

# 2024-2028 United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team

*The sole purpose of the UWFaith NCJ Leadership Team is to organize and present the 2028 Quadrennial meeting. The jurisdiction consists of conferences from Dakotas, East Ohio, Illinois Great Rivers, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Northern Illinois, West Ohio, and Wisconsin.*



**President Dr. Linda Johnson Crowell** is a graduate of Knoxville College, and Case Western Reserve University. She is a dedicated member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Warrensville Heights, Ohio. Linda has served the United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith in several capacities over the years. She has traveled to Sierra Leone and Liberia West Africa to conduct mission projects serving as team leader for an Ubuntu Journey to Liberia. As a member of the Liberia Farmer to Farmer ministry, she is a Founder of the Dr. Linda Crowell and Rev. Cathy Ake Women's Empowerment Center, Harrisburg Liberia. Linda authored/co-authored several professional journal manuscripts and reports. A retired Social Work Professor, Dr. Crowell is the president of Linda Crowell Consulting Associates She facilitates retreats for women's groups and

church groups. Linda enjoys gardening, reading, and writing. Linda is married to Henry, and they have one son, Mark.

**Vice President Betty Erickson:** I was raised in the Lutheran Church and married into the United Methodist Church. I made friends that invited me to a circle meeting. "The rest is history". Most of the other members were 15 to 20 years older than me. But their love and nurturing gave me the bug to see what else was out there. I became a district, then later, a conference officer. After a life changing event the women from the local unit and district became my support network again. I returned to school receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Services. It taught me that all people need love, hope and respect. I was fortunate to take part in 3 Ubuntu trips, meeting women from around the world and witnessing the faith and joy.



**Secretary Rebecca (Becky) Coleman** lives in Minneapolis, MN. She is recently retired, having worked as community journalist, day care mom, after school teacher, household helper and for the last 22 years, church secretary/administrator. A lifelong United Methodist, she is a graduate of Hendrix College and the University of Iowa. You will frequently find her making connections via Facebook conversations. Becky has served the Minnesota Conference United Women in Faith in Conference and District positions. She is a Lay Servant and in training to be a Lay Speaker. She is the mother of two adult, biracial sons. She enjoys Mission u, reading, quilting and sewing on vintage sewing machines, gardening and learning about other cultures through exhibits and events.

**Treasurer Jacqueline Hill Whatley** retired in 2022 as a Senior Director, in the Finance Division from Cleveland Clinic. She worked 30 years in Research Administration and over thirteen years in Accounting and Financial roles. Jackie grew up in Greensboro, North Carolina. She is a graduate of Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia (B.A.) and Clark Atlanta University (MBA). Jackie is married to Dietrix Whatley and they have one son, Christopher. They currently live in Shaker Heights, Ohio and are members of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Jackie is very active in the Aldersgate United Women in Faith unit, serving in several leadership positions, and is currently President. Her interests include a love of reading, movies and travel. The next girlfriend trip is to Italy.



**Nominations Chair Marsha L. Timm**, has served on the Dakotas Conference leadership team as President, Nominations, Program Resources and Spiritual Growth Coordinator. She also held those positions at the district level. Marsha is a retired Special Education Para-Educator with thirty-one years of service, but now uses her gifts in teaching at her local church. She is in her seventh year leading the Pre-Confirmation classes for Junior High students. She also serves on the Missions Committee and as Co-President of the local UWF unit. Marsha believes in mentoring individuals new to groups—whether in church or community activities.

**Nominations Committee Dr. Gloria Brown** was born in St. Louis, Missouri. She graduated from Rust College (B.A), Cleveland State University (Master of Music) and Walden University (PhD) She is licensed by the state of Ohio in Music, All Areas of the Humanities, and as high school principal. Her peace advocacy work included a trip to Israel/Palestine, where her work drew the attention of President Jimmy Carter who invited her to participate in a peace forum at Emory University. Locally, she has served as UMW President and co-led Pushout for Mission u in the East Ohio Conference. Gloria is a published author. Amazon.com : Through it All, Gloria Watkins Brown and African American students defy the achievement gap African -American students defy the achievement - ProQuest. She enjoys public speaking, deep sea fishing, writing, gardening, and singing.



**Nominations Committee Shirley Durr:** Beyond attending local unit and district meetings of United Methodist Women, my connection with Conference UMW/UWFaith began with attendance at Mission u. Since retiring as an English teacher, I have begun to be more active in leadership. Currently, I serve as Social Action Coordinator. I serve on our MN Conference UWFaith Charter for Racial Justice Team and Communications Team, and I chair our Committee on Standing Rules. As a member of the Communications Team, I currently edited Fresh Connection, our Conference UWFaith newsletter. I help manage Facebook pages for Epworth UWFaith, Twin Cities UWFaith, and MN Church and Society. I was elected as one of the MN Annual Conference's reserve delegates to General Conference and North Central Jurisdiction Conference 2016/19 and GC /NCJ 2020 (now 2024).

**Nominations Committee Alice M. Graveley:** I am a native of Ohio, living in Florida, Georgia, and Texas with my military spouse before returning to Ohio, where I've been a proud Buckeye for 50+ years. I'm a graduate of Kent State University. I am widowed with 3 adult children, 13 grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren. I am retired from a 42-year career as a social worker - I loved this vocation and it grew into being my ministry. At Wesley Church of Hope UMC, I'm a certified Stephen Minister and a Certified Lay Servant. I've served in many church and United Women in Faith positions, including local, district and conference levels. I'm honored to be able to serve on the NCJ team in 2024.



**Nominations Committee Nancy Stockdale** is the current Iowa Conference Dean for Mission u. She has previously held many district and local offices. She is a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church. Nancy grew up in the South, and is a graduate of the University of Missouri. She is an award-winning journalist and author who retired after a 42-year newspaper career. She was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for editorial writing, and was a popular columnist who wrote from tiny towns in Iowa to Washington, D.C., and Beijing. Nancy and her husband, David Stockdale, also a retired journalist, live in Ankeny, Iowa, and travel widely and frequently. They have a daughter and two active young grandchildren