



Visions

North Central Jurisdiction July 2020 volume 4, edition 2



You are who you are through this gift and call of Christ Jesus. Romans 4:6

North Central Jurisdiction Virtual Voting Event

Zoom Meeting Friday, July 10, 2020

In response to the public health emergency/COVID-19 pandemic, North Central Jurisdiction hosted a virtual voting event to fulfill the requirement of National Director and North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team election. May we all support the following women as they share their time, talent, and skill during 2021-2024.

Elected by unanimous vote, the 2021-2024 North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team:

President:	Marchelle Phelps, Michigan
Vice President:	Patricia Bostic, Michigan
Treasurer:	Sylvia Kempton, West Ohio
Secretary:	Becky Heeren, Iowa
Chair of Nominations:	Elizabeth Everitt, Minnesota
Nominations:	Virgina Coates, Dakotas Elizabeth Jayapalan, Northern Illinois Dr. Linda Johnson Crowell, East Ohio Simmie Proctor, Michigan

Elected 2021-2024 National Directors and alternates:

National Directors:

Ruby Anderson, Michigan
Dawn Armstrong, Dakotas
Krishna Heyward, Indiana
Roxie Hutsell, West Ohio

Alternates:

Lyn Calvert, Iowa
Camille McCaskill, Illinois Great Rivers

For such a time as this, United Methodist Women are called to be BOLD!

United Methodist Women of the Indiana Conference have not sat idly at home during this time of social distancing and social isolation. Many got out their sewing machines and produced over thousands of masks for health workers, family members and neighbors. Others provided meals or helped pack lunches for school children who are being home-schooled and families needing assistance. The Lucille Raines Residence is a facility owned and operated by United Methodist Women of Indiana for recovering substance abusers. Hearing that many of the residents were out of work and unable to attend AA, NA and CA meetings, UMW members sent notes of encouragement as well as monetary donations to cover rent.

Districts and local units have held meetings using Zoom to keep in touch and to encourage each other.

Personally, I experienced supportive community when my husband was diagnosed with Covid-19. United Methodist Women reached out to me with cards, calls and prayers for both of us.

A pandemic cannot stop United Methodist Women from reaching out and offering support and comfort! It's in our DNA!

Kathie Clemenz, President
United Methodist Women of Indiana

Iowa Conference United Methodist Women have been ministering to women, children and youth during this pandemic by making masks and gowns for local hospitals and care facilities. We have also donated and volunteered at food pantries, provided lunches for school children and provided support for health care workers by caring for their children and/or pets.

New ministries have begun by making hygiene kits and quilts for distribution as needed globally.

We are reaching out to persons listed in the Prayer Calendar by sending cards—even more intentionally than usual.

Districts and Conference Leadership teams are keeping in contact through Zoom meetings and email. We have done two Conference wide studies by email, one on anti-racism work and one a study of our Purpose.

Lynn Calvert, President
United Methodist Women of Iowa

While the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers conference are battling the pandemic discomfort and inconvenience due to COVID-19, we are busy putting faith and love into action. We continue to participate in the reading program, provide financial support for national mission institutions, Mission Giving and The Legacy Fund; Stay connected through virtual meetings, telephone calls, emails, conference calls, sending cards, and praying for those with medical needs and support during periods of grief.

Our UMW outreach activities include over 7,537 masks made for Cunningham Children's Home, hospitals, health districts, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, food pantries, housing projects, grocery store workers, The Mission Distribution Center and church members; 150 washcloth bears made for an assisted living facility; over \$200 donated to OMCOR; Volunteers working in food pantries and delivering lunches to home bound residents weekly; Cards sent to direct service staff at Cunningham Children's Home; Volunteering, donating and participating in Cunningham Children's Home first Virtual Quilt Festival; and conducting weekly Prayer Calls.

The UMW district annual meetings will be held in September and the conference virtual annual meeting will be held on October 3rd. We hope for a tomorrow without divisiveness, racism, inequalities, and injustice doing what we must do to make it happen!

CamilleMcCaskill, President
United Methodist Women of Illinois Great Rivers

The East Ohio Conference has been staying connected through phone calls, emails and Zoom meetings. We continue to reach out (the best way we are able, during these most difficult times) to those in need. Our districts have reported many local units are sewing face mask to give to care centers, first responders and other organizations that need them. Our conference Spiritual Growth and Communication coordinator have been sending our weekly "Isolation" inspirational messages.

With the health and well-being for everyone in mind we will be holding our Annual Celebration Meeting virtually using the Zoom application.

Rebecca Sutton, President
United Methodist Women of East Ohio

West Ohio United Methodist Women have been partnering with the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, the West Ohio Disaster Response Ministry, UMCOR, and the West Ohio All in Community to prepare Re-entry Hygiene Kits to be given to men and women returning to their communities from incarceration.

Preparing the kits entailed adding a face mask, hand sanitizer, and shampoo/conditioner to the usual list of items in a Hygiene Kit. UMCOR donated 324 kits that only needed the additional items. United Methodist Women, via their District Leadership Teams, were challenged to fill enough kits for the total to come up to 2000.

Many of our members are following Stay at Home directives because of being in a high risk group, so it was a bit difficult for those who typically would go shopping to buy the items needed. However, the women worked together, many donating the face masks they had already been making; those who could get out shopping did, and to no one's surprise, we were able to surpass the goal of 2000 kits, in cooperation with the other groups involved. Final numbers aren't in yet, but this result was impressive, and we know that we have been able to touch hearts and lives of our returning neighbors.

Jeanne Long, President
United Methodist Women of West Ohio

The Minnesota Conference is alive and well demonstrating "faith, hope and love" during this uncertain time.

- Exceeded pledge to National UMW by 34.01%
- Continued to support Emma Norton (National Mission Institution in St. Paul, MN) with a "tea" and paper product collection at every Conference and District event
- Many members took place in Virtual Day on the Hill
- Many members are joining virtual Faith Talks sponsored by National UMW
- For our commitment to the Charter on Racial Justice, the Executive Committee is doing the Implicit Bias study together as a part of every Executive Committee meeting
- A Land Acknowledgement statement is read at the beginning of every Conference meeting and is being encouraged at the district and local level also
- The Southern Prairie District created an "I Want My Mommy" postcard campaign asking the district legislators (representatives and senators) to fully fund MN MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE (MMRCP) and PASS SF 2294/HF2369 in the next session to make changes to MN Stature #145.901 and MN Department of Health Rule #4615.0800 to say: "Maternal death studies conducted by Commissioner of Health expanded to include morbidity." They got the entire Conference (five districts) involved and over 3000 cards were delivered to legislators.
- Women have provided over 300 face masks to Emma Norton Services and this is just the tip of the iceberg. Women are sewing and donating face masks to numerous organizations at an incredible rate!
- Districts are working on strengthening their liaison relationships with local units by contacting them on a regular basis by phone or email, especially when a District or Conference event is scheduled.

(Minnesota Conference, cont.)

- The Nominations Committee has worked diligently to keep positions filled with a diverse and dedicated group of women. At times when a job was too much for one person to handle they broke the job down into workable parts and created appointed positions. This has worked especially well with a directory leader, officer update processor, and label processor
- During the stay at home orders we have discovered creative ways to continue the mission work of our Conference. We have become experts at ZOOM meetings, voting by email, and keeping current with pertinent information on our Facebook page and website.
- We have learned new ways of learning and holding meetings which could be beneficial to future United Methodist Women. Especially in Minnesota where weather is a challenge in winter we can still meet safely and do our work
- We have learned flexibility in our expectations of participants at meetings thus and set the groundwork for getting younger women connected and more interested in supporting our Mission.

Just as our lives will be different coming out of this pandemic so will UMW. I have great hope that both will come out stronger, kinder, and closer to God. We have discovered that we can work together in adverse conditions and still support the missions we love. We have learned that to hold our tongues until it is our turn to speak at ZOOM meetings we accomplish a lot more. We have learned that even those who fear technology can learn with a little help from our sisters and we can do great things together.

Sandy Meyer, President
United Methodist Women of Minnesota

The United Methodist Women of the Northern Illinois Conference is not limited to adapting to Zoom meetings. We're recognizing and answering the call to new mission opportunities and working together to make a difference in our local communities and beyond.

During the Illinois shelter in place directive, Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Ligaya Marasigan, assisted by Leadership Team members, created a "Stay in Touch" weekly Devotional. Each issue encouraged prayer, personal reflection, and a song of hope to support living through the Coronavirus changes imposed in our lives. We sought to promote unity across our membership. In doing so, we're pleased to have prayers from each District President, Jung Ja "JJ" Kim, President, Korean UMW, and Rosa Villarreal, Spanish Language Coordinator.

Ladies participated in a facial mask initiative in the following ways:

- UMW from several units and a couple of Deaconesses joined with other women's groups to make over 700 masks for a conference affiliated child-serving agency.
- One unit created a community pickup station in front of their church.
- Both Korean and Spanish women worked together sewing masks for Nursing Homes, and to supply people within their perspective communities upon request.
- The Spanish Language Coordinator and another group of ladies made masks for the Women's Treatment Center in Chicago.
- One District Leadership Team purchased and delivered masks to the Midwest Mission Distribution Center.

Other activities include:

- One unit purchased grocery bags to give their local church and community Food Pantry.
- Some units have begun to resume events and fundraising via Zoom (i.e., Salad Fiestas, Annual Flower Sales, etc.)
- One District Leadership Team is doing a Bible Study using the Reading Program book, "Which Way, Lord."
- UMW members are among a group of three churches participating in a weekly worship and adult education class.

This list is a snapshot of our women putting Faith, Hope, and Love in Action.

Lois Moreland-Dean, President
United Methodist Women of Northern Illinois

Great things are happening in the Michigan Conference during this crazy pandemic crisis time. United Methodist women across the conference are putting their faith, hope and love into action — in many ways. United Methodist Women do not wait for direction when a need arises. IMMEDIATELY, women across the conference, begin making masks. Initially, for personal use, but soon masks were being made in quantity to send out to area hospitals and to all the essential health care workers and places they were especially needed. One small local unit got so busy they were highlighted on area television news,

Ways that our members are making contributions include:

- Quiet time with God in prayer, sending cards to family, friends, etc.
- Lots of phone calls and notecards sent to the home bound in their church and all members of their congregations.
- Baking cookies and dropping off to various home bound individuals.
- Providing meals to members following hospitalizations, etc.
- Holding unit / circle meetings via zoom, phone conferences
- Donating food products and giving money to food banks and school food distributions
- Grocery shop for the elderly members of their church or community.
- Working on church grounds to clean up the outside and plant flowers.
- Planning for small farmers markets to be set up and running.
- Still knitting/ crocheting prayer shawls / afghans
- Staying in contact with members of our church through online worship services, prayer groups and Bible Study.
- setting up and supplying “Blessing boxes,” and local community pantries
- Delivering Easter flowers to pastors and shut ins before and for Easter Sunday
- Holding small group study opportunities on various devotional and program reading resources books, via zoom, Facebook and webinars.
- Holding “drive-by” for pastors who are leaving; and birthdays, anniversaries, graduations of church members

I am especially proud of how our Mission u committee got busy and has set up a webinar, for the membership, on the Spiritual Growth study, “Finding Peace in an Anxious World.” The Rev. Dr. Devon Herrell, who was going to train and teach this mission u study in our conference, has prepared the material and is offering a weekly class to span four weeks.

Personally, I think that what we will be dealing with will get worse before it gets better. I believe that my membership, which is primarily in the most vulnerable age range, is primarily concerned with everyone’s health and safety. The local units and the districts and our conference have all been very responsible about cancelling their events and activities. I was very glad that the NCJ was also postponed. We are now at the time that we need to seriously consider how we will move forward, into the fall, and beyond; ie. district and conference annual celebrations, re-scheduling the NCJ event. We are anxious to hear from our National Office and our jurisdictions for direction and advice about how we should be moving forward.

Thank you for this opportunity to share the great things that are happening around our conference and voice our concerns about the future.

Linda Darrow, President
United Methodist Women of Michigan



Reflections of 2017-2020 North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team

From Grand Rapids, Michigan to (virtual) Sioux Falls, South Dakota



Falls Park, Sioux Falls, SD

From left to right:

Linda Blazek Garvin, Bobbie Larson,
Cynthia Rose, Peggy Cope, Rita Smith,
Mildred Braddock, and Rosa Bernard

Not pictured: Kady Herr-Yang

Bienvenidos Welcome 환영 합니다 my sisters to our final edition of *Visions* for this quadrennial. As my tenure comes to an end, it was an honor and privilege to serve as your president. The past four years have brought me much joy, pain, ups, downs and fun!!!

I first want to thank-you for all your prayers as I fought breast cancer and as I grieved and continue to grieve the death of my baby son. Your prayers during these battles sustained me. Yes. I am a survivor.

Through these trials and tribulations, the team stayed on course. We had planned an awesome Quadrennial event. The theme, "Calling u..." was bringing outstanding speakers, workshop presenters, self-care providers and an Ubuntu experience. This "mini" Assembly took hours on end in planning. When the team met in Sioux Falls, SD last year, we knew how much it was going to be appreciated. My assertive leadership style sometimes seemed offensive, but my passion was just that overflowing.

I cannot thank the team enough for all they did to bring you an event you would not forget. Some of these activities and programs were featured on our Facebook page, web-site and past newsletters. Thank you to all the behind the scene volunteers as well. Again, thank-you all. You are amazing leaders.

The opportunity to present at a Ford dealership on Climate Justice, by the way, join me on a webinar July 15th on carbon emission was appreciative. My daughter, Tamara, my legacy attending Assembly, my granddaughter Imani, legacy, participating in a Human Trafficking vigil, and being in Boston for our 150th Birthday celebration with our sisters and brothers from around the world are other events I will always cherish. I will hold dear to my heart the Leadership Development Days, Program Advisory meetings, and attending partnership organization meetings. New life-long friendships were formed at these occasions.

I leave you my sisters, during this COVID-19 global pandemic uncertain time, faith, hope and love with a zest to utilize your educated, BOLD, courageous mind, body, spirit, gifts and talents, as you continue the fight of systemic and institutional racism, advocate for human rights, speak for the voiceless on environmental justice and protest injustices. Continue your due diligence, as this is for "women, children and youth around the world" as you answer the call. Continue to be blessed and be a blessing.

With A Servant's Heart,

Rita L. Smith, NCJ UWM President

Quadrennial 2020 was to have been a wonderful weekend of spiritual growth, reflection, fun, excitement, giving, comradery, prayer, commitment, service, making new friends, greeting current friends and so much more. I spent the weekend grieving the loss of all of those things. We had so many things planned and we all were looking forward to our time together. The last 4 years, for me, as a part of the NCJ Leadership Team, have been so rewarding as I have met so many wonderful people and truly cherish my time learning and being in service with them as a United Methodist Woman. Even though we didn't get to be together physically I know that we are joined together spiritually and in service and that is truly a blessing to all of us.

Stay safe and stay well.

Blessings,

Peggy Cope, NCJ UMW Treasurer

I can remember installation in Grand Rapids, MI, as if it occurred yesterday. It was an honor to accept a role on the North Central Jurisdiction leadership team with an Iowa delegation and two former Bishops in the audience. I was also thinking about how proud my mom would have been at that very moment. She knew I had accepted the opportunity, but did not live the witness the actual day. I was gifted a cutting board in the shape of Michigan by the Iowa delegation which served as a reminder for the past four years where it all began so I could keep sight on where we are going. Thank you to the people of Iowa Conference United Methodist Women for the support, prayers, and encouragement.

My memories are plenty of the events from the past four years. Rita, I appreciate our shared vision of the North Central Jurisdiction newsletter. Teresa, you and I became accountability partners meeting and the gym at 5 AM when we traveled. Peggy, we shared many a good laugh especially when we needed it the most. Bobbie, I will not soon forget the road trip to and from Bloomington, IL. Rosa, your quiet strength was needed on the team. Mildred, you inspire me to reach heights greater than I ever could have imagined prior to our meeting. Kady, I looked forward to hearing about all the activity you are involved in. Cynthia, I always looked forward to your hugs when we were together.

Virtual voting is not how the visualization of our NCJ 2020 event I have been doing since 2018 looked. Fortunately, we as United Methodist Women, adapt to our situation. I am happy voting delegates were able to participate and maintain a sense of safety in the midst of uncertainty. I am looking forward to the next scheduled event of NCJ 2024. Thank you, North Central Jurisdiction, for the amazing opportunity to share my gifts through service.

Shalom,

Linda Blazek Garvin, NCJ UMW Secretary

When looking back at the last four years and what serving on jurisdiction meant to me, I have to go back to the beginning. To 20 plus years ago, the first time I said yes to being a district officer in UMW.

With my husband's support and God's guidance, I have served as district president, conference secretary, vice president, president and on the committee on nominations. Also during these years I served as secretary and registrar for Regional School. So when asked to take the position of chair of nominations for the jurisdiction, the answer came very easy. Each position holds its own uniqueness.

I have enjoyed each one.

Working with the wonderful women that make up the jurisdiction team gave me the opportunity to reunite with some old friends and to make new ones.

The entire nominating committee each traveled to two or three other conferences to secure person's as potential leaders for the next jurisdiction team. It is always interesting to see how every conference does things a little different but attaining the same goal.

This quadrennial has taken a few twists due to the Corona virus. What would have been normal was no more. The chairs of nomination from each jurisdiction were asked by National to do much more to make sure we could elect the new Board of Directors. We all stepped up and made the virtual elections happen.

I have always known none of this was about me. I was and am an instrument of God, doing his work and his will.

UMW and its mission have been my passion and joy. I have gained many sisters and friends from all over the world.

As they say, all things must come to an end. I have decided that my time serving in an official capacity has come to its end. I want to spend these last years with my husband, devoting my time to him and us.

I know the work of UMW will continue on without me. May God bless each of you and all the missions you support.

I hope to see you at Assembly, if not before. Until then it is not goodbye, just, see you later.

Bobbi Larson, NCJ UMW Chair of Nominations

I am so grateful to have served on The United Methodist Women- North Central Jurisdictional Team from 2017-2020 as a member of the Nominating Committee. It was great working with our team of outstanding women who have outstanding leadership qualities. We accomplished a lot in the four years we were together. We were all committed to serve.

As in life, things happen that are out of our control. We had no idea that this new virus, "COVID-19" would shut down our nation for many months. I was disappointed that we had to cancel our Quadrennial Meeting in Sioux Falls, SD. However, we needed for all who planned to attend to be safe.

Our commitment remains the same to United Methodist Women as we continue to serve and empower women, children and youth throughout the world. So just like women in the past, our challenge even in the mist of this pandemic is to continue to work in the area of your passion. My passion is with children and youth. During this pandemic we have sent letters, text messages, and made telephone calls to all our children and youth at Celebration United Methodist Church and to Shoreview Elementary Students who are in our after-school Bible Club. We sent them gift cards, Bible tracts, websites for daily bible study, and scriptures with words of encouragement.

Our children and youth at Celebration UMC have made recorded videos that were placed on YouTube and Facebook; they were very creative. I am singing in two of our videos honoring our mothers and fathers. The videos consisted of them reciting their Easter Parts, wishing all mothers a Happy Mother's Day, and all fathers a Happy Father's Day. Each child told us the grade level they were being promoted to and their list of awards and accomplishments they received this school year. We had a drive by graduation celebration for our three high school graduates. Our church members, family and friends showered them with cards as they drove through the parking lot at church. Our youth also participated in the virtual Youth Annual Conference from the East Ohio Conference. I participated along with some of our youth in a Rally for Social Justice put on by the Faith Community in Euclid, OH. One of our youth, Terrell McCann, was a guest speaker, along with the mayor, police chief, and our Pastor Rev. Gerald Cameron.

I am sure you have your own pandemic stories to tell and to share.

Stay prayerful and remember: ...

Romans 8: 28 which states, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His Purpose." We must always remember; God is in Control.

Blessings,

Cynthia A. Rose, NCJ UMW Committee on Nominations



**THE LEGACY FUND
ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN**

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**North Central Jurisdiction Leadership Team
(Left to right)**

Rosa Bernard – Committee on Nominations

Kady Herr-Yang – Committee on Nominations

Linda Blazek Garvin – Secretary

Rita L. Smith – President

Bobbi Larson – Chair of Nominations

Peggy Cope – Treasurer

Cynthia Rose – Committee on Nominations

Mildred Braddock – Committee on Nominations