



North Country Breezes

North District United Methodist Women
Desert Southwest Conference

Special points of interest:

- Black Lives Matter
- “Finding Peace in an Anxious World”
- Quadrennial Meeting
- Racial Injustice Interviews
- Pick Three
- Notes from Local Units

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June 2020

President’s Message

Karen Dallatore

The past three months have certainly been a period of learning new ways to stay informed and connected while social distancing. Many of us are getting adept at using technology as we never have before. Along with participating in meetings on Zoom and other social media, I have learned that a simple phone call or greeting card can bring a great deal of comfort and encouragement to those who are suffering from illness, tragic circumstances or loneliness. A good example was celebrating Easter without the fellowship of my church family. I was the recipient of lovely e-cards from some of my sisters in United Methodist Women, and that truly lifted my spirits. I thank God for these opportunities to show love and concern for one another whether

through computer technology, mail, or phone. The important thing is that we stay connected and do not lose sight of our mission goals. We do not know how to pray for one another if we don’t communicate! The Desert Southwest Conference, United Methodist Women met on May 2, 2020 via Zoom. One of the agenda items was to review priorities and emphases. It was decided to make Climate Justice the number one priority for the next few years as recommended by National United Methodist Women. Our Social Action Coordinator, Rhonda Glaze has been continually active in providing resources to increase our knowledge regarding climate justice including opportunities to register and participate in United Methodist Women webinars. I was able to



North District President, Karen Dallatore, and her husband, David

attend the April 23rd session “Why Just Energy for All”. The interactive webinar began with biblical references on our responsibility for caring for God’s creation. The final session was on May 21st and examined how we as United Methodist

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Black Lives Matter to God and Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women continues to grieve the extrajudicial killings of Black people in America. It has only been a few weeks since we [spoke out against the killing of Ahmaud Arbery](#), and in that time two more killings have shaken the country: the death of Breonna Taylor in her own home in Louisville and the death of George Floyd on a public street in Minneapolis. United Methodist Women grieves with the fami-

lies of those who have been killed.

United Methodist Women condemns the culture of White supremacy and the racism it nurtures. We decry the criminalization of Blackness as it shows up in these most extreme, fatal cases *and* as it appears in the everyday harassment that disrupts everyday life—from coffee shop meetings to street corner catchups to,

This article is from the United Methodist Women website unitedmethodist-women.org dated June 1, 2020.

most recently, even solo bird-watching. Such racial harassment exhausts the mind, body, and spirit of many in the family of God.

At times, United Methodist Women members and leaders have been complicit in this violence: When Ida B. Wells invited legendary lay leader Frances Willard to join in the antilynching movement, Ms.

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“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you ever can.”

John Wesley

President’s Message

Women can be part of advocating for energy that is cleaner and more just for God’s people and creation at the national, state, and local level. For more information, please go to climatejustice@unitedmethodistwomen.org. Thanks, Rhonda for making us aware of these issues.

In addition to climate justice, our mission emphases are:

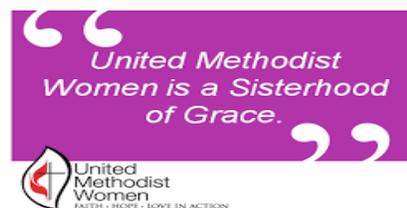
1. Maternal and child health,
2. Criminalization of communities of color, and
3. Economic inequality. There is much work to do in each of these concerns!

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Until we can meet again, we need to continue to use and be thankful for whatever technology is available to:

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” John Wesley

Karen Dallatore



Black Lives Matter to God and Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women

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Willard said no, in a haunting refusal of solidarity under the false belief that lynching was “necessary” to protect White women. At other times, however, United Methodist Women—of all racial identities—have been inspirational leaders in the work of racial justice: 90 years ago, Jessie Daniel Ames helped found the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching; Mary McLeod Bethune, in addition to an incredible legacy of educational leadership, also campaigned actively against lynching and other forms of racial violence; and in the mid-20th century it was United Methodist Women members who led the struggle for the denomination’s adoption of the Charter for Racial Justice even as their mission dollars helped finance bail funds for those jailed in the Civil Rights Movement. Then, as now, work for racial justice does not just come naturally; it is work against resistance, and therefore must be an active discipleship choice we make each day.

We are committed to choosing justice. We also realize that there is no easy fix. There exists no single, one-time action that can undo a multigenerational legacy of racist violence. But we at United Methodist Women commit to engaging in the ongoing work, guided by the promise that God’s future is far brighter than the present moment.

To that end:

- **Mission Giving:** United Methodist Women National Office is making a special gift this week of \$21,000 to organizations demanding justice and accountability for the recent deaths of Mr. Arbery, Ms. Taylor and Mr. Floyd. We will be granting \$7,000 each to support **NAACP Georgia** in its work with Just Georgia, the **Louisville Community Bail Fund** organized by Black Lives Matter Louisville, and the **Minnesota**

Healing Justice Network. We are grateful for the work of both emerging, next-generation organizations and long-serving civil rights groups. We hope that this gift inspires others in our organization to give, likewise, to the local organizations that are most effectively doing antiracist work in their own communities.

- **Witness for Justice:** United Methodist Women commits that we will continue to speak out against extrajudicial killings and the culture of White supremacy and racism that undergirds these killings. We will use our public voice to bear witness. We will seek to amplify the voices of others who have been speaking out and whose voices are underrepresented in media. We will do so via virtual means, as long as is necessary, and we will do so in bodily presence, whenever it is again safe to gather. We encourage all members to do the same.
- **Transformative Education:** United Methodist Women encourages members to engage in the work of ongoing antiracist learning, recognizing that—especially for White folks—ongoing antiracist learning and self-reflection is not a one-time experience but must be, instead, a sustained spiritual practice. If unsure where to begin, we recommend that you read and study *So You Want to Talk About Race* by Ijeoma Oluo, an important introduction to this work. This is a 2020 United Methodist Women Reading Program selection bonus book. You may also join a **free, self-paced, online class on the book**, if you so choose.

We invite conferences, districts, and local units to join this work in the ways that are most appropriate and fitting to their settings, committing to support and work in partnership with the local groups that are most effectively doing the work and leading the way.

Slowing Down

During this time of quarantine things have slowed down quite a bit. I know there were many plans we made to advocate and inform people of our mission and of the four campaigns for Social Action. During this time, I have done a lot of self-reflection and prayer. However, I know we all have a lot of work to do. Once we can return to some type of normal again, I will begin planning and rescheduling events that I had hoped to do this spring. I will keep you all updated when the times come.

During the down time, I have read many news articles on climate change and energy distribution. Renewable energy is on the rise. This will possibly help alleviate the strain of our Earth's natural resources and the strain of affordable energy for more vulnerable and poorer communities.

I have participated in the Just

Energy 4 All webinars, and Sisters of Faith webinars about equality among communities of color in education, work and healthcare.

Currently, I have sent letters to our congressional representative, Susie Lee, as well as Senators Jaclyn Rosen and Catherine Cortez-Masto in creating a new stimulus bill to advocate and implore, asking for affordable energy in poorer and more vulnerable communities such as the elderly, single moms and their children. Many people become very sick or even die from lack of heating or air conditioning, lack of food and clean water. I asked that there would be a moratorium on utility bills during this pandemic as many people are out of work and have little or no money to pay for their utilities, such as water, electricity and gas. I have also been part of a Climate Reality webinar which coincides with lack of energy

Rhonda Glaze

and resources in the most vulnerable communities.

I look forward to the next quarter as I see that there is hope and decline of COVID-19 cases during this pandemic, and to get back in full action as long as it is safe. During this time, I will be mainly working on technical issues and electronic upgrades so that I may be equipped to host webinars and other virtual gatherings.

May the love and peace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ fill our souls during uncertainty. May we all show love and support to one another and spread God's love to everyone.

"But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness." –

James 3: 17-18



Rhonda Glaze
North District Social
Action Coordinator

"Renewable energy is on the rise. This will possibly help alleviate the strain of our Earth's natural resources and the strain of affordable energy for more vulnerable and poorer communities."



Pick Three

United Methodist Women is a creative, supportive community, especially in trying times like the COVID-19 health crisis. This month build a "phone tree" and **pick three members to call, text, or e-mail** at least **three fellow members each week** just to say hello. Visit United Methodist Women's "[For a Time Like This](#)" blog for more resources and connect with your faith and one another through [Facebook](#) and the United Methodist Women [website](#).



The Rev. Christopher P. Momany, [“Confronting the Ridiculous ‘Logic’ of White Supremacy”](#)

“So many are afraid that current unrest may lead to another civil war. It seems that the first Civil War never ended, at least not in our hearts. The true battle is not one of violence and intimidation. It is a struggle for interior dignity and the uncompromising demand that dignity be afforded each and every human being. Let’s finally end this conflict on the side of justice.”



Purpose

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 community and to expand concepts of mission through participation of the global ministries of the church.

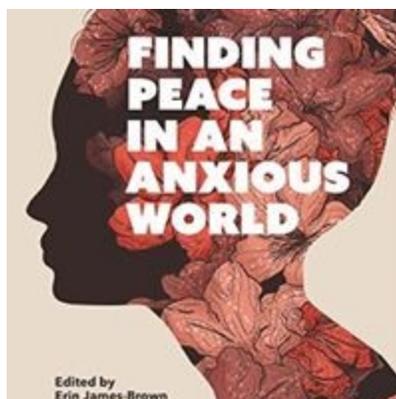
Spiritual Growth Mission Study: 2020

Finding Peace in an Anxious World, the 2020 Spiritual Growth Study by staff of the Urban Village Church, uses the book of Proverbs and “The Serenity Prayer” as a guide to help Christians find their way through anxiety, worry, and fear and move towards God’s peace that surpasses all understanding. Using “The Serenity Prayer” as a scaffold, Finding Peace in an Anxious World explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.

“The Serenity Prayer” shaped a 2015 four-part sermon series at the Urban Village Church in Chicago. It was through that series that the church was able to address the tumultuous events of that summer and present a framework for how to approach a God who desires peace for the hearts of God’s people in times of anxiety. These sermons are the basis for this book.

The four chapters, each written by a different Urban Village Church leader, focus on different aspects of the prayer—serenity, acceptance, courage, and wisdom—and each concludes with a spiritual practice to help further develop the featured characteristic in your life.

Taken from <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/finding-peace-in-an-anxious-world>



This book “explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.”

God, grant me the serenity
To accept the things
I cannot change;
Courage to change
the things I can;
And the wisdom
to know the difference.
Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment
at a time,
Accepting hardship
as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did,
this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will
make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be
reasonably happy in this life
And supremely
happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.
Amen.
(expanded Serenity Prayer written
by Elizabeth Sifton, daughter of
Reinhold Niebuhr, author of the
original Serenity Prayer,)

For a Time Like This





Mission u 2020 Cancelled for Summer, Rescheduled for January 2021

We are making new plans. Save the date **January 8-9, 2021** for a winter Mission u combined with North District UMW Leadership Development.

Our stated theme was -The Way of Peace: Our Longing for Community
Because of the virus and suggestions that we stay at home, many of us are *longing for community* in ways that we never imagined a few months ago.

The Mission u team is working with the North District Leadership team to bring you a new experience. More details will come in the next newsletter.
We will use the study book: Finding Peace in an Anxious World.

Using “The Serenity Prayer” as a scaffold, this book explores ways to discover peace through scriptural and spiritual disciplines so that we can be rooted in God and energized to live fully as disciples of Christ.

Click the link to order the book (\$10) from [umw resources](#)

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us – January 8-9, 2021 at Advent UMC.

Please check our website – Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women for updated information [Mission u](#).

United Methodist Women has a webpage with resources
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org>

Mission u National has a Facebook page --
MISSION U CENTRAL: <https://www.facebook.com/UMWMissionu>

Glenda Hill, Mission u Dean
glendaghil@iCloud.com

Racial Injustice Interviews

Rhonda Glaze

Nesha is a young African-American woman in her early 20's who shared with me her personal experiences while she went to school.

Here is her story:

When Nesha went to elementary, middle school and high school, all through her scholastic years she had to face the following differential treatment in a classroom. She had been isolated in class and was sent to the principal for supposedly not doing her work. She did her studies and would turn in her assignments on time. She was constantly criticized by her teachers either for not doing her homework correctly or the teacher would get annoyed with her for doing quicker ways to solve problems, especially in math. She often felt that she was getting differential treatment by her teachers. She would be disciplined for little or no reason. By discipline, she was made an example of her classmates, served detention and was chastised instead of encouraged to learn.

Not all of her teachers treated her that way. In middle school, she had an Algebra teacher who was very encouraging and helped Nesha with her studies. She also had some good History and English teachers because she succeeded in those classes.

Due to repetitive visits to the principal, she started losing interest in her education. However, despite the adversities that she faced, she graduated high school in California, where she is from. But it was not easy. Because of her "attendance issues", Nesha had to fight in court to prove that she was regularly attending school, however she was still fined by the court for an undisclosed amount due to irregular school attendance.

When I asked her about the possibility of going to college, she seemed rather discouraged, due to current financial limitations. Her mother is a full-time caregiver and her father is on government disability, so money in her household is very scarce. She is aware of resources to get financial aid but is apprehensive about returning to school, based on her childhood and adolescent experiences. Also, because she was not given the education she so deserved, she was brushed aside and put into Special Education (remedial education) classes. No matter how hard she worked, she would always get very low grades in her classes which brought her to lower educational classes. She lost confidence in herself because *nobody in the school system would encourage her* to strive for excellence, and she was constantly told that she was never going to pass.

Nesha told me that she graduated from the lowest percentage of her class in middle school and in high school mainly because most of her teachers never believed in her so they just pushed her through the system.

Ethan is an African-American man, who is also an ordained minister of the Christian faith. He worked for 25 years in powder-coating vehicles and other machinery. This specially skilled job, he told me, was predominantly a Caucasian or Hispanic occupation. As a Black man, he received flack by being the only man of color in California and Nevada during his jobs. Because of the color of his skin, he told me that he had been treated inferiorly or assumed that he was less educated and less experienced. For 25 years, Ethan felt like he was being "put on a shelf" for his skills and abilities by not being taken seriously in his work. He said that he was being used for his knowledge and expertise but was never acknowledged nor paid adequately for his pay scale and qualifications.

He was later laid off at a job after building up the new business. The employer had the nerve to then offer Ethan back his position at minimum wage. Ethan at the time did not have the accessibility for resources available to fight this injustice, nor was he ever advised on what steps to take to battle against this workplace *injustice*.

Ethan was terminated from a job for being accused of "sleeping on the job" and as a result, he received unemployment benefits. In all the years he has worked in powder-coating, he sustained cumulative trauma and injuries from the hard physical labor he was hired to do and was forced to go on government disability as he was rendered disabled.

These are just 2 (two) examples of how people of color are unjustly overlooked, chastised and treated differently because of the color of their skin or ethnic background. In this day and age it is deplorable to see this inequality still happening. This is not just an American issue. It is a worldwide issue for all people to be aware of. However, in this country it is acknowledged in the Constitution of the United States that "all men (and women) are created equal". Yes we all are equal, so why should we allow this blatant inequality and injustice to continue?

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.

Hebrews 6:10

**UNITED
METHODISTS
STAND AGAINST
RACISM**

The people of The United Methodist Church

UMC.org/EndRacism

St. Michael's United Methodist Women, Lake Havasu City

Cyndy Montgomery



Pictured above from left to right are Judy Steele, Janet Leonard, Janet Leonard, and Pat Hansen. Not pictured is Jean Eggerman.

St. Michael's United Methodist Women presented award certificates and pins to Judy Steele, Janet Leonard, and Pat Hansen for their support of our UMW program. All of them are winter visitors who assist our program in a variety of ways.

Judy Steele provides our sermons for United Methodist Sundays. She helps with our fundraisers and participates in any way she can. When our minister's belongings were lost in a fire on their way to our church last July, she offered her winter home here for the pastor and his family.

Janet Leonard is our Book Club leader. She leads the Book Club discussions during the time that she is here in Lake Havasu City. She also volunteers in projects that go on in our UMW while she is here.

Pat Hansen volunteers to be part of every event that UMW sponsors while she is here each winter. She makes cookies and helps deliver them to the community when we had Love Wednesdays. She co-chaired the kitchen for our Leadership training in January. She helps with our rummage sale and supplies food for the workers. Pat is a real team player and her assistance in our program is greatly appreciated.

Not pictured in the photo is Jean Eggerman. She co-chaired both the Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners, and also the Leadership training in January. She makes cookies and helps deliver them to community workers for Love Wednesdays. She is a great help with our Craft Bazaar and annual rummage sales, and she provides lunches for the workers.

Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Meeting 2020—Calling u

This year has become a year unlike any other in our lifetime. We know you are making all manner of decisions about what can proceed as hoped and expected and what must be cancelled or postponed, and each of these hard decisions bring with it its own grief. It is with great concern for the health and wellness of our membership that we have decided to cancel the Jurisdiction Events for 2020 and not reschedule them into 2021. Since 80 percent of registrants fall in the "at-risk" category of 60-plus it is impossible to guarantee everyone's safety until a vaccine has been successfully implemented across our country and beyond.

This decision was reached after much discernment, discussion, and prayer. Please know that it is because we want our membership safe during this pandemic, the leadership of the board and each Jurisdiction came together to arrive at this decision.

Please join us by showing support for your Jurisdiction teams as yet another set of plans is disrupted during this anxious time,

when the most marginalized persons are at such egregious risk.

Much time was invested by the five Jurisdiction teams over the past four years planning details and working with members and staff to make sure all five events were great celebrations of the 150th anniversary. The creative efforts of each team and the hundreds of volunteer hours created bonds of friendship that will never be broken. We are heartsick at missing this time to come together in celebration, study, and planning for the next quadrennium. There will be time allotted to celebrate the work of these amazing teams at the next Assembly.

All UMW quadrennial elections normally taking place at the Jurisdiction Events are now taking place remotely. This includes the Jurisdiction Team elections. All normal election protocols are possible through virtual elections including nominations from the floor. Delegates and nominees will receive direct communications about election training and procedures through their jurisdiction Committee on Nominations Chairs and the National office.

We ask that everyone who has registered for

the Jurisdiction Events wait just a little longer for information about refunds while we work with our teams to share any owed expenses amongst all Jurisdictions so that contributions per person will be minimal. We will email all registrants when ready. Please do not call your Jurisdiction Teams to allow them the time to figure out the best procedures for next steps. A FAQ document will follow to guide Conferences on final reconciliation of any remaining travel purchases.

Stay safe and stay in love with God.

Sincerely,

Shannon Priddy, National President
Judi Nibbelink, Western Jurisdiction President
Betty Helms, Southeastern Jurisdiction President
Denise Snyder, Northeastern Jurisdiction President
Rita L. Smith, North Central Jurisdiction President
Charlotte Morrow, South Central Jurisdiction President