



# CATCH the VISION

August 2018

email information to: [dgrbmm@gmail.com](mailto:dgrbmm@gmail.com)

A person's steps are made secure by the Lord when they delight in his way.  
**Psalm 37:23 (CEB)**

As I write this, I am attending Mission u in Wisconsin Rapids. Unable to sleep the night through, I woke up at 3 a.m. Wednesday morning and I was amazed at the darkness of the room and the unfamiliar surroundings. Afraid of bumping into things, I decided to stay in bed and pray. To my surprise, The Upper Room reading for Wednesday was "Meaningful Work" and the verse was Psalm 37:23. It brought a huge smile to my face....there was nothing to fear, God is always present.

It has been a wonderful 5 days of fellowship, exciting studies on What About our Money and Embracing Wholeness, and wise study leaders that opened the doors to learning and reminded us that in order to grow spiritually we must put that knowledge into action so we can transform the place we call "home" until we can see that each person is God's beautiful creation.

As we leave to our respective homes, we must continue our "Meaningful Work". Many of us will begin plans for the next time we meet, at our Local Units to share our new found knowledge, at the Districts Annual Celebrations, and I look forward to seeing many of you again at The Annual Gathering at Waukesha First United Methodist Church on October 19-20, 2018.

We are dynamic women of God, we engage in conversations about A Way Forward for the future of our United Methodist Church, we write letters for United Methodist Women Living Wage for All Campaign, we write letters to our State Representatives and Congressmen to support Immigration Reform. We put our Faith into Action on behalf of those who have no voice. We walk in the steps of 150 YEARS of courageous women.

**Let's continue our work finding Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God & Neighbor. Mark your calendars to share 2 days in Waukesha, October 19 & 20.**

Martha Boyer,  
Conference President

# President

# Vice President

All are invited to the Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women

Annual Gathering: Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God and Neighbor

Fri., Oct 19 and Sat., Oct. 20, 2018

First United Methodist Church, Waukesha, WI  
121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha, WI

Pre-conference United Methodist Children's Services Tour - Fri., Oct. 19 from 2-4 pm, meet at First United Methodist Church, Waukesha, WI to car pool to United Methodist Children's Services.

Friday evening: District Leaders Training

Video by Harriett Olson, General Secretary, United Methodist Women on "A Way Forward" for those not attending training; discussion lead by Mary Lainberger

Registration: 5:30-6:30 pm; Program begins at 6:30 pm

Saturday speakers: Sharon Day, Anishinaabe grandmother and Water Walker, will lead the worship on Sat. morning; Mary Lainberger and Sue Plasterer will give background information and breakout sessions on "A Way Forward"

Sharon Day will be leading a Water Walk by the Wisconsin River starting August 4, 2018. For more information go to.

<http://www.nibiwalk.org/posts/water-walks/>

Registration form is also available online at: [www.wisconsinumw.org](http://www.wisconsinumw.org)

<<http://www.wisconsinumw.org>>

Ruby Dow

WI Conf UMW VP

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## All are Invited to United Methodist Women Annual Gathering Sacred Spaces: Encounters with God & Neighbor October 19 and 20, 2018

**First United Methodist Church, Waukesha, WI  
121 Wisconsin Ave., Waukesha, WI**

FRIDAY 2-4 PM: Preconference tour is to United Methodist Children's Services, Milwaukee  
(Meet at First United Methodist Church and car pool to United Methodist Children's Service)

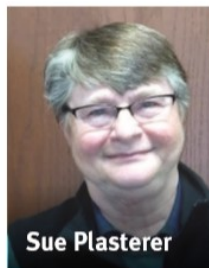
FRIDAY EVENING: District Leaders Training  
Video by Harriett Olson, General Secretary, United Methodist Women, on "A Way Forward" for those not attending training, discussion led by Mary Lainberger. Register at 5:30-6:30 PM; program begins at 6:30 PM.



**Sharon Day**



**Mary Lainberger**



**Sue Plasterer**

SATURDAY SPEAKERS: Sharon Day, Anishinaabe grandmother and Water Walker, will lead the worship on Saturday morning; Mary Lainberger and Sue Plasterer will give background information at breakout sessions on "A Way Forward." Register at 8-8:45 AM; program begins at 8:45 AM; with sending forth around 3:30 PM.

**REGISTER FOR PROGRAM BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26  
for Reduced Fee of \$27.00, Includes Saturday Lunch.  
Contact Arlene Trull, 305 Becker St., Rothschild, WI 54474, aetrull@gmail.com**

A block of rooms has been reserved under Wisconsin United Methodist Women until Friday, September 28 (1-4 persons per room) at Hampton Inn, 575 N. Barker Rd., Brookfield, WI 53045. To reserve a room, call: 262-796-1500 or reserve online at <http://hamptoninn.hilton.com/en/hp/groups/personalized/M/MKEBFHX-UMW-20181019/index.jhtml>



# Wisconsin Conference Annual Gathering Of United Methodist Women October 19-20, 2018

Early registration deadline:  
September 26 at \$27

Late registration deadline:\*  
October 3 at \$37

\*If you register after October 3,  
you will need to make your own  
lunch arrangements for Saturday.

Driving directions to the church will be  
provided in your confirmation letter.

Blessings to you as we learn, worship  
and grow together.



 wisconsin conference  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
750 Windsor Street  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590  
888-240-7328  
www.WisconsinUMC.org

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**Please PRINT:** *If registering for more than one person, copy and complete a separate form for each person.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Church \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply:**

Teen (Teen only Age) \_\_\_\_\_ *If you are attending the Limitless gathering, only fill out the Limitless form.*  
\_\_\_\_ First Time Attending \_\_\_\_ UMW member \_\_\_\_ Clergy \_\_\_\_ Guest (not UMW member)  
Are you a district officer \_\_\_\_\_ or a conference officer \_\_\_\_\_?

**Preconference United Methodist Children's Services (UMCS) tour 2-4 p.m.:**

\_\_\_\_ I will tour UMCS & meet at Waukesha FUMC at 1 p.m.  
\_\_\_\_ I will tour UMCS & meet there.  
\_\_\_\_ I am willing to drive & take \_\_\_\_ passengers.

**Circle box lunch selection:** *Box lunches 1-5 will include sandwich, bag of chips, dill potato salad, fresh fruit salad, and a fresh bakery cookie*

- 1. Smoked almond chicken/whole wheat wrap
- 2. Vegetarian wrap
- 3. Ham & cheddar cheese/roll
- 4. Roast beef and cheddar cheese/roll
- 5. Turkey and cheddar cheese/roll

*Choices 6 & 7 includes a bag of chips, fresh bakery roll, fresh fruit salad, and a fresh bakery cookie*

- 6. Chicken caesar salad
- 7. Sendik's house garden salad

*Choice 8 (gluten free) – includes gluten free chips, confetti coleslaw, fresh fruit cup, and gluten free dessert*

- 8. Sendik's House Garden Salad with vinaigrette dressing

**Child care:**

\_\_\_\_ Child care needed Friday evening for \_\_\_\_\_ children, ages \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Child care needed Saturday for \_\_\_\_\_ children, ages \_\_\_\_\_

Please pick up your children and take them to lunch. Also, please provide a sack lunch or \$9 for each child in the registration total and specify lunch choice.

**Emergency contact information:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

**Photo release:**

Photos will be taken at Annual Gathering and could be used in material to promote United Methodist Women. I permit my photo to be used by Wisconsin United Methodist Women to help share United Methodist Women with others.

Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Special request:**

\_\_\_\_ I need a scholarship *(25 scholarships available, awarded to the first 25 to make a request).*

**Please make checks payable to WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UMW**

Mail to Registrar: Arlene Trull, 305 Becker St., Rothschild, WI 54474

Email: aetrull@gmail.com

Phone: 715-359-7756

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Limitless

## SAVE THE DATE!

Friday evening, October 19 — Saturday, October 20, 2018  
First United Methodist Church, Waukesha, WI

### Limitless Girls' Night Out

Bring your sleeping bag and a friend and join us at Annual Gathering for fun and fellowship at Girls' Night Out. Watch for details and registration form in the next issue of *Catch the Vision!*

# Program Resource

Hello I'm Diane Woodbury and this is my first year as Conference Program Resource person. I agreed to this position from the gentle persuasion of Jeanette R. Nancy Z, my predecessor was the next person I contacted to discuss this position and I departed with 4 totes and a sea of questions swimming in my head. Then came Mission u. Miscommunication lead to hysteria on my part with thoughts of giving up the Program Resource position at the end of Mission u, but THANKS to a group of fabulous women we got issues resolved and I can't wait for next year's Mission u!!!!

Hope to see you next year!

Diane Woodbury

WI Conference Program Resources



Greetings to all,

It was about a year ago that Julie Mieke approached me and asked if I would consider accepting a position on the United Methodist Women Board. After some thought and prayer I accepted the position of Secretary on the Conference Board. Although it started out with a panic and a bang in trying to put together the Conference Yearbook, I am feeling quite blessed at this point. Between Leadership Training in St. Louis, Assembly in Columbus, OH and now at Mission u in Wisconsin Rapids the year has been filled with learning and challenges. But perhaps the best part is meeting so many new sisters in the faith.

In case you don't know by now, trying to live sustainably is one of my deepest passions! Consequently if you were at Mission u, you saw me collecting used potato chip bags. I took them to Monona Public Library as they have joined a Terracycle Brigade. At the Monona Public Library they collect almost everything and have found a way to recycle them thru Terracycle. For more information about Terracycle go to: [teracycle.org](http://teracycle.org) Perhaps you would like to get your units involved. In the meantime you are welcome to collect the following and bring these items to Annual Meeting in Waukesha.

You can bring the following items:

used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, empty floss containers,  
empty deodorant containers, bar soap containers AND  
ballpoint pens that don't work and markers that don't work

I will make sure they get recycled. If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

Also in an attempt to be sure Conference can get information to all the units in a timely matter, I am hoping that the District Presidents will be able to find 2 people that have a working email in each unit. For lack of a better term, I am calling them the "unit email contacts". If we have information that we want to get to the units quickly, we would email to the "2 unit email contacts" in hopes that those people would be sure that they would get the information to the members in their units. Please don't stress over this. I will try to compile the "2 unit email contact" lists by the time of the annual conference in Waukesha. Feel free to call if you have any questions.

Take care. Have a great rest of the summer.

Josie Gobel  
Conference Secretary  
920-988-0705  
[josiegobel@charter.net](mailto:josiegobel@charter.net)

**Secretary**

The Legacy Fund was established in 2014 to go through 2019 to fund United Methodist Women into the future. We want to remember the past, pay attention to the present and give hope to our future.

We have many ways to honor our faithful members past, present and future. We can celebrate by purchasing a 150 year necklace for \$50 plus postage or a Special Recognition Pin for \$200 plus postage. Both of these items can be purchased from the United Methodist Women Mission Resource Center.

There are four ways to give:

Online: [unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund](http://unitedmethodistwomen.org/legacyfund)

Mail: United Methodist Women National Office

475 Riverside Drive

15<sup>th</sup> Floor, Attn: LEGACY

New York, NY 10115

Text: Text "Legacy 150" to "41444"

Phone: 212-870-3705

You can also remember UMW in your will.

Diane Quade has been serving as one of our Legacy Fund Coordinators. The Legacy Fund has a goal of \$60,000,000. Wisconsin's goal is \$18,690. Diane is available to speak at local, district or conference events. You can reach her at 608-752-9397.

Thank you for all you do for United Methodist Women.

Diane Quade

Conference Legacy Coordinator

608-752-9397

The word "Legacy" is written in a stylized, orange, 3D-effect font with a white outline and a slight shadow.

Linda K Whitelock

Conference Treasurer

[whitelocklinda@att.net](mailto:whitelocklinda@att.net)

The word "Treasurer" is written in a large, blue, outlined font with a white fill and a slight shadow.

# Mission U

Northcott has \$3,000.00 for replacement of the roof. Please send more money to help with replacing the worn out furnaces too.

## Karen

This year's Mission u at the Hotel Mead and Conference Center, in Wisconsin Rapids, promised to be a special time of fellowship, joy, study and worship. We didn't disappoint. Our plenaries on What About Our Money: A Faith Response, 150 Years of United Methodist Women, and Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living, were all thought-provoking, engaging and educational. We shared. We sang. We read. We listened. We heard about the rich history of United Methodist Women. We learned that we are charged by our Creator with taking care of ourselves and God's creation in sustainable, economic and spiritual ways. Rev. Scott Carlson and Tamara Wims led the study on What About Our Money? A Faith Response. Rev. Rob Odum returned again this year to update us on the Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the United States. Rev. Mary Kathryn Pearce and Julie Mieke led the study on Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenant Living. Our young women participants were led by Mary Lainberger, Gloria Carter and Chelsey Henry on the "Is It Just Money? Our Dollars, God's Economy" study. The Hotel Mead provided us with wonderful accommodations and meals. Our Choice Time workshops this year included A Way Forward, Assembly 2018, Social Justice Letter Writing, Water, and the Legacy Fund of United Methodist Women. We had an amazing evening program with flute storyteller Frank "Anakwad" Montano from the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa reservation, in northern Wisconsin. We were blessed that he could share his talents and heritage with us. We also had an evening of conversation about A Way Forward, led by Sue Plasterer and Mary Lainberger. You will certainly not want to miss the four-day event in the summer of 2019! Our studies will cover the Book of Mark and Radical Discipleship and United Methodist Women: 150 Years and Beyond, as well as a repeat of What About Our Money? A Faith Response. See you next summer!

Stacy Ganzer, Assistant Dean of 2018-2019 Mission u

920-379-8238





Plenary's were always a wonderful way to start the 4day school!



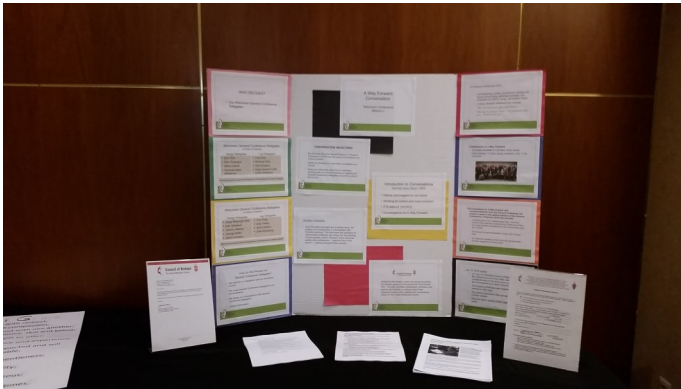
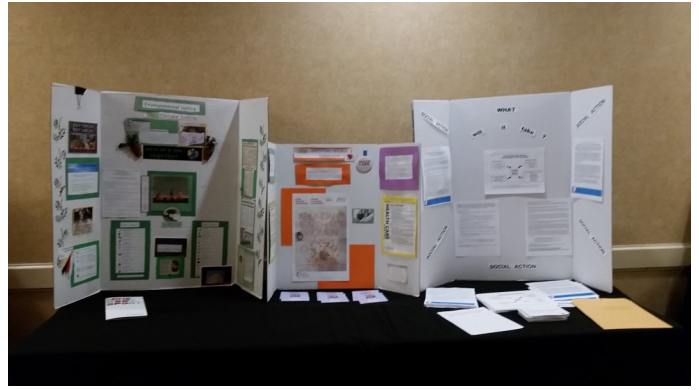
Overview day Great summary of the Mission u Topics.



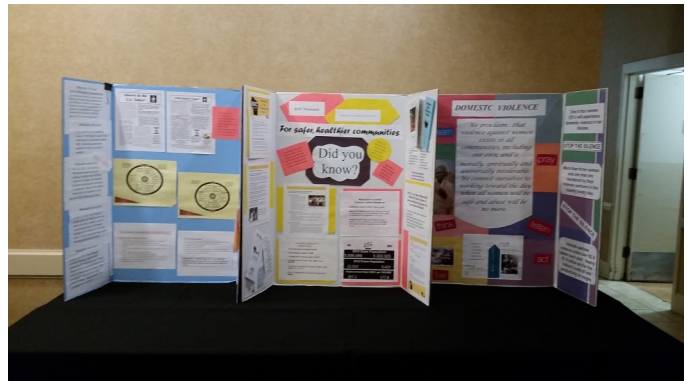
Frank "Anakwad" Montano at WI Rapids UMC (left)

Lucy Silvester updating us on the GREAT time at YoMiCa Camp. (right)





Display showcasing Missions and Unit Development with wonderful information and handouts! (below) One of the ladies showing us some of the items donated for the Youth Mission u scholarship fundraiser.



# Mission u 2019!

Mission u

Mission u will be at Hotel Mead July 22 – 25, 2019 with Overview Day on July 26.

What a blessing. I was so stressed to think about working on Mission u after my husband died suddenly in the spring. My UMW sisters told me that they would be there for me and they worked hard and our together was a success! It also ended up being a week that brought me loving council from many women who have been in my situation before me. Thank you, God for United Methodist Women. I am on a path that others truly understand and these sisters are willing to share with me their experiences when they have suffered lose. I am also grateful for the sisters that bore up with me when I was not at my best and saw me through this event.

And on to more important topics, next year's classes.

We will be studying the Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship. Here is a little from the preliminary synopsis of our study:

“Both then and now the gospel proclaims it is right here and now when the struggle is fierce and the clamor is loud; when our hearts are heavy, and our bodies weary; when we're tempted to give up, to give in to the cynicism of our age. Here and now proclaims the gospel, in the fear and the uncertainty and the anxiety of living in our age, God comes singing to our souls, inviting us to be partners in the new creation, in God's kingdom, kin-dom, realm, and rule.”

Our next study is United Methodist Women: 150 years and Beyond:

“This study is about women who established vibrant societies to support mission. First organized in the United States, those societies sent missionaries overseas and later engaged in mission at home. Each was a heroin who was willing to stand over and against what her culture—and sometimes even her church—expected of her..... Female leadership had almost always been subtle, behind the scenes, and accomplished through quietly influencing men who had power. Through the new mission societies, large numbers of women learned leadership skills and found the courage to use them. They were empowered in large part by knowing that many of their sisters near and far were also answering God's call to be in mission.

We will also be repeating the study “What About Our Money: A Faith Response:

“The focus of this study is both personal and communal. Readers will explore their own relationship with money, the money choices available to us, and how we individually and collectively respond in light of our faith. The text takes into account that we are all in different places, in different financial circumstances, health, family structure, race, age, and stage of life, and each of us has our own values and capacities.”

I will be traveling during our District Annual Gatherings this year. Please use this article to share at this event. Check our web site [wisconsin.umc.org](http://wisconsin.umc.org) for Mission u updates.

If you missed this year's Mission u, make plans now to save a little money and fundraise a great deal to send members of your church to this transformative event. Or as I always thought of it before I became Dean, my Methodist vacation and a time for me to discover wholeness in Christ Jesus.

Karen Mayeshiba

[kamayeshiba@yahoo.com](mailto:kamayeshiba@yahoo.com) (608) 277-1883

## Mission u Classes for 2019

**Mark and Radical Discipleship**  
*Spiritual Growth Study*

**United Methodist Women in Mission:150 Years and Beyond**  
*Geographic Study*

**What About Our Money? –**  
*Issue Study (Repeated with updated material from 2018)*

**Children and Youth Study - Gospel of Mark**

Wisconsin Rapids—Hotel Mead July 22 – 25, 2019 with Overview Day on July 26

## Mission u Classes for 2019

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Wisconsin Rapids—Hotel Mead July 22 – 25, 2019 with Overview Day on July 26

Here is a page with 2 notices to be printed and pass out within your Local UMW Units; please help promote 2019 Mission u!

# Northcott Needs YOU!

Northcott Neighborhood House in Milwaukee came into being through the efforts of Methodist women who were taking the census in 1960 in a low income area of Milwaukee and saw great need. Through the efforts of East Wisconsin Methodist Women, in 1961 a ministry was started in that neighborhood.

The day before Assembly began, I attended a meeting in Columbus, OH, of representatives from all the UMW National Mission Institutions. There are about 100 NMIs. The meeting was part of our national Legacy celebration, acknowledging our UMW history. Northcott is one of them. As such, it has a relationship with United Methodist Women across the nation, but more so with the units in Wisconsin. It does not matter where you live, Northcott Neighborhood House is part of your mission work.

Northcott currently is in need of financial assistance. During this past year, several furnaces have failed and needed to be replaced. While grants have paid for some of the cost, there still is need, in fact, Northcott also needs to replace a roof. Please consider sending a donation to Northcott Neighborhood House as soon as possible. Send it to your district treasurer, who will send it to the Conference treasurer, and then on to the national UMW treasurer, who will send the money to Northcott. We ask you to do it this way, rather than directly to Northcott, in order to show the national office that we are undergirding our own National Mission Institution. In this way, we will see what a big difference we can make collectively across our Conference. I will update you periodically on our total giving and Northcott's needs and success stories.

Judy Vasby

Conference Historian with special assignment to Northcott

Email: [vasby.umw@gmail.com](mailto:vasby.umw@gmail.com)

Cell: 608-576-0173



# Membership Nurture & Outreach

Thank you to EVERYONE who worked so hard on our 2017 Census. All of us learned that it is much easier to enter our results online than to fill in forms and submit the information to our national office after the online database has closed! At Mission u I was able to meet with district presidents and membership nurture and outreach coordinators who attended. One thing that they said would help them is to have the Word form that duplicates the online survey BEFORE entering data online. I will do my best to get that form to district presidents and MNOs so they can forward it to unit presidents. That way they can work with their units to gather the data prior to data entry on line. Our 2018 Census information is expected to be sent to Conference President Martha Boyer and me in October. We expect to forward to district presidents and district MNOs in November or early December. They will forward the information to unit presidents.

Membership facts: members are members until they tell you they wish to be removed from your membership list or they pass away. Members are not required to make a pledge. Members are not required to be a member of a United Methodist Church except for presidents. See our UMW Handbook 2016-2020, membership topic.

Thank you again for being in mission with women, children and youth. Stay tuned for more information about 2018 Census.

I hope you're having a wonderful Summer. See you at our Conference Annual Gathering in October.

Sue Plasterer,  
Wisconsin Conference Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator  
608-274-0275  
seplasterer@charter.net

2017 CENSUS WISCONSIN CONFERENCE  
MEMBERSHIP COUNT: 4,807

## **NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT**

32 Units\*; 684 members reported in 29 units  
Missing Units: Amherst, Coloma, South Burr Oak, Tomahawk, Wautoma

## **NORTH EAST DISTRICT**

36 Units\*; 707 members reported in 24 units  
Missing Units: Batavia, Calvary Zion, Denmark Zion, Juneau, Lomira Trinity, Lowell, Neenah First, Oneida, Oshkosh First, Randolph/Courtland, Shawano "Church on the Hill"

## **NORTH WEST DISTRICT 100 % Reported—CONGRATULATIONS!**

44 Units\*; 1,118 Members

## **SOUTH EAST DISTRICT**

41 Units\*; 1,163 members reported in 32 units  
Missing units: Beloit River of Life, Greenfield Christ, Hartford First, Milwaukee Albright, Milwaukee Christ Way, Milwaukee New Hope Hmong, New Berlin Agape Ministry, Racine Christ, Racine Faith, The Village at Monor Park, West Allis First

## **SOUTH WEST DISTRICT**

50 Units\*; 1,135 members reported in 36 units  
Missing units: Bloom City, Blue River, Fennimore, Madison-Sherman Avenue, North Windsor, Pardeeville, Portage, Sandusky, Soldiers, Grove, Stitzer, Stoughton, Viola, Viroqua, Willow Valley

\*Unit count=Units listed in the 2018 Conference Yearbook-203. Not all units listed.

# MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR A WAY FORWARD ARTICLE

Mary Lainberger and I presented information and a brief conversation about A Way Forward at Mission u-Four Day event. So what is A Way Forward all about? It is about the future of the United Methodist denomination! Specifically it concerns language in *The Book of Discipline* about human sexuality.

- *The Book of Discipline* says that while all people are of sacred worth, the practice of homosexuality is “incompatible with Christian teaching.” The book bans the ordination of “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy and the blessing of same-gender unions. However, some individual pastors and conferences — regional units of the church — publicly disregard those policies.

The Commission on A Way Forward has been working since our 2016 General Conference to present information about possible ways forward to our Council of Bishops. The Commission has completed its work. A Special Session of the General Conference will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis where our General Conference delegates will vote on the three plans that will come before them. The three plans are the Traditional Plan, the One Church plan and the Connectional Conference Plan. A majority of the Council of Bishops recommended the One Church Plan. Translations of the plans into the 4 working languages of our worldwide church is expected to be released on July 30. They should be available online by the time you receive this news letter. This is what we know at the time I have written this article. Go to: <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/court-docket-details-proposed-plans-for-umc>

In October 2018 our United Methodist Judicial Council will rule on the constitutionality of the three plans. The information will be made public after that.

Our General Conference delegates are planning listening sessions in our 5 districts from September through November. Information about them will be on the Wisconsin Conference website.

For more information about scheduling a conversation in your unit please contact Mary Lainberger or me. YOUR VOICES ARE IMPORTANT. UMW has a long history of being at the forefront of important issues of the Church. This one is about PEOPLE--ALL GOD'S PEOPLE.

- Mary Lainberger, National UMW Program Advisory Group  
608-212-0506; or email [mlainberger@charter.net](mailto:mlainberger@charter.net)
- Sue Plasterer, Conference UMW Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator  
608-274-0275; or email [seplasterer@charter.net](mailto:seplasterer@charter.net)

See you in October in Waukesha.

# Tribute to Betty Henderson



(These comments were provided by many women who knew Betty well. We wanted to honor her memory.)

Betty Henderson was the most well-informed person about the United Methodist Church and United Methodist Women many of us have ever encountered. She shared her knowledge freely and often recommended informational sources to us. Betty challenged us to learn more and to keep current with what was going on – not only in Methodism, but also in everyday life.

Many people considered Betty to be a mentor because she provided knowledge gained from working with the then Women’s Division and General Board of Global Missions and from being educated in its practices. She displayed this knowledge through the activities of the Conference Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation, through being on the Conference UMW team and by providing learning opportunities for Conference, especially the Limitless members. Betty often paid for Limitless members to attend Mission u, Assembly and Ecumenical Advocacy Days. She also provided opportunities for the youth to apply what they had learned at their local levels.

Betty was sometimes reluctant to take a position because of her age. However, when someone suggested an intergenerational seminar trip, Betty agreed to organize it. The idea was very exciting because Wisconsin’s United Methodist Women had not done this in decades. We decided to study both Climate Change and Income Inequality. Betty had both the knowledge and the connections to put together a great adventure – and she did!



As a result, almost thirty United Methodist Women and Limitless members traveled to Washington, D.C., the nation's capital and New York City for a United Methodist Seminar Experience.

Our Seminar included classes at the United Methodist Building in Washington, D.C. and the Church Center of the United Nations in New York City. It was very fascinating and inspirational to be in such historic places and in such close proximity to the U.S. Capital and the United Nations Building. Betty had worked at both centers. She provided many powerful insights into the issues we discussed.

Betty's knowledge, vision, organizational skills, experience, her tirelessness, and her caring spirit impressed seminar members.

Betty is remembered in various ways, as

A kind woman who loved to knit

A strong, intelligent, kind mentor who guided the youth

An amazingly bright and accomplished woman who cared deeply about social issues and making the world a better place

A woman who reflected what United Methodist Women is all about – faith and justice; creative, supportive fellowship; and transformative education

A woman who lived what she preached

A woman who worked tirelessly for peace and justice issues

A woman who walked humbly with her God

Betty's legacy will live on in those of us she inspired and equipped to continue to build the kin-dom of God.

The 2017 United Methodist Women's Mission Experience Group





# Milk Moola

MILK MOOLA ARTICLE FOR DISTRICT/CONFERENCE NEWS – Summer/Fall 2018

## MILK MOOLA and YOU!

Yeah! With your help, Harbor House Shelters recently received a check for \$156.30. That represents 3,126 caps and milk bag slips that YOU collected.

Kwik Trip has taken over all the PDQ gas stations, which means that Milk Moola caps and plastic bag tops are available all over Wisconsin! So stop in when you drive by and get some milk or orange juice in sizes single-serve through gallon. Save the bottle caps and bag slips for UMW. We count them up and send them in for redemption at 5-cents each.

Please bring them to all district and conference UMW events. District Coordinators for Education and Interpretation will see that I receive your contributions. Or, another way is to send them with your church's representative to Annual Conference. There is a collection box at the Harbor House display.

Don't forget to rinse off your caps and slips before sending. Some have arrived smelling of sour milk or sticky with orange juice.

Also, be sure you send only Milk Moola items. They say "Milk Moola – 5 ¢" or have a cow face. We DO NOT take Kemps, Prairie Farm, or any other brand of milk caps. Also, the bag slips need to be carefully cut along the scissors marked cutting line. Some slips have arrived with only the 5-cents circles and not the whole line, which includes the words "Nature's Touch." Kwik Trip will not accept those circles, so we lose 5-cents each time someone cuts them out.

Harbor House has a large need for funds to keep their programs operating to help homeless women and children. Please encourage your church members, neighbors, relatives, and co-workers to save Kwik Trip caps and bag slips for this good cause.

Got Milk? Milk Moola, that is.

Judy Vasby  
Moola Coordinator  
Email: vasby.umw @ gmail.com  
Cell: 608-576-0173

PS- Those who live near LaCrosse, contact me about how to take your caps/slips directly to the redemption center.

# Local Unit Secretaries / Historians

## HISTORY STARTS NOW!

To all unit secretaries — the work you do in keeping minutes of meetings is vitally important. Not only do the minutes keep your unit on track month by month, but they inform the future members about what was important to you in their past. Minutes connect the present to the future and today's women to those who came before.

Be sure to include full names in your minutes. In twenty years, or even in five, the last names of “Henrietta” and “Shirley” could be lost from memory and their connection to other unit or church members gone. While their contributions still will be recognized, their full personhood will be diminished when last names are left out.

In celebration of 150 years of Methodist women's mission work, I challenge you to go back to minutes from a meeting 15 or 20 years ago, or longer, and read them at a unit meeting. (Your local historian should know where to find them, but if you don't have an historian, it is YOUR duty to fill that position.) Enjoy the warm connection you feel with your sisters who came before you. Appreciate the Legacy they have left you. Contemplate what your unit is passing on to the future members. Remember... history starts now!

Judy Vasby

Conference UMW Historian

Email: [vasby.umw@gmail.com](mailto:vasby.umw@gmail.com)

Cell: 608-576-0173

# DEACONESS CALLING

Hi, I am a deaconess, and I'm calling YOU to become one, too.

Are you feeling restless in your spiritual life? In your work life? Are you feeling a need to go deeper in your commitment to God? Do you want to work for the Lord, but not become a pastor? Is so, that could be a call from God to become a deaconess!

A deaconess is a lay woman called by God to serve God by serving others. With her faith at the core, she takes her vocational training (job) into the community and show God's love through her words and actions.

She may be a teacher, a nurse, an accountant, a fire fighter, a photographer, a flower shop owner, or any number of things. Almost any vocation can qualify as long as there are elements of love, justice, and service, and as long as the woman has a deep relationship with God.

If you are feeling "the call," I will be happy to talk with you further about the process of becoming a deaconess. Contact me at ...

Email: [vasby.umw@gmail.com](mailto:vasby.umw@gmail.com)

Cell: 608-576-0173

Blessings-

Judy Vasby

Wisconsin's only active deaconess

PS. I can do programs for units, circles, or churches. I just ask for help to cover travel costs.

# Spiritual Growth

I have to say that I am on a high just having returned from Mission U. I would like to share some things I learned from the Spiritual Growth Study - Embracing Wholeness: An earth perspective for covenantal living. For those who attended Mission U, this will all sound familiar!

When we love God and our neighbor as ourselves, we see the world differently. We see others not as “them” but as “us.” We are able to say, “I am no longer different from you.” Genesis 1:27 says, “God created humanity in God’s own image, in the divine image God created them.” So, we are told that we are all made in the image of God. Reflecting on this particular Scripture allows us to imagine a dramatic change in how we see things and how we act.

This passage requires us to ask a number of questions about ourselves: 1. Where is the image of God in me? 2. Who would ever see that image of God in me? 3. How will they see it? Also, 4. truthfully, can we even see God’s image in ourselves? So, being in community we realize that it isn’t just about me (which is what the world says). When we are called into community we need to look for the image of God in everyone else. Being with others helps us see God. Our prayer should be, “May all who come near me capture the image of God in me.” And then when we see others we might pray, “May my eyes and ears all flow through my heart so that I can capture the image of God in them.”

This spiritual growth study leads to social action. How am I reflecting the image of God? One of the first things we need to do then is to know ourselves. What gifts has God given us? It is so easy to say, I can’t do this. But what things can you do? What are your strengths that God can use in his beloved community? At Mission U, we took a spiritual gifts inventory. It is always helpful to know your gifts. I would encourage you to complete one. Then, once you know your gifts, you can find some area where you can use those gifts for Jesus. It makes perfect sense. Because you are strong in that area, you will feel more confident as you work in that area for social justice! Then people will see the image of God in you!

I would encourage you to reflect on and answer the questions above. Hopefully, it will move you to make some changes in your life and help you to know not only what gifts you have to influence change, but it will also help you to see God’s image in all people, even those who aren’t your best friend. I know it has done that for me!

Deb Pattee

Conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator



# Nominations

“I remind you to stir into flames the gift of God which is within you.”

2Timothy 1:6

The Committee on Nominations is “seeking faces” of new officers to fill our slate for 2019.

We have coordinator openings for: Social Action, Native American Language, Hispanic Language, Korean Language, and 2 for Nominations.

If you are interested or know someone who might be interested in sharing their talents in one of these positions, please let me know! My address is W9113 Red Feather Dr., Cambridge, WI 53523 or phone # (608) 423-3360

Jeanette Retzlaff  
Wi Conference UMW  
Chair of Nominations

## Scholarship Recipient

Mabel Heil Scholarship Article

A Promise Kept

In the early 1980's I received a Mabel Heil scholarship. It helped me keep a promise that my future husband made to my father and mother. I dropped out of college in 1963 after my sophomore year to follow my heart and begin an adventure that started in West Germany (now unified Germany) and has lasted over 54 years and counting. Before leaving to serve in the U.S. Army in W. Germany, my future husband promised my dad and mother that I would complete my college education. We didn't know it would take 17 years for me to return to college and finish not one but two college degrees at the UW Madison. In the meantime we had three sons. Our oldest son graduated from high school the same year I graduated from UW-Madison with a BA in political science. My Mabel Heil scholarship helped us keep the promise made to my parents. I did not know in the early 1980's that I may have been one of the first women to apply for and be awarded this scholarship. My whole family is grateful for the education I received and have continued to use in service to United Methodist Women. Thank you Mabel Heil.

Sue Plasterer  
Wisconsin Conference Membership Nurture and Outreach Coordinator  
July 2018

## **MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP**

The Mabel Heil Scholarships are a result of funds from the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a woman from Cuba City, Wisconsin. The first scholarships were granted in 1981. Since then more than 240 women have received help with their education.

### Requirements and Instructions

#### **Instructions:**

1. Be a female member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women.
2. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what way do I consider myself a worthy student?"
3. Send the completed application form to the contact person by May 1 for the Fall semester or October 1 for the Spring semester.
4. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by the president of the local United Methodist Women or the pastor of the church.
5. Request that a letter of recommendation be sent to the contact person by a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative.

#### **Rules:**

Any member of Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Women working to improve her education may apply.

Please have all letters written (preferably typed) on one side of 8 1/2 by 11 sheet of white paper using black ink.

All applications are photocopied for the committee members.

Scholarships are awarded one semester at a time. To be considered again DURING a one-year period, you must send a letter asking to be considered. AFTER one year, you will need to fill out another form and secure new recommendations.

If in any given year there is an increase of applications, these priorities will be followed: Women responsible for others will be favored. Women preparing to return to the employment field will be favored.

Application and two (2) letters of recommendation must be postmarked no later than May 1 and October 1 to be considered.

#### **Schedule:**

1st Semester: Apply by May 1; notified by June 1; check sent by August 15.

2nd Semester: Apply by October 1; notified by November 1; check sent by December 1.

#### **Contact Person:**

Helen Robinson  
N2101 Cleghorn Road  
Waupaca, WI 54981  
715-258-0973  
email: pottshe@yahoo.com



**MABEL HEIL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION  
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN**

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Local Church:

Name & City \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of United Methodist Women? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Activities:

In United Methodist Women \_\_\_\_\_

In your local church \_\_\_\_\_

In the community \_\_\_\_\_

3. Education: (Give year of graduation) High School \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

School you will be attending \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been accepted as a student? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Present (post high school) status:

Freshman \_\_\_\_\_ Sophomore \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Senior \_\_\_\_\_ Graduate \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Course of study \_\_\_\_\_

4. Family Status \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please answer the following question using an additional sheet:

IN WHAT WAY DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF A WORTHY STUDENT?

Mail to: Helen Robinson  
N2101 Cleghorn Road  
Waupaca, WI 54981

Phone: 715-258-0973  
Email: pottshe@yahoo.com

# Program Advisory Team

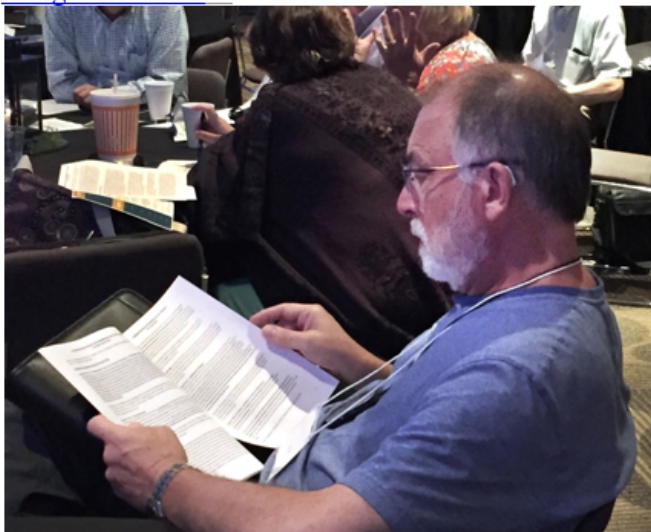
## ▲ Court docket details proposed plans for UMC

By Linda Bloom, Kathy L. Gilbert and Vicki Brown

July 18, 2018 | UMNS

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The Rev. Tom Steagald of Hawthorne Lane United Methodist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, reads the One Church Plan during a break at the July 17 Uniting Methodist Conference in Dallas. The three plans and the full Way Forward report were part of the Judicial Council's October docket. Photo by Sam Hodges, UMNS.

The first public details of proposed legislation setting out three proposals for resolving the denomination's differences over homosexuality are included in the

[United Methodist Judicial Council's October docket.](#)

The special 2019 General Conference — set for Feb. 23-26 in St. Louis — will attempt to find a way forward for The United Methodist Church by considering the three different plans included in the report developed by the Commission on a Way Forward. The full report and all the legislation are part of the docket.

The Council of Bishops has asked the Judicial Council, the denomination's top court, to rule on whether the proposed legislation for the One Church, Connectional Conference and Traditional plans passes the constitutional test. The Judicial Council meets Oct. 23-26 in Zurich.

Included in the 231-page request from the bishops is the full Way Forward Commission report, 17 petitions related to implementation of the One Church Plan, 14 petitions for implementation of the Connectional Conference Plan and 17 petitions for implementation of the Traditional Plan.

The bishops have requested an oral hearing on the plans during the meeting in Zurich.

The bishops, who appointed the 32-member Way Forward Commission, originally said the plans would be made public by July 8, but [then delayed the release of the report](#)

because translation into the four official languages of General Conference was not complete. General Conference organizers then said they expect [the translated report would be available by July 30](#).

The Rev. Thomas M. Berlin, Patricia Miller and the Rev. Thomas Lambrecht were named as the respondents to the petition because they were asked by the council to submit the proposed legislation on behalf of the commission. Berlin submitted for the One Church Plan, Miller for the Connectional Conferences Plan and Lambrecht for the Traditional Plan.

### **One Church Plan**

“The One Church Plan gives churches the room they need to maximize the presence of a United Methodist witness in as many places in the world as possible,” says the opening statement on a report on the work of the Commission on a Way Forward.

The report said the plan honors the connectional nature of The United Methodist Church and that no annual conferences, bishops, congregations or pastors are “compelled to act contrary to their convictions.”

Key issues of the legislation include eliminating the Book of Discipline language, “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Also deleted is the requirement that ordained clergy not be “self-avowed practicing homosexuals.” Each annual conference board of ordained ministry and clergy session may determine standards for ordination or certification, including standards related to human sexuality.

Where laws in civil society define marriage as union between two adults, no United Methodist elder or deacon is required to celebrate or bless a same-sex union. But a clergy person cannot be prohibited from performing same-sex marriages, unions or blessings.

Clergy who cannot in good conscience continue to serve in a conference or church based on the standards for ordination regarding homosexuals may seek to transfer. All clergy with security of appointment shall continue under appointment by the bishop of the annual conference.

Local church members can decide what is best for their congregational and missional context related to same-sex marriage on church property. Local churches must vote — in a church conference open to all members — to allow their property to be used for a same-sex ceremony.

These changes apply only to the jurisdictional conferences in the U.S., according to the report from the Commission on a Way Forward.

“Central conferences, through the work of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters, will have the authority to retain the present language regarding chargeable offenses of clergy and questions of ordination related to homosexuality found in the Book of Discipline (2016) or adopt working in these paragraphs that best serves their missional contexts.”

The One Church Plan ends the threat of church trials over same-gender weddings. Local churches already have the authority to establish wedding policies, and pastors already discern whom they will or will not marry.

The Way Forward report also asks the General Council of Finance and Administration to find means consistent with the Book of Discipline to ensure each jurisdictional conference or area supports the costs of its own episcopal leader and office.

Under the heading “Theological and Biblical Foundations,” the report said the One Church Plan offers more space for both traditionalists and progressives.

“United Methodists in central conferences want space to shape conversations about sexuality according to their national context and without replicating whatever practices shape churches in the United States.

“Other United Methodists want to give space as generously as possible without compromising core identity and mission.”

The One Church Plan honors United Methodists who believe that the denomination’s impasse over marriage and ordination of homosexual individuals “does not rise to the level of a church dividing.”

The report spells out the effects of the One Church Plan on each segment of The United Methodist Church.

“This plan minimizes disruption in the local church (in most cases) and gives freedom to churches to adapt in order to minister to the LGBTQ community in their context. It allows for independence as well as interdependence and creates a contextual church for the next generation.”

The plan allows clergy to remain or leave the church because of a change in language of the Book of Discipline. Their vested pension will be protected at the time of their departure. It also allows clergy to transfer to another annual conference.

According to the commission, no amendments will need to be made to the constitution. If passed at the 2019 General Conference, the One Church Plan could take effect on Jan. 1, 2020. However it is recommended that the church take until Dec. 31, 2020, to fully implement the plan to give everyone time to acclimate.

All three plans contain provisions for handling pension funds, but the One Church and Connectional plans contain no provisions for churches that want to change their relationship with The United Methodist Church. According to the Way Forward report, the Council of Bishops indicated that there were already provisions in place for a church that might want to leave.

“The language of ‘exit’ should be used carefully so as not to encourage people to look for an ‘exit’ but rather to help The United Methodist Church focus on unity,” the Council of Bishops said in the Way Forward report.

The Traditional Plan does include provisions for self-governing churches and annual conferences as well as dealing with church property.

### **Traditional Plan**

The Traditional Plan would affirm current language in the Book of Discipline, which bans “self-avowed and practicing” gay clergy and the blessing of same-sex unions. It would also enforce those bans swiftly and strictly.

The plan’s legislative petitions also provide a way for churches and annual conferences that disagree with strict enforcement to set up self-governing or “autonomous, affiliated or concordant” churches or conferences.

According to the Way Forward report, a “Traditional Model” was prepared by a few members of the Council of Bishops and was not the work of commission.

Support for this plan on both the commission and council was “modest enough” that earlier work on the model was discontinued, then resumed in May at the request of the Council of Bishops that a traditional plan be developed, the report said.

Other provisions include:

- Broadening the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” to include anyone living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or who publicly states that he or she is a homosexual.
- Setting minimum penalties and quicker expulsion after conviction of violations.
- Requiring bishops and annual conferences to certify that they would uphold, enforce and maintain Disciplinary standards on LGBTQ marriage and ordination. Bishops who could not do so would not be eligible for compensation for expenses after 2021 and would be urged to join the self-governing churches.
- Preventing bishops from consecrating, ordaining or commissioning a “self-avowed homosexual” even if that person had been elected or approved by the relevant jurisdictional conference or clergy session. That petition does not include the term “practicing” as part of the ban.

- Reviewing the status of bishops who could not certify they would uphold the Discipline through a newly created Council of Bishops' Council Relations Committee for possible action.
- Handling complaints against bishops under new provisions set out [in a constitutional amendment that was ratified in May](#) and aimed at requiring the Council of Bishops to hold its members accountable.
- Setting a strict timeline for new provisions for handling complaints and making dismissal of complaints more difficult.
- Allowing local churches that disagree with a conference decision not to enforce the Discipline to remain with The United Methodist Church.
- Allowing local churches in a conference that plans to enforce the bans to join the "autonomous, affiliated, or concordant" church if they disagree with their conference. Groups of 50 or more churches could form new denominations.
- Encouraging clergy who could not maintain the ban on LGBTQ marriage and ordination to leave the denomination and join the affiliated churches.
- Requiring any just resolution of a complaint to contain a commitment not to repeat the offense.
- Requiring every annual conference to certify that they would maintain the bans and conferences that did not "would be encouraged" to form self-governing bodies.
- Continuing the current general agencies that could negotiate their services with churches and conferences that leave the denomination.
- Requiring the conference Board of Ordained Ministry to conduct an examination to ascertain whether a candidate was a practicing homosexual, including looking at information on social media.

The Traditional Plan recognizes that "because of the current deep conflict over The United Methodist Church's position on marriage and sexuality," a church or conference may want to form a self-governing church," the Way Forward report said. The plan sets out a timeline for conferences to vote on that issue and detailed procedures for how funds will be handled, including pensions.

The implementation timeline would have the Traditional Plan in place by Jan. 1, 2021.

### **Connectional Conference Plan**

The Connectional Conference plan would simplify the general church structure and provide "both space and connection between those parts of the church currently in deep conflict," the Way Forward Commission report says.

The plan would replace the five U.S. jurisdictions with create three connectional conferences that are "values-based" rather than geographic in nature.

The denomination's current central conferences, which are outside the U.S., could join one of the three U.S. conferences to form a global conference or create their own connectional conference. However, the individual annual conferences that disagree with the decision of their central conference have the option of voting to join a different connectional conference.

Each connectional conference would create its own Book of Discipline that includes items "commonly agreed upon by United Methodists," with the authority to adapt other items not included in a General Book of Discipline.

Each connectional conference's College of Bishops would provide episcopal oversight and accountability and would handle elections, assignments and funding. U.S. conferences would pay for their own bishops, with all U.S. conferences continuing to support bishops outside the U.S. The larger Council of Bishops would focus on ecumenical relations and shared learning.

Each connectional conference would have its own administration and financing; its own policies regarding LGBTQ weddings and ordination and its own standards for clergy.

Justice ministries related to racism and sexism would be organized at the connectional conference level and held accountable by the general church. Cross-connectional conference cooperation and partnerships would remain the same and all connectional conferences would continue to support mission work and ministry outside the U.S.

A shortened General Conference would retain authority over the church's shared doctrine and the services of continuing general agencies. As a venue, General Conference would serve as a gathering place for worship, inspiration and the sharing of best practices.

The commission's report specifies Wespath, the Publishing House, the General Council on Finance and Administration, the Commission on Archives and History and parts of the Board of Global Ministries, including the United Methodist Committee on Relief, as "continuing general agencies," with the future structure of other agencies to be determined "by which connectional conferences desire to participate in them."

The Judicial Council, whose membership would include two persons elected by each connectional conference, would have authority over all judicial matters based on the respective connectional conference Books of Discipline. But conferences also could have their own separate courts.

Included in the procedure and timeline for the Connectional Conference plan:

- The first level of connectional conference affiliation would be at the jurisdictional level. Annual conferences that disagree can choose a different conference, and no local church is required to take a vote unless the choices is different than its annual conference.

- Jurisdictional property would belong to the affiliated connectional conference. Church-owned or church-related entities could make their own affiliation decisions.
- Unless determined otherwise, central conferences would be authorized to elect bishops in 2020, as scheduled. Regions not electing bishops in 2020 would have the mandatory retirement age of bishops waived until 2022.
- A Standing Committee on Connectional Conferences would be established by the 2020 General Conference to help the Council of Bishops facilitate cross-conference connections and cooperative ministry.
- General Conference 2024 would be postponed to 2025 to allow time for the transition and to “disconnect succeeding General Conferences from the U.S. election cycle.”

[Read the full docket item submitted by the Council of Bishops.](#)

*Bloom is the assistant news editor for United Methodist News Service and is based in New York. Gilbert, multimedia reporter, and Brown, UMNS news editor, are based in Nashville.*

Contact them at 615-742-5470 or [newsdesk@UMNews.org](mailto:newsdesk@UMNews.org). To read more United Methodist news, [subscribe to the free Daily or Weekly Digests](#)

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## Calendar 2018

- August 24-26 – Mission u and Executive Team meeting – Pine Lake Camp
- August 31—Special Addition Catch the Vision article due date
- Oct 13 — Catch the Vision article due date
- Oct. 19-20 – Annual Gathering – Waukesha: First UMC
- Nov. 2-3 – Team Meeting and Mission u – LaCrosse Wesley
- December 22—Catch the Vision article due date
- Feb 1-3, 2019 Leadership Development Days—Tempe, AZ