

**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

**Montgomery-Opelika District**

**DIRECTORY 2019**

Website: www.awf-umw.org

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UMW does not share membership personal information with anyone outside of the organization.

**PURPOSE of 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.

**THE EMBLEM**

The emblem of United Methodist Women, the cross and the flame, symbolizes our organization. The cross and the flame are ancient symbols of the church and appear on The United Methodist Church emblem. Both symbols remind us of the opportunities and obligations of discipleship. Paul’s words to Timothy have fresh and contemporary meaning: “...I now remind you to stir into flame the gift of God which is within you...” (2 Timothy 1:6, NEB)

As United Methodist Women, we share our gift of God with others through mission.

As parts of our emblem, the cross and the flame remind us of our PURPOSE of growing in our understanding of and willingness to participate in the global ministries of the church. They remind us of our heritage of women who pioneered in service for the church at home and in other countries.

The overall shape of the emblem is also symbolic. Fluid and free flowing, the shape suggests change and mobility. The women who came before us were at the forefront of movements for change. Always aware of the times, we move with ever-changing circumstances rather than feeling overwhelmed by them.

Continuing into the twenty-first century, we are a movement called United Methodist Women. We are a group of Christian women with many gifts who are unified by one Spirit.

We participate in God’s mission in all areas of life.

**\*\*\*\*\*\* 5 STAR UNIT CRITERIA \*\*\*\*\*\***

A 5-star Unit is one that contributes to all 5 channels of Mission Giving. The first and most important financial responsibility of United Methodist Women is basic support of all mission programs through Mission Giving. The five channels are:

* Pledge to Mission
* Special Mission Recognition
* Gift in Memory
* Gift to Mission
* World Thank Offering

**THE UMW READING PROGRAM – YOUR WINDOW TO THE WORLD**

The Purpose of the Reading Program is to encourage United Methodist Women to:

* expand understanding of and participation in God’s mission;
* increase sensitivity to all human beings – their needs, interests and concerns;
* explore issues facing humanity today;
* grow in understanding of Scripture as it relates to Christian faith in contemporary life;
* strengthen involvement in local and global Christian Mission.

**Five categories**: Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community and Leadership Development

**Four Reading Program Plans:**

Choose and follow one of the four plans. When you have read the required number of books and magazine issues, report your completion to your local member in charge of program resources.

**Plan I – Five Books a year**

* Read one book from each category: Spiritual Growth, Social Action, Education for Mission, Nurturing for Community and Leadership Development.
* Selections can be from the 2012-2017 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
* Regular reading of Response magazine.

**Plan II – 10 books a year**

* Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
* Selections can be from the 2012-2017 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
* Regular reading of Response and *New World Outlook* magazines.

**Plan III – 15 books a year**

* Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
* Plus 5 additional books from any category.
* Selections can be from 2011-2017 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
* Regular reading of Response and *New World Outlook* magazines.

**Plan IV – 20 books a year**

* Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
* Plus 10 additional books from any category.
* Selections can be from the 2011-2017 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
* Regular reading of Response and *New World Outlook* magazines.

Report your reading to the Program Resources Chair in your local unit who will report it to the district by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_for recognition at District Annual Day, who will report it to the Conference prior to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for recognition at Conference Annual Day.

**UMW MISSION STUDIES**

*The Spiritual Growth Study is produced by Women’s Division. The Geographic and General Issue Studies are developed by a staff team of the General Board of Global Ministries.*

**2019 Mission u Studies**

**Spiritual Growth** – The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship

**Anniversary Study** – United Methodist Women History

**Social Issue** – What About Our Money?

**Requirements for Mission Study Recognition**

* A Unit may present one or more of the studies within their Unit and/or church community. The study must be presented by someone who has attended Mission u.

Following the study, there must be some action taken by the Unit which relates to or is an outgrowth of the Study, or

* Members of a Unit may participate in one or more of the studies presented by the District or another Unit. Following the study, participants must share with their own Unit and the Unit must take some action as a result of the study.

**PROMOTING MISSION TODAY WITHIN YOUR UNIT**

Encouraging local and district units to become Mission Today Units is a way to help United Methodist Women put a face on mission. It helps connect members with mission workers, mission projects and mission resources. It helps expand concepts of mission, including an understanding that social action is a vital part of mission. Being recognized as a Mission Today Unit gives local women incentive to pray for mission workers, learn about mission projects and become more involved in social justice. And as some units gain recognition, others are inspired to get involved.

**ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE MISSION TODAY**

**THE PURPOSE OF MISSION TODAY**

Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study, and action:

Increase contacts between units and mission personnel and mission projects so that United Methodist Women understand where their money goes;

Encourages use of mission resources through United Methodist Women; and Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as a mission.

**CRITERIA FOR A MISSION TODAY UNIT**

Units are encouraged to complete a minimum of eight of the following criteria, including four of

those marked with an asterisk (\*).

* 1. Use of the Prayer Calendar at each general meeting to pray for persons in mission and for your mission work with women, children and youth.
	1. At least one member of the unit will attend the conference or district School of Christian

Mission.

* 1. At least two members will attend the conference or district annual meeting.
* 4. The unit used two programs from the **UMW Program Book** during the year.
1. The Unit will have at least one person join the United Methodist Women’s Action Network to receive and respond to legislative information.
2. Member/s shall write to five persons listed in the **Prayer Calendar** at least once a year.
* 7. The unit, circle, or sub-group will conduct at least one mission study during the year.
* 8. The unit will implement the Charter for Racial Justice Policies in at least one way during the year.

9. The unit will co-sponsor, with a local church, a Children’s Sabbath. There are suggestions for

various activities in the manual from the Children’s Defense Fund.

\*10. The unit will make and meet its pledge to missions.

\*11. The unit will be a Five Star unit, contributing to all five channels of undesignated giving.

1. The unit will select a project from the Women’s Division **Material Resource for Mission Catalog**

and contribute the needed material to the mission project.

1. Each unit, circle, or sub-group will include a **Response** Moment where an item from **Response**

magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.

\*14. The unit will have at least two members subscribing to **Response** magazine.

\*15. The unit will add at least two members to its roll.

1. At least one person from the unit will participate in the Reading Program.
2. At least one member from the unit will attend the district or conference Spiritual Growth event.
3. The unit will complete a project for one of the conference mission agencies supported by UMW or UMCOR each year.
4. One or more members participate in hands-on mission such as gleaning, working in a food pantry or clothes closet, bagging potatoes, etc. (Dumas Wesley has a food pantry and a clothes closet)
5. Have “Green Meetings” or make some other special effort toward saving God’s earth (i.e. recycling, using glass instead of disposable ups, etc.).

**BRONZE AWARD --** Complete 8 Items; must include at least 4 with (\*) between 12/1 and 11/30 annually.

**SILVER AWARD --** Complete 10 items; must include at least 4 with (\*) between 12/1 and 11/30 annually.

**GOLD AWARD --** Complete 15 items; must include at least 4 with (\*) between 12/1 and 11/30 annually.

Aldersgate

6610 Vaughan Road, Montgomery, AL 36116, 334-272-6152

Auburn

220 East Magnolia Ave, Auburn, AL 36830, 334-826-8800

Beulah

5165 Lee Road 279, Valley, AL 36854, 334-745-4755

Bowen

2701 W Montgomery Road, P O Box 1351, Tuskegee Institute, AL 36087

334-727-23890

Brundidge

140 N Main, Brundidge, AL 36010

334-735-3180

Crawford

95 Hwy 169 South, Phenix City, AL 36869

Grace

915 E. Glenn Ave., Auburn, AL 36830

334-887-7003

Murphy’s Chapel

Pike County Road 7708, Troy, AL 36081

Opelika First – Morning Circle

702 Avenue A, Opelika, AL 36801

334-745-7604

Opelika First – Evening Circle

702 Avenue A, Opelika, AL 36801

334-745-7604

Watoola

1280 Lee Road 36, Opelika, AL 36804

334-749-7000

**Dumas Wesley Community Center**

The purpose of Dumas Wesley is to provide a community center in Mobile, Alabama. It shall seek through varied service activities for men, women, youth and children to strengthen family life, to be responsive to expressed needs, and to develop leadership and responsibility in the neighborhood and community. It shall offer, through its services to individuals and groups, the opportunity for growth in understanding the will and unconditional love of God.

Some of the organizations formerly known as conference specials will no longer be support at the Conference level; instead a Conference love offering of $10 is requested of each member annually.

Any unit wishing to contribute to the former conference specials organizations may donate directly to that organization.