



# North Country Breezes

North District United Methodist Women  
Desert Southwest Conference

North Country North

June 2021

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## President's Message

Karen Dallatore



*"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."*

*Psalm 118:24*

As many of you know, my husband David and I have sold our home in Las Vegas and have moved to Pahrump, Nevada. Living in an RV has a few challenges (small oven, little closet space, one exceedingly small bathroom and shower, in a nutshell small

everything!), but we have adapted to it and find joy and humor in all the "little" things! As Psalm 118:24 instructs, we **choose joy** in all circumstances. One thing I quickly realized was that there are wonders right here in Nevada that even after thirty plus years of residence, I have never explored. We recently visited Death Valley. The evidence of God's power and artistic excellence in this desert masterpiece took my breath away. Who would think a location named for death would be so beautiful? We are looking forward to enjoying many more day trips to various attractions in the desert.

The Conference Retreat "Holy Humor" held via Zoom in April was a total joy! There were videos of silly slippers and shared stories of potentially embarrassing moments in church, as well as fun and joyful music of praise. It was just a great



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

time to enjoy each other's company and laugh out loud with gusto.

The upcoming Mission u series will be another source of joy and gratitude. I have registered for all three sessions and hope many of you will join me in these timely and inspiring courses. Thank you, Janette Gann and all the instructors and staff of Mission u. Registration and complete information on the studies and leaders can be found on the Conference United Methodist Women website. Remember, scholarships are available.

## 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.



## Mission u 2021

# There's Far More Here

## THAN MEETS THE EYE

*So we're not giving up. How could we! Even though on the outside it often looks like things are falling apart on us, on the inside, where God is making new life, not a day goes by without [God's] unfolding grace. [...] There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, The Message (MSG)

We have known and felt what it is like when "things are falling apart on us." We have experienced a great unraveling that has shifted, quite literally, everything.

Could there be, as 2 Corinthians put it, "far more here than meets the eye"?

**Mission u**, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most. In a time when it looks like things are falling apart on us, God's grace is still unfolding and life is being made new.

Indeed: There's far more here than meets the eye.

Will you join us?

At our upcoming three virtual **Mission u** events, we will examine the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people, can work to understand the issues and struggles facing our marginalized communities & people of color. We will also learn how to deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

Our 2021 DSC **Mission u** will offer the following studies:

- **June 25-26 Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence: A Curriculum for Youth Leaders & all those who have young people in their lives.**  
by Jay Godfrey Study Leader: Rachel Mosher
- **July 23-24 Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools** by Monique Morris Study Leader: Billie Fidlin with Khalil Rushdon, AZ ACLU
- **August 13-14 Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship** by Darryl W. Stephens Study Leader: Dior Desormeau

**REGISTER HERE: \$50. for all 3 events or \$20. each. Book links & Study Leader information are on the registration link below.**

**Mission Giving is available in the registration too.**

**\*Please contact your District President for available scholarships**

<https://dscumc.org/secure/2021-mission-u-registration/>

From June 12 to July 2 orders for the Mission Study books from the Resource Center may only be placed online at [www.umwmissionresources.org](http://www.umwmissionresources.org). No phone, email, or fax order can be processed from June 12 to July 2, as they are changing systems. During this time, questions about orders should be sent to [cs@umwmissionresources.org](mailto:cs@umwmissionresources.org).



Please see more information on page 5.

## Taking a stand; Holston Conference UMW adopts policy for racial equality

By Melanie Tucker

From an article in the Blount County Daily Times June 16, 2021

During a proclamation presentation on May 14, Blount County (Tennessee) Mayor Ed Mitchell stood on the Blount County Courthouse steps to recognize the efforts for racial equality by United Methodist Women of the Holston Conference.

The proclamation was issued as a way to bring attention to the United Methodist Women of the Holston Conference of United Methodist Church's new Charter for Racial Justice Policy. The Holston Conference includes nine districts that encompass churches in Blount County, several other Tennessee counties and parts of Georgia and Virginia.

On hand was Donna Mosby, president of the Holston Conference UMW. She is the first Black woman to hold the post in the conference's 48 year history. Other members of UMW were also present.

Each conference in the Holston Conference will now have its own policy for racial justice, Mosby

explained prior to the proclamation ceremony.

The Charter for Racial Justice was created and adopted by the Women's Division of the United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries in 1978. In 1980, the document was adopted by the whole denomination. However, the Holston Conference didn't have a policy specific to itself to demonstrate how it will implement the charter.

"We have never had one," she said. "We have done things but never had a written-out policy."

Mosby said she isn't sure why there wasn't a formal policy. "I know efforts to fulfill the charter have been worked toward as is evident in past programs and activities," she explained. "There just had not been a unified, intentional approach set forth. As president, I am committed to aligning ourselves more closely with our national organization."

The new Holston Conference UMW Charter for Racial Justice Policy



*Donna Mosby, president of Holston Conference United Methodist Women and Blount County Mayor Ed Mitchell at the courthouse steps during the reading of the proclamation on racial justice.*

states that Holston Conference UMW will "encourage conference, district and local levels to have leadership that reflects the racial makeup of church and world." Anti-racist training and civic engagement are also part of the policy along with connecting mission giving to achieving racial justice goals. Participation in the United Methodist Women Charter for Racial Justice is also included in this policy. Mitchell told those gathered his family has been part of the United Methodist Church for five generations in Blount County. He read the proclamation which stressed the mission of working together within the denomination and treating all people as equal and valued. Mosby admitted 48 years is a long time to not have a person of color as UMW president. She said there is certainly work to do. Holston Conference UMW can accomplish a lot through its many mission projects in the United States and abroad, this president said.

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## Taking a stand; Holston Conference UMW adopts policy for racial equality

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"We support 90 different missions," she said. This conference is also recognizing Asian American Pacific Islanders Heritage Month during May.

On Tuesday, May 18, Mosby and the Holston Conference UMW will host a Zoom program featuring Gum Moon Residence Hall and the Asian Women's Resource Center. Gum Moon is one of the UMW's national mission institutions.

Gum Moon was founded in 1868 and was established to address the needs of Asian women and children in transition socially and geographically, Mosby explained. It is located in the heart of Chinatown in San Francisco. It now helps women of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

"United Methodist Women collectively have been on the forefront working for racial justice and against racism for over 150 years," Mosby said. "That is our legacy. Also the racial unrest

that continues in our communities, churches and across the country, by UMW drawing our attention to the matter is a good thing. Racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ."

With the killing of Asian Americans recently near Atlanta and several episodes of hate against others of Asian descent across the country, Mosby said more has to be done to stop the hate.

"Education is good but it has to touch you to make a change in you," she said. "I believe in prayer but I also believe that God expects us to answer our own prayers. He touches our hearts to move us to answer someone else's prayer."

During May, UMW is designing packets for districts to use in their local communities to take action through advocacy and civil engagement. Mosby said UMW is encouraging participation in community events, and if none are planned, become the organizer.

### A Personal Note from the North District Communications Coordinator

I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for reading our district newsletter. It is a bit tardy and brief this time due to circumstances beyond my control, but I hope to have more news and articles to share with you next time.

If you have any uplifting articles for the next edition, please send them along to [nd.umw.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nd.umw.communications@gmail.com)

In Christ,  
Pamela Huff

do justice  
love  
kindness  
walk  
humbly  
with your God  
MICAH 6:8

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

# United Methodist Women Celebrates New Juneteenth Federal Holiday

As seen at: [United Methodist Women - United Methodist Women Celebrates New Juneteenth Federal Holiday](#)



Sculpture of a freedwoman's hand by Adrienne Isom, part of the Juneteenth Memorial Sculpture Monument at the Carver Museum in Austin, Texas.

United Methodist Women acknowledges with gratitude the signing into law of the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act, adopted with overwhelming bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. The new federal holiday commemorates June 19, 1865, the day when enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, learned they were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, two years after President Abraham Lincoln signed it into law. Juneteenth, also known as Black Independence Day and Day of Jubilee, is American history not taught in most U.S. public schools. This event, the Tulsa Race Massacre, and many other currently omitted parts of our history must be included in the curriculum so that we as Americans know our full story, the struggles of our forebearers that brought us to where we are today, and the work we must do today to live into our national pledge of liberty and justice for all.

The bipartisan support for the Juneteenth federal holiday is an encouraging sign that our leaders are open to acknowledging our nation's true history — in its full racial diversity, injustices and all — which is a requisite part our ongoing journey to create a more perfect union together. As women of faith, we know the importance of telling the whole story as a foundation for making needed changes in our own community and in the broader society. We pray that the Juneteenth federal holiday will undergird our nation's commitment to the ongoing work for racial justice. Our faith in Jesus' promise that "the truth will set you free" helps us persist in this work — even when the whole story is difficult to face. May this be a step toward policies that ensure racial justice.

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*United Methodist Women is the nation's largest denominational organization for women. Members turn their faith, hope, and love into action raising more than \$10 million annually to support community centers and other programs empowering women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.*

### More information regarding Mission u:

You may also register for Mission u at this link:  
[https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story\\_fbid=1971676149665707&id=100004700224861](https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1971676149665707&id=100004700224861)

The study, worship, and plenary for all three sessions will open on Zoom at 5:30 PM MST with chat on Friday and 8:30 AM MST Saturday. Nevada sessions will begin at the same time as Arizona for all three sessions.