

# ALERT

## ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE - UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2020 Fall Alert

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Spiritual Enrichment Retreat	2
Conference President's Report	3 - 4
Conference Treasurer's Report	5
Conference Communication Coordinator Report	6 - 7
Social Action Report & Charter for Racial Justice	8
Education & Interpretation Report	9 - 10
Voting Procedures	11
Nominations Chair Report	12
Nominations Bios	12 - 15
SEJ Election Results	16
Quadrennium Leadership Announcement	17
Standing Rules Review	18
2020 Calendar	19
Health Form	20
Talent Bank Form	21 - 22

### 2020 Conference Officers

President	Debbie Bell
VicePresident	Katy Wrona
Secretary	Cathy Givan
Treasurer	Jean Creswell
Communications Coordinator	Michele Smith
Nominations Chair	Peggy Cunningham
Spiritual Growth	Tutti Johnson
Social Action	Ora Gillespie
M.N. & O.	Kristine Jones
Education & Interpretation	Joyce Genz

### 2020 Committee on Nominations

Reda Brooks	Zan Jones
Cheryl Mothershed	Nettie Lang
President SEJUMW	Betty Helms
UMW National Vice President	Clara Ester
Web Manager	Anne Capps



## We are women with a 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."



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# Virtual Spiritual Enrichment

*Launching October 17<sup>th</sup>!*

During these challenging times, we must continue to look towards God and make our spiritual health a priority. The AWF - UMW Conference Team is working hard to bring SER to you! Although we are unable to gather in person this year, we will be providing a video series for you and your unit to enjoy. We hope this series will provide enrichment and spiritual strength as we walk through this season together. As is our usual custom during SER, an offering is collected to support our Pledge. We would like to continue that custom during this virtual meeting and so we ask you consider sending your offering of any amount and you may send that to:

Jean Creswell, Treasurer. P.O. Box 250 Arlington, AL 36722 (make check payable to AWF-UMW).

Thank you for your participation in helping our Spiritual Enrichment Retreat be successful in this virtual way!



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## Conference President's Report

From my laptop everything seems so simple.  
**CLICK. ADJUST VOLUME. LISTEN**

It has been that simple and surreal during the pandemic of 2020. It has also been simple to just turn the volume down when I do not like what I'm hearing, even turning off the computer. Moving to the outdoors and listen to the birds screaming for more birdseed. Chasing the squirrels from the birdfeeder. Reminding the dog (Thor) it is too hot to play fetch! Resolving to go back inside because it so hot and humid. It really is "Safer-at-Home"!

Let me begin by saying much thanks to the AWF-UMW Executive Mission Team officers and the District Presidents. The many decisions around cancelling remaining AWF-UMW meetings and events has required a certain spiritual growth that only God could have organized and guided us through.

I hope all of you are aware the AWF-UMW Spiritual Enrichment Retreat 2020 (SER2020) in-person meeting has been cancelled that was planned for October 9-10, 2020. The many additional risk factors involved in a gathering of our membership far outweighed us continuing with the tradition of meeting at Blue Lake for this Fall event.

The meetings theme of 2020 all this year are "In His Service". We included support Scripture from 1 Timothy 3:13 "those who have served well gain a good standing and considerable confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus." (CEB) Now this verse is captured in my Bible with a headliner "overseers and deacons"; 1 Timothy is described as a "help to believers in their relationships with others, with church leaders and with those in the world around them. In this year of the pandemic, relationships with others in-person has been presented through new opportunities using phone calls, social distancing, and ZOOM. As is our custom during SER at Blue Lake we will continue with the Election as a ZOOM meeting and the article that describes the details for that are included in this newsletter edition.

To end and in support of the many discussions about racism I would ask that all consider to read for the first time or read again the United Methodist Church Social Principles at <https://www.umc.org/en/what-we-believe/basics-of-our-faith/our-social-positions>.

The United Methodist Church has a long history of concern for social justice. Its members have often taken forthright positions on controversial issues involving Christian principles. Early Methodists expressed their opposition to the slave trade, to smuggling, and to the cruel treatment of prisoners. The Social Principles, while not to be considered church law, are a prayerful and thoughtful effort on the part of the General Conference to speak to the human issues in the contemporary world from a sound biblical and theological foundation as historically demonstrated in United Methodist traditions. They are a call to faithfulness and are intended to be instructive and persuasive in the best of the prophetic spirit. The Social Principles are a call to all members of The United Methodist Church to a prayerful, studied dialogue of faith and practice. (See ¶ 509.)

In His service

**Debbie Bell**, President (2017-2020)

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women

[mawbel36575@yahoo.com](mailto:mawbel36575@yahoo.com)



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### **A Companion Litany to Our Social Creed**

God in the Spirit revealed in Jesus Christ,  
calls us by grace  
**to be renewed in the image of our Creator,  
that we may be one  
in divine love for the world.**

Today is the day  
God cares for the integrity of creation,  
wills the healing and wholeness of all life,  
weeps at the plunder of earth's goodness.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God embraces all hues of humanity,  
delights in diversity and difference,  
favors solidarity transforming strangers into friends.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God cries with the masses of starving people,  
despises growing disparity between rich and poor,  
demands justice for workers in the marketplace.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God deplores violence in our homes and streets,  
rebukes the world's warring madness,  
humbles the powerful and lifts up the lowly.

***And so shall we.***

Today is the day  
God calls for nations and peoples to live in peace,  
celebrates where justice and mercy embrace,  
exults when the wolf grazes with the lamb.

***And so shall we.***

***Today is the day  
God brings good news to the poor,  
proclaims release to the captives,  
gives sight to the blind, and  
sets the oppressed free.***

***And so shall we.***

*From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.*



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## Conference Treasurer's Report

<b>2020 Alabama West Florida Conference - United Methodist Women Pledge to Mission</b>				
<b>7/15/20</b>	<b>Pledge</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>% PD</b>
Baypines	14,000	2,599	11,401	18.6%
Demopolis	15,000	7,980	7,020	53.2%
Dothan	14,000	7,098	6,902	50.7%
Marianna/PC	11,000	1,378	9,622	12.5%
Mobile	20,000	11,265	8,736	56.3%
Mtg/Oplk	8,000	2,988	5,012	37.4%
Mtg/Pratt	11,000	1,825	9,175	16.6%
Pensacola	22,500	7,980	14,520	35.5%
Events - Offering	2,700	1,931	769	71.5%
<b>PLEDGE TO MISSION</b>	<b>118,200</b>	<b>45,043</b>	<b>73,157</b>	<b>38.1%</b>
<b>Sent to National</b>	<b>100,470</b>	<b>35,357</b>	<b>65,113</b>	<b>35.2%</b>

Where are we on funding our Mission? Unfortunately, we should be at least 50% but as of July 15<sup>th</sup> we are only 38.1% of our goal of \$118,200. I know our units, districts and the conference are not meeting in person yet, or for the most part; however, our Mission to women, children and youth will continue.

Your mission or pledge money goes to over 90+ institutions in the United States, plus many international projects that serve our purpose which states we **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.**

Our pledge money is sometimes used for our United Methodist Women's advocacy which focuses on maternal and child health, economic inequalities, climate justice, and criminalization of communities of color and mass incarceration. In the July-August **response** magazine, the article "Serving Communities in Times of Crisis" gives an example of this with the Crossroads Urban Center in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is helping a growing number of unemployed (due to the COVID-19 pandemic) with curbside distribution of their food pantry and voucher program and has worked to urge the governor to announce a moratorium on evictions. They continue to advocate for temporary forgiveness of loans for property owners who are willing to defer rental payments. At times, we as individual members of United Methodist Women do not fully understand where all our hard-sought-after mission money is spent. We understand that our primary focus is on women, children and youth, supporting our mission institutions but we need to also realize that social action sometimes must go even further by bringing advocacy and education to communities which might not totally include our primary focus of women, children and youth. When the community is endangered, women, children and youth or those without a voice can be the most effected. So, when you hear that our funds might be used for social advocacy that does not directly affect our primary focus, remember that it does indirectly at the heart. We put our trust in our national Board of Directors to use our funds so that all may experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ.

Never stop your giving mission money simply because of one item or one cause among thousands of others that United Methodist Women support. I encourage you as individuals, and as local units, if you ever have a question as to where our funds are being spent to contact our National Headquarters and ask those questions. Pray about it and ask our merciful God to open our hearts and minds to not only us individually but that our leaders in United Methodist Women can lead us in the paths God wants us to walk and serve.

**Jean R. Creswell**

AWF-UMW Conference Treasurer

2/3/2020



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## Conference Communication Coordinator's Report

# For a Time Like This

## A resource

### If It is Not Possible to Have a Face-to-Face Program

There are times when gathering in person is not possible, whether it be due to illness, transportation issues or distance. Technology offers wonderful solutions to help us to continue our fellowship even in trying times.

There are several videoconferencing platforms available. Two of the more popular options are described below. An internet connection and a working camera and microphone on your device is necessary to fully participate. These platforms allow you to share your screen, making it possible for everyone to view documents and PowerPoint slides and additional videos together.

### Zoom

Zoom ([zoom.us](https://zoom.us)) allows anyone with an internet connection (phone, computer, tablet) to join in a videoconference. Zoom has free as well as paid options depending on your meeting needs. This video is a quick overview from Zoom on how to get started: [youtu.be/qsy2Ph6kSf8](https://youtu.be/qsy2Ph6kSf8). And here is a video from United Methodist Communications on getting started with Zoom for worship and small groups: [youtube.com/watch?v=a2FZD1d\\_yFQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=a2FZD1d_yFQ)

### Google Meet

Google Meet is free videoconference software similar to Zoom. All participants need a Google account to participate. This video provides a brief guide to the Google Meet platform: [youtu.be/J\\_ywOjB1c4Q](https://youtu.be/J_ywOjB1c4Q).

### Considerations:

- Allow time for individuals to sign on and become familiar with the platform. You might want to have a test meeting to allow everyone to sign on for a casual chat before your first program.
- Welcome people as they join the call. It takes a few seconds from the time they join to the time their audio begins to work.
- Ask multiple people to be involved in the program so that all feel included and engaged.
- Be available via text, phone or other form of communication for those who are struggling to access the meeting—especially before your first few meetings on the platform.
- Recording your meeting is an option so that those who cannot attend can watch the material at a later time. You can upload the recording to YouTube and share the link for easy access.
- Meeting facilitators can mute all participants during portions of the meeting when just one leader needs to be heard to eliminate background noise.



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## Conference Communication Coordinator's Report Cont'd

- Give time for people to socialize even though you are online. It is different in that only one person can speak at a time, so it will take some getting used to.

### **How to Adapt Programs**

It will take some creativity to adapt the monthly programs to online meetings, but it can be done! The following are some ideas:

- Allow extra time at the beginning of the meeting for everyone to get online and greet one another.
- Invite participants to show and share items from their home for the worship table or altar to create a virtual altar.
- Ask different individuals to read the prayer, Scripture and litanies.
- Use YouTube recordings of songs to help lead singing and worship. You can share your screen to show the video. (Practice this ahead of time with a small group to see how it works.)
- Send a list of needed materials and instructions ahead of time (or mail them) for activities, so that each member can do them on individually and perhaps ahead of the meeting and be ready for discussion.
- Explore Zoom breakout rooms as a way to have small group discussions during your session.
- Set up PowerPoint slides for reading materials and discussion questions during the meeting. You can share your screen and show the slides from your computer.

### **Recorded Meetings**

If you are recording the meeting, be sure participants know, as it may change what they choose to share (and wear!) during the session. Recordings are large files, and you may wish to upload it to YouTube to more easily share it with those not present. If you upload it as an unlisted video anyone who has the link can easily view and share it with someone else, but it would not be searchable. To limit circulation, you can also mark the video as private. When a video is private, it can only be seen by an approved list of people and the link may not be shared

Carefully consider if the information shared in the meeting should be shared with an audience outside of those present. Also, you may choose only to record a portion of your gathering.

- Tara Barnes

Faith, Hope, Love in Action

**Michele Smith**

Communications coordinator



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## Social Action Report & Charter for Racial Justice

Greetings to the AWF-UMW Sisterhood of Grace:

As women of faith, we are called by God to stand up against racial injustice and to be stewards of God's creation. Our Charter for Racial Justice states:

1. That God is the Creator of all people, and all are God's children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental and political exploitation;
5. That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sister and brothers of other races in thought, in word and in deed;
6. That in our common humanity in creation, all women and men are made in God's image, and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;
7. That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured;
8. That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships, and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures and practices of both church and state; We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed, and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.

Because of environmental racism, low income communities of color are exposed to environmental hazards. The current pandemic is an urgent reminder of this exposure.

Take a few minutes and read about [climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Join in on July 23, 5:00pm, CST, Faith Talks: Dismantling Racism: Pressing On To Freedom (United Methodist Women # Faith Talk Podcast)

We must end racism now! We cannot burden another generation with this way of living.

During the Social Justice Priorities for 2021-2024 Quadrennium we will be focusing ONLY on these two issues:  
Climate Justice: Focus on Just Energy 4 All Campaign  
Criminalization of Communities of Color / Mass Incarceration / communities of Color.

As we move forward in this next quadrennium all United Methodist Women Leadership are constantly assessing what is needed in this moment and where our strengths lie. As we wind down our work on Maternal and Child Health and Economic Justice/Living Wage by the end of this year we will continue to advance justice and equality in these areas. Resources on these issues will continue to be available on the United Methodist Women National website [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org) through 2022 for use to our membership.

United Methodist Women has a long-standing commitment to eradicating racism. We began this work 100 years ago and are re-committed to anti-racism work to dismantle structural racism.

Faith - Hope - Love in Action,

**Ora A. Gillespie**

AWF-UMW Social Action Coordinator

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## Education and Interpretation Report

### Mission Giving in the Time of COVID-19

This resource is provided by Jessica Tulloch, National Staff Liaison for E&I Coordinators.

“...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.**

#### Quick Messaging to Encourage Mission Giving

- Put your faith, hope, and love into action from the safety of your home. Give directly to United Methodist Women's international and national mission partners that are serving vulnerable communities hit hardest by COVID-19. **(insert information on how to give)**
- United Methodist Women throughout the country are still in mission as we shelter at home during this worldwide pandemic. **Give now (insert giving information)** to support our international and national mission partners working to serve vulnerable communities hit hardest by COVID-19.
- *“We're doing all we can to provide essential services to an ever-growing population facing loss of income due to COVID-19.”* Glenn Bailey, Executive Director, Crossroads Urban Center, Salt Lake City, UT. United Methodist Women's mission giving works to meet the immediate needs of our international and national mission partners serving vulnerable populations. **Please give now. (insert giving information)**



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- *“If I have ever understood what it means to operate in faith, it is most certainly now”* states Reginald Smith, Executive Director of United Methodist Neighborhood Centers in Chattanooga, TN., *“We are finding new ways to serve our low-income families because we know that God has put us in this place at this time to serve this community.”* Needs are only expected to increase throughout the country as our National Mission Institutions deal with the long-term societal effects of the pandemic. Your mission work as United Methodist Women is more important than ever. **Please give generously. (insert giving information)** *“As we face this battle, states Smith, “there is no group I would rather have on my side than United Methodist Women!”*
- *“Our mission remains the same, but our approaches are different.”* Reginald Smith, Executive Director of United Methodist Neighborhood Centers in Chattanooga, TN recently shared how his agency continues to serve their community hit hard by COVID-19, *“Many of the people in our city work in the service industry so they are now jobless and struggling to feed their families. Although we had to close our afterschool program, we immediately put staff to work cooking meals and delivering them to the children and their families.”* United Methodist Women’s Mission Giving supports the vulnerable communities our international and national mission partners serve. **Please give now. (insert giving information)** *“It’s a shot of adrenaline for us to be one of United Methodist Women’s National Mission Institutions,”* Smith continues. *“We are blessed by your support!”*
- One of United Methodist Women’s National Mission Institutions, The Big Garden in Omaha, NE, has found a valuable way to serve during this global health crisis. Instead of letting the educational gardens they have established at schools and other agencies lie fallow, staff are now working these 30 plus gardens to provide much needed fresh produce to the emergency food system in their community *“We found the need to shift our focus,”* states Nathan Morgan, Executive Director of The Big Garden. *“The 30,000 seedlings we plant this year will now provide more than 10,000 pounds of food for our community’s homeless shelters and food pantries at this critical time.”* **Give now (insert giving information) to support the timely work of our international and national mission partners.**
- The 30,000 seedlings The Big Garden in Omaha, NE normally plant at schools for agricultural purposes will now provide more than 10,000 pounds of fresh produce for the homeless shelters and food pantries in their community. United Methodist Women’s National Mission Institutions are adapting to meet the increasing needs caused by the worldwide pandemic. **Join United Methodist Women throughout the country in giving now to support our international and national mission partners serving those hit hardest by COVID-19 (insert giving information). Give now because the need is now.**
- The COVID-19 pandemic has left no corner of the world untouched. The confirmed number of cases continue to rise in Africa, Latin America/Caribbean and some countries in Asia. *“Women and children throughout the world are always impacted first in an emergency,”* states Betty Gittens, United Methodist Women’s Executive for International Ministries. *“Women in these countries are most affected as they are the ones who go out to crowded places to find food and fetch water for their families and are therefore, at a greater risk of catching the virus.”* Regional Missionary, Finda Quiwa from Sierra Leone shares the urgency felt by the people in her country, *“Everything is shut down and the people are scared. But we trust in God.”* United Methodist Women’s Mission Giving supports the vulnerable communities our international and national mission partners serve. **Now is the time to put your faith, hope and love in action with a gift today. (insert giving information)**

**Please contact me if I can provide any assistance in the area of Education and Interpretation. I appreciate your continued mission giving during this difficult season of our country.**

In His Service,

**Joyce Genz**

251.259.1675

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# Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women Online (ZOOM) 2020 Voting Information

Due to the cancellation of our in-person 2020 AWF-UMW Fall event / Spiritual Enrichment Retreat, we will now hold electronic elections for the 2021-2022 nominees in a ZOOM meeting on October 10, 2020. Here is a summary of the voting process:

- Each nominee's bio and office are included in this edition of the Alert for your review.
- The ZOOM meeting guide and instructions will be shared with voting delegates from the District Presidents and Conference President at a date determined closer to the Election date.
- Our election process includes **Nominations from the Floor**. This part of the election will be recognized on **September 10, 2020 (a Thursday) from 12 Noon until 8:00 PM (same day)**. The nomination from the floor name, Bio and picture should be sent email to the Conference President during this same time.
- Nominations from the Floor will **not** be accepted in the Election Process during the 9:00 AM Election Time on October 10, 2020.
- Election requirements are

As stated in our Standing Rules the voting delegates include:

### III. ELECTIONS AND MEETINGS Art. V. pages 105-107

1. The electorate of the conference organization shall be composed of the following:

- a. One representative from each local unit.
- b. Conference Executive Committee
- c. Bishop
- d. District Executive Committees
- e. District Superintendents
- f. Directors of the National United Methodist Women residing within the conference
- g. Officers of the Southeast Jurisdiction Organization residing within the Conference

- The voting process includes a ZOOM meeting and a guide will be shared at a date closer to the election, but some basics include these steps to "join the meeting"

1. Click on the meeting information; provided 1-week prior to the Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> election. This invitation will include the web info and phone numbers if connecting with your phone.
2. **Join a meeting** using one of these methods: Click **Join a Meeting** if you want to **join** without signing in. ...
3. Enter the **meeting** ID number and your display name. ...
4. Select if you would like to connect audio and/or video and click **Join**.
5. You will be placed into the meeting and asked to mute or at meeting start ALL will be muted.

This election on ZOOM will be different for all of us. Please be open and receptive to the new way of electing our next term of officers. The committee on nominations has worked throughout all the conference to find our new leaders for the 2021-2022 term. I will be available for questions about anything ZOOM elections at

[mawbel36575@yahoo.com](mailto:mawbel36575@yahoo.com)

Debbie Bell, AWF-UMW President



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## Nominations Chair Report

Greetings, from the 2020 AWF-UMW Committee on Nominations,

Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women (AWF-UMW) members, WE NOW HAVE A COMPLETE SLATE OF OFFICERS nominees report. Please join me in thanking the AWF-UMW members that have said “Yes” that will help our leadership mission team.

Please read the nominees bios included in this edition of the Alert. Some of the names you will recognize and others you see for the first time. Also read the virtual voting directions to be held during October.

As Committee on Nominations Chair, I ask you for prayers for our UMW membership and especially for these nominees to be covered with confidence as they answer the call to lead in each office.

Finally, let us not forget to support our Pledge to Missions that helps women, children, and youth in our community, the state, the Nation and around the world. I confess that sometimes I must be reminded that I have forgotten to pay my pledge. Just remember how Great is to be a United Methodist Woman being the hands and feet for Jesus.

In His Service,  
Peggy Cunningham, CON Chair  
251-752-1714  
[Peggyc2@gulftel.com](mailto:Peggyc2@gulftel.com)

### Nominations Bios

#### President

Debbie Bracewell has completed a four-year term as Dothan District president. Her professional experience includes the positions of high school English teacher, cheer coach, cheer judge, executive director of National Council for Spirit Safety and Education, editor of online cheer magazine, and public speaking. She currently is an after-school tutor, president of the Recovery Organization of Coffee County, and a volunteer for church and community.

Debbie has been a member of the Enterprise First United Methodist Church Circle 6 since 2004 and is the current president of the United Methodist Women unit at Enterprise First United Methodist Women. She is the Dothan District President and has served as Membership Nurture and Outreach chair and Communications chair. She has been teaching mission studies at the conference and district level since 2014.

Debbie has a degree in English Education from Troy State, a master's degree in Secondary Education from Troy State Dothan, and a master's degree in Strategic Communication from Troy University. Debbie is a widow with 2 sons, 2 stepsons, and 10 grandchildren. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening and traveling.



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## Nominations Bios cont'd

### Secretary

Debbie Bell has completed a four-year term as the conference president. I am thankful for your consideration to be the AWF-UMW Secretary in this next term. I am a native Mobilian and a member of Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile AL; I have held many UMW leadership positions nearly 20 years and look forward to being a mission participant if able. The many ministries I have volunteered in church (besides UMW) include VBS, Grounds and facilitating Sunday school.

My skills to be your Secretary would include attending my Local Unit, district and conference events & meetings as well as completing minutes for our conference meetings, completing the annual Directory and attending to the duties as notated in the AWF-UMW Policies. As God sees fit and to the best of my ability, I can promise financial support through my Local Pledge to Mission and will strive to execute all duties of the AWF-UMW Secretary.

My husband Richard and I live in the Semmes community of the Mobile area. Our families are close by and we gather with them when we can. We both love the outdoors and doing for others. Our dog Thor lets us stay with him.



### Communications

Debbie Bush. Debbie Bush is a member of the St. Luke UMW in Pensacola, FL in the Pensacola District. She has been involved with UMW for 20 years. She has been an officer in the district and conference leadership and those leadership roles include the district president and district and conference communications. She and her husband live in Pensacola, FL, with their daughter Mariah. She is glad to serve the AWF-UMW membership again in communications.



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## Nominations Bios cont'd

### Education & Interpretation (E&I)

Joyce Genz. Joyce Genz is returning for a second two-year term as the E&I coordinator. She is an active United Methodist Women member at Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile, Alabama. Joyce has served as the unit president for the past 6 years. She lived and taught on the Navajo reservation for 19 years before moving to Mobile where she had a 25-year career at Spring Hill College. Joyce taught in the Intensive English Language Institute and later retired as dean of Graduate and Continuing Studies. In retirement, Joyce and her husband Bill continue to teach English as a Second Language to students from all over the world at Christ United Methodist Church in Mobile. Joyce has led a number of mission studies at the unit and district-level and led Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States in the 2017 and 2018 AWFL Mission u. Joyce holds a Bachelor of Science in Education from Evangel University in Springfield Missouri and a Master of Science in Instructional Design from the University of South Alabama. She loves teaching, reading and gardening. Joyce has two children Daniel (deceased) and Geri.



### Social Action (SA)

Ora Gillespie. Ora Gillespie is returning for a second two-year term as the SA coordinator. She was born in Burnt Corn, Alabama and moved to Montgomery at 8 years old. She joined Metropolitan UMC at 12 years old after hearing a sermon preached by the Rev. Joseph Lowery. Ora has been a member for more than 40 years and has served as unit president for Metropolitan for several years and serve as the Social Action Coordinator for the Montgomery-Prattville District for three years. A quote from, Ora "I have embraced this community of women and am excited to be a part of the legacy". Ora grew up in the United Methodist Youth Fellowship until graduating from high school. She received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary education from Alabama State University; Master of Education, Fayetteville State University; University of North Carolina, Pepperdine University, Los Angeles, California. Career Highlights: Taught in Florida three years, North Carolina seven years, and California twenty-five years, grades K – Adult Education, mentor and demonstration teacher for thirty-seven years; retired teacher, California 2004. Ora is a proud mother of two adult sons, Dekovan and Damian, three (3) grands and three (3) great grands. She says that life is great and full of love and joy!



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## Nominations Bios cont'd

### Committee on Nominations (CON), Class of 2021-2024

Clara J. Ester is a native of Memphis, TN and a graduate of LeMoyne-Owen College. She moved to Mobile, AL in February 1970 to serve at Dumas Wesley Community Center. She retired December 2006 as Executive Director. She's a member of Toulminville-Warren Street UMC where she has served in numerous positions. She served as District Lay Leader for many years and on the nominating committee; as well as Vice President of Mobile District UMW. She was a 2012 delegate to the UMC Jurisdictional Conference and a 2016 delegate to General Conference. She served on the Episcopacy Committee and on the Conference Board of Laity. Over the years she has served on several boards of the AWFC. In 1986, she was commissioned as a Deaconess of the UMC. She served on the National Program Advisory Committee of UMW 2012-2016. Was elected UMW Director 2016-2020.



### Committee on Nominations (CON), Chairperson

Peggy Cunningham. Peggy is returning as the Chair of the committee on nominations. This officer is elected by the Committee on Nominations.



### Charter for Racial Justice Committee (CRJ)

These two members to the Charter for Racial Justice committee are appointees by the conference president. They are included in the election as a formality and recognition.

Cathy Givan, has just completed her four-year term as AWF-UMW conference Secretary. She is from the Montgomery-Prattville District

Beth Arp, is an active member in the Foley UMW in the Baypines District.



Cathy Givan



Beth Arp



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## SEJ Election Results

The COVID-19 pandemic has stopped most of our UMW in-person gatherings in the Alabama-West Florida. The SEJ meeting in Mobile in April was going to bring together more than 500 UMW members from across the southeast to our conference area.

The SEJ planning committee began plans to re-schedule and then a final determination: cancellation. The registration fees were originally determined as “non-refundable” but has since been coordinated to be refunded. All attendees that registered should be receiving or already received that registration refund. During the SEJ meeting in Mobile the next quadrennium (2021-2024) of SEJ Leadership were to be announced and the National Board of Directors were to be elected. On July 13, 2020 that voting process took place on a ZOOM meeting.

The names listed below are the 2021-2024 quadrennium Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) and the National Board of Directors Leadership for United Methodist Women. Please notice and join in the celebration of the Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women representatives on this team:

On the SEJ team, Chair for Committee on Nominations, **Barbara Carroll**, Mobile District

On the Board of Directors, **Betty Helms**, Dothan District

Congratulations to our Leadership Team -

**President Sue Owen - South Carolina Conference**

**Vice President - Kay Roach - Florida Conference**

**Secretary - Hazel N. Hall - North Carolina**

**Treasurer - Tryphenia Speed - North Georgia**

**Chair, Committee on Nominations - Barbara Carroll - Alabama-West Florida Conference**

Members of the Committee on Nominations

**Kristin Dorris - Tennessee Conference**

**Melba Mitchell - Memphis Conference**

**Linda Gale Rigdon - South Georgia Conference**

**Betty Taylor - Kentucky Conference**

Congratulations to our Directors and Alternates -

Directors -

**Betty Helms - Alabama-West Florida Conference**

**Deloris Carhee - North Georgia Conference**

**Haejin Ban - North Georgia Conference**

**Caroline Martin - Tennessee Conference**

**Debra Payne - North Alabama Conference**

**Melba McCallum - North Carolina Conference**

Alternates -

**Kim Eller - Western North Carolina Conference**

**Tonya Lanier - Western North Carolina Conference**



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## 2021 – 2024 Quadrennium Leadership Announcement

Announcing the 2021-2024 Quadrennium Leadership for United Methodist Women. The Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) Team includes our AWF-UMW member Barbara Carroll and The Board of Directors (B.O.D.) includes our AWF-UMW member, Betty Helms. Thanks to each of these conference members, as well, all the SEJ members, that have answered the call to lead in our next four years.

This new Board of Directors will begin plans to select the next leadership that includes: B.O.D. President; the National President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Committee on Nominations Chair.

Barbara and Betty, congratulations. Thank you both for your attention to the United Methodist Women moving forward in this next quadrennium. You have not been elected and left without a Prayer or encouraging force from your "home" conference.

Debbie Bell, President  
Alabama-West Florida United Methodist Women

### **Southeastern Jurisdiction Election Results,**

**President Sue Owen - South Caroline Conference**

**Vice President Kay Roach - Florida Conference**

**Secretary Hazel N. Hall - North Carolina**

**Treasurer Tryphenia Speed - North Georgia**

**Chair, Committee on Nominations - Barbara Carroll - Alabama-West Florida Conference**

Members of the Committee On Nominations

**Kristin Dorris - Tennessee Conference**

**Melba Mitchell - Memphis Conference**

**Linda Gale Rigdon - South Georgia Conference**

**Betty Taylor - Kentucky Conference**

Congratulations to our Directors

**Betty Helms - Alabama-West Florida Conference**

**Deloris Carhee - North Georgia Conference**

**Haejin Ban - North Georgia Conference**

**Caroline Martin - Tennessee Conference**

**Debra Payne - North Alabama Conference**

**Melba McCallum - North Carolina Conference**

Alternate Directors

**Kim Eller - Western North Carolina Conference**

**Tonya Lanier - Western North Caroline Conference**

Keep track of AWF-UMW, National and Jurisdiction news:

<https://www.awf-umw.org/>

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

<https://www.umwsej.org/>



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## Standing Rules Review

Changes to be voted on during the October 10, 2020 virtual meeting.

Please review your copy of the Standing Rules (located on the website [www.awf-umw.org](http://www.awf-umw.org) )  
For these needed changes:

Rule Change Recommendation 1.

Page 13, 6. There shall be a Committee on Program. The committee shall be composed of the following:

DELETE i. Secretary of Program Resources;

CHANGE subsequent lettering: j. TO i., k. TO j. l. TO k.

Rule Change Recommendation 2.

Page 15, (roman numeral) III. Elections and Meetings Art. V pages 105-107

In order to ... b. Elected in Odd Years.

DELETE Secretary of Program Resources.

These are recommendations from the Annual review of the Standing Rules as presented during the July Executive Mission Team meeting by the Standing Rules & Policies Committee to the Executive Mission Team members now placed into the Alert newsletter as notification prior to the designated voting date for voting delegates.

Standing Rules & Policies Committee

Parliamentarian, Chair

Committee members:

President

Treasurer

Secretary

Committee on Nominations Chair



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## 2020 AWF Conference Calendar of Events

Theme: In His Service,

1 Timothy 3:13 ***"Those who have served well gain a good standing and considerable confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."*** (CEB-Common English Bible)

<b>JAN 17-18</b> (Fri-Sat)	Friday start 5:00PM XTeam Officers & Distr. Presidents	*Executive Mission Team Meeting Location: <b>Marianna First UMC, Marianna, FL</b> Officer reports
<b>FEB. 6-8</b> (Fri-Sun)	<b>Friday start conf president, treasurer, CON Chair, GC delegates</b>	Leadership Development Days (LDD) Location: <b>St. Louis, MO</b> National organizes hotel/event schedule
<b>FEB 14-15</b> (Fri-Sat)	Fri 3PM Checkin All invited	AWF-UMW Conference Annual Day Location: <b>Enterprise First UMC in Enterprise, AL</b>
<b>APR 17-19</b> (Fri-Sun)	Fri 8AM-6PM checkin	Southeastern Jurisdiction (SEJ) meeting Location: <b>Mobile, AL CANCELLED</b>
<b>JUL 11</b> (Sat) <b>CHANGE</b>	Friday start 5:00PM XTeam Officers & Dist. Presidents AND District Treasurers	**Executive Mission Team Meeting 2020 District Budget Reviews Location: <b>CHANGE / ZOOM MTG.</b> District Treasurers will also be required to attend this meeting
<b>JUL 24-25</b> (Fri-Sat)	Schedule pending	Cooperative Mission u Location: <b>Aldersgate UMC in Montgomery, AL</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>
<b>OCT 9-10</b> (Fri-Sat) <b>! NEW, 2-DAYS !</b>	Fri 3 PM Checkin Sat 7AM Checkin All invited	Conference Spiritual Enrichment Retreat 2021 Executive Mission Team elect/install Location: <b>Blue Lake Assembly Grounds</b> <b>CANCELLED</b>
<b>NOVEMBER</b> (Recommended)	ALL	UMW Day celebrations per Local Unit Be Invitational!
<b>NOVEMBER 7</b> (Sat ONLY)	Sat. 8:30AM to 3:30PM	District president & District treasurer <b>ONLY</b> Location: <b>TBA</b>

### CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE DEADLINES FEB.10, MAY 10, JULY 10, NOV. 10

\* Includes conference executive mission team officers AND District Presidents

\*\* Includes conference executive mission team officers, District Presidents AND District Treasurers

- † March 6-7, 2020 COSROW – Blue Lake Assembly Grounds All Invited
- † **Sept. 13, 2020 CHANGE** Clergy, ONLY UMChurch Annual Conference – ZOOM meeting
- † **Sept. 26, 2020 CHANGE** LAITY UMChurch Annual Conference – ZOOM meeting
- AWF-UMW - Conference President and District Presidents  
Non-Voting Live Stream will be available for interested guests
- † May 5-15, 2020 **POSTPONED** General Conference 2020 Minneapolis, MN Delegates

In 2020, the AWF-UMW calendar of events and meetings were adjusted for the COVID-19 Stay-at-Home and Safer-at-Home orders for the Nation.



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2020 HEALTH FORM AUTHORIZATION  
FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Health Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Policy #: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies to medications: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of an emergency, contact: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

In the event emergency medical aid/treatment is required due to illness or injury during my stay at the Mission u Event, I authorize the ALWF Mission u to:

1. Secure and retain medical treatment and transportation is needed.
2. Release my health information to the authorized individual/agency involved in the medical emergency treatment.

I hold harmless the ALWF Conference Mission u, the ALWF Conference, the United Methodist Church, and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Consent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Consent Plan:** This authorization includes x-ray, surgery, hospitalization, medication, and any treatment procedure deemed "life-saving" by the physician. This provision will only be invoked if the person listed as emergency contact person is unable to be reached. I hold harmless the ALWF Conference Mission u, the ALWF Conference, the United Methodist Church, and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for any act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Consent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Consent Plan:** I DO NOT give my consent for emergency medical treatment/aid in the case of illness or injury. In the event emergency treatment/aid is required, I wish the following procedures to take place: \_\_\_\_\_

I hold harmless the ALWF Conference Mission u, the ALWF Conference, the United Methodist Church, and/or the owners of the facility for which the event is taking place for nay act or failure to act during a medical emergency.

Consent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## TALENT BANK INFORMATION ON PROSPECTIVE LEADERSHIP

(To be completed by prospective leader - Send to District Nominations Chair)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary) Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Church** \_\_\_\_\_ **District** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age:** \_\_\_\_ 20's \_\_\_\_ 30's \_\_\_\_ 40's \_\_\_\_ 50's \_\_\_\_ 60's \_\_\_\_ 70's \_\_\_\_ 80's+

**Languages Spoken** \_\_\_\_\_ **Racial/Ethnic Group** \_\_\_\_\_

**Professional skills, job experience** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office(s) held in United Methodist Women**

	Office(s)	Dates of Service
<b>Local</b>	_____	_____
	_____	_____
<b>District</b>	_____	_____
	_____	_____
<b>Conference</b>	_____	_____
	_____	_____
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	_____	_____
	_____	_____

**Additional Experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Methodist Women) or in the community**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Talents or Skills:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



**Areas of Special Interest or Concern:**

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> secretarial             | <input type="checkbox"/> recruiting members      | <input type="checkbox"/> publicity       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communication           | <input type="checkbox"/> social issues           | <input type="checkbox"/> workshops       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> computer                | <input type="checkbox"/> creativity              | <input type="checkbox"/> newsletters     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> accounting/bookkeeping  | <input type="checkbox"/> recording minutes       | <input type="checkbox"/> retreats        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> organization of details | <input type="checkbox"/> public policy           | <input type="checkbox"/> music           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> nominations             | <input type="checkbox"/> public relations        | <input type="checkbox"/> youth           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> program planning        | <input type="checkbox"/> community building      | <input type="checkbox"/> children        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration          | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusiveness/pluralism | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Which office(s) on the Conference United Methodist Women's Team would you most like to hold given the opportunity to serve?**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Nurture & Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vice President             | <input type="checkbox"/> Social Action                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Growth              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Resources             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations       | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Interpretation |  |

**Why are you interested in this position and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?**

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**Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Methodist Women through the PURPOSE of the organization? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for:**

Full day \_\_\_\_\_ Weekend \_\_\_\_\_ Extended Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Yes or No Yes or No Yes or No

\_\_\_\_\_ I am sorry but I am unable to accept an office this year. Please keep my name on file and contact me in \_\_\_\_\_.

Send the completed form to the Chair of your District or Conference Committee on Nominations.

TALENTBANK-2017



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