



Mission Tapestry

Arlington District United Methodist Women

Vol. XLIII, No. 1

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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.

The Mission Tapestry is a publication of the Arlington District United Methodist Women. Its goal is to keep units at the local/congregation level informed about opportunities for living out our PURPOSE. It is published quarterly—January, April, July, and October.

Articles for publication are welcome and should be directed to ArlingtonDistrictUMW@gmail.com by the 1st of the publication month.

Check out our website at www.ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org

District President's Message

Happy New Year! Welcome to another year of service and fellowship with United Methodist Women. I am your new District President, Beth Meserve, and I look forward to meeting you as we begin our work together.

Our first event is District Day on Saturday, January 29 at 9:30 a.m. via zoom. The registration link is included in the flyer toward the end of this newsletter. Our speaker will be Karen McElfish **who will speak on the "New Wine-skins for Growth."** The name is taken from Mark 2:21-22. United Methodist Women are planning innovations to existing United Methodist Women Programs like Mission U as well as templates for new programs like Soul Care Retreats. After Karen speaks, we will have short training sessions for each office. Please join us as we discuss the exciting new things ahead.

Some of you have asked about the District Realignment. District mergers will be voted on at Annual Conference in June. Our District Realignment Team has recommended the merging of the Arlington and Alexandria Districts into the Northern Virginia District and for this to occur in July of 2022.

In anticipation of realignment, the Arlington and Alexandria Districts are beginning the process of merging. Our events for 2022 will be Bi-District events, including

the January 29 District Day. Officers of both districts will be working together as a team to plan events, although at least for this year we will have separate treasuries.

Sadly, this will be our last Tapestry. I want to give a HUGE thank you to Frances Ellis for her faithful service. She has published the Tapestry for 11 years and done an excellent job. We are blessed to have had her working with us.

Going forward the Alexandria Communications Coordinator will be sending out bi-district newsletters. We will continue to include informative articles and news about upcoming United Methodist Women events. We would love to include local unit events, so let me know if you would like to advertise an upcoming event at your church or share other news.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. The best way to reach me is through email since I still work full-time. You can also text me or leave a message on my cell phone and I will return your call when I am able.

I am looking forward to a great new year in 2022!

Stay safe,
Beth Meserve
beth.meserve@gmail.com
703-869-7564 (cell)

Treasurer

Debby Fairweather

Welcome to 2022 and a new budget year for Arlington District United Methodist Women. I will be continuing as your Arlington District Treasurer in 2022, with a new conference treasurer, Christy Blagg, from Harrisonburg, coming in behind Linda Borrer, who completed her term at the end of 2021. Many thanks to Linda for all her hard work over the last 5 years.

Our goal for 2022 Pledge to Mission is \$18,000. In addition to the suggested contribution of \$2.50 per member to the Administration and Membership Development Fund, each member should be making a pledge toward our Pledge to Mission goal. Rainbow Giving and Candle Burning contributions count toward that goal. The Virginia Conference is looking at new ways to contribute to keep up with our mission goals through such processes as electronic giving, since we are still not able to safely meet in person.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Saturday, January 29, 2022, starting at 9:30 am for District Day. I will be leading a short training session for all unit treasurers, both new and continuing, at that time. Prior to District Day, I will be mailing a package of materials to all unit treasurers. I am also in the process of putting together a Frequently Asked Questions for UMW Treasurers which I will be distributing soon. If you think of any questions you have, bring them to District Day, or email them to me.

REMINDERS

- Quarterly remittance from units is due to me by the 10th of the month at the end of quarter. 1st Quarter - March 10th, 2nd Quarter - June 10th, 3rd Quarter - September 10th, and 4th Quarter - December 10th. It is important to adhere to these dates so that I can get the funds deposited and sent to the Virginia Conference Treasurer by her due date.
- All Quarterly remittances need to be accompanied by the Treasurer's Quarterly Remittance form. If you need help filling it out, you can contact me.
- Any contributions for Rainbow Givers, Legacy Givers, and Candle Burning must be accompanied by their appropriate form. I will be providing copies of these forms in the treasurer's packet of materials
- All treasurer forms are available at the ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org website.

I look forward to working with you this year. Please feel free to contact me at any time.

Debby Fairweather
Arlington District UMW Treasurer
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(703) 237-9324

Treasurer

Debby Fairweather

United Methodist Women Local Treasurer Guide to Forms

1. The Remittance Form
This form should be used for the quarterly remittance reports due to the District Treasurer by March 10, June 10, September 10, and December 10.
2. Special Mission Recognition Form
This form is used to order Special Mission Recognition pins. It can be used with or without the Rainbow Giver form and can be sent in any time during the year.
3. Legacy Fund Form
Use this form for Legacy donations. Please fill out the form completely including name and mailing address of donor so that each donation can be acknowledged promptly and accurately by the National Office.
4. Rainbow Giver Form
Use this for your Rainbow Givers. Be sure to fill out each line on the sheet so the proper acknowledgements can be made. This form is due by August 31 of each year.
5. Candle Burning Form
You can use this form to report any Candle Burning donations. This form is due by August 31 of each year.

Social Action

Why United Methodist Women Engage in Social Action

For more than 150 years, Methodist women organized for mission have worked in the name of Jesus to take positions on social justice issues and change legislation, systems, structures and practices considered unjust and oppressive. These bold foremothers advocated to end lynching, improve **women's health, raise women's status in society, organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families**, and adopt the Charter for Racial Justice.

Today, we continue to build on this foundation as we work to end maternal mortality, attain a living wage for all, interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline, and ensure energy that is just for all. As United Methodist Women of the 21st century, we are called to be bold in our witness, working to dismantle systems of oppression and build, together, a better world.

Our Biblical Foundations

The Bible teaches us that all creation is God's and "very good" in and of itself (Genesis 1:31). It teaches that God created humankind in God's image - all humankind (Genesis 1:27).

We don't yet live in a society that treats God's creation with dignity and respect. We still live in a world where institutional structures and social relations oppress people and defy the will of God.

Yet the Bible tells the story of God always and everywhere at work for liberation and healing, justice and peace. When asked what was the greatest commandment, Jesus answered:

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:37-39)

To love our neighbor - and ourselves - means more than just providing care and comfort in times of suffering; to love our neighbor as ourselves we must change the systems that do harm in the first place.

This was a vital message of Jesus' ministry, challenging the existing social order, proclaiming God's reign:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

The early Christian community recognized the vitality of this call. Christianity is not just something we believe, it is also something we practice. **We are called to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers" (James 1:22). We are called to a living faith - a faith that makes itself known by its fruits.**

Indeed, God is always at work to make change in the world, appearing in unexpected ways and **reversing the norms of "polite" society to ensure abundant life and wholeness for all.**

Our Methodist Heritage

Our United Methodist heritage reflects a history of commitment to vital discipleship and social action. John Wesley strongly emphasized the Christian life as a combination of faith and love put into practice.

Social Action

The United Methodist Church affirms these same beliefs today:

By joining heart and hand, we assert that personal religion, evangelical witness, and Christian social action are reciprocal and mutually reinforcing. Scriptural holiness entails more than personal piety; love of God is always linked with love of neighbor, a passion for justice and renewal in the life of the world. (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, ¶102)

Get Involved in Campaigns

United Methodist Women's national campaigns are a way for us to work together on shared goals across lines of difference and geographic distance. When we all come together and lift our voices to address a specific shared concern, we are far more likely to win measurable change for our communities. **Prayerfully consider how God is calling you to join one of United Methodist Women's campaigns.**

United Methodist Women Applauds White House Proposal for Stronger Rules on Methane Emissions; Noting that Low-Wealth, Black and other Frontline Communities Will Benefit

Following a White House proposal to implement stronger rules on methane emissions from oil and gas drilling, United Methodist Women Executive for Environmental and Economic Justice, Elizabeth Chun Hye Lee, issued the following statement:

"Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took a much-needed step forward with their proposed rule to rein in methane and other harmful air pollutants from new and existing sources in the oil and gas industry. The rule must still be strengthened to address methane emissions reductions in smaller wells and issues of routine flaring. Annually, the oil and gas industry releases 16 million metric tons of planet warming methane into the atmosphere, and over 12.5 million Americans live near oil and gas operations that threaten their health with toxic air pollution that are emitted alongside methane. Those disproportionately impacted are Black, Indigenous, communities of color and low-wealth communities.

"As women of faith called to care for God's creation and love our neighbors, we support stronger methane regulations that will protect frontline communities, children's health and creation. As the largest historic emitter of climate warming pollution, the US must do its fair share and drastically reduce methane use and waste."

United Methodist Women is the nation's largest denominational organization for women. Members turn their faith, hope, and love into action raising more than \$10 million annually to support community centers and other programs empowering women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.

Education & Interpretation

Lois Hidalgo

Hello and Happy New Year to all!

I am Lois Hidalgo, and I attend Oakton UMC. I have been at Oakton since 1964, and my grandson is the fourth generation to worship there. I have been a part of UMW for over 35 years, but this is my first time participating as part of the Arlington District UMW board. I am currently President of my UMW unit, and I come from a line of ladies who participated in mission work; starting with my Great-grandmother, then my Grandmother who was a member of the WSCS (Womens Society of Christian Service). My mother was an Arlington District UMW Officer at one time.

I live in Oakton with my husband. When I find some free time, I enjoy reading or watching television. I am a huge Disney fan.

Education and Interpretation is a new area for me, and I will be learning what my “mission” will be all about for the coming year. Please bear with me as I settle into my role!! If you have questions, and I don’t yet know the answer, I will find the answer for both of us!! I hope that you are working on Living Into Our Purpose for 2021/2022. The form is available on the ArlingtonDistrictUMW.org website.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming year.

Stay well,

Lois

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703-648-9135

Mission Encounter 2022 Curriculum

Luke 13

We find ourselves in a period of incredible disruption and uncertainty. In the midst of a devastating pandemic, a divisive political climate, and economic turmoil, we are turning to stories of Jesus that have anchored Christian communities in challenging times for over two millennia.

Goals:

- **Experience spiritual practices that support us through uncertainty, loss, and grief**
- **Develop capacity to interpret Scripture in multiple ways**
- **Build our biblical and theological understanding of key metaphors in the parables of the mustard seed and yeast**
- **Deepen our learning through intergenerational conversations and connections**
- **Engage in community conversations to explore which small actions to heal and restore can be activated locally and globally (in connection with the justice priorities of United Methodist Women)**

Arlington District UMW District Day
Saturday, January 29, 9:30 a.m. via zoom

Our speaker will be Karen McElfish.

She will be speaking to us about the UMW 'New Wineskins' program.



Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMpc-2prDIqGdl7Cfl1tp67MW6zz0wINC-1>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Come and learn about UMW positions: A new role you have taken on, or a role **you've always wondered about or might be interested in.**

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Education and Interpretation, Membership Nurture and Outreach, Social Action, Spiritual Growth, and Program Resources.

In these trying times we need you now, more than ever. This is open to all United Methodist Women – no need to be a current officer. We hope that you will join us.

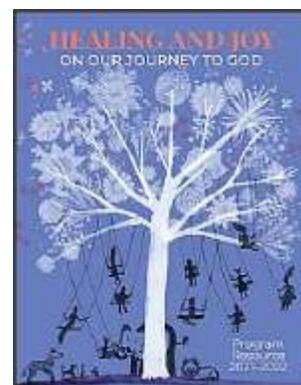


Bi-District United Methodist Women 2022 Calendar

PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women

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.

- Jan 29 - Arlington UMW District Day, 9:30 am via Zoom
- Mar 2 – Alexandria UMW Ash Wednesday Service, 10 am Zoom
- Apr 30 – Arlington UMW Mini Mission Recycling/Climate Change, 9:30 am
- May 14 - Conference Spiritual Life Retreat via Zoom
- May 20 - UMW Assembly begins, Florida or Zoom
- Jun 11 - Conference UMW Pre-**Annual Conference “Brunch”** via Zoom
- Jul - Mission Encounter, Thursday evenings
- Aug 13 - Bi-District Planning Meeting for 2023, in person
- Aug 31 - Deadline for all forms sent to Va. Conference UMW
- Sep TBD - Bi-District Spiritual Life Retreat
- Sep 17 – **Young Women’s Event via Zoom**
- Oct 15 - Bi-District Annual Meeting, 9:30am
- Oct 22 - 50th Va. Conference UMW Annual Meeting via Zoom
- Nov 5 - Bi-District Executive Committee Meeting
- Dec 4 – Bi-District Ugly Sweater Mixer and Sing Along, 2 PM



Arlington District United Methodist Women Officers for 2022

ELECTED OFFICERS

President

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Vacant

Secretary

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Nominations

Vacant

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