTANCE FORM FOR ALL TREASURERS

Order No. (Please make sure that all orders have a unique order no.):				
Local Unit: District:				
Conference: Period from: To:				
Mission Civina			Amount	
Mission Giving  1. Pledge to Mission			Amount	
Special Mission Recognit	ion			
Gift to Mission				
4. Gift in Memory				
5. World Thank Offering				
	Total Mission	Civing (Lines 1 thru E):	¢.	
	Total Mission	Giving (Lines 1 thru 5):	\$	
Supplementary Gifts			Amount	
6. A Call to Prayer and Self-	Denial			
7. Designated Gifts		Amount		
A Brighter Future for Child	dren and Youth			
Assembly Offering				
Scarritt-Bennett Center				
World Communion Schola	ırsnıp			
Magazine Fund	- LIMOOD projects			
National, international and (if additional pages are need	ed, complete the Supplementary Gifts Details Form)			
Name of project	Address	Amount		
Total from Supplementary Gifts Details Form		\$		
Subtotal Designated Gifts (line 7 only):		\$		
8. Bequest (please attach a copy of the will or excerpt of the will)				
Other Designated Gifts				
	Total Supplementar	y Gifts (lines 6 thru 9):	\$	
Total—total giving for this period (including Special Mission Recognition orders)			\$	
Less SMRs (and other as applicable) remitted previously (Enter as a positive number.)				
Total remittance Chec	\$			
TREASURER:				
ADDRESS:				
PHONE:	FAX: E-m	ail:		
DATE:				



#### **ALL TREASURERS**

#### For local treasurer

Submit the completed remittance form with your check to your district conference treasurer.

#### For district treasurer

Complete this remittance form using information from all of the local treasurers in your district. Submit the completed form to your conference treasurer. *Each remittance form is to be mailed with a check to your conference treasurer.* 

#### For conference treasurer

Complete this remittance form using information from all of the district treasurers in your conference. *Submit this completed form to the National United Methodist Women treasurer.* You may complete this form on a monthly or quarterly basis. You should make a remittance to the national United Methodist Women four times per year. Each remittance form is to be followed by or mailed with a check. To use electronic funds transfer, contact the national treasurer's office.

#### You may submit the remittance form in several ways:

- Complete the Remittance Form. (To save time, you may fill in the non-changeable items, photocopy the form and then complete that copied form each time.) Photocopy the completed form and mail it to your conference treasurer.
- Download and then mail or e-mail the completed form. The downloadable form is available at www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/give/forms

#### How to Complete the Remittance Form

#### MISSION GIVING—Five Channels of Giving

- 1. Pledge to Mission: This includes Pledge to Mission and supplementary gifts collected on special occasions.
- 2. Special Mission Recognition: Insert total from Special Mission Recognition local order forms. This form may be sent on its own or attached. On the form, indicate the amount (\$40, \$60, \$100, \$200, \$500, \$1,000, or \$2,000) for each order. Attach copies of local treasurers' orders.
- 3. Gift to Mission: Insert total from Gift to Mission order forms. Local units order cards from you, their district treasurer. Cards are sent to you on a revolving basis. Be sure to have many on hand for a speedy reply to requests.
- 4. Gift in Memory.
- 5. World Thank Offering: You may order a World Thank Offering packet to give to local units so they can participate in this giving channel (#5712, free).

#### SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS

- 6. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial.
- 7. Designated Gifts: A Brighter Future for Children and Youth; Assembly Offering; Scarritt-Bennett Center; World Communion Scholarships; Magazine Fund; national, international and UMCOR projects—please provide the names and addresses and amounts of specific projects or enclose a copy of your local treasurers' remittance forms.
- 8. Bequest—please attach a copy of the will or excerpt of the will.
- 9. Other Designated Gifts.

#### TOTAL REMITTANCE

Fill in check number and insert the total of all items.

**District treasurers:** Write a check in the amount shown on the "total remittance" line made payable to the conference and send to the conference treasurer. Keep a copy for your records.

**Conference treasurers:** Write a check in the amount shown on the "total remittance" line made payable to the United Methodist Women National Office (or use electronic funds transfer) and send to:

United Methodist Women National Office, Gift Processing, P.O. Box 29925, New York, NY 10087-9925.

Always put your name and address in the space provided. Keep a copy for your records.

Form 1



### NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN Mission Today Goals 2017-2020

The purpose of Mission Today is to fulfill the **PURPOSE** of United Methodist Women by energizing members to be more involved in mission through faith, hope, and love in action with the local church, as well as in the district, conference, and global levels. MISSION is undertaken on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world, and expanded through prayer, study, and action using mission resources and creativity. The following goals are based on our Purpose and Vision to help you in your annual planning for God's mission in the world.

Recognition Criteria for becoming a Mission Today local unit of United Methodist Women:  Narration of one of your stories of mission work during the year.  Plus
Faith = completed any 2-3 goals & paid our Pledge to MissionFaith & Hope = completed <u>1 goal in each area</u> & paid our Pledge to Mission (BRONZE)Faith & Hope & Love = completed <u>2 goals in each area</u> & paid our Pledge to Mission (SILVER)Faith, Hope, & Love in Action = completed <u>3 or 4 goals in each area</u> & paid our Pledge to Mission (GOLD)  (Please check the one recognition that applies)
REQUIRED: 1- Please narrate one of your stories of mission work. We would like to share it with others
2- Please check the completed goals in each area as you work to fulfill our UMW PURPOSE:
We are a community of women whose purpose is
<b>To know God</b> (spirituality) We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ, and put faith into action.
Use the Prayer Calendar (individually and at meetings)Attend or host a spiritual growth study or eventUse the UMW Program Book (as a circle or as a local organization)Care for God's creationTake the pledge to be a Green Unit & submit form to District Education and Interpretation CoordinatorParticipate in Call to Prayer and Self-Denial programOther—explain

To experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ (social justice) We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems. Share information about social justice issues to promote awareness Display and honor the Charter for Racial Justice (use as a program) Join the action network and share information about issues of justice (Action Alerts) Respond in action to an issue (Lobby Day, silent vigils, etc.) Participate in a community children's program Other—explain To develop a creative supportive fellowship (membership and leadership) We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action. We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agency workplaces, governments and churches. Increase membership of local organization (invite and celebrate UMW) Make connections within the local organization and beyond (UMMen, ecumenical groups, etc.) Be a Five Channels of Giving local organization Connect with district and/or conference leadership (call, invite, use your officers) Celebrate / observe a United Methodist Women Sunday in your church Other—explain To expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church (mission and outreach) We provide education experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world. Attend Mission u (local organization members as well as district or conference leadership) Connect with people in the Prayer Calendar (reach out to those in service throughout the year) Share the story of mission at meetings (response magazine, New World Outlook, Reading Program, Children's Sabbath, National Mission Institutions, etc.) Increase and pay Pledge to Mission Contribute needed resources to a mission project Other-explain Local Unit District Number of Members in Local Organization Person submitting this form: \_\_\_\_\_\_UMW Position\_\_\_\_\_ Address City IL Zip Email Phone By JANUARY 10 send your completed form to your District Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator: Name: Aija Bjorklund Phone: Email: aijabjorklund@gmail.com Mailing address: 205 Sheridan Court Unit D New Lenox IL 60451 Approved by NIC UMW on Nov. 13, 2016 Page 2

#### **Build Spiritual Growth and Leadership Skills with Aurora District**

Greetings to all. As you can see from the slate of officers, we have a few openings. So, it is time for all of us to review our skills and talents and ask ourselves if we would fit into one of the following positions. Stepping out of our box is maybe uncomfortable but extremely rewarding.

#### **EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION:**

This position gives you the opportunity to help women understand, interpret and participate in UMW's mission with women, children and youth. Ways of accomplishing this is to promote mission giving and the Missions UMW supports. Provide resources for these missions putting a face on the topic. Be a part of Mission u, learning about the mission story. Encourage and read Response Magazine which will give you the tools to do all the above easily. Gather information for units participating in the Mission Today Goals.

#### **SOCIAL ACTION:**

Sign up for "Action Alerts" at <a href="www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/actionalerts">www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/actionalerts</a>. Be aware of what is happening in the Aurora District as far as legislation is concerned, promote being involved in areas involving Women, Children and Youth. It has been customary to hold a Rally Day, going to Springfield to speak to area legislators, asking question and getting to know who they are. (This is normally arranged by the Conference Social Action Coordinator). Hot topics have been: Criminalization of communities of color; Maternal & child health; Climate Justice; and Poor Peoples campaign.

#### **NOMINATIONS:**

The name pretty much says it all. Do you like to meet people, talk to people? This job is for you! In this position you will be helping fill the slate of officers for the coming year.

#### SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR:

This position lets you help women understand the connection between personal spiritual development and our mission. You will organize and promote times for worship prayer and meditation (specifically for leadership team meetings and all district meetings). You will be aware of retreats happening in the area and, if you are courageous, plan a retreat.

The commitment involved in becoming one of these leaders is to attend the three district meetings held each year, and also the leadership team meetings prior to those for planning and contribution purposes.

See page 15 for Leadership Team List.

### 2021 Aurora District Proposed Slate of Officers

#### **President**

Betty Erickson 39W265 Osage Dr. St. Charles, IL 60175 N9yfc@aol.com (630) 701-5672 Baker Memorial St. Charles UMC

#### Vice-President

Phyllis Pepiot 817 Harden Aurora, IL 60506 ppepiot@gmail.com 630-253-6326 Naperville Grace UMC

#### Secretary

Pam Stare 3405 Charlemagne Ln St. Charles, IL 60174 starep@comcast.net (630) 513-8483 Baker Memorial UMC

#### Treasurer

Chyrlie Soltau 5300 Walnut Ave Unit 17c Downers Grove, IL 60515 cjsoltau@sbcglobal.net (630) 777-8228 Faith UMC, Lisle

#### **Spiritual Growth**

Position Open

#### **Education & Interpretation**

Aija Bjorklund 205 Sheridan Ct. Unit D New Lenox, IL 60451 aijabjorklund@gmail.com (815) 485- 4205 New Lenox, UMC

#### Communications

Anita Young 24538 W Janet Ln. Channahon, IL 60410 Awyoung81@comcast.net (815) 467-2802 Channahon UMC

#### **Membership**

Gail Helland 4010 Wood St. Morris, IL 60450 gailpaint@aol.com (815) 942-8308 Morris First UMC

#### **Social Action**

Position Open

#### **Nominations**

Position Open (Chair)

Donna Szoke 25531 W McMillin Dr Channahon, IL 60410 (815) 342-9324 Dszoke08@gmail.com Channahon UMC















## Thank you to all who contributed to the success of our 2020 Spiritual Renewal Event held in partnership with Elgin District:

- "Celebrating at the Well" Presentation Team and Organizers
  - North Central College Technology Team
  - All who participated in the August 1st Event





### **Connect with UMW Electronically**

United Methodist Women website: <a href="https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/">https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/</a>

Aurora District UMW Facebook page: Aurora District UMW-Illinois

Aurora District website: https://auroradistrictumw.wixsite.com/auroradistrictumw

Northern Illinois Conference UMW website: http://umwnic.org

NIC UMW Facebook page: Northern Illinois Conference - United Methodist Women