



NORTH COUNTRY BREEZES

**NORTH DISTRICT UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
DESERT SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE**

Volume 32 Issue 4

December 2019



President's Message

**Eileen Guillermo
North District President**

Greetings Fellow United Methodist Women,

What an exciting time of year we are preparing to celebrate as we enter the season of Advent and the beginning the new Christian year starting December 1st. As I reflect on this past year as a disciple of Christ and member of United Methodist Women, I am thankful for the opportunities afforded me through United Methodist Women to learn, grow spiritually, and to act. I also ask myself did I hear God calling me into action and did I do enough, or at times did I fail to hear or act? Did I do enough to further His Kingdom or as a member of United Methodist Women did I live into our Purpose? Did I act with hope and joy in my heart and share that love and joy through my interaction with others? I must admit I did not always get it right. My own human nature at times became my own stumbling block. However, my interaction with my fellow United Methodist Women sisters helped to keep me grounded to see, hear, and act beyond myself to the best of my abilities. I am thankful.

I am especially reflective this year. I have had the privilege and honor of serving as the North District President of the Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women for the past four years. Serving as your president or holding a leadership role in the church or any organization was never on my radar or bucket list when I retired. I remember first becoming involved with United Methodist Women while working in Fort Worth, Texas. I was approached by a United Methodist Women member who invited me to help the local unit host and participate in a community mission project of Christmas in July. What a rewarding experience to be included in this event and to see all the local units of the entire district come together for a mission project that benefited the children of the community. These women not only displayed their faith, hope, and love, but they put that into action. They truly lived into the Purpose. (Continued page 2)

When I retired, and moved to Las Vegas, Nevada, the women of the local church here who were members of United Methodist Women, invited me to attend a local meeting. I loved reading and I was asked to serve as the unit's Reading Program Coordinator at the local level. Little did I know at that time how the reading program would influence my actions as a disciple of Christ and a member of United Methodist Women. Several months later I attended my first North District Annual Celebration. I don't know what was said to lead me or nudge me into the decision to step up and out in faith into the unknown and into a leadership role. My first conference leadership training event had a underlying theme of "For Such a Time as This". I have taken on that mantra. The next four years is now history. It has been a blessing for me to serve as your president. I cannot say enough how important each and every one of my United Methodist Women sisters is to me and how each has touched my heart over the years. Even if we only have met briefly with a smile or via an email or phone call, you were my encouragement and God was my rock. Those moments we shared are valued, and I appreciate each and every one of my sisters, for their support and kindness.

So, as we wind down the calendar year, with unit officer elections and the installation of new unit officers and the completion of year end reports and rosters, know that new opportunities are fast approaching. My heart is touched and sings with the unlimited possibilities in the new year for your unit members and your newly elected 2020 North District leadership team. I am excited about the works God has in store for you. I pray that each local unit member and members of the North District leadership team continue to live into the Purpose and step out in faith, hope, love and that as an organization of over 150 years we continue to act on behalf of women, children, and youth. May your light continue to shine.

As always, be well, be safe, and be blessed.



**Leadership Development/Mini Mission u Event
One Event - Two Locations
on Two Different Saturdays in January**

The 2020 leadership development session is designed to give all officers—new and continuing—an overview of how each position works in cooperation with all other positions and the unit membership to fulfill our Purpose. It's a little bit like the picture that is formed as the puzzle pieces are put in position. You and I and all the other officers and members are essential to the whole picture! Come for a fresh look at how our "pieces" fit together.

The Mini Mission u session features the mission study "Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission," and will be led by Eileen Guillermo. See you at one of the events – JANUARY 11, St. Michaels UMC in Lake Havasu City **or** JANUARY 18, 1st Henderson UMC in Henderson, NV. Registration form is on page 3.

SOMETHING NEW AT DESERT SPRING

Alison Kerr, president



This year the Desert Spring UMW Craft and Arts Fair joined with two church events to host our first Fall Festival.

Desert Spring Church holds a Chili Cook Off in the fall and our Children's Ministry hosts a Fun Fest.

We put our collective heads together and planned a combined event – A FALL FESTIVAL.

Not only was it a huge success, it was a collaborative effort that we can't wait to recreate next year!

Mark your calendars for the second weekend in November 2020 and share in our 2nd annual salute to the Fall season!





Summary of Recent District and Conference Events

Karen Dallatore, secretary

“So, encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.” Thessalonians 5:11

October and November have blessed me with wonderful opportunities to both give and receive encouragement from and to my United Methodist Women sisters in Christ. North District's Annual Celebration was filled with interesting and informative speakers, each of which spoke about the accomplishments of United Methodist Women and encouraged us to continue in our mission to build up and support women, children and youth. These speakers included Kenya Roberts, Executive for Development Management, United Methodist Women National; Jungrea Chung, Retired Clergy of United Methodist Church; Deaconess Jane Ann Murray; and Lanette Rivera, Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth - Communications and Donor Relations. Journey United Methodist Women did an excellent job of hosting this event.

The Desert Southwest Conference Annual Celebration in Sun Lakes, AZ was equally exciting. I was so encouraged by the fact that all attendees had the opportunity to attend each of three break-out sessions, because it would have been very difficult to choose between **1. Zero Weeks Documentary** (addressing the U.S. paid family leave crisis) or **2. At the Cost of One's Soul** addressing the school to prison pipeline led by Billie Fidlin; Director of Outreach and Justice for our conference, or **3. United Methodist Women Way Forward** led by Estella Wallace; UMW director, taking us into the future of United Methodist Women. It was especially encouraging to get better acquainted with new members of the North District Leadership team, Pamela Huff; Communications Coordinator, Rhonda Glaze; Social Action Coordinator: and Jane Ann Murray; Treasurer. Once again, the host United Methodist Women unit provided terrific hospitality.

November 9th I was blessed to be in Mesa, Az for the Conference Retreat/Leadership Team Meeting held at Dayspring UMC. There we enjoyed spirit-filled praise and worship, fun team building activities and shared ideas and information through various conference reports. Dayspring United Methodist Women provided plenty of snacks and a wonderful lunch.

As controversial issues were discussed at each of these events, United Methodist Women shared information and ideas with total respect for one another, always encouraging and building up each person in love. Like Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, ***“...just as you are already doing.”***

See more about Zero Weeks at

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave>

First Henderson United Methodist Women

Kim B. Jacques, president

With such a busy year it is hard to believe it is already time to start a New Year!

During this year, we had several blessed events, and Spirit-filled educational gatherings with many ladies from the surrounding units. Mission u was a first for some of our newly elected officers. We celebrated our 150 Year Legacy in service with the whole congregation, then right into the Reading Program, Dry Bottoms donations, and Hats and Hands, and on to the Fall Bake Sale...just to mention a few accomplishments of our unit.



In 2020, we are gearing up to serve wherever and whenever we are needed. In that vein of spirit, I would like to take this time to share some of the notes and thoughts from the 2019 Mission u, Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission, in hopes that others may be so blessed as to attend.

God, Jesus Christ, and women of faith allowed personal freedom and wholeness to provide the platform to engage and embrace others. Wholeness means different things to many individuals. Some derive their wholeness from a group of individuals that are like-minded, educated, similar station in life, economic status, and more. Hopefully, everyone has at least one person in their corner that understands our belief in God, is where wholeness begins.

At Mission u the session opened with prayer, scripture, music and hymns, praise and worship, introductions, sign-up, start up, agendas, and facilitated group classrooms were selected, then the real learning began. We were all blessed to embrace each other, share our stories and acts of personal freedom, and fill our spirit from the knowledge and wisdom shared as whole persons.

If you have not yet attended Mission u or leadership training, my hope is that you will soon. See you next year!

St. Michael's Christmas Bazaar

Cyndy Montgomery, president

The St. Michael's United Methodist Women in Lake Havasu City, AZ held a bake sale, and sold jewelry and dish cloths at our Christmas Bazaar, November 8th and 9th. We will be giving all of the proceeds to mission.

Pictured left to right are Lois Robinson, our treasurer, and Louise Hartwell, our secretary.



District Annual Celebration Wrap-Up

North District 2019 Annual Celebration was exciting and informative. Journey United Methodist Women hosted the event at Journey UMC in Las Vegas. Here are photos to remind us of that day.



Jungrea Chung, 2019 Marilyn Jean Chapman Scholarship recipient. She gave a short presentation of her experience of attending Mission u this past summer and thanked United Methodist Women for giving her this opportunity to attend Mission u.

Pictured in center from left to right are two of the guest speakers at the 2019 North District Annual Celebration. Kenya Roberts, Executive for Development Management, UMW National, and Lanette Rivera, Communications & Donor Relations for Nevada Partnership of Homeless Youth (NPHY).

Kenya gave an inspiring presentation of hope and action of United Methodist Women and our work as an organization leading into the future.

Lanette provided us with information about the extent of the homelessness of youth in the Las Vegas valley. Our mission focus this year at the annual celebration was NPHY and all donations of hygiene items were blessed and presented to NPHY for distribution to the homeless youth within the Las Vegas valley.



The PURPOSE of United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Congratulations to the 2020 North District Leadership Team!



Pictured L to R: Sharon Scobie, Outgoing Treasurer; Betty Brewer, Committee on Nominations Chair; Karen Dallatore, President; Pam Huff, Communications Coordinator; Rhonda Glaze, Social Action Coordinator; Kay Leonard, Committee on Nominations (CON); Gracie Campbell, CON; Alma Crenshaw, CON; Barbara Lewis, Educating Members for Mission Coordinator; Claribel Williams, Spiritual Growth Coordinator; and Jane Ann Murray, Treasurer. Not pictured but serving on the leadership team: Terrie Shipman, Program Resources; Annette Stanley, CON; and Allie Lakey, Conference CON

▶ ["Paid Leave Helps Families"](#) - read the story by Ellen Bravo and Wendy Chun-Hoon in response magazine, May/June 2019 issue

Reminders to All Unit Presidents of Year End Reports

Eileen Guillermo, president



Please forward a copy of your **2020 officers and their contact information** to Karen Dallatore, your new North District President, so that the 2020 North District directory can be compiled. Karen's email address is karenbruner@cox.net and her telephone number is (702) 338-0721.

Review and submit your **Mission Today** forms to Karen Dallatore for unit recognition in January 2020 at the annual Leadership Development events.

If your unit has maintained or completed requirements for the **Living the Charter for Racial Justice**, please forward completed form to Rhonda Glaze, North District Social Action Coordinator. Rhonda's email address is mamacat42.rg@gmail.com and her contact number is (702) 265-6643.

Recognize members of your unit that have participated in the United Methodist Women **Reading Program**. Submit their names and the plan they completed prior to December 31, 2019 for reading certifications and recognition in January 2020 at the annual Leadership Development events.

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.



For more information and to register for future Faith Talks, go to <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks>

Reading Program - New For 2020

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram>

Where to Find Books

You might notice that books in the 2020 Reading Program publication are not listed with stock numbers; nor will you find the usual order form and shipping information. For the first time, this year United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online. Think of this resource not as a catalog, as in past years, but as a guide.

Although Amazon is always a convenient option, please consider obtaining Reading Program books through:

- School and public libraries
- Local independent bookstores
- Franchises of larger bookstore chains

As always, most Reading Program books can also be found for reading electronically on your Kindle, tablet or other devices. For ebooks free of charge, check your local library, Google eBookstore, Project Gutenberg or Open Library.

If you do order books through Amazon, please remember to visit smile.amazon.com, Amazon's charitable giving page, and select "**United Methodist Women**" as your charitable organization. For all eligible purchases made on smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% to United Methodist Women.

Children and Youth Books

As in the past, this year's Reading Program includes books for readers of all ages. Books that would formerly have been listed under "Children" and "Youth" are now distributed among the remaining categories. Look for the line "Suitable for children" or "Suitable for youth" when selecting books to read.

Bonus Books

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. This year, Bonus Books are also the current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. To purchase United Methodist Women mission studies, go to: umwmissionresources.org.

Mission Giving, Reminders, Encouragement

Sharon Scobie, Retiring Treasurer

First, a reminder to submit all 2019 pledges and any additional giving to me by December 10. As in the past, if money arrives later than that it will be credited to 2020. This is the same as in past years so should be no surprise to anyone. Remember also that you should be reviewing your funds and save only enough to get you through the first two months of the next year. Large sums of money sitting in a checking or savings account do not serve the purpose of United Methodist Women. North District will also be emptying their account of surplus funds.

Second, I will be stepping down as district treasurer on January 1 as Jane Murray has stepped forward to serve in 2020. I have enjoyed serving as your treasurer for these past seven years. I will miss serving on the district team; it has been a great experience.

I encourage you to consider serving on the district team. You learn a lot about United Methodist Women on a different level than your local unit. As a member of the team, you have the support of each person serving. It is truly an organization that values teamwork.

I have been serving as a member of district or conference for over 20 years and consider it one of the best experiences of my life. I will continue to be treasurer of my local unit, Desert Spring.

Don't forget leadership development in January. You will want to get acquainted with the new officers on the team. Jane may want to do some things differently than I did so it is important to get to know her.

Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

