



United
Methodist
Women

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AURORA DISTRICT UMW

REACHOUT

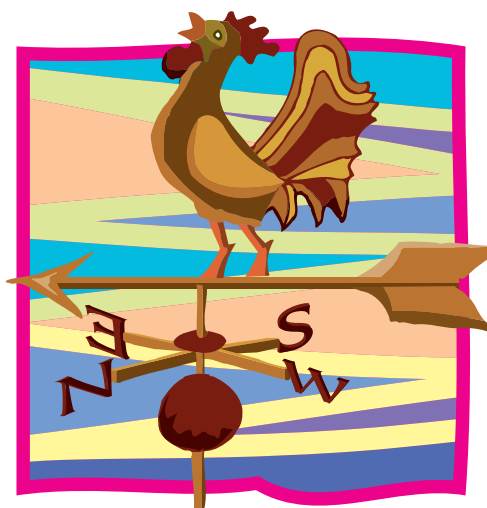
May 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is almost over, and we are headed into the summer and all that it has to offer. This year is hopefully going to include more outdoor group activities and family gatherings. I know we are not totally out of the woods yet, but the sun is shining, and we are all looking forward to the brighter days.

BRIGHTER DAYS DON'T JUST HAPPEN, WE MAKE THEM!

Below are a few suggestions of how our days could be brightened through UMW.



I am writing this message not long after our Day of Spiritual Renewal and building a personal spiritual toolbox. The labyrinth has always been a tool I have enjoyed I will have to include taking the time to finding more outdoor paths to walk. Another tool will be the virtual Spiritual Growth retreat being offered by the NIC-UMW. This promises to be a great afternoon spent with women around the conference. The theme is to Celebrate and Participate. We can participate in the celebration on May 16th from 3 to 5 PM. There is a flyer/registration with more information being included in this Reachout.

Mission u is also ahead of us, again in a virtual format, the flyer for that is in this Reachout. The dates are July 23 from 7-9 p.m. and July 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The studies are, of course, very timely. The Spiritual Growth study is "Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship." The Social study is "PUSHOUT: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools." You will not be able to go wrong with either study. The children and youth studies being offered will help both groups be better able to respond to violence.

Continued on next page

Inside This Issue

President's
Message pp. 1-2

NIC Day of Spiritual
Renewal p. 3

Voices from
The Field p. 4

Mission u
Flyer p. 5

Aurora District
DSR Report p. 6

District Leadership
Reports pp. 7-14

Labyrinth Event p. 10

Climate Justice
Simulation p. 15

2021 Aurora
District Officers p. 16

Connect with
UMW p. 17

Aurora District REACHOUT MAY 2021

President's Message

Continued from page 1

The “elephant in the room” cannot be ignored either—the changing of districts that is. The Northern Illinois Conference UMC is changing from 6 districts to 5 on July 1, 2021. As United Methodist Women, we will not be making this change until January 1, 2022. This means that we need to put some thought into how we want to remember Aurora District and all that we have accomplished together. To do that, I am scheduling another Unit Presidents Meeting to get your thoughts and input on the subject. Any unit officer is more than welcome to attend. That meeting will be on Saturday May 22, 2021, via Zoom starting at 9:30 a.m. I invite you to bring your creative thoughts and ideas, to make the last Aurora District meeting a celebration and a farewell. If unable to attend, please send your ideas to me at n9yfc@aol.com. Here are some ideas we will discuss:

- Virtual versus in-person, or a combination of both?
- Speakers or sharing our stories?

In addition to the fall meeting, another area we cannot ignore is finding women to lead us in our new districts. So do not be shy, nominate someone you think will be good in any position on the team. Or be brave and put your hat in the ring. The Nominations Committee will do the contacting and letting this woman know what the job entails, or possibly introduce her to a different position. One of the things I love about United Methodist Women is how it can challenge our hidden talents and make us step out of our boxes.

Finally, I want to update you on the numbers from the Day of Giving 2021. The latest information I have received is as of March 23, 2021, the amount raised was \$149,373. Additional donations were going to be included until April 15, 2021. I am looking forward to seeing how this number will climb.

I mentioned earlier that there will be a Unit Presidents meeting. Invitations will be sent out in the next couple weeks, so keep on the lookout for that. In the meantime, stay safe, and healthy. Enjoy God's creation and all it has to offer.

*With Gratitude,
Betty Erickson
Aurora District UMW President*

UMW 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.

Celebrate and Participate!

(Free Virtual Spiritual Growth Event)



Sunday, May 16, 2021 • 3-5 p.m.
Sharing our Spiritual Journeys and Diversity
through music, art and story



Join us via Zoom (please register, registration is free)

Meeting ID: **884 4711 7577**

Passcode: **890093**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88447117577?pwd=Z3ZJenZmT3lYmVjb1JQNGJqRW81UT09>



For more information, contact **Betty Erickson** | **630.701.5672** | **n9yfc@aol.com**

Registration and freewill offering: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/nic-umw-spiritual-growth-event-celebrate-participate>

Voices from the Field

“Standing with Women Leaders from Africa and Latin America”

featuring Regional Missionaries Catherine Akale, Elmira Sellu, Andrea Reily Rocha Soares, Finda Quiwa

Monday, May 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. ET (9:00 a.m. CT / 7:00 a.m. PT)
virtual via Zoom

REGISTER HERE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYldOqhqTMpE9AUtt7ZkTi9FRlgXExnPCaj>



Take part in an hour of insightful and exciting talk about women leaders from Africa and Latin America. During times of increasing food insecurity and health crises to rising domestic and gender-based violence, displacement and a global pandemic, women continue to be bold and courageous leaders, fighting poverty, hunger and disease and claiming their voice in church and society. Don't miss the opportunity to join the *Voices from the Field* virtual event on **Monday, May 10**, to find out more about the work of United Methodist Women Regional Missionaries: unitedmethodistwomen.org/training-for-transformation. On Monday, May 10, at 9:00 a.m. CT, meet [Regional Missionaries Catherine Akale, Elmira Sellu, Finda Quiwa](#) and [Andrea Reily Rocha Soares](#), who will share real-life stories of courage and ingenuity and how United Methodist Women international work impacts lives of women and their families. Learn from the Regional Missionaries how you, through Mission Giving, make a difference. If the registration link does not work for you, please copy and paste this text into your browser window: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYldOqhqTMpE9AUtt7ZkTi9FRlgXExnPCaj> After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please save the confirmation; it contains your personal link to the event.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday, May 10!

*Tatiana Dwyer and Betty Gittens
and the Mission Giving Promotion Team*



Mission u 2021

There's Far More Here THAN MEETS THE EYE

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 [God's] unfolding grace. [...] 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.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18. The Message (MSG)

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

JULY 23 (7 – 9 PM) & JULY 24 (9 AM – 4 PM)

At our upcoming **virtual** Mission u, we will examine how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully, and the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools.

Our 2021 Mission u will offer the following studies:

- ❖ ***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 W. Stephens (English, Korean, Spanish)
- ❖ ***Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence: A Curriculum for Youth*** by Jay Godfrey
- ❖ ***Responding to Violence: A Curriculum for Children*** by Sue Raymond

Registration will be available soon, mark your calendars and be ready for another great UMW event, to remember who we are and why we are still going strong.



2021 Aurora District Day of Spiritual Renewal

MINUTES

Submitted by Gail Helland

The Aurora District leaders met at 9 a.m. to discuss the event. All of us were made hosts just in case. Betty Erickson opened in prayer. We went over moving screens, music, and testing sounds.

At 9:20 a.m., people could enter the waiting room. Conversations were enjoyed, and people were assisted.

The program began at 9:33 a.m.. The announcements were pertaining to important dates – May 16th from 3-5 p.m. NIC Spiritual Growth Event and July 23-24 Mission u, which includes the readings, “Pushout” and “Bearing Witness in Kin-dom.” All present introduced themselves and the church that they attend.

Nadia Kanhai gave a brief intro to Zoom and how to use it. Betty went over the April 10th prayer calendar information, which included a drawing from children in Southeast Asia and the focus was Red Bird Mission. Aija Bjorklund gave the Response moment dealing with solar power from the March/April 2021 issue. The book review was given by Gail Helland covering the book, *Women Rise Up* by Katey Zeh, dealing with 10 stories in the Bible with women as the focus and putting her own spin to it. Nadia updated us on current social action issues such as podcasts to watch about Asian Americans and gun violence.

The program, “Building a Spiritual Toolkit (Turning loneliness into a walk with our Savior and isolation into solitude to hear that still small voice of the Spirit),” was given by Charlotte Wyncoop. We began with an introduction to the labyrinth. She had us journey through our own labyrinths or one of those provided to the participants. The second tool was the Lectio Divina. A Bible passage was read a few times. The participants used the annotations button to respond to the passage. The third tool was using the writings of Brother Lawrence.

The day was completed by holding a worship/memorial service. All of the leadership team read parts of the service that Charlotte produced. After the workshop/worship service, some individuals used a breakout room to continue discussions with Charlotte. The leadership team discussed future dates.



Zoom teleconferencing offers an annotation tool that enabled April 10th DRS participants to interact with and comment upon material presented by Charlotte Wyncoop.



You can find the Reading Program Catalog online at
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

Join with your unit to read some of the books on the list!

Membership Report

By Gail Helland
Membership

For those who missed the Aurora District Spiritual Growth Event, I have included the information I presented. I am currently reading *Gum Moon* by Jeffrey L. Staley.

In the book, *Women Rise Up*, the author has taken 10 stories in the Bible with women as the focus and put her own spin on each. She tries to parallel the stories to things happening in today's world. The author sums up what she has done nicely on page 178. She has filled in many narrative gaps, strayed from common interpretations, and offered different if not controversial perspectives on what their actions and decisions mean.

During my church's UMW book club review, we were in agreement that the book would be an excellent choice for a Bible study. Each chapter can stand on its own. Having a wide variety of women could make an interesting discussion.

Even though I disagreed with the author several times, she did pose new possibilities that I had never thought about. The book explores many women's issues from pregnancy, childbirth, maternal health care, rape, sex trafficking, and fair wages for women.

The reading program has changed slightly due to the pandemic. Here is a summary of the changes:

- The booklist was enlarged because it was difficult for the individuals who had to review the books to receive them in a timely manner.
- Reading forms are the same and should be sent in the same way.
- Participants can read books from the 2015-2022 lists.
- Faith Talk podcasts now can be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to 2 Faith Talks podcasts. If you participate/listen to 3, it will count as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.
- Movies have been added: *Just Mercy*, *The Hate U Give*, and *Pushout* count toward the reading program.

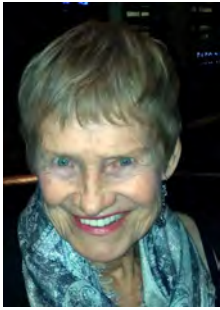
If you want more details, go to the UMW reading program website. Awards are the same each year.

Gail Helland, GailPaint@aol.com

Aurora District REACHOUT MAY 2021

FROM YOUR MISSION COORDINATOR for EDUCATION and INTERPRETATION

By Aija Bjorklund



Greetings to all of you lovely UMW ladies.

We have had a busy and productive April. Our Aurora District Spiritual Renewal Event on April 10th on Zoom was well attended and was such a rewarding spiritual experience. Our District is certainly blessed with so many dedicated and exceptional ladies. I have to say, I certainly learned a lot.

We learned how to build a Spiritual Tool Kit, which included learning how to walk the Spiritual Labyrinth and reading the Bible using Lectio Divina.

So now I am anxiously awaiting the Lovely Month of May when we can begin to gather outside and resume contact near and dear to us. We will be able to break bread and share food together. However, let us all love our neighbors as we wear masks and do social distancing where needed.

UMW members generously supported the live Day of Giving on Facebook on March 23rd

We celebrated Earth Day on April 8th and there was a Zoom Earth Day Vigil and on April 14th United Methodist Women participated in the Climate Justice Legislative Day.

COVID-19 has not stopped UMW ladies, so let us continue to do no harm and do all the good we can. Let us love God and love our neighbor AND let us be good stewards of the earth God has given us. In Genesis 2:15, God instructed man to care for the earth. "The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it."

LEARN MORE: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/focus-issues>

Treasurer's Update: **Change to Special Mission Recognition Process**

Treasurers who are working with their unit to order Special Mission Recognition pins and certificates will need to get a certificate template from the conference or district treasurer. This change is being made because of the departure of the vendor that provided the custom-printed certificates with the pin order.

The form for submitting remittances to the district treasurer can be found in this issue of this Reachout. It also can be downloaded from the Treasurers' resource page at <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/treasurers>

From Struggle, the Path to Growth Emerges

By Charlotte Wyncoop, Spiritual Growth

Spring is here! The flowers are in bloom, the grass is green again and the leaves are unfurling. Growth is all around us, calling us to join in this joyful springing forth of new life.

In a few short weeks, butterflies will begin to emerge from their cocoons. They will wrestle with their silks and slowly fan their wings open. Did you know that they need that struggle from the cocoon for their wings to form properly? If a cocoon is cut open, if a butterfly is “helped”, the butterfly will never be able to fly. As I look around at the pandemic, the fear, the pain of loss, the frustration evident in all the people, I’m beginning to see wings emerge.



Sometimes I wonder if we don’t need adversity—if we don’t need our choices to be black and white, if we don’t need our backs against the wall to begin to fight through all the negativity. I think God challenges us deliberately instead of coddling us—although I prefer soft blankets and coddling! I think he knows our potential, and he created us for more than the minutia of everyday life. We swath ourselves in silks and comfortable sameness, never imagining the beauty God has in mind for us if we can just break free...

The disagreements and challenges, the difficult people in your life are placed there by God so that you can become beautiful. Don’t be afraid of the struggle, don’t fear the future or what’s outside our comfortable silk blanket, rest, struggle, rest, struggle...come free of whatever cocoon you have made for yourself and become part of the bigger world around you. You are meant to emerge and fly!

Twenty-five women joined together April 10th for our Aurora District Day of Spiritual Renewal. We explored ancient practices of solitude and walked away with new tools for our spiritual toolkits. We practiced silence and seeking the still, small voice of God using labyrinths. We delved into the depths of scripture using Lectio Divina and imagining ourselves into verses, asking God what He would have us hear and see. We listened to Brother Lawrence’s writings, learning from what God taught him about how to live the life of faith. Our worship service memorialized the women who have stepped into Christ’s arms this year. Our challenge was to step forward and embrace the work around us that God has called us to do, to do it with God and for God.

Did you miss the conference? Or did you attend and want to bring it back to your home church and use it with a group? I’ve turned our conference workshop into mini-session videos. They are available online and you can either play the workshop as a video or you can use my notes and present it to your group yourself. This workshop was formatted especially for zoom to take advantage of the ability for everyone to contribute together. It’s a great way to reach out to members that can’t attend in person, but have a computer. Each session is about 20 minutes, so it’s perfect for a small group to get together online and have plenty of time to chat before and after. Interested? E-mail or text me and I can send you the link. Blessings!

Charlotte Wyncoop, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
815-483-3651
char.wyncoop@gmail.com



Aurora District UMW Naperville Labyrinth Walk

June 9, 2021

10 a.m. @ Riverwalk, Eagle and Jackson Streets, Naperville

Did you know that there are over 6,100 labyrinths in 85 countries registered on the Worldwide Labyrinth Locator? 79 labyrinths are registered within 50 miles of Naperville. Join us June 9th and learn about the ancient Christian tradition of labyrinths, from their early roots in ancient Rome and the beginnings of Christianity to their modern use as meditative tools of prayer.

We will have storytelling, finger labyrinths to explore and the large labyrinth on the Riverwalk that has been hiding in plain sight. You'll go home with a printout and lots of ideas for bringing these peaceful paths back to your home church. Bring your mask, enjoy the fresh air and pray we have no rain!

Please register for the event so we can plan for materials: <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/aurora-district-umw-naperville-labyrinth-walk-june-9-2021>

The Riverwalk Labyrinth is located at the intersection of Eagle and Jackson Streets. Look for the grass terraced amphitheater. Parking is available at the public library one block north, or at the lot at Jackson and Main, two blocks east.

For more information, contact Charlotte Wyncoop at 815-483-3651; char.wyncoop@gmail.com

Reaching Out with the Aurora District Website

By Anita Young, Aurora District Communications

Email is a great way to stay in touch with UMW members, and the Aurora District does that by using our own Gmail account at auroradistrictumw@gmail.com. But if you are like a lot of people, your email box fills up fast, making it harder to find that email you are looking for.

That's one reason the Aurora District UMW has a website at:
<https://auroradistrictumw.wixsite.com/auroradistrictumw>

With the website, we are able to store information, forms, and other resources on the website for easy access. Can't find that email with the annual meeting registration form? Check the website. Ditto for a lot of other things needed by local units and members: Mission u information, treasurers' forms, the latest issues of the Reachout, reading program forms and information, and more.

Please take a look the next chance you get!

SAVE THE DATE

2022 UMW Assembly
May 20-22, 2022
Orlando, Florida

Early registration: Sept. 1-Nov. 30, 2021
Early registration cost: \$330

Theme: TURN IT UP!

Aurora District UMW Joins State Advocates for Climate Justice Legislative Day

By Nadia R. Kanhai, Social Action

In April, Aurora District UMW members Emmy Lou John, Sarah Swanson, Aija Bjorklund, Betty Erickson, and Nadia Kanhai joined other Northern Illinois and Illinois Great Rivers UMW members in preparing for and speaking to legislative aids to Senators Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth, as well as some Representatives.

For Legislative Day, local women joined more than 300 women from around the country to give voice to how our faith informs our call for climate justice and caring for God's creation as well as the "least of these." Addressing climate justice requires a commitment to just energy through renewable energy, clean transportation and just transition.

Andrew Posegay from Sen. Durbin's office and Chelsea McDonald from Sen. Duckworth's office shared legislation the senators have proposed. UMW members shared personal stories about how pollution and climate change are affecting us and our families, and asked them to prioritize care for creation in their work.

A just energy strategy, which is part of an investment in infrastructure, requires us to not only embrace renewable energy, but to also support programs for those currently working in the fossil fuel industry to transition to new opportunities. It also calls for policies to ensure that marginalized communities are not negatively impacted by the transition to a renewable energy economy. Implementing just climate solutions requires us to recognize and attend to the disproportionate harm faced by Tribal and Indigenous communities, Black communities, communities of color, low-wealth communities, rural communities and particularly to women within these communities.

The women started preparing for Legislative Days by attending webinars, speaking together and emailing. They discussed what a just and equitable energy system would look like and how it would benefit women, children, and youth around the world and in our own communities.

UMW members urge Congress to address the pandemic and climate crisis by enacting a recovery package that includes infrastructure and energy legislation that prioritizes climate justice centered on racial, economic and gender justice. To learn more about United Methodist Women's Climate Justice Work, go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/climate-justice>



Above: Illinois United Methodist Women (NIC and IGR) meet with Senator Duckworth Aide Chelsea McDonald for UMW Climate Justice Federal Legislative Day on April 14, 2021. Aurora District Advocates above include (from the top and left to right) Emmy Lou John, Sarah Swanson, Aija Bjorklund, and

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 Giving	Amount
1. Pledge to Mission	
2. Special Mission Recognition	
3. Gift to Mission	
4. Gift in Memory	
5. World Thank Offering	

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 Children and Youth		
Assembly Offering		
Scarritt-Bennett Center		
World Communion Scholarship		
Magazine Fund		
National, international and UMCOR projects (if additional pages are needed, 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)

9. Other Designated Gifts

Total Supplementary 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 Check no.: **TOTAL:** \$

TREASURER:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

FAX:

E-mail:

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.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

CLIMATE JUSTICE SIMULATION EXPERIENCE

A role playing exercise designed to help us understand some concerns of an environmentally-degraded community.

INDIGENOUS LAND ZONE FORUM



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THE CONTEXT Indigenous Land Zone

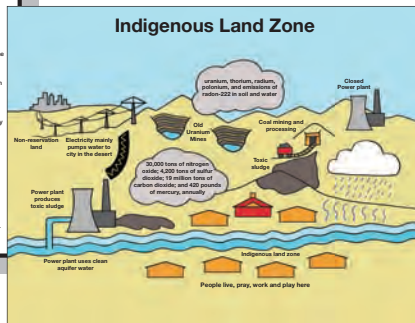
Historically, mining on and near tribal lands occurred with minimal input from tribes. Starting in 1981, Congress passed a bridge of federal laws allowing mining companies to obtain mineral leases, often without tribal consent. Until the early 1970s, Indian mineral owners were passive leaseholders with little authority over mining operations, waste disposal, the location of roads and other infrastructure, or the use of brine, water, and gravel. These companies bore the impact of the mine, and the federal government gave them no responsibility for the damage. The tribe is concerned about pollution from these mining operations. The resulting pollution from these mining operations continues to plague many indigenous communities. They take very seriously their responsibility for the same. However, the current economic system has often forced indigenous people into an economy that does not value the health of the ecology, as well as existing situations where one's economic welfare is dependent upon hurting the environment.

COAL MINE AND POWER PLANT: This indigenous nation's ecology has been affected by a coal mining company. The mine gives 12 percent of its profits to the nation. About 300 indigenous people from the community are employed by the industry. The coal is processed and burned to generate electricity in the power plant located on the tribal lands. The electricity is then used to pump billions of gallons of water a day from an aquifer. The tribe is concerned about pollutants on their land due to the coal mine and power plant. The mine and the power plant release many pollutants which are known to cause health problems and contribute to climate change. Affecting climate change will only further exacerbate the region's water scarcity by increasing the severity and frequency of droughts. If it were to shut down, then the price of water in these other areas would increase.


POWER PLANT LEASE: The lease on the power plant ends in four years. Currently, the United States Bureau of Reclamation is conducting an impact study on the power plant. The results will help determine if that lease should be renewed or not. The current plan is to renew the power plant's lease so that it expires in 2024, as well as to require a nearby stream to be cleaned up with this current coal mine.

EMISSIONS CONTROLS: The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently requiring Best Available Technology (BAT) to be installed at the Newby Generating Station (NGS) in order to reduce nitric oxide emissions. A group of stakeholders has proposed an alternative to BAT that will cost less money. Currently, the public can submit comments to the EPA before a decision is made.

Indigenous Land Zone



MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL ZONE FORUM



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THE CONTEXT Mountaintop Removal Zone


The Appalachian region is known not only for its incredibly beautiful mountains and hills, but for its culture, its crafts, folklore, music, its flowers in the spring and its fall landscape, and the region's distinct dialect all make it unique. Yet, as the industrial revolution unfolded, mining became the backbone for coal and iron ore began to increase. Companies would bring in whole groups of miners who set up camps in the mountains. The Appalachian Mountains began to be seen as a labor for coal, not one for logging. Mountaintop removal (MTR) is a technology that has been used to excavate coal from more than 500 mountains. It has been—and continues to be—a deep environmental concern.

MTR is a method of coal extraction, and here in the United States, it is practiced in the Appalachian region. The process is as follows: All the forest and brush is cleared from the top of a mountain and pushed down the side into adjacent valleys. Although there are some regulations around the "valley-filling" going into streams, the regulations are not always enforced. Explosives are used to remove the top layers of the mountain so that the coal seams are exposed. These large machines, sometimes twenty stories high, called "draglines," scoop up the coal. When all the coal has been removed, the site is usually abandoned. There is little vegetation regrowth. Sometimes, companies will "reseed the site" by filling in with soil. The soil is unstable, usually cheap, and non-native plants are usually planted to "reseed the site." The result is a "valley fill" that not only causes the loss of the mountain's natural beauty, but also destroys the headwaters of streams and destroys the habitat of many plants and animals. In fact, draglines, coal is used to produce energy but in the production of electricity, it emits carbon dioxide and other toxins which contribute to climate change. Because huge areas of biodiversity forest are destroyed by MTR, there are fewer plants to pull carbon out of the atmosphere, thus, even a greater contribution to climate change.


The mining companies may be profiting, but generally, the people are not. Even though MTR has increased over the past two decades, the number of coal mining jobs has decreased. And the jobs the industry does provide are temporary. Once the coal is gone, so are the jobs.

The runoff from the mining contaminates the streams, groundwater, and drinking water with toxic metals that cause health problems. The soils for cancer, birth defects, and mortality are higher in these mountaintop-removal communities than in non-mining communities.

Mountaintop Removal Zone



INDUSTRIAL ZONE IN A MAJOR CITY FORUM



United Methodist Women
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

THE CONTEXT Industrial Zone in a Major City


It is the injection of Latino culture that gives the neighborhood its vibrant and distinct character. In fact, the neighborhood is called "Mexico of the Midwest" by many of its residents. Every year, the community celebrates Mexican independence day as a great festival that attracts thousands of spectators who look to the neighborhood to show pride in their heritage. This neighborhood has a wealth of Mexican food, music and dance schools that also help to reinforce the community's cultural ties. However, the many immigrant neighborhoods which have been largely joined for industry, this community is plagued with environmental hazards.

POWER PLANTS: There are two power plants in your neighborhood. They were built before the Clean Air Act came into effect in the 1970s, so they were "grandfathered" into the law and did not have to upgrade to stricter emission standards. Recent studies have found that these power plants cause premature deaths, asthma, heart attacks, and increased emergency room visits, all in addition to contributing to climate change. Reducing pollution controls on the facilities is costly and not in the long run, it is less expensive than the economic consequences of disease, pollution, and death caused by pollution.

METAL HEATING FACILITY: There is a metal heating facility in your neighborhood. The EPA found that air around this facility is in violation of lead pollution standards. Lead can cause disastrous health effects.

PROPOSED METAL SHREDDING FACILITY: There is a proposal to put a new metal shredding facility across from a local high school. Metal shredding facilities have frequent fires and explosions, noise and vibrations, and bring in more truck traffic which only adds to local pollution.

Industrial Zone in a Major City



The UMW staff is available to help you with your planning and can offer assistance to your conference leadership. Please contact Sophony Lamour via email: slamour@unitedmethodistwomen.org or contact the office of Economic and Environmental Justice 212-878-7814

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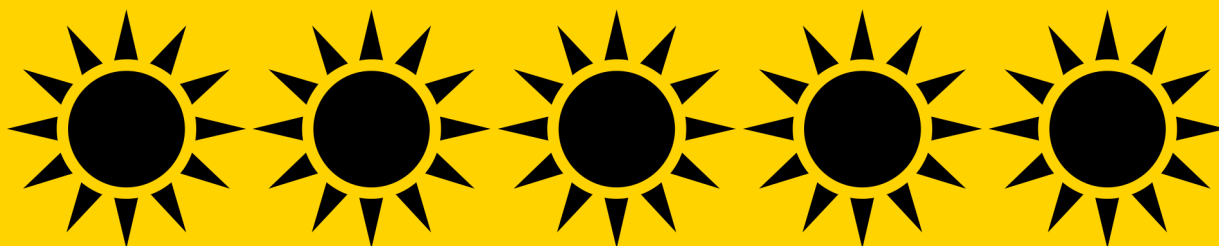
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2021 DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 10 – Voices from the Field
May 16 – NIC Spiritual Renewal Virtual Event
June 9 – Aurora District UMW Labyrinth Walk
July 23-24 – Mission u Weekend and One Day Event
August 8 – Korean UMW Praise Night
August 13-14 – World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women
September 11 – Aurora District Leadership Team meeting
September 25 – Aurora District Annual Meeting
October 23 – NIC-UMW Annual Meeting

2022 DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 20-22 – UMW Assembly

Connect with UMW Electronically

United Methodist Women website: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nicumw>