



“United Women in Faith connects and nurtures women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. “



Gloria Carter

When I began this journey as Conference President four years ago, I had served on the district and conference executive teams previously. I thought I knew what I was getting myself into when I said “yes” to the Nominations Committee. I had been hearing some talk of “new wineskins.” That sounded like changes were coming, but I really had no idea. For those of you who served on the Executive Team at that time (and may still be serving), thanks for your support as we ventured out into new ways of being United Women in Faith.

One big change is our presence on social media. This is where you’ll find the young people. If you haven’t already explored it, give it a try. Or ask a young woman at church for help. They may want to explore it, too: <https://uwfaith.mn.co/>

Please continue to support each other and stay involved in United Women in Faith, whether that’s through your local church, online groups, emails, or other means.

Love in action can change the world!

Gloria

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Spiritual Growth

John 9:5: As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

When we experience a loss of power, it changes everything, and it makes our lives more difficult. Doesn't this hold true also when it comes to our personal relationship with Jesus?

Staying connected to Jesus through our daily devotions is our source of renewal each new day. We reconnect to our spiritual source of power in Jesus, our Savior. Jesus is always available, never too busy to listen. He is our true source of strength, our guide, protector, and our very best friend.



Audrae Richards

When we go forward in our daily living armored with Jesus' love and gentle spirit, He surrounds us with His gracious love to catch what life throws our way each new day. Bottom line, it's up to us to keep that connection strong. Just like it's up to the electric company to keep a strong connection.

As we approach this season of joy, we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Let us rejoice that through His grace we are gifted with salvation! Oh, what a beautiful reason to rejoice! Jesus is the true meaning of this season of joy.

God is our light to eternal life and love all because of this beautiful Christ child. Come, let us adore Him; worship Him with open hearts! Let the joy and love in our hearts celebrating Jesus' birth help to recharge our lives this Christmas season.

In Christ's love,
Happy Birthday, Jesus!

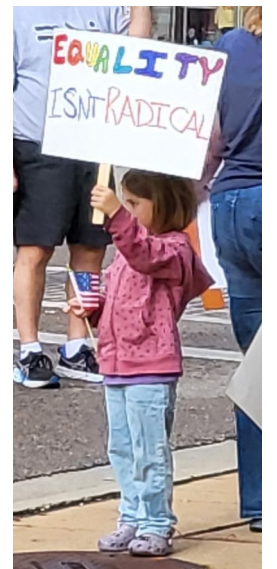
Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for being the light in our lives, whether it is a bright sunny day or a dark and dreary one. Help us remember to be connected to you every day so that we can better attend to our daily tasks with your love and care. As we approach the Christmas season, help us to remember the true reason for this season, and the never ending joy that you give us. In Your Name we pray, Amen.

Our guest contributor of the meditation for today is Audrae Richards. Richards is the new Spiritual Growth leader for South West District. She is a member of Lodi United Women in Faith.

**OUR CURRENT JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS ARE:
ENDING MASS INCARCERATION AND CRIMINALIZATION OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR
AND CLIMATE JUSTICE.**

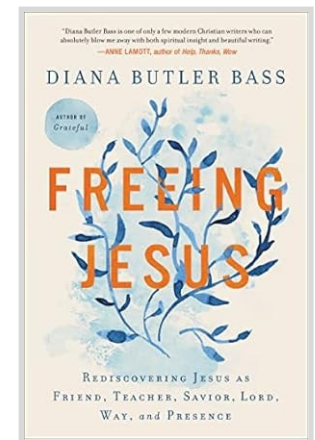
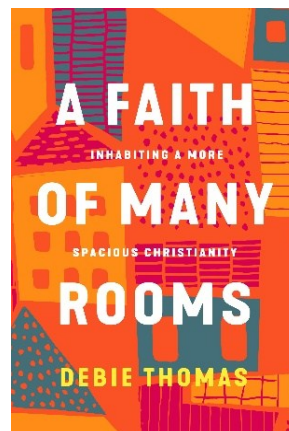
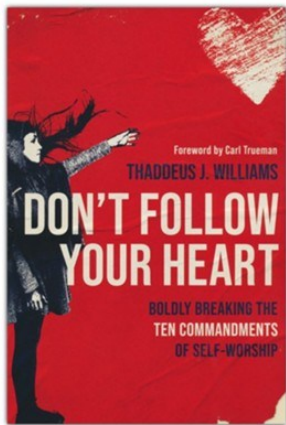
For 150+ years, Methodist women organized for mission have worked in the name of Jesus to take positions on social justice issues and change legislation, systems, structures and practices considered unjust and oppressive. These bold foremothers advocated to end lynching, to improve women's health, to raise women's status in society, to organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families and to adopt the Charter for Racial Justice.

(Sign held by a young girl at a recent protest "Equality isn't Radical")

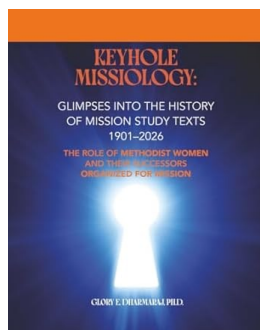


Begin your Mission u 2026 Journey Now with Reading Program Books

Want to give yourself a start on Mission u or do a deeper dive than you have time for when attending Mission u? This year Mission u has recommended four books from the Reading Program specifically to enhance your engagement with the 2026 Mission u theme of “Experiencing Emmanuel”. The books are *Don’t Follow Your Heart: Boldly Breaking the Ten Commandments of Self-Worship* by Thaddeus J. Williams, *Our Unforming: De-Westernizing Spiritual Formation* by Cindy Lee, *A Faith of Many Rooms: Inhabiting a More Spacious Christianity* by Debie Thomas and *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence* by Diana Butler Bass.



Looking for a way to live beyond #liveyourbestlife and other consumer driven popular life paths? *Don't Follow Your Heart* is a practical look at how faith can give you new ways to be fulfilled and find purpose. Interested in exploring new ways of engaging in spiritual practices inspired by non-western traditions? *De-Westernizing Spiritual Transformation* expands the scope of faith practices to explore what non-western traditions can teach us about finding new experiences of God. Perhaps you would like to explore how God may be speaking to people of other faith traditions. *A Faith of Many Rooms* explores how Jesus may be reaching those outside of traditional Christian frameworks and across faith boundaries. Of course, you can't go wrong with Diana Butler Bass as she reinterprets Jesus and his ministry in *Freeing Jesus*. This book will allow you to see Jesus with new eyes and see his ministry in new ways. No matter which book or books you choose, Mission u 2026 will be here to engage you in new ways of learning and “Experiencing Emmanuel”, in today's world.



If you have been missing our mission studies from the past, you are in luck. Glory Dharmaraj has written a book to celebrate 125 years of our mission study texts. Read *Keyhole Missiology* to learn the history of our studies and celebrate our long commitment to transformative mission education.

Mission u 2026: Experiencing Emmanuel

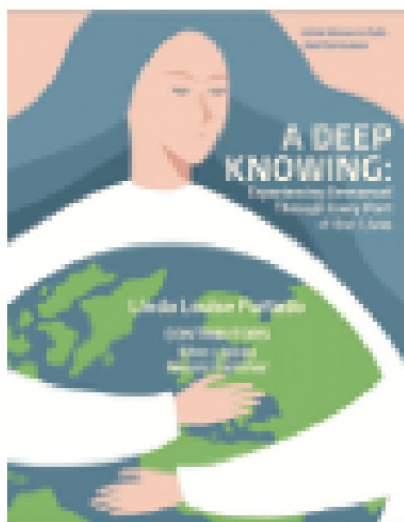


Join us at **Mission u** as we explore the theme, “Experiencing Emmanuel”.

- How do we experience God in times of joy and in challenging times of anxiety, fear, or sadness?
- Can we experience God’s presence in community as we work for justice?

Mission u will explore the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or “God with us.” What can we learn from these Emmanuel encounters in the Bible to help inform our discernment of faith, hope, and love in action?

Mission u 2026 offers three exciting curricula on this theme. Order your copy at: uwfaithresources.org



Adult Curriculum: A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives

This curriculum is designed to help participants take a step back and a closer look at the various ways we see Emmanuel within and around biblical stories. What can it look like to walk with God as people who face adversity, issues of justice, and a heritage of relational and spiritual connections? This curriculum encourages participants to seek out and name the experiences of Emmanuel from biblical time to our present day as we look toward our future in faith.

Save the Date:

Zoom Mission u Tues/Thurs. June 16, 18, 23, 25, 2026 from 6:30 pm-9:00 pm

In-Person Mission u Sat. July 11, 2026 at Hotel Mead, Wisconsin Rapids

Come learn together for the transformation of the world!



United
Women
in Faith



Assembly 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

May 15-17, 2026

**It is NOT too late to register for
Assembly 2026.**

Even with early registration closed, you can still register for Assembly at the regular price of \$395 until April 1, 2026 at: <https://uwfaith.org/assembly>

The optional Thursday event on May 14 has been changed to a Soul Care only event. Have questions about this option? Contact: Linda K. Whitelock
608-575-1517
lindakayw1@outlook.com

Want to join others from Wisconsin on our chartered bus or at the Westin Indianapolis Hotel? You can still reserve a seat on the bus, get a roommate or reserve a room using our bus/hotel registration form on our website: <https://wisconsinumw.org>

Hotel rates are no longer guaranteed. You are welcome to make your own reservations through Visit Indy (see your Assembly confirmation email for a link), but if you are looking for a roommate or want someone else to do the work for you, our Conference Assembly Liaison, Laura Pfeffer, will be happy to make arrangements for you.

Questions? Contact: Laura Pfeffer
608-698-7508 (c)
608-592-5228 (h)
pfeffer.umw@gmail.com

You may also use the QR code below to register.



uwfaith.org/assembly



United
Women
in Faith

Northcott Neighborhood House Receives Grant from UWFaith

By Gail Burgess, Northcott Board Secretary

The Northcott Neighborhood House staff and board members are very appreciative of a grant received from United Women in Faith. The national office provided funding which was used for Northcott's summer program for youth.



Fifty-two youths, ages 5-12, participated in a summer day camp held from June 15 to August 22, 2025. Among the activities sponsored were a Walk for Wellness, skating and "Team Smile" at Brewers stadium. A visit to the American Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee served as an intergenerational activity with seniors from Northcott's Senior Club. The group also participated in bowling and a visit with Milwaukee Mayor, Cavalier Johnson.

At the Harambee Neighborhood Back to School Block Party on August 13, more than 800 youth received book bags filled with school supplies.

An additional activity, for youth was held on October 26: a Trunk or Treat in the block in front of Northcott. Fifteen hundred children and youth were provided with a safe place to trick or treat!

Northcott continues to provide outreach into its community and will soon be providing holiday meals and gifts for children and youth at Christmas!

Thank you for your support of Northcott and its many opportunities for the Harambee neighborhood.

Important updates to the GOLDTOE[®] Socks Free Recycling Program

By Marilyn Eyster

Starting December 4, 2025, this program no longer offers TerraCycle Recycling Rewards points.

Starting December 18, 2025, this program only accepts GOLDTOE-brand socks for recycling. Other brands of socks will no longer be accepted. We will still be able to download shipping labels to mail in GOLDTOE-brand socks but will not receive reward points for them. Check out [terracycle.com](https://www.terracycle.com) for other recycling ideas.

I know many of you are left with boxes full of socks. You have been so dedicated to creatively collect and send in clean, used socks. The good news is that as of June 2025 Northcott received a total of \$3,500. from your recycling. In January 2026 Northcott should receive another healthy check from TerraCycle. Then in June 2026 Northcott should get a smaller check from the final socks sent in by December 4, 2025. These are extra funds Northcott would otherwise not have had to support all the vital mission work they are doing. It was very much a team effort by our many United Women in Faith members involved. **Thankful for you all!**

Note: *We first got this sock recycling idea from Josie Gobel. If you would like to receive her "Green Team Times" newsletter with other ideas for recycling, contact her at josiegobel@charter.net or 920-988-0705.*

Mabel Heil Scholarship Fund Wisconsin Conference

The Mabel Heil scholarship committee is looking for applicants! Encourage graduating seniors, college students, or women returning to school perhaps as a second career to apply. The information for eligibility and how to apply is listed below. It may also be found in the 2025 Yearbook on page 60.

The Mabel Heil Scholarships are made possible by earnings from a trust established in the will of Sarah Mabel Heil, a resident of Cuba City, Wisconsin. Funds are awarded by the Heil Scholarship Committee of the Wisconsin Conference United Women in Faith and are invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation. Any Wisconsin United Methodist woman working to improve her education may apply.

Available Funds:

- a. Funds will be invested in the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation, in a fund split 60% equity and 40% fixed.
- b. Funds available to provide scholarships for each semester will be calculated as 2.5% of the fair market value of the Mabel Heil Scholarship Fund as of the end of the month prior to the approval of scholarships.

Eligibility Requirements:

- a. Must be a female member of the United Women in Faith and/or United Methodist Church in Wisconsin.
- b. Submit a written answer to the question, "In what ways do I consider myself a worthy student?"
- c. Letter of recommendation from either the president of the local UWFaith unit or from your pastor.
- d. Letter of recommendation from a church member who is not a member of your household and is not a relative. (Person writing letter on behalf of applicant is to send the letter directly to the contact person).
- e. All letters must be written (preferably typed) on one side of an 8.5"x11" sheet of white paper using black ink.

Application Procedures:

- a. Awarded for one semester at a time. To be considered again for any subsequent semester, send letter asking to be reconsidered.
- b. Graduate students may apply for each semester as long as they meet the other requirements.
- c. Application and two (2) letters of recommendation OR RECONSIDERATION LETTER must be received by May 1 for the fall semester or October 1 for the spring semester. Checks will be disbursed by August 15 and January 15.

Application forms may be requested from loosesilv45@gmail.com or the address below.

Obtain an application form and send to:

Mabel Heil Scholarship
Lucy Silvester
373 15th Ave.
Nekoosa, WI 54457
Phone: 715-325-2841

Wisconsin Conference Slate of Officers 2026

President	Linda Whitelock	6137 Dell Dr Madison, WI 53718 608-575-1517 lindakayw1@outlook.com	First Term Expires 2027
Vice President/Program Coordinator	Cindy Tyjeski	451 21 st Ave Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495 715-323-9656 tlc_wis@yahoo.com	First Term Expires 2026
Secretary	Nelida Sjak-Shie	802 Williamson St. Unit #4 Madison, WI 53703 314-852-2450 curecancer@sbcglobal.net	First Term Expires 2027
Treasurer	Robin Digman	317 W Merrimac St. Dodgeville, WI 53533 608-341-8315 dgrbmm@gmail.com	First Term Expires 2027
Spiritual Growth	Barb Mamerow	11839 Cooperstown Rd. Denmark, WI 54208 920-863-2416 uwifsg@gmail.com	First Term Expires 2027
Membership Nurture and Outreach	Katrina Willis	2922 Harvey St. Madison, WI 53705 608-658-3109 katrinav.willis@outlook.com	Interim
Communications	Marilyn Eyster	122 E. Cox Rd Edgerton, WI 53534 h-608-868-3585 c-608-480-9424 marilyn.eyster@gmail.com	Second Term Expires 2026
Social Action	Josie Gobel	309 W. Johnson St. Apt. 930 Madison, WI 53703 920-988-0705 josiegobel@charter.net	First Term Expires 2027
Education and Interpretation	Mia Haberl	951 E Elizabeth St. Apt 105 Shawano, WI 54166 920-265-8794 miahaberl@gmail.com	Second Term expires 2026
Committee on Nominations Chair	Katrina Willis	2922 Harvey St. Madison, WI 53705 608-658-3109 katrinav.willis@outlook.com	Term Expires 2027
Mission u Dean	Laura Pfeffer	W10132 Koltres Rd Lodi, WI 53555 h-608-592-5228 c-608-698-7508 pfeffer.umw@gmail.com	Term expires 2025

New Conference Officers for 2026

Conference Spiritual Growth

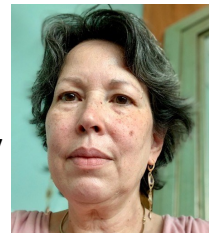


Barb Mamerow

Greetings from Denmark....that is in Wisconsin, just southeast of Green Bay. I am so happy to be a part of the United Women in Faith Organization and to serve as the new person in the Spiritual Growth Position. I have filled the pulpit many times in many different places as a Lay Speaker and am currently taking classes to become a Certified Lay Minister. I have been a part of this organization for over 10 years, serving as the cook for the Lakeshore UMW and then later as the Spiritual Growth person for that group and at the NE District level. Being part of such a powerful, awesome group of women who accomplish so much each and every year is a real treasure. I look forward to working with and meeting with all of you. Blessings, Barb Mamerow

Conference Secretary

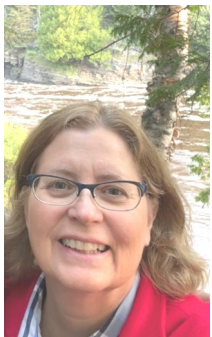
I was born in Paramaribo, Suriname. I came to the US at age 17 to study at the University of Florida where I completed my PhD in pharmacology and therapeutics. I subsequently completed my MD at Washington University School of Medicine and a fellowship in hematology/oncology at UCLA. My husband is also a physician, and we met and married in the hospital we both were working at.



Nelida Sjak-shire

I am currently enjoying retirement keeping busy in the kitchen baking sourdough, cookies and other desserts. I love cooking new international recipes I get from the internet or cooking apps. I am an avid reader, love to make greeting cards, and play with my 2 ragdoll cats. We have an apple/pear orchard and like to share the bounty with friends and family.

Conference Treasurer



Robin Digman

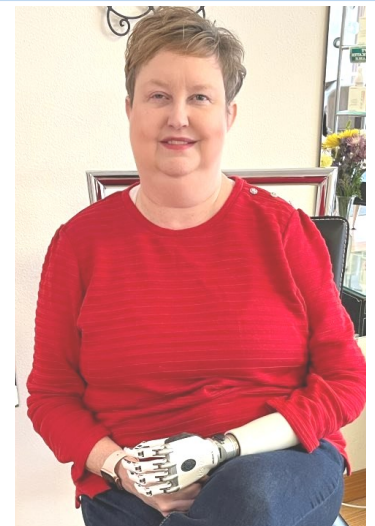
Robin Digman is very happy to be our new conference Treasurer although

she knows filling Lisa King's shoes is a very big order. She loves the outdoors and enjoys boating and fishing.

Conference President

My term as the Chair of the Nominations Committee is ending this year. For 2026, we filled all required positions and all but one coordinator position. We do need a Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator and nominations committee members. We also need a Mission u team. Being a part of the nominations committee is a rewarding experience. You can help shape the leadership team. The districts also need nominations committee members. The work is easier with full teams.

I am looking forward to serving as president next year. Planning for our 2026 conference programs is already under way. The highlight of the year will be Assembly in May. I hope to see you there.



Linda Whitelock

New Conference Officers for 2026

Conference Chair of Nominations



Katrina V Willis

Tis the season to reflect upon our blessings. This year has thrown a multitude of challenges at each and every one of us. Yet we have all persevered with God's grace. It has been an honor, privilege, and a blessing to have served as the Wisconsin Conference Membership, Nurture, and Outreach Coordinator (MNO) for the past two terms (or four years). I will continue to serve as interim MNO until someone else takes over the position. During my tenure, the United Women of Faith (UWFaith) has:

1. Adapted to challenges that have risen due to the COVID 19 pandemic
2. Witnessed changes to the United Methodist denomination plus its impact on UWFaith units and membership
3. Heard leaders talk about their desire to retire without viable replacements
4. Discovered a need to increase membership and inspire more members to step into leadership at all levels
5. Highlighted the necessity to develop and publish a UWFaith Wisconsin Unit Survey that accurately captures what our units are doing statewide
6. Promised to facilitate modification of the National UWFaith annual survey to capture exactly what Wisconsin units are contributing to their local communities and churches
7. Continued to evolve to meet the needs and expectations of all of our sisters
8. Striven to recruit diverse members to help sustain United Women in Faith for many decades

On January 1, 2026 it is my honor, privilege, and a blessing to serve my first term as Nominations Chair, Wisconsin Conference of United Women in Faith. I am currently seeking District members to serve on the committee. Won't you share the gifts of your time and talents by serving on it? Try it for a term and perhaps you will serve two! I look forward to collaborating with you all.

Please feel free to contact me via email or by phone if you have questions or require additional information. Both are listed below. Thank you so much for your grace.

Peace and blessings,
Katrina V Willis

WI Conference Nominations Chair

Interim WI Conference Member Nurture and Outreach Coordinator

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

Phone: 608-658-3109

Email: katrinav.willis@outlook.com

New Conference Officers for 2026

Conference Coordinator for Social Action

Hello everyone,

I send greetings of “Goodbye” and “Hello”. By that I mean I am retiring from Nominations. However, I have one more ask! I am still praying that at least one person from each District will come forward to offer to help the new Nominations Chair, Katrina V. Willis. At this point, Linda Whitelock and I have not been able to find anyone from the Districts to help her. To stay as a viable team, we need wide input and help on Nominations. As you read this, please consider this as your special invitation to join the Conference Nominations Team. Katrina V. Willis’s email is: katrinav.willis@outlook.com



Josie Gobel

Katrina will also be looking for someone to replace her as Membership, Nurture and Outreach Coordinator.

My “Hello” is that I have agreed to be Conference Coordinator for Social Action. Retiring Kathy Hartke has set the bar high. I take comfort in that she has offered to help me. I will be meeting with the District Social Action Coordinators soon and we will strategize on how best to communicate with everyone on how we might Inspire, Impact and use our Influence in our world for good.

In the meantime, please reserve Saturday morning on April 11th for our ZOOM Social Action Day event. If you are interested in having a Watch Party at your church, please give me a call. I look forward to working with you. Stay Tuned.

Josie Gobel

920-988-0705

josiegobel@charter.net

Farewell from Chris Anding, Conference Secretary

Thank you for the privilege to serve you and work with all the wonderful officers by recording the minutes during the many meetings, Conference and SE District, learning so much through worship and witness at the Conference and District Gatherings and exploring the areas where we attended i.e. International Crane Foundation and Aldo Leopold Center at Baraboo and the Move4Mission sculpture walk in the rain at Eau Claire. I want to thank Josie Gobel for her assistance as we worked on the Yearbook four years and Marilyn Eyster, Gloria Carter and Deb Pattee for their help and support helping me plan for the 2024 Annual Gathering at Eau Claire, Lake Street along with their members. I was thankful to get to know so many people all over the state. It was a spiritual experience I will never forget. God bless you!



Chris Anding

Tips for writing our Organization’s Name According to our National Office

Please use UWFaith. Note there is no “of” or extra “in”. Note there is no 3-letter abbreviation. Our National Office recommends using our full name first in written documents. Then later in the text you can use UWFaith.

United Women in Faith
Wisconsin Conference
c/o Marilyn Eyster
122 East Cox Road
Edgerton, WI 53534

Calendar 2026

CTV Newsletter Deadlines

March 1, May 1, Sept. 1, Dec. 1



United
Women
in Faith

January 10	Executive Meeting by Zoom 9 am—12 noon
February 28	Mission u Meeting by Zoom 9 am—12 noon
March 28	Executive Team by Zoom 9 am—12 noon
April 11	Social Action Day—Zoom with Watch Parties 9 am—12 noon
May 15-17	2026 Quadrennial Assembly at Indianapolis, Indiana
June 16,18, 23, 25	Mission u by Zoom
July 11	Mission u Overview Day at Wisconsin Rapids 9 am—3:30 pm
August 21-23	Mega Meeting at Pine Lake Camp
October 10	Conference Annual Gathering at Wisconsin Rapids
November 7	Executive Meeting by Zoom 9 am—12 noon