

News, Connections & Joys

North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Women

Volume 2, Issue 1 February 2022

MUSINGS #1

We are a fearful people,
clinging to what we know,
rejecting that which we do not.

Our hearts are closed,
shut tight against those
who are different.

What are we afraid of?
What is it about the "other"
that makes us mean,
unsettled, nervous?

What will it take for
us to embrace our fear?
To walk across the room
and say, "Hello!"
To begin to know someone
not as different, but as
interesting?

To put away our
imaginings and myths,
offering friendship instead?

God-given courage is
what we need.

Courage to change;
courage to transform
our fear into willingness.

Courage to break the
chains that hold us captive,
preventing us from growing.

Give us a clean heart
and a right spirit,
O God! Free us
from our own
oppression.

Teach us a new
way of living:
to seek out
new relationships
with people who
are different from
ourselves,
to no longer tolerate
our own silence when
there is injustice,
to seek out ways
to be of help,
to be merciful,
compassionate,
and to see each
and every person
as a child of God.

Original poem by:

Mary Blashill

Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Greater Southwest District UMW

Michigan Conference UMW

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WE'RE on the WEB! umwncj.org

"LIKE" us on Facebook!



North Central Jurisdiction UMW

Being in Community

Have you ever been in a Regional or National United Methodist Women gathering or training session? I have met so many from other UMW Conferences and enjoyed hearing about their plans and projects, ways to be in community. North Central Jurisdiction Executive Team has nine members representing many of the conferences within the North Central Jurisdiction. If you would be interested or if you know of a woman who would like to be considered for leadership in the 2024 NCJ Team, please take a look at the two Nomination Forms at the end of this newsletter: Recommendations to the NCJ Committee on Nominations and Tell me more...I may be interested. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Elizabeth Everett, Chair,
Committee on Nominations*



Northern Illinois Joys

A JOY for UMW NIC is found in the Daily Prayer Guide 2022: Experiencing God - Finding Joy, for the week of January 23-29: "our own" child-serving agency, KIDS ABOVE ALL, is featured there and we give THANKS for Deaconess Catherine Inserra for highlighting mask-making in our region! Another JOY is Deaconess Catherine's participation /presentation during **Faith Talks: On Prayer**, January 20th.

UMW NIC conducted our annual Winter Mission u during January 21-22 and February 4-5, 2022, utilizing virtual and hybrid classrooms/settings. We are THANKFUL for the cooperation of **many persons** willing to serve in planning, teaching and technical roles. During both weekends, we had the JOYFUL opportunity to learn about CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME, another Illinois child-serving agency in mission for more than a century.

Looking forward to Assembly 2022,

*Marilyn Steenwyk, President,
Northern Illinois Conference, UMW*

MS2223.umwnic@gmail.com // (708) 638-2477

Yesterday's Visions, Today's Challenges, Tomorrow's Rewards

As 2021 came to a close, everyone was feeling relief to start a new year, for many reasons. United Methodist Women North Central Jurisdiction makes headway in representing our share of recognition as we carve out our little niche in the organization, and we support the whole of our organization with utmost pride. While early registration was happening for 2022 Assembly, NCJ distributed 15 registration scholarships to never-before attendees. These persons are from diverse backgrounds and a wide range of age. It will be most interesting to hear their stories, after our 2022 Assembly takes place May 20-22, 2022. Some of these attendees are new to United Methodist Women, and some have been around for awhile but never had the opportunity to attend an Assembly.

This scholarship funding is a direct result of each conference's pledge of support to United Methodist Women North Central Jurisdiction. I, as treasurer, sincerely thank you for your timely remittance.

An excerpt from January/February **response** is especially meaningful in explaining United Methodist Women's Mission. 'It is in our DNA to give. Our foremothers were all in for mission. Alone we cannot provide affordable childhood education for families across the country, support seven regional missionaries, help women around the world obtain education and start new businesses, open a fresh produce market in a food desert, provide counseling and meals and traditional housing to our neighborhoods, train hundreds of leaders each year and offer transformative educations to thousands. Mission Giving supports all of this and more. We can do all this because **we do it together.**' As we know, – Our values include economic, environment and social justice. United Methodist Women are organized for action, and action begins with education. This is what Assembly is all about. We all come together and TURN IT UP!

We ask God to be with us in our journey. We know He is with us. Let us give thanks for His guidance. ~ AMEN.

*Even in the midst of an ice storm, which is a challenge today, I truly appreciate God's gift of my life.

Sylvia S. Kempton, Treasurer

Celebrating Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March):



Theresa Hoover was a United Methodist Women and a leader. Ms. Hoover served as the first African-American Deputy General Secretary of the Women's Division from 1968-1990. Read more about Theresa Hoover on the internet.

1925-2013

Registration is OPEN UMW Assembly



May 20-22, 2022
Orlando, Florida

Going to
Assembly?

Visit the NCJ table
in Experience Hall

Meet the North Central
Jurisdiction Leadership
Team

Find out about the 2024
NCJ Quadrennial Event

Connections from Iowa

The Iowa Conference Charter for Racial Justice Committee has planned an amazing event for Feb. 26th from 10am – noon (Central time) via zoom called “Conversations to Build Awareness”. Using videos from the East Ohio Conference Black Pastor’s Fellowship and the office of Multicultural Vitality to provide a framework, we will begin some discussions in smaller breakout sessions on moving towards racial justice. We have invited the West Ohio conference UMW, as a way to continue our collaboration. Others are welcome to attend as well. We would encourage you to register by Feb. 21st. (Late registrations till full)

Here is the registration link

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlceivrTkqH9P2coJ6qW-zLyMOEFRC3_Pa

On January 24th, we conducted a Legislative Advocacy Day virtually in conjunction with the UMC Advocacy Team. There were about 60 in attendance. We had 2 sessions covering the priorities of United Methodist Women: Climate Justice in Iowa (Irene Demaris from Iowa Interfaith Power and Light speaker) and Racial Justice in Iowa Schools & Prisons (Rev. Abraham L. Funchess Jr. from Waterloo Jubilee UMC Freedom Center and Waterloo Commission on Human Rights- speaker).

*Gladys Alvarez, President
Iowa Conference UMW*

Lucille Raines Residence Saves Lives: Indiana

Greetings from United Methodist Women of Indiana where God is at work among us!

In Indiana we are very proud of and thankful for the Lucille Raines Residence, a three-quarter house for substance abusers. Located in the heart of Indianapolis on N. Pennsylvania St., this residence is owned and operated by United Methodist Women of Indiana. Named after the wife of former bishop Richard Raines, this ministry is in the life-saving business.

Raines, as it is affectionately called, is housed in an old hotel approaching its 100th year. With 6 floors, the building can house up to 49 residents, both men and women, who have been through a treatment program. They are referred by a counselor or other qualified person. The residents must have full-time employment unless on disability and able to perform volunteer work. They must be committed to live clean and sober and attend a support group. A monthly rent is required of each resident as well as monthly support by members of United Methodist Women of Indiana and Indiana Conference Advance Specials.

The Residence program is staffed by Executive Director Carolyn Marshall, a former NCJ president from 1980-1984; and Women's Division president from 1984-1988. Mariea Strader is a former resident who now serves as Program Coordinator. She recently celebrated her 20th year of sobriety.

As a supportive community, Raines residents support and encourage each other. As one resident shared, "There are always other recovering addicts around to talk to when I am struggling with something. Lucille Raines has helped me grow spiritually, be able to find myself again and has helped me to love myself again."

At Raines hope is born anew as old cocoons of addiction peel away and new life emerges into genuine praise and joy as residents realize that God truly does love unconditionally and forgives.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Lucille Raines Residence, I have been richly blessed by the courage of the residents as each day they travel the road to sobriety. Board members have become well acquainted with residents when we hold a Raines Fest in October. We take the place of the

staff and do their tasks so they can have a few days of rest. Some of the highlights of the week are planning and preparing delicious home-cooked meals, playing games, setting up a country store where residents can shop using "funny money" (construction paper script) to purchase items such as laundry detergent, toiletries, canned or microwave food, toys for Christmas gifts for their children or grandchildren and much, much more. The Board members look forward to this event as much as the residents do!

United Methodist Women throughout Indiana send birthday cards and other cards of encouragement to residents during the year. One local unit makes quilts which are given to each new resident for his/her bed. When the resident leaves LRR, the quilt goes with them.

The mission of Lucille Raines Residence is to provide a place and a way of life that enables residents to achieve an independent state of life. Thank God for this life-saving ministry!

*Kathie Clemenz, President
Indiana Conference UMW*

North Central Jurisdiction

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North Central Jurisdiction *News, Connections & Joys*

News:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." *Luke 4:18-19 NRSV*

Go, Tell It On the Mountain *UMH #251*

Connections:

United Methodist Women ..."Shall be a **community of women** whose PURPOSE is to know God..."

"In prayer, there is a connection between what God does and what you do."
Matthew 6:14 "The Message"

Bind Us Together *The Faith We Sing #2226*

Joys:

"**Make a joyful noise** to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God, it is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations."
Psalms 100 NRSV

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee *UMH #89*

Fasting During Lent

taken from Keeping Current (East Ohio) 2-10-22

"Last Spring my sister-in-law shared a message on Facebook taken from one of Pope Francis' Ash Wednesday messages. I copied it onto a notecard and added it to my collection on the refrigerator. We could look at this list every day and see something different to contemplate. Please prayerfully 'listen' to whom God wishes you to encourage today.

Blessings, peace, prayers, and hugs"

*Rita Kyser, Spiritual Growth Coordinator
East Ohio Conference UMW*

"Do you Want to Fast this Lent?"

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



North Central Jurisdiction

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)

2021-2024 Leadership Team

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
jaybeth76@yahoo.com (Northern Illinois)



**Stay tuned for updates on our North Central Jurisdiction
Quadrennial Event to be held in 2024!**

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
Embracing the Future
Day of Giving, March 23, 2022

Embrace the future for women, children, and youth by giving to The Legacy Endowment Fund on Day of Giving, March 23.

unitedmethodistwomen.org/150

Join us for the Live Facebook Event on March 23 to find out how your gifts are being put to use.



**WAYS
TO GIVE**

- **Online at:** unitedmethodistwomen.org/150
- **By phone:** 800-278-7771 (8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST, Mon.–Fri.)
- **Text:** 41444 and enter Legacy150 in the message area

- **By check to:** United Methodist Women
Attn: Legacy
475 Riverside Drive, 15th Floor
New York, NY 10115
Write "Day of Giving" in the memo section.

Together, we are building our legacy!

unitedmethodistwomen.org/150



The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanent endowment to support the work of future generations of United Methodist Women.

Register to Join Us

February 26, 2022

10 am – noon (Central Time)

Virtual event

Registration link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlceivrTkqH9P2coJ6qW-zLyMOEFRC3_Pa

Conversations to Build Awareness

**Organized by the Charter for Racial Justice Committee of the
Iowa Conference United Methodist Women**



Using videos from the East Ohio Conference Black Pastor's Fellowship and the office of Multicultural Vitality to provide a framework, we will begin some discussions in smaller breakout sessions on moving towards racial justice.

Join us for these important conversations.

Registration closes on February 21, 2022

2022 IGRC UMW

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Join us on zoom for a Soul Care Day.

We are thrilled to be joined by Connie Wieck who will lead our activities for the day.

Connie is a TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) She has served the UMC General Board of Global Ministries in Japan, Washington DC, Taiwan. Now serving through Amity Foundation in China.

Zoom meeting will be February 26th from 10 am to noon.



Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83080714043?pwd=MmRGR3hidXhZVmwYy9aaE0zNlp6UT09>

Meeting ID: 830 8071 4043

Passcode: 930657

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,83080714043#,,,,*930657# US (Chicago)

The passcode will be required, so make sure it gets shared out.



Recommendation to the NCJ Committee on Nominations

Date _____

I recommend: (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Age: ___20's ___30's ___40's ___50's ___60's ___70's ___80's+

Race/Ethnicity _____ Languages Spoken _____

Employed: ___Yes ___No

Why this person should be considered (use back side, if needed):

Positions I would recommend this person for:

Office of _____

And/or _____

References:

1. Name _____ Phone/e-mail _____

2. Name _____ Phone/e-mail _____

Person submitting this information:

Signed (your name) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Conference _____

Please return to: Elizabeth Everitt, Chair of Nominations, NCJurisdiction
4460 Jack Pine Trail North
Lake Elmo MN 55042
651-260-5347

Thank you and God Bless You!

United Methodist Women
North Central Jurisdiction
Committee on Nominations
<https://www.umwncj.org>



Tell me more...I may be interested!

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Telephone: Home _____ **Cell** _____

E-Mail _____

Conference _____

My ethnicity/race (to help us be as inclusive as possible) _____

My Experience in United Methodist Women:

What I might be interested in doing _____

Please return this form to a NCJ CON Team member.

Elizabeth Everitt, Chair
4460 Jack Pine Trail North
Lake Elmo MN 55042-9522
651-260-5347
e.everitt@comcast.net

Simile Proctor
73486 8th Ave.
South Haven, MI 49090
h-269-637-6053
c-616-283-6053
simmiepr@hotmail.com

Linda Crowell
6727 Chinkapin Court
Oakwood Village, OH 44146
216-533-4101
lfchso@msn.com

Virginia Coates
12754 Clubview Drive
Hot Springs, SD 57747
h-605-745-4891
c-605-450-9792
edcoates@gwtc.net

Elizabeth Jayapalan
1215 Brandywyn Ln
Buffalo Grove, IL 60089
847-913-0135
jaybeth76@yahoo.com

Thank you and God bless you!

**United Methodist Women
North Central Jurisdiction
Committee on Nominations
<https://www.umwncj.org>**