

Beacon District



Finding Peace 2021-2024 Quadrennial Theme

Quadrennial Scripture: “And whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”
Matthew 10:42 NRSV. This intimacy as a disciple of Christ deepens our capacity of peace.

Quadrennial Hymn: Heal Me Hands of Jesus #267 in The United Methodist Hymnal

Our theme for 2021

Color: White

SERENITY - Find peace through the Serenity Prayer. “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.” “Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry.” Psalm 34:14,15 NRSV

BEACON DISTRICT PRESIDENT: Cyndi Phelps

Happy Spring to the Beacon District! Though it seems as if March is still with us with all the wind blowing through our area. Daylight Savings Time is here and I’m enjoying the longer daylight hours to witness the beauty God brings forth each spring to remind us that death has no dominion over Him or His creation!

The Beacon District has already participated in two Mission Studies; the first being “Finding Peace In An Anxious World” and the second, “Women United For Change: One Hundred Fifty Years Of United Methodist Women”. Both were informative, interesting, and offered much to



**The Purpose
of The United
Methodist
Women**

**The organized
unit of United**

**Methodist Women shall be
a community of women**

whose purpose is:

**To know God and to expe-
rience freedom as whole
persons through Jesus
Christ;**

**To develop a creative, sup-
portive fellowship;**

**And to expand concepts of
mission through participa-
tion in the global ministries
of the church**

think about. Many thanks to Carol Kuhn for starting us off in 2021 with these Zoom studies that united many of us for great discussions.

April 24th brought many of our Local Units together in Aulander for our Mission Encounter at A Place of Possibilities. We joined Rev. Laura Early, Rev. Michael Rice, and its director, Mandy Brown in preparing items for sale in the Thrift and Gift Shop they are planning to open in August of this year. Many hands accomplished a lot on that day! Our District Superintendent, Gil Wise, and his wife Linda joined us that day. The Beacon District presented them with a thank-you gift for their many years of support for United Methodist Women that included items native to our district. Many thanks to you who offered suggestions and items for the basket. We wish Gil and Linda well as they begin this new leg of their journey. We enjoyed a barbecued chicken dinner that the center provided along with wonderful fellowship with sisters we had not seen in person in quite a while.

This year is already shaping up to be a much better one for the Beacon District. Now that COVID vaccinations are available to all who will take them, perhaps getting together will not be as hard to do as in the past year. Hopefully, Local Units will begin to take more active roles again and United Methodist Women will continue to make a difference for women, infants, and children both in our local areas and abroad.

May peace be with you all,

Cyndi Phelps, President, Beacon District UMW

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**Beacon District United Methodist Women
Leadership Team Zoom Test Meeting
Saturday, February 27, 2021**

Team Members Present: Cyndi Phelps, President; Gayle Eason, Treasurer; Melissa Pasek, Membership/Nurture; Carol Kuhn, Education & Interpretation; Jessie Rivers, Program Resources; Juanita Staples, Legacy Fund/Historian; Jeanne Murray, Secretary; Nell Stallings, Spiritual Growth; Karin Heughan, Lighthouse Editor/Communications, Roxie Floyd, Conference representative for Beacon District

Cyndi welcomed everyone and introduced the new officers: Jeanne Murray, secretary, and Betty Raby, Social Action Chair

Nell Stallings gave the devotional and opening prayer

Cyndi commended the 10 Mission Today units and congratulated the district for making their pledge. The Beacon District was the only district in the conference to make their pledge for 2020.

Individual unit representatives gave reports of things their units have been doing this past year. A list is provided at the end of the minutes.

We'd like to note and join in mourning with the members of Bethel UMC who have lost several members of their church to COVID.

Officers Comments:

Jeanne encouraged everyone to notify her of changes to the directory and gave her email address.

Gayle reported that the Beacon District UMW gave \$30,102.59 for their 2020 pledge plus \$904 in designated giving. Eighteen of our 30 units were 7-star units. She encouraged everyone to strive for 7-star giving in 2021 and gave some suggestions for Candle Burning and other special offerings. Unit treasurers should have received their treasurer bags by now and should contact her if not. She encouraged all treasurers to pay attention to deadlines and to encourage the use of Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards.

Nell is working with our spiritual growth event speaker Tracy Clayton to settle on a date for the event. It will be on Zoom and will happen in May probably.

Carol reported that our district once again won the Mission Study jewel for having the most attendees at mission studies. She encouraged everyone to sign up for the study on March 12th. She needs several volunteer readers and a chat monitor.

Betty Jo is new to her office but is working to find out all about it. She did report that the box top campaign has changed in that people no longer mail in box tops. You must scan your receipt to get credit for qualifying products.

Melissa reported that we have 794 members in our district. She also reported that the census must be done again and encouraged everyone to take care of that.

The Mother/Daughter retreat will be by Zoom this year and the conference has done some very creative things to make this a great retreat.

Jessie congratulated Duck for having the most readers. Twelve units had readers with 40 members reading. She gave the address for the catalog and encouraged everyone to read. The conference read this year is *Gum Moon* by Jeffrey L. Staley. It is an Education for Mission choice.

Karin reported that a newsletter will be coming out in May. They are no longer printed and mailed, so go to the website and access the newsletter. She reported that the webmaster has done a good job with making the website informative and up to date. She asked that anyone who would like to please submit a book review for the newsletter. There are still a few areas that need a little work, but overall it is great. She also recommended Faith Talks podcasts for the unitedmethodistwomen.org site. They can be used for the reading program as well as being great in themselves.

Juanita encouraged everyone to send scrapbook items.

Roxie thanked the district for continuing to work even during the pandemic restrictions. She noted that the conference will be collecting gently used shoes for Partners in Ministry in the fall.

Cyndi closed the meeting with prayer.

Jeanne Murray,
Secretary

Projects, Ideas, and Events from Around the District

Donations to various helping agencies and church projects
Book clubs and studies
Zoom meetings

Yard sales
Supplies for area ministries
Holiday (Christmas, Valentines) gift bags or boxes for nursing homes and other groups
Drive through meals
Events for schools
Soup Sunday
Food pantry
Creative celebrations like drive by birthdays and “heart attack” for Valentines
Craft and prayer shawl groups
Virtual bazaar
Backpack buddies
Day for Girls supplies
Disaster help
Food store and other store gift cards to needy and for fund raisers

TREASURER: Gayle Eason

Hello friends,

I hope all of you are enjoying Spring. It’s hard to believe that we are almost 6 months into the year and summer is just around the corner!

I feel like a broken record that says the same thing over and over. However, since my job is not only to keep accurate bank records and accountings for the Beacon District, but to also encourage you to participate in the 7 areas of UMW giving -- here we go again!

There are many ways for the Local Units to contribute to the mission work of fulfilling our purpose, and helping women, children and youth.

- Pledge
- Special Mission Recognition pins
- Gift in Memory Cards
- Gift to Mission Cards
- Candle Burning
- Penny & A Prayer
- World Thank Offering

I encourage you to be creative and include your church congregations in this mission work. Here are a few ideas ...

- Let your congregation know that the United Methodist Women have cards for all occasions. Every time a card is purchased, the entire \$5.00 goes to mission work. Promote these cards throughout the year. Just let me know what you need and I will send you a supply of cards to have on hand.
- Set aside a Sunday (maybe when you celebrate UMW Sunday or a Sunday in November) and put out a basket to collect loose change for World Thank Offering. Every penny counts.
- Ask your congregation to participate in Penny & A Prayer throughout the year. Give them a jar labeled “Penny & A Prayer” and ask that they turn it later in the year.
- Ask your congregations to participate in Candle Burning. Set aside a Sunday to burn the candle during worship in honor or in memory of loved ones.

Our District pledge for 2021 is \$30,000. As of the writing of this article, the District has received \$8,000 total for the first and second quarters. Between now and the end of the year the District needs to receive \$22,000 in order to meet our pledge. The Beacon District UMW is made up of a group of faithful and giving women and I have faith that we can do this!

We still have a few weeks left in the second quarter, please send your 2nd Quarter remittances by June 5 in order that I can get my report prepared and sent to the Conference timely.

Blessings to all of you and thanks for all you do for UMW

Gayle Eason, Beacon District UMW Treasurer

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252 339-6798 ©

SOCIAL ACTION: Betty Jo Raby

Hello Everyone,

What a great feeling it is to have many of the covid restrictions lifted. I have missed being around friends and being in the Church! I hope everyone who is able has had a chance to get their vaccinations. It feels so good to be getting back to normal.

Our reporting year will be ending soon, the Social Action report runs from July 1, 2020 to August 1, 2021. Please send or email your prepared report to me by August 15th. A copy of the report is in the Beacon District United Methodist Women's Directory or please contact me if you need a copy and I will send you one.

Thank you to those volunteers who worked with "A Place of Possibilities" and also to those units who made monetary contributions. I know all help and money gifts were greatly appreciated.

The North Carolina Conference of United Methodist Women is asking for our help with a fundraising campaign for our NC Conference National Institution, Partners in Ministry. A flyer is on the next page to provide information about this "Hands Up" ministry. The Social Action Coordinators met and recommended that funds could be raised for the Partners in Ministry as follows:

1. We will encourage the members of each local unit to donate \$2 for each pair of shoes they own because we are each fortunate to have more than one pair of shoes and wish to share with those who are building a foundation for ministry. (Money can be sent to the District Treasurer who will send it directly to PIM.)
2. We recommend to those units who wish to participate in the shoe project that collection be made in September and October and that Partners in Ministry arrange for transport of the shoes from the Conference Annual Meeting or District Annual Meeting.
3. We encourage our units to support Partners in Ministry with their prayers as well as their donations. We strongly support the ministry of PIM.

Betty Jo Raby, Social Action
1906 Darian Drive
Elizabeth City, NC 27909
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252-335-2491

Reaching Souls with Soles: A “Hands Up” Ministry

North Carolina Conference
United Methodist Women
National Mission Institution
Partners in Ministry



What: The fundraiser will help build a facility that will dramatically enhance and improve opportunities for community service and mission outreach.

When: June-July and September-October 2021. Start saving your gently worn, used and new shoes for men, women and children. Questions? Please contact your District Social Action Coordinator or your District President.

How: When a date is provided for the collection, we will tell you where in your district your shoes can be taken. Date of collections TBA.

Why: This fundraiser will provide individuals in 26 developing nations with a way to support themselves and their families.

Who: Each UMW local unit is asked to contribute and reach out to family, friends and community.

Goal: 25 bags of shoes for each local UMW
25 pairs of shoes per bag
1000 bags of shoes will raise approximately \$10,000.





Please consider giving a donation to the Methodist Home for Children. They are not going to be able to hold their annual fundraiser this year. Donations would certainly help their on-going mission of helping children strive to meet their goals in education and life.

PROGRAM RESOURCES: Jessie Rivers

Our Conference Reading book for 2021 was Gum Moon by Jeffrey L. Staley. Six of our districts participated in the reading with Corridor District leading the way with 72 readers. Beacon District had two readers complete the book. Many thanks to each of you who read our conference book. July will soon be here and so will Mission u on July 22-24. This year the classes will be by Zoom. Stay tuned for more information.

Grace and Peace,
Lynn Clewis
NCCUMW
Secretary of Program Resources
Mission u Asst. Dean

EDUCATION & INTERPRETATION: Carol Kuhn

2021 proved to be a different year of attending mission studies. The Beacon District held two Zoom mission studies, one was "Finding Peace in an Anxious World" and "UMW 150 years". Now it is time to send in your reports on who in your unit attended the mission studies. I would like to have these reports as soon as possible. The report to fill out can be found on our website or in our directory. Please send to my home address at 105 S. Perry Street Hertford, NC 27944. Thank you.

Yours in Christ, Carol Kuhn, kuhncarol@gmail.com 252-619-9007

SPIRITUAL GROWTH: Nell Stallings

The Beacon District Spiritual Growth Event being planned for May unfortunately was not able to come together.

Our Western North Carolina Conference Sisters have invited us to attend a Spiritual Growth event being held through Zoom. You must go on their website: <https://wnccumw.org/events/spiritual-growth-retreat-2021/> to register. Please read the following for further details of this exciting event.



**United Methodist Women
Western North Carolina Conference**

2021 Spiritual Growth Retreat

Friday 7-8:15 & Saturday 9:00-4:30, June 18-19, 2021,

Virtual Event Sessions & Workshops

Theme: You Lift Me Up

Retreat Leader: Rev. Lisa Beth White, Tabernacle, Blue Ridge District

Music Leaders: Catherine Ritch and Rev. Dr. Mark Barden

Our **Virtual Event Community provided by Whova**, where you can interact and visit with other retreat attendees, is open NOW! We have added Prayer Calendar information beginning June 1st. And, all of the opportunities provided by our Whova App like chat discussions, virtual meet ups, etc. are available to everyone as soon as you register! Register today, and explore our virtual retreat community!

We all need a break from our busy lives, a time for reflection, a time to listen for God's guidance. We are so busy doing all the things we are called upon to do, we don't often take the time to slow down, to sit back and think about the things that are really important. Join us to pray, to listen, to study, to fellowship with United Methodist Women from across the conference, and to spend some quiet time in reflection.

PLUS. . . . Breakout Sessions!

- Tea and Mindfulness Meditation
- Crocheting Together
- Reclaiming Sabbath: Reshaping the Rhythm of our Lives
- Juneteenth: An Uplifting Celebration of Freedom
- You Lift Me Up - Book Study by Catherine Ritch on her book about Armenia

PLUS. . . . Morning Praise! Jazzercise for Jesus, Prayer Calendar sharing, and LOTS of opportunities to be in virtual COMMUNITY with your United Methodist Women sisters.

A retreat is a time to reflect upon your relationship with God. It is a time to be attentive as God speaks to us. The committee has worked hard to plan an inspirational re

treat. We anticipate a wonderful time together. We hope you will meet us on Zoom in June.

Get on the website listed and register, Beacon Sisters! Karin Heughan has already registered and can't wait for this event.

LEGACY COORDINATOR: Juanita Staples

Hello All,

Thank you for a very successful Day of Giving Event on March 23rd! We appreciate the efforts each of you made towards making Day of Giving 2021 a success. Besides the many who participated and joined us on that day for the 6+ hours of live programming, now over 4500 have viewed the recording of the event through the UMW Facebook page. We feel blessed to have been able to share with you the highlights of the UMW work. We are also excited to share with you the 2021 Day of Giving total of \$303,224. 2021 truly is Our Year of Hope!

With Appreciation,
Juanita Staples
Legacy Coordinator
NCCUMW



THE LEGACY FUND ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

There are many ways to contribute to the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign. You can send your one-time contribution or plan a monthly commitment, make a planned gift or speak with us if you have questions or need additional information.

United Methodist Women Development Office
475 Riverside Drive, 15th floor, New York, NY 10115
212-870-3705; legacy150@unitedmethodistwomen.org

Give online: unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund
Together, we are building our legacy!

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.



I have enjoyed listening to the conversations on Faith Talks. The talks were very interesting and informative.

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Response, an award-winning publication, is the official magazine of United Methodist Women and is published by the national office. Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul and challenge your mind. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work. The response podcast features audio versions of some of the articles from each issue.



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2021 Beacon District Calendar

January

1 New Officers Assume duties
 16 10:00 a.m. - District Leadership Team Meeting – Trinity UMC, South Mills

February

20 Mission Study via ZOOM – “Finding Peace in an Anxious World”

March

5 World Day of Prayer
 6 10:00 a.m. Sub-District Meeting via ZOOM
 13 Mission Study via ZOOM - “Women United for Change”

May

7 Church Women United - Friendship Day
 TBA District Spiritual Enrichment

June

TBA Annual NC Conference of UMC
 TBA Beacon District Mission Encounter - Place TBA

July

10 9:00 a.m. District Finance Committee Meeting – Hertford UMC
 (Committee Includes: Treasurer, President, Vice President, Secretary, Mission Coordinators for Social Action, Membership-Nurture and Education & Interpretation)

July 22-24

Mission u – Methodist University – Fayetteville

August

1 ALL REPORTS DUE EXCEPT CANDLE BURNING AND NEW OFFICERS
 21 Conference Finance Committee Meeting - Wake Forest Family Life Center, 905 South Main, Wake Forest, NC

September

18 10:00 a.m. - District Leadership Team Meeting – Place TBA
 TBA Mother/Child Retreat, Camp Don Lee

October

TBA NC Conference UMW Annual Meeting (Date/Place TBA)
 TBA Beacon District UMW Annual Meeting (Date/Place TBA)

November

5 Church Women United World Community Day

December

5 UNIT REMITTANCES DUE TO DISTRICT TREASURER BY THIS DATE

2021 NC CONFERENCE UMW CALENDAR

January

- 01 New Officers assume duties
- 08 4:00 pm Mission u Committee Meeting, Mission u Nominations Committee Meeting
Wilson Temple UMC, 1023 Oberlin Rd., Raleigh, NC 27605
- 09 9:30 am Leadership Team Meeting, Wilson Temple UMC, 1023 Oberlin Rd., Raleigh, NC
- 09 District Mailing List for KEDE due to KEDE Editor

February

- 06 KEDE Deadline (Women in Mission)

March

- 05 World Day of Prayer

April

- 10 10 am Leadership Team Meeting via Zoom
- 10 KEDE Deadline (Mission u & Mother-Child Retreat)
- 15 Final Deadline - Book of Reports to Secretary

May

- 06 National Day of Prayer
TBD Scholarship Committee, Teleconference Meeting 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 07 Church Women United-Friendship Day
- 22 Women in Mission/Social Action Event

June

TBA Annual Conference of the NC Conference United Methodist Church; Greenville, NC

July

- 22-24 Mission u - Methodist University, Fayetteville, NC
- 22 Mission u Nominating Committee - Luncheon Meeting
- 22-24 Mission u Committee Meeting

August

- 14 KEDE Deadline (Annual Meeting)
- 21 Finance Comm. Meeting, 9:30am, Wake Forest Family Life Center, 905 So. Main, Wake Forest, NC
- 29-Sept 7 United Methodist Church General Conference

September

- 01 All reports due to Coordinators & President
- 11 Leadership Team Meeting, 9:30 am; New Creation UMC, 4705 Old Chapel Hill Rd, Durham, NC
Standing Rules Committee lunch meeting
- TBD Mother-Child Retreat, Camp Don Lee, Arapahoe, NC

October

- NEW LOCATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING TBD
- TBD Mission u Committee - 4:00 pm
- TBD Conference UMW Annual Meeting - Mission u Nominating Committee Meeting @ lunch
- 15 2022 District Officers Slate of Officers due to Conference Secretary

November

- 05 Church Women United World Community Day
- 06 Conference UMW DO-IT-DAY, 9:30am-12:30pm St. James UMC, 2000 E. St. Greenville, NC
- 10-12 United Methodist Church SEJ
- 13 KEDE Deadline (Spiritual Enrichment Event, District Mission Studies, 2022 Calendar)