

# News, Connections & Joys

United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction

Volume 4, Issue 1 January 2024

## Lasting Memories from the 2016 North Central Jurisdiction Meeting "A Fresh Wind Blowing"

The 2016 North Central Jurisdiction meeting was held in West Michigan Conference UMW, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and I was so proud. At the time, the 2016 North Central Jurisdiction was my second UMW Jurisdiction event. The first Jurisdiction event that attended was in 1976 and I was new to everything. The first experiences are usually overwhelming and sometimes it can be just a blur so I could not remember everything. I was too busy trying to take everything in, digest the atmosphere, and participate appropriately. Now I am at my second Jurisdiction event, which is being held in my home state, and I was also beginning my first year of being the Detroit Conference President for United Methodist Women. Excitement was everywhere! In addition, it was a great opportunity to introduce the United Methodist Community House (UMCH) that is in Grand Rapids MI, which is one of our National Institutions. To this day, I do not know how to express my feelings and emotions of those three days (June 23-26, 2016).

Of course, all of the United Methodist Women events are exciting, wonderfully filled with learning, and something that cannot be denied. Just getting together and the fellowship of all of the powerful and encouraging women in one place, is a sight to see and experience. However for Michigan to host the event (at that time the West Michigan Conference United Methodist Women), the pride was overwhelming. The 2016 North Central Jurisdiction Team did a wonderful job of putting the entire event together. And of course, we have watched most of these ladies move to other positions within the United Methodist Women (now the United Women in Faith) organization, retire from the organization and/or move on to different areas of their lives.

Whatever the case may be, all of those women and events continue to leave an impression and have allowed me to develop different skills that are irreplaceable, and I thank them!

*Marchelle "Micki" Phelps,  
NCJ President*

**Ladies!**



## Inspiration at NCJ

I remember at one meeting of the NCJ, for devotions a lady (I don't remember her name anymore) spoke for or portrayed different women of the Bible. Each day was a different woman. Complete with costume. She was really good, walking around the room and making us all feel we were all in with her at the time. One of the most meaningful one for me was the Woman at the Well. I went home and did it for a church service. A great memory.

***Ginny Coates, Member  
NCJ Committee on Nominations***



## Leadership Opportunities with NCJ Say Yes! Could this be YOU?

Have you ever attended a Jurisdiction Meeting? I have attended many as a District or Conference Officer, as a Director Nominee and as a Voting Delegate. It is a time to see old friends and to meet new United Women in Faith members, to share a meal and conversation and to be together in worship.

If you would like to be a future North Central Jurisdiction officer, please contact me. The new NCJ Leadership Team will begin their four year term early June, 2024 and will be seeking those who would like to be considered as a future NCJ officer. **Be Bold.** Join the NCJ Leadership in planning for the 2028 Jurisdiction Event.

[e.everitt@comcast.net](mailto:e.everitt@comcast.net)

***Elizabeth Everitt, Chair  
NCJ Committee on Nominations***

## Registration Scholarships

**\*\*Still Available\*\*  
for NCJ Event**

We are getting more excited every day about the North Central Jurisdiction quadrennial event in Indianapolis, Indiana May 31 – June 2, 2024. Let's **Get Together!** That is our theme. This is a great time to invite someone new into our sisterhood.

NCJ is offering 2 Registration Scholarships for each Conference in the North Central Jurisdiction.

The scholarships are for Early Registration only, and that time has passed; however, we still offer the scholarships with your Conference paying the difference between the early registration and the current registration fee.

The conference selects its own recipients, and the recipient should not be a member of the Conference Leadership Team. The conference does the registration. With confirmation, the conference is then reimbursed immediately for the fee of Early Registration.

I will repeat – This is a great time to **invite someone new** into our sisterhood. Perhaps a person's mother or grandmother attended United Methodist Women meetings years ago. A person will see we have fresh ideas and we are up-to-date regarding many concerns in today's world, and we have fun in the process! We are still going strong with our faith and action in Mission after more than 150 years. We are so happy to see so many already registered!

Just talk with someone about this event, and offer to pay the registration fee.

Register on-line: [www.umwncj.org](http://www.umwncj.org)

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

***Sylvia Kempton,  
NCJ Treasurer***

## Becoming Great

The Northern Illinois Conference received a grant for Interrupting the Prison to School Pipeline and Climate Justice. The "Becoming Great" was a program for elementary school students. Two presentations were given. One virtually with the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Betty Shabazaa Academy and the Poor People's Campaign and the second at a Public Library. The Climate Justice program was presented once at a school as well. The Climate Justice program was presented once at a school as well.



*Rita L. Smith,  
PAG, Northern Illinois*



## Join Us and Get Energized

I remember my first NJC meeting. I was blown away the energy and excitement of the women there! I shared my experience with the women on my Local, District, and Conference teams. If you have not attended NJC event this is the time. You will not regret it.

*Simmie Proctor,  
NCJ Committee on Nominations*



## Soul Care Retreat Nearly at Capacity

You still have time to register for the NCJ "Get Together!" event. Please join us!! The pre-event Soul Care Retreat, scheduled for Thursday, May 30, is limited to 50 participants. As of today, we have 45 registered. Is this something you have been wanting to try? Sign up before it's too late!

*Beth Jayapalan,  
NCJ Committee on Nominations and  
NCJ Registrar*

## Volunteer Memories

One of my favorite NCJ memories is from the 2012 event at Drake University in Des Moines, IA. Staying on a college campus meant we traveled to various buildings for meals, workshops and plenaries. I volunteered driving a golf cart to taxi the participants around from building to building. I met some fun people, and enjoyed the friendly waves and smiles as we putted around campus.

*Becky Heeren,  
NCJ Secretary and  
NCJ Registrar*

## God Prepares Us

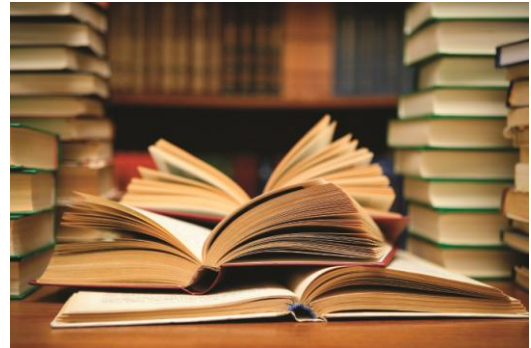
*To set the context for this article . . .  
At a Detroit Conference School of Christian Mission held at Adrian College sometime in the latter 1980's, a small group of us were chatting, and the topic came up about there being "an African American national anthem" ...that being out of the experience of those us from a more rural culture of Michigan.*

A busload of United Methodist Women traveled to Cleveland in the spring of 1992, I believe. Arriving at our hotel in mid-afternoon, we found our rooms, unpacked & freshened up for dinner in a large elegant ballroom, holding 300 or so attendees, seated at large banquet round tables. At each setting was a green United Methodist Hymnal w/the logo of this gathering embossed in gold on its cover. This denominational edition of the hymnal had been recently published at this time.

As dessert tableware was being cleared, a welcome and introductions began, followed by Mattie Henderson singing "His Eye is on the Sparrow". And then, it seemed to me, very spontaneously, the keyboard musician transitioned into another piece, and all of a sudden it seemed that the entire room was standing and singing! But then I noticed it was the Black women who were standing & singing, and so we of the dominant culture stood and joined them, sensing something extraordinary was happening, taking our hymnals and looking for what they were singing, so we could join with them in this very special moment!

For me, this moment was full circle from that casual conversation 8 or 10 years prior, God preparing me to know the answer to that musing we pondered. I'm getting goosebumps just sharing this experience with you . . . oh, the ways God prepares us to not only be a community of women, but a citizen of the world!

***Linda Schramm, Past President  
Detroit Conference UMW***



## NCJ to Feature Book Exchange

Are you a reader? Proudly achieving Level 4 of the Reading Program year in and year out? Or maybe just some years? Or maybe just a few books? Or planning to get to those books one of these days? Well ... we have an exciting opportunity for you!

The North Central Jurisdiction gathering will feature a Reading/Book Exchange Room! Conveniently located in the Sheraton Hotel, you will find a special room dedicated to "renewing your mind" with BOOKS!

Here's where you come in -- We need BOOKS from you! So, dust off your bookshelves and gather some of your favorite "gently used" books to contribute. And, you can also "shop" for books you may not have read yet! There will be a Book Review break-out session on Friday, but participating in the Book Exchange is for EVERYONE!

**Theme: Get Together**

**2024 Scripture:  
John 13:34**

**"I give you a new  
commandment, that you  
love one another. Just as I  
have loved you, you also  
should love one another."  
(NRSV)**

2024 NORTH CENTRAL  
JURISDICTION

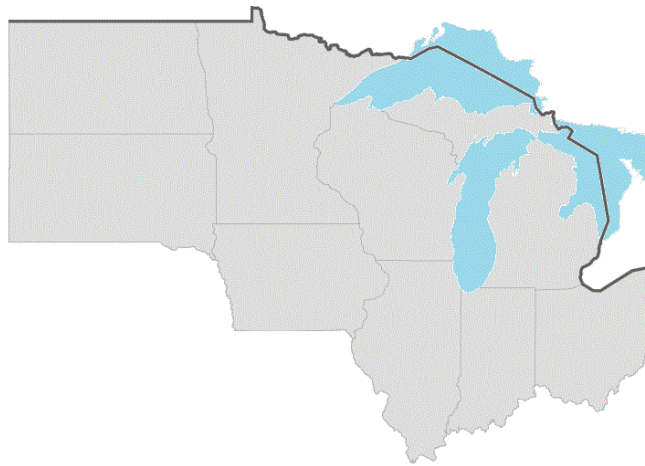
Get Together!



SAVE THE DATE

**Indianapolis IN**

May 30 - June 2, 2024



**United Women in Faith  
North Central Jurisdiction**

email: [ncjumw@gmail.com](mailto:ncjumw@gmail.com)

2024 Quadrennial Event

Our Region

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Wisconsin

# North Central Jurisdiction Event (May 31, 2024 through June 2, 2024)



## Sheraton Hotel

31 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

To make your hotel reservation contact the Sheraton Indianapolis City Centre Hotel at 1 (888) 627-8186 OR online at <https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1656616948902&key=GRP&app=resvlink>.

The hotel rooms are held until April 28, 2024 under:

**"North Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Women"**

Please only book your rooms using this phone number or link; booking using a third party website or booking at a different location may result in the North Central Jurisdiction not filling its contract with the hotel.

Rooms in this block are available from May 28 - June 2.

You may customize your reservation to book only the dates you need.

## North Central Jurisdiction

## 2021-2024 Leadership Team

**President – Marchelle (Micki) Phelps**  
marchellephelps@gmail.com (Michigan)

**Vice President – Patricia (Pat) Bostic**  
pbostic02@att.net (Michigan)

**Secretary – Becky Heeren**  
becky@alumni.iastate.edu (Iowa)

**Treasurer – Sylvia Kempton**  
kemptonss@yahoo.com (West Ohio)

**Nominations Chair – Elizabeth Everitt**  
e.everitt@comcast.net (Minnesota)

### Nominations Committee:

**Dr. Linda Johnson Crowell**  
lfchso@msn.com (East Ohio)

**Virginia (Ginny) Coates**  
edcoates@gwtc.net (Dakotas)

**Simmie Proctor**  
simmiepr@hotmail.com (Michigan)

**Elizabeth (Beth) Jayapalan**  
purplemountainlaurel@gmail.com  
(Northern Illinois)



Registration is now OPEN

Go to our Website: <https://www.umwncj.org/>