

THE BEACON

February 2026

Volume 4

Issue 4



United
Women
in Faith

Our Mission

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

*What Does the Lord Require ... Act Justly...Love
Mercy... Walk Humbly... With God. -Micah 6:8*

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Greeting Sisters in Christ,

O how wonderful it is, and O how bless it is to continue to serve as your Mississippi United Women in Faith Conference President for the year of 2026. Your confident in providing this awesome opportunity and responsibility is very humbly. I want you to know that I am grateful and honored for your compassion and love. As I Corinthians 16:13-14 states that “keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. As we enter this new year, I pray that we continue to strengthen our faith, show love, and make connections within our local units, our districts, and our UWF Conference.

United Women in Faith is dedicated to inspiring, equipping, and empowering women to put their faith into action. Our Mission is rooted in Spiritual Growth, Leadership Development, and Transformative Service to others. We have a full calendar for the year of 2026, my prayer that all of us will support each event. Our Conference plans are underway for Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat, our Women Luncheon, Mission u, 2026 Annual Meeting, and we have completed with an awesome participation via Zoom for our Conference Charter for Racial Justice Book Study “Before the Streetlights Come On”, author for this book is one of our Mississippi very own, Mrs. Heather McTeer Toney. Thanks to Dorothy Portis and her Charter for Racial Justice Team, and Group Leaders.

I want to encourage our District Presidents to continue to ask and promote our UWF Assembly 2026 in Indinapolis, Indiana, May 15-17th, Theme “Dream it, Believe it and Do it”, Keynote Speakers are our very own Mississippians,

Stacey and Rev. Carolyn Abrams. Deadline for Registration, April 13, 2026. At Assembly you get to meet thousands of bold spiritual women just like you from around the world. So let Mississippi United Women in Faith Conference help pack the house at Assembly 2026.

My Sister in Christ, I am grateful for all your individual and units acts of generosity during the year of 2025. I pray that each of you will put forth an effort to encourage your sisters in Christ in your Unit and District to prayerfully consider yours and their pledge commitment for this year. Remember the widow who gave everything (Mark 12:41-44), and Jesus's teaching to give with such a great spirit of hope and abundance. The ministries of United Women in Faith depend on our Conference Pledges to put love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth. I already know in my Spirit, together we can make a difference.

Lastly, I want to thank each of you for being patient as we made a transition from seven Districts to five Districts, it was a challenge, but we kept the faith. A great big shoutout goes out to Mrs. Erie Stuckett and Mrs. Patricia Battle who co-chaired this Transition Team, again, thanks for being patient with us. Thanks also goes out to our Districts Steering Committee Chairs and members, great work ladies! As we go forward, keep that Spirit of sisterhood and togetherness, we have much work to do and every member is asked to play a part.

A heart to serve,

Kathleen I. Smith

Mississippi United Women in Faith Conference President



MS Conference UWF Calendar 2026

**~~January 9 – 10, 2026 Mississippi Conference Leadership Team Meeting
Methodist Foundation 581 Highland Colony Pkwy Ridgeland, MS 39157~~**

**~~January 25, 2026
Book Study “Before the Street Lights Come On”
by Heather McTeer Toney ZOOM~~**

**~~February 7, 2026
Mission u Committee Meeting ZOOM~~**

**March 6-7, 2026 | Conference Spiritual Growth Retreat
Lake Tiak-O’Khata, Louisville, MS**

**May 15-17, 2026 | United Women in Faith Assembly 2026
Indianapolis, IN**

**June 3, 2026 | UWF Luncheon
St. Luke UMC Jackson, MS**

**June 3-5, 2026 | 2026 Session of The Mississippi Annual Conference
Millsaps College Jackson, MS**

**July 17 – 18, 2026 | Conference Mission u (In person)
Theme: Experiencing Emmanuel
Galloway UMC, Jackson, MS**

**August 7 – 8, 2026 | Mississippi Conference Leadership Team Meeting
Methodist Foundation
581 Highland Colony Pkwy Ridgeland, MS 39157**

October 2 – 3, 2026 | Conference UWF Annual Meeting Central District | TBA

November 7, 2026| Conference District Officer Training ZOOM



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ceceliadavis@comcast.net

Secretary of Program Resources

Jeannette Moore
601-946-7904
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United
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Standing Rules

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Dianereynolds487@gmail.com

Rust College Scholarship Representative

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UWF Parliamentary Advisor**

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**SEJ Charter of Racial Justice Committee
Representative**

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dhportis@bellsouth.net



United
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Mississippi Conference
of The United Methodist Church

Living Out
The **POWER** of We

coylemarilyn@gmail.com

MARILYN COYLER

elizabethcbailey@bellsouth.net

ELIZABETH BAILEY

ksmith73zeta@icloud.com

**DISTRICT
PRESIDENT
VACANT**

CYNTHIA D. WILLIS

cdiannw@gmail.com

**DISTRICT
PRESIDENT
VACANT**

- Northern Hills District
- Central District
- Red Clay Hills District
- Capital River District
- Gulf Pines District

ksmith73zeta@icloud.com

Your paragraph text

**MISSISSIPPI UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
2026 BUDGET**

| | | |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| Total Pledge to Mission from District's | | \$ 36,907.44 |
| United Methodist Women's National Office -Pledge | | \$ 25,835.21 |
| | | |
| A & MD Fund (30% from \$36,907.44) | | \$ 11,072.23 |
| MS United Women in Faith Projected income | | \$ 21,477.77 |
| | | \$ 32,550.00 |
| | | |
| Conference Leadership | | |
| Directory | \$ 800.00 | |
| Financial Reviews | \$ 2,400.00 | |
| Committee Mettings | \$ 1,500.00 | |
| Women's Luncheon | \$ 2,000.00 | |
| Website Design | \$ 1,200.00 | |
| Mission Resource | \$ 500.00 | |
| Total | | \$ 8,400.00 |
| | | |
| Christian Global Concerns | | |
| Conference Mission u | \$ 4,000.00 | |
| Mission u and Leader Training Event | \$ 1,250.00 | |
| Total | | \$ 5,250.00 |
| | | |
| Southeastern Jurisdictional | | |
| SEJ Meeting | \$ - | |
| SEJ A&MD Fund | \$ 300.00 | |
| Assembly | \$ 7,500.00 | |
| Total | | \$ 7,800.00 |
| | | |
| Social Action | | |
| Legislative Event | \$ 500.00 | |
| Total | | \$ 500.00 |
| | | |
| Spiritual Growth | | |
| Spiritual Growth Retreat | \$ 2,000.00 | |
| Total | | \$ 2,000.00 |
| | | |
| Membership Nurture & Outreach | | |
| The Beacon | \$ 400.00 | |
| Women's Forum | \$ 200.00 | |
| Annual Meeting | \$ 4,500.00 | |
| Special Mission Recognition | \$ 200.00 | |
| Total | | \$ 5,300.00 |
| | | |
| District Work | | |
| District A & MD Fund | \$ 2,500.00 | |
| District Officer Training | \$ 800.00 | |
| Total | | \$ 3,300.00 |
| | | |
| Total | | \$ 32,550.00 |

**MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
2026 District Pledge to Mission**

District A – Northern Hills: \$5,000.00

District B -Central: \$6,407.44

District C -Capital River: \$7,000.00

District D – Red Clay Hills: \$8,500.00

District E – Gulf Pines: \$10,000.00

TotalPledgetoMississippiConference:

Total: \$ 36,907.44



MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

2026 Spiritual Growth Retreat

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 – SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

Lake Tiak-O'Khata, Louisville, MS

**THEME: "Experiencing Emmanuel: For Such a Time as This"
The Book of Esther (4:14)**

LEADERS: Dr. Clementine Mays & Miss Nakimia Agnew | MUSIC: Ms. Effie Burt

Check-in: Friday, March 6th, 4 – 6 p.m. | Worship begins at 7 p.m.

Meals: Friday, March 6th – Dinner, 5:30 – 6:45

Saturday, March 7th – Breakfast, 7:00 – 8:30; Lunch, 11:30 – 12:45

Note: Bring Bible, personal items, walking shoes, and snacks to share.





Move 4 Mission

Take a Walk on the Wild Side

Saturday, March 7th | 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Want to walk on the wild side? During our Spiritual Growth Retreat, meet outside for a fun morning walk. Join the Move 4 Mission walk with Jacqueline Brown as our fearless leader. Ask your Local Unit to support you in this adventure by contributing funds for missions...yes, it will cost you to join this endeavor. All funds will go to Choctaw Mission. The exercise, camaraderie, and the overflowing joy of supporting women, children, and youth is well worth the time!



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ASSEMBLY 2026

May 15-17, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

uwfaith.org/assembly

**Dream it!
Believe it!
Do it!**

[Assembly Link Tap](#)

Let's Do...
Lunch.



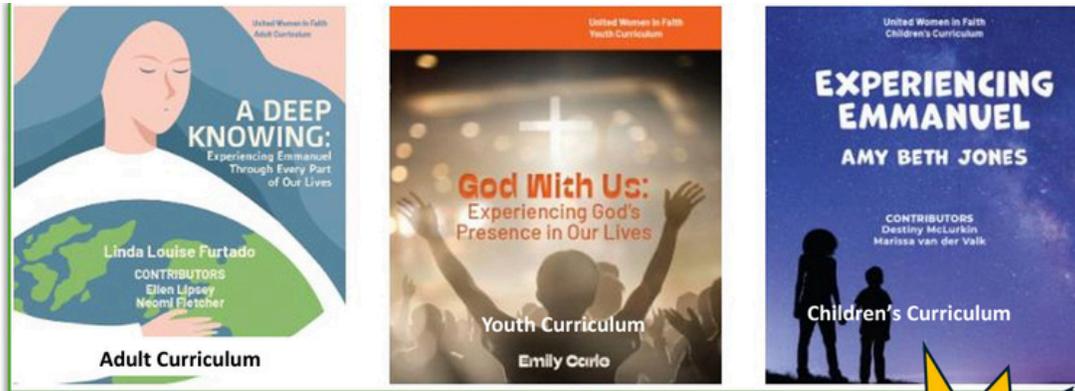
Women Luncheon

Save the Date

June 04, 2026

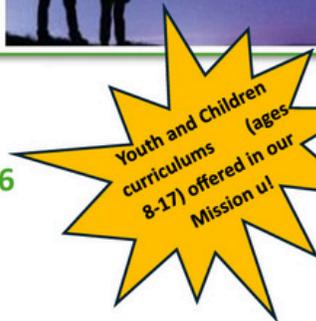
*St. Luke UMC
Jackson, MS*

More Information Soon



Mission u 2026

Friday, July 17 – Saturday, July 18, 2026
 Galloway United Methodist Church
 305 N Congress Street
 Jackson, MS 39201



Mission u is a transformative educational program that encompasses both Bible-based curricula and events. All are welcome to engage with either or both components of Mission u.

Interested in deepening your faith in community? Gaining experience interpreting Scripture? Working toward healing for yourself, your community, and all of creation? Mission u is for you!

Each year, United Women in Faith develops three justice-focused Biblical curricula for adults, youth, and children, all on a common theme. In 2026, our theme will be Experiencing Emmanuel. Our focus is on developing three curricula around one common theme which means that Mission u offers a unique opportunity for faith communities to create powerful intergenerational learning experiences.

I am praying that all UWF members begin intentionally "Experiencing Emmanuel" for ourselves as well as women and children around world. Let us challenge ourselves to INVITE everyone to participate in Mission u 2026- the goal is ME + 2 or more. We are excited to announce the children and youth curriculums (ages 8-17) will be offered in our Mission u! All District Presidents, please lift up Mission u 2026 now.

Blessings,

Mission u Dean
 Margaret Gipson

Mission u Assistant Dean
 Dorothy Carter/ Gabrielle Barnes (Acting Assistant Dean)

Order your Mission u books from Amazon

Greetings United Women in Faith,

I have been appointed to be the Resources Coordinator/Management for the Mississippi Conference UWF. This position in the past was called the Secretary of Program Resources. I look forward to serving in this position; and as the Coordinator, you will continue to be informed about online resources, such as videos, training classes, podcasts and other audiovisual resources, and how to access them.

Most importantly, I am encouraging the members of the Mississippi Conference United Women in Faith to participate in the Reading Program. Each year the Program issues a list of suggested books in five categories: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth. Members are encouraged to read at least one book in each category. I challenge each District to have each local unit complete at least Plan 1 which will be the one book in each category.

If you attended the Zoom “Before the Street Lights Come On” book study, you have completed one (1) book in the Category Social Action for one (1) credit.

There are other ways in addition to reading books to receive Reading Program reporting credit. I will be sharing them with each District so that they may communicate with the local units. I look forward to receiving your Reports for Completion of Your Reading Program Plans so that you may receive your Certificate of Completion. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Blessings and Peace,
Jennette Moore
jhmoore@netdoor.com
601-946-7904



Membership, Nurture and Outreach, Ruby Lovett

Tap here to link to the survey or enter website address in the above article



Unit Survey

North Central Northeastern South Central Southeastern Western As a valued leader in our community, your insights help shape how United Women in Faith plans, supports, and grows our mission.

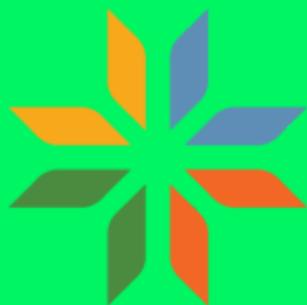
 United Women in Faith



A Charter for Racial Justice Policies

Defines racism and how United Methodists worldwide commit to renounce, reject, resist, and end it.

 The United Methodist Church



United
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Charter for Racial Justice

United Women in Faith first adopted the “Charter of Racial Policies” in 1952. We worked on ratification at multiple levels of the organization and readopted an updated version in 1962. Throughout the years, we lobbied The United Methodist Church to officially adopt the Charter, seeking to bring its commitments to the full body of the church. The Charter was first received by the General Conference in 1964 and first included in *The Book of Resolutions* in 1980. Since then, it has been updated and readopted regularly by delegates to General Conference. From the 1950s to the present, the Charter has been a core part of our identity.

Because we believe:

1. That God is the Creator of all people and all are God's children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental, and political exploitation;
5. That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sisters and brothers of other races in thought, in word, and in deed;
6. That in our common humanity in creation all women and men are made in God's image and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;
7. That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured;
8. That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings, and new relationships and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures, and practices of both church and state.

We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.

Therefore, as United Methodists in every place across the land, we will unite our efforts within the church to take the following actions:

1. Eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the total ministry of the church, giving special attention to those institutions that we support, beginning with their employment policies, purchasing practices, environmental policies, and availability of services and facilities;
2. Create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with the existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together;
3. Increase efforts to recruit people of all races into the membership of The United Methodist Church and provide leadership-development opportunities without discrimination;
4. Establish workshops and seminars in local churches to study, understand, and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community;
5. Raise local churches' awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment, medical care, and environmental justice for all members of the community and to create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines;
6. Work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of all people such as through support for the ratification of United Nations covenants on human rights;
7. Support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community;
8. Facilitate nomination and election processes that include all racial groups by employing a system that prioritizes leadership opportunities of people from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing legacy of racial injustice. Use measures to align our vision for racial justice with actions that accelerate racial equity.



NOMINATION COMMITTEE

Nomination is in search for a communication coordinator, two nomination members- one from Northern Hills District and one from Gulf Pines District. Please submit talent bank form to Jeanette Moore, nomination secretary. Deadline is April 12, 2026.

Thanks,

Cecelia Davis, Nomination Chair



Mississippi
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District Talent Bank Information on Prospective Leadership

(To be completed by prospective leaders)

Send completed forms to Angela Griffin, Conference Secretary (kayegriffin@comcast.net)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email _____

Local Church _____ District _____

Language Spoken _____ Racial/Ethnic Group _____

Professional skills, job experience _____

Office(s) held in United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women)

Office(s)

Dates of Service

Local

District

Conference

Jurisdiction

Additional Experience on the local, district, conference, or general church level (other than United Women in Faith/United Methodist Women) or in the community.

Special Talents or Skills: (computer programs, speaking, organization, people, etc.)

Areas of Special Interest or Concern:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretarial | <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting Members | <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communication | <input type="checkbox"/> Social issues | <input type="checkbox"/> workshops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer | <input type="checkbox"/> Creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accounting/bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Recording minutes | <input type="checkbox"/> Retreats Music |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization of details | <input type="checkbox"/> Public policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nominations | <input type="checkbox"/> Public relations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Community building | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Inclusiveness/pluralism | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Which office(s) on the District United Women in Faith's Team would you most likely hold if given the opportunity to serve?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President | <input type="checkbox"/> Chair of Nominations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Coordinator |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary | <input type="checkbox"/> Creativity |

Why are you interested in this position and what qualifications do you feel you have for your office(s) of choice?

Would you be able to use your gifts and talents to uphold and strengthen United Women in Faith through the PURPOSE of the organization? Yes No

Is it possible for you to be away from your home or employment for: Click in box if yes.

Full day

Weekend

Extended Time

DISTRICTS NEWS



**Central District
United Women In Faith
Day Apart & Local Officer's Training
Wesley United Methodist Church
127 South Natchez Street,
Kosciusko, MS 39090
Saturday, February 28, 2026**







Mississippi
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Home

Website for the United Women in Faith in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church

Mississippi United Women in Faith /



Bethlehem Center, Inc. | Jackson MS

Bethlehem Center, Inc., Jackson. 361 likes · 489 were here. The Bethlehem Center is a community center in the heart ...

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United Women in Faith - Shop

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uwfaithresources.org /



Home

Welcome to Wesley House Meridian. We provide a hand-up approach of assistance to our clients through four separate and distinct mission areas:...

Wesley House Community Center



Moore Community House - Serving Families Since 1924

Moore Community House, Inc. is a non-profit advocacy and social service agency that works to...

MooreCommunityHouse

Mississippi United Methodist Choctaw Mission

Progressing towards health and wholeness and developing Choctaw leadership

Global Ministries

Please tap each agency to read more about them



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Mississippi Conference of the United
Women in Faith

The Beacon Newsletter

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