

THE SIGNAL

Spring 2021

FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT
GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN



Calendar of Events

2021

April 1	METour Registration Deadline
May 26-29	Great Plains UMC Conference - Grand Island, NE UMW Luncheon at Annual Conference
May	METour
June 26	Summer Leadership Team Meeting - Online
July 1	Eunice Harrington Award Nominee Deadline
July	Mission u - Kearney, NE
July	Mission u - Salina, KS
July	Mission u - Topeka, KS
September 18	Great Plains UMW Annual Meeting - Online
October 4 - 8	Midwest Mission Distribution Mission Trip
October	District Annual Meetings

2022

May 20-22	National UMW Assembly in Orlando, FL
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UMW Purpose

The organized unit of 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.

2021 Five Rivers District Big Sister/ Little Sister List

Big Sister

Little Sisters

Carolyn Elder	Baldwin First, Lawrence Centenary, Lawrence First, Vinland, & Worden
Dianne Throop	Clearfield, Edgerton, Ives Chapel, & Wellsville
Julie Ward	Melvern/Quenemo, Plum Creek, Osawatomie, & Richter
Dorothy Miller	Beagle, Blue Mound, Parker, & Turkey Creek
Rogene McPherson	Ft. Scott First, Fulton, Hammond, Hiattville, Pleasanton, Prescott, & West Liberty
Ruth Jansen	Eudora, Princeton, Ottawa Trinity, Richmond, & Welda
Nancy Rockers	New Lancaster, Paola, & Uniontown
Donna Grigsby	Colony, Garnett, & Humboldt
Shirley Benjamin	Gridley, Iola, Lyndon, & Vassar
Roberta Selvy	Fontana, La Cygne, Lane, Mound City, & Ottawa First

Great Plains Conference
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Great Plains UMW Website:
<https://www.greatplainsumc.org/umw>

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United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

2021 Five Rivers District Officers

President: Rachel Wegener, 4210 W 26th Terrace, Lawrence, KS 66047 (785) 766-9598, drwegener@reagan.com	Class of 2022
Vice President: Carolyn Elder, 1146 S. Willow, Ottawa, KS 66067 (785) 242-3791, (785) 418-7272, t.riffic46@gmail.com	Class of 2021
Secretary: Dorothy Miller, 23723 NW Mitchell Rd., Garnett, KS 66032 (785) 448-3007, rdmiller62@gmail.com	Class of 2023
Treasurer: Donna Grigsby, PO Box 661, Iola, KS 66749 (703) 403-8257, donna.grigsby46@gmail.com	Class of 2022
Communication Coordinator: Julie Ward, 701 Arkansas St., Lawrence, KS 66044 (573) 795-5425, jward@usd497.org	Class of 2024
Mission Coordinators	
Journey in Faith: Nancy Rockers, PO Box 37, Greeley, KS 66033 (785) 867-3933, Wrock21@aol.com	Class of 2021
Journey in Action: Rogene McPherson, 12921 Faucett Rd., Centerville, KS 66014 (913) 579-6379, rkj.mcpherson65@yahoo.com	Class of 2022
Journey in Giving & Learning: Shirley Benjamin, 21757 SW Maryland, Garnett, KS 66032 (785) 214-3966, no email	Class of 2022
Journey in Growth: Ruth Jansen, 741 S Tremont, Ottawa, KS 66067 (785) 242-1917, ruthjansenZ13@gmail.com	Class of 2023
Program Resources: Roberta Selvy, 601 W. 14th St., Pleasanton, KS 66075 (913) 352-8360, (813) 789-8116, rselvy@gmail.com	Class of 2023
Nominations Chair: Dianne Throop, 214 Arizona St., Lawrence, KS 66049 (785) 841-1408, d.throop@sbcglobal.net	Class of 2021
Nominations Committee: Kimi Wilson, 910 Brown Ave., Osawatomie, KS 66064 (913) 594-2470, wilsonkimis@gmail.com	Class of 2022
(2) Vacant Positions	Class of 2024

Messages From Your Five Rivers District UMW Officers

From the President

Spring Greetings from your Five Rivers District President. It has been a time like no other for all of us living in the midst of a global pandemic. My wish for each of you is that you are doing your best to stay happy and healthy.

Since not all of us have been fortunate enough to receive the vaccine and we are still not to gather in groups of more than 50 people, there will be no Spring District meeting. I am hopeful that we may be able to meet in-person in the fall, but that will depend on what happens with the Covid-19 virus. Keeping everyone safe is my main concern at this point in time.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. My phone number and e-mail are listed below. A listing of the Five Rivers District Executive Team and their contact information will be included in this newsletter for your information. The Big Sister list will also be provided so you know who has been assigned to your unit as well.

I need to remind all units that it is still important for you to do your best to keep your pledge giving up-to-date. Now more than ever our pledge monies are needed to support the missions and ministries of United Methodist Women and women, children, and youth locally and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of United Methodist Women.

Rachel Wegener, President
Five Rivers District UMW
drwegener@reagan.com
(785) 766-9598

From the Secretary

Hello to all of you! It has been a long time since we've been together in person and undoubtedly you have missed that connection as I have. 2020 has been a year we'll remember, that's for sure! We all feel concern for others and pray for them, as like ourselves, we've been affected by the pandemic in different ways. Hopefully you and your loved ones are doing well.

Likely your UMW units haven't met in person most of this past year. Our Welda unit has not met since last March. Hopefully that will change soon. When we don't meet, there are no minutes to record, so our job as secretaries of our local units has been diminished. When we do record minutes, we can remember the following: listen deeply and accurately before writing, be clear and concise, and remember that future UMW members will be reading what we write. I quoted this Bible passage that mentions writing in a Signal note previously, but it is worth reading again:

Corinthians 3:3 "You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink, but with the spirit of the Living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts."

God's blessings to all of you in this Lenten season, as we celebrate Holy Week and the beautiful time of Easter!

Recording Secretary
Five District District UMW
Dorothy Miller

From the Treasurer

This past year has certainly been one that no one anticipated and has proven to be a challenge for many of our units. However, I would like to commend our Five Rivers District units who found a way to give to UMW missions. We completed the year with \$30,683.73 given to Missions which is 80.75% of our pledge for 2020. In addition, we gave \$1,753.22 in Mission Giving Plus. This was for Prayer & Self Denial and the National Mission Institutions (NMI) Epworth Village and Della C. Lamb.

The Great Plains Conference has a rotating schedule for giving to National Mission Institutions (NMI). The NMI designated for receiving Five Rivers District offerings in 2021 is The Big Garden in Omaha, NE.

Welcome to new local treasurers and all returning treasurers of our Five Rivers District. If you are new this year, please email me your contact information. If you do not have email, you can mail me your contact information.

The conference website, greatplainsumc.org/umw, is a good resource for new and experienced treasurers. On the website, click "UMW Treasurer Forms" on the bottom of the left side list. There you will find PowerPoint training videos plus several forms used by Local Unit Treasurers. The one used most often is the **Unit Remittance Form**. If you have questions, email or call me. I'm here to help you do your job effectively.

When submitting your checks to the District Treasurer, please write them to “Five Rivers District UMW”. I am requesting that you send me your remittance by the 25th of the month so I can get all recorded in time to mail the check to the Conference Treasurer.

Blessings,

Donna Grigsby
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Iola, KS 66749
(703) 403-8257
donna.grigsby46@gmail.com

From Program Resources

A lot of things changed for all of us in 2020; I hope you all are safe and well. I pulled information directly from the UMW Reading Program about where to find books. I know this has been a concern for many. Other than the resources below, if you know of another UMW unit that is participating in the program, they may be willing to loan a book(s) to help with your program.

“Where to Find Books”

You might notice that books in this publication are not listed with stock numbers; nor will you find the usual order form and shipping information. For the first time, this year United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties - libraries, local bookstores, and online. Think of this resource not as a catalog, as in past years, but as a guide.

Although Amazon is always a convenient option, please consider obtaining Reading Program books through:

- School and public libraries
- Local independent bookstores
- Franchises of larger bookstore chains

As always, most Reading Program books can also be found for reading electronically on your Kindle tablet or other devices. For ebooks free of charge, check your local library, Google eBookstore, Project Gutenberg, or Open Library.

If you do order books through Amazon, please remember to visit smile.amazon.com, Amazon's charitable giving page, and select "United Methodist Women" as your charitable organization. For all eligible purchases made on smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% to United Methodist Women.

If you have a computer or know of someone who will print the list of books, here is the link to the list: Reading Program Catalog 2021 (unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Also, thank you Jackie from Edgerton, for finding that the Reading Program books are from 2015 - 2022 instead of six years.

Have a blessed and safe year.

Your sister in Christ,

Roberta Selvy

Program Resources

From Journey in Faith

Dear Five Rivers District UMW members,

This Spring 2021 newsletter article has been difficult to write. I have started and stopped it several times. In the past month, I have lost two neighbors of 35 plus years to Covid pneumonia. It is so sad. They were in their early 80's, still vibrant, active, and living their lives. Darn Covid! Death has been the greatest loss from the pandemic, but there have been many other losses. We have not been able to see family and friends, church activities have been curbed, school activities have been closed to grandparents, casual lunches with friends have ended, weddings have been postponed, funerals have been altered, health care workers have been overwhelmed, small businesses have closed, and travel is restricted.

The development of therapeutics and vaccine have been scientific miracles given to us by a loving God who gave us the brains and ability to figure out these complex medical strategies. The guidance from the Center for Disease Control has reduced the spread of Covid through mask wearing, social distancing, and hand hygiene.

I am looking forward to the Fall of 2021. Perhaps by that time we can be well into phase 5 vaccine delivery, making it again possible to safely meet in large groups.

Until then, I think of Job and all his troubles. In the end, Job trusted God to be with him. Job remained patient. Job praised God in all his circumstances. Matthew 28:20 tells us, "... and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen".

Nancy Rockers
Journey in Faith

From Journey in Action

It's a good day. And all of God's people said "Amen".

Many of those out of work, fighting illness and/or emotional challenges likely disagree. It is a difficult time, but as women of faith, we have hope and the promise that God is with us.

For those underemployed or out of work, may God assist by opening doors to educational opportunities or networking with the right person at the right time leading to a better job.

For those fighting illness, Jesus is an expert in holding hands and providing strength and guidance to the patient and the health care workers.

Just this week, someone said to me, "How hard it must be for those who do not have faith".

"The Times, They Are a-Changin'", (Dylan, 1964) but as sisters in Christ we have faith God has not abandoned us. As the district officer for Journey in Action, I underscore the word "action". Taking action is also difficult, but everyone can pray and praying is taking action.

I ask you to pray for our new social justice priorities for 2021-24. They should sound similar as two are versions of the current four. From the UMW website, our national leaders invite us to continue efforts in the areas of Maternal and Child Health and Justice/ Living Wage, but by year's end the emphasis will be on Climate Justice with a particular focus on the Just Energy 4 All Campaign and Mass Incarceration/ Criminalization of Communities of Color, with a focus on Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline campaign.

I suggest you keep these in mind as you plan the objective for your meeting or activity. Here's an example of how activities may intertwine with the priorities. My unit has assisted with tying fleece blankets for foster care children. Will giving a child a blanket keep him/her out of trouble? No guarantees, but the physical comfort and emotional support that a child receives may be more

instrumental in a child's success than any of us can imagine. Praying a short blessing over the stack of blankets is a guarantee of God's involvement.

As the year progresses and our units begin to meet again, my goal is to develop a presentation on the new priorities and potential ideas. I enjoy day trips. Invite me!

Please spend some time on the UMW website. It is amazing how our pennies multiply as we invite God to intervene. "God, we know you are in control. Help us to rely on faith, love, hope, and lots of patience. May the challenges turn into blessings". And all God's people said "Amen".

Rogene McPherson
Journey in Action

From Journey of Giving and Learning

To you Learning and Giving people,

We have had a rough year, but 2021 will be better. God is good - all the time. I'm looking forward to receiving your Mission u forms - you have found ways to spread God's love around. Keep up the good work - you are helping so many of God's people. I hope I can hand in your form this fall. I hope this finds you well and happy. I hope we can meet our pledge. And I hope to see you this fall.

Love, and God Bless,
Shirley Benjamin
Journey in Giving and Learning

From Communications Coordinator

This poem was shared by our circle chairperson during one of our recent weekly check-ins. I found it to be relevant and hopeful and I hope you do too.

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
a handshake with a stranger
full shelves at the store
conversations with neighbors
a crowded theater
Friday night out
the taste of communion
a routine checkup
the school rush each morning
coffee with a friend
the stadium roaring
each deep breath
a boring Tuesday
life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way - better
for each other
because of the worst.

Laura Kelly Fanucci

Grace and peace,
Julie Ward
Communications Coordinator

Mission u 2021 Information

Mission u will take place in 2021 via ZOOM. Each study will be 8 hours in 2 hour segments. There will be no cost for Mission u, but you must register to be given the ZOOM Link. Registration information will be on the Great Plains website sometime in May. Registration will also give you specific times for the studies. If you are thinking of participating, please order your books from the Mission Resource Center.

The schedule is as follows:

Spiritual Growth Studies

Finding Peace in an Anxious World

July 26-29 evenings

Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship

August 2-5 mornings

September 13-16 evenings

Issue Mission Study

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

July 19-22 mornings

August 2-5 evenings

August 6-8 weekend, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

September 10-12 weekend, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Five Rivers District UMW
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