



United
Women
in Faith

*East Ohio
Conference*

KEEPING CURRENT

Volume 43 Issue 2

September 2026

East Ohio Conference UW Faith Officers

- President—Becky Sutton
- Vice President—Marcia Adamczyk
- Secretary—Margaret Harvey
- Treasurer—Beth Canfield
- Nomination Chair—Kim Allen
- Spiritual Growth—Kathy Kuhn
- Program Resources—Beth Saling
- Mission Education & Interpretation—Beth Saling
- Membership Nurture & Outreach—
- Social Action—Carol Nelson Burns
- Historian—Rita Kyser
- Teen/University—China Williams
- Communications Coordinator—Elizabeth Feldman
- Program Advisory Group (PAG)—Kathy Hopkins

MISSION u

- Dean—Mikaela Ashburn
- Dean—Olivia Doran
- Registrar—Elizabeth Feldman

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Greetings From Your President

Greetings Sisters,

WOW what an inspiring, joy filled and courageous year we are having. Assembly, Annual Conference, Mission u and the LOL Retreat, some have attended a few events, while some have attended all the events. I am not going to go into details concerning these events because you will be hearing from others who attended and more will be shared at Annual Celebration, October 24, 2026. Looking forward to seeing you there. (registration form on pg. 11).

What I would like to share with you is what we are and will be doing. As United Women in Faith we continue to build our foundation as we work on our current justice campaigns: Interrupt the School-Prison Pipeline (ending mass incarceration and criminalization of communities of color) and Just Energy 4 All (climate justice). Postcards to mail to government representatives will be available at Annual Celebration.

United Women in Faith launched its growth campaign to increase giving and membership in August 2025. The Unstoppable Campaign is not simply about increasing membership numbers. It is about activation, leadership development, spiritual formation, and social justice engagement. We are boldly working toward growing beyond 500,000 members by 2029. Let's do our part, Invite someone to your Unit meetings.

Becoming a Delegate: Are you called to be a General Conference or Jurisdictional Conference delegate? Now is the time to consider running as a delegate for the next United Methodist Church General Conference in May 2028. Annual conferences will elect delegates in spring 2027.

Or are you being called to be a part of United Women in Faith North Central Jurisdiction? The NCJ Quadrennial Event is June 8-11, 2028 in Sioux Falls, SD. See the separate article by NCJ President, Linda Crowell.



As members of United Women in Faith having a connection to the United Methodist Church, I ask for each of you to be in prayer as we, from East Ohio and West Ohio discuss, and discern about forming a new, unified Ohio Conference for United Women in Faith, as well as the United Methodist Church.

Let me leave you with this from Jeremiah 6:16, "Thus says the lord: Stand at the crossroads and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way lies; and walk in it and find rest for your souls." Jeremiah's book begins with his call to be a prophet. Regardless of opposition and personal cost, he courageously and faithfully proclaimed the word of God. In the eyes of the world Jeremiah was not successful, but God's success involves obedience and faithfulness. In God's eyes Jeremiah was one of the most successful people. As we come to the crossroads in life let us remember to seek, listen and follow God's words. Amen

Rebecca Sutton, Conference President
rlsutton5@yahoo.com

Greetings From Your Vice President

What a busy year this has been with United Women in Faith! This summer included Assembly, Mission u, the East Ohio/West Ohio Retreat and coming soon, Annual Celebration. I met so many women involved with UWFaith from all over the world and at all different levels. Each person has had special meaning to me and spiritually helped my soul in an unusual year in my household. It has been good to grow closer to those I work with and hope you find similar feelings as we work together.

The Unstoppable Campaign is laid out in a four year plan. In 2025 we learned to inspire and focus on the Soul Care Program. In 2026-2027 we are focusing on Sharing the Good News and growing our membership. The program interests should focus on mass-incarceration and climate-justice. Please consider using these topics along with ones that are associated with mission work in your local areas for your meetings. We are Unstoppable!

Many Units have discussed how to recruit younger women. At my recent national meeting, the instructors shared the best way to involve them is to ask them to post your UWFaith events or calendar on social media (and be creative). By doing this, they become involved in a small way, then ask them to join your group and this could be their role for the time being. It could be a shared task between two young people. It takes them very little time to do this and it would make them feel productive. It is a role that many of the older women struggle with, but they can do in a few minutes. It would be an easy way to get them familiar with UWFaith.

Our East Ohio Conference UWFaith is giving the Local Units an opportunity to utilize resources we have available, to help you complete unfinished projects or dive into a needed project to help women, children and youth in your area. If you need funding, please fill out the grant application as soon as you can, and send them in to your District President. The application will be available at Annual Celebration. It will be the same application in all districts. These must be completed by March 31, 2027 to be eligible.

The new program books and prayer guides will only be available this year on Amazon, not through the uwfaith.org website. The books will be available in early to mid September. The topic for 2027 is Hospitality. The Program Book Title is "An Unfolding Welcome: Hospitality as Sacred Gift and Shared Practice." The Prayer Guide title is "Welcomed and Welcoming."

Most importantly please plan to attend the ANNUAL CELEBRATION on October 24 at Otterbein United Methodist Church in New Philadelphia. This will be held on Saturday, October 24, 2026 at 9:30 a.m. Our speaker is Katie Petersen. Director of the Mission Barn Inc. in New Castle, PA. The officers are presenting a special skit that you cannot miss! It will be something you will remember. Mark your calendar and come. A Flier and registration form will be in this newsletter.

Blessings, Marcia Adamczyk EOC UWFaith Vice President
adamczykmarcia@yahoo.com

District Fall Gathering Dates

Districts	Date	Location	Time
Central Valley	September 19	Navarre Otterbein	9:00 am
Northern Waters	September 12	Hudson UMC	8:30 am
South Forest	October 24	New Philadelphia Otterbein	9:30 am
West Plains	September 26	Bucyrus	11:30 am

Secretary

I hope everyone is enjoying this nice summer weather. It is getting cooler and the leaves are starting to fall on some trees. I will be preparing the directory for 2027 and want to remind every district to send me the new list of officers for 2027 as soon as the list is accepted at your fall meetings. I need to have the list of officers for conference and each District to the National office within 10 days of the Annual Celebration. The list of officers should include the following:

Office, Name, Address, Phone, and Email address.

The sooner I get this information, the quicker I can get our directory complete and the list to the national office. If you are having trouble with the information, please feel free to contact me.

Margaret Harvey, Conference Secretary
margaret.k.harvey@gmail.com

Greetings From Your Treasurer

God is Awesome! UWFaith is Unstoppable!! East Ohio UWFaith is Unstoppable!! We are all part of the Unstoppable!!

As of June 2026, UWFaith National has collected a total of \$1.3 million, an increase of \$195 thousand or 18% compared to June 2025. East Ohio Conference is part of that giving!! Praise God to all the lives that are blessed due to this giving!

More blessings have been showered on East Ohio UWFaith! We have \$100,000 to give to missions in East Ohio. Our Executive Team decided to send some to the National Mission Institution, West Side Community House in Cleveland. In addition, the executive team decided to give \$20,000 to each District as well. Our Finance Committee has met and created a process that is being communicated to District Teams. Local Units may apply for grant money to go for a mission or activity that benefits, women, children or youth. We have made the deadline March 31, 2027 for applications. Look for more information from your District Team about this grant application.

Next year at Annual Celebration, I hope to see and hear about the grant money and how it impacted your local and district area women, children and youth.

We have a lot to celebrate!! We have work that still needs to be done!!

Help make East Ohio “Unstoppable” in mission giving and growth!!

Our 2027 budget is on page 4.

Beth Canfield, Conference Treasurer
bnbcanfield@yahoo.com

Communications

This was in the March newsletter, but it bears repeating. My National communications person emphasized the importance of correct and consistent abbreviations, names and titles. Here are some to look for in your communications. These are the ones that I consistently correct when you send me an article.

The official abbreviation of United Women in Faith is UWFaith. Use UWF sparingly.

Our four districts are: Central Valley, Northern Waters, South Forest and West Plains

Mission always has a lower case u

response magazine always has a lower case r

MEI—Mission Education and Interpretation

MNO—Membership, Nurture and Outreach

Elizabeth Feldman—eoc.uwf.news@gmail.com 3

EOC UWF Budget 2027		EOC UWF Budget 2026	
Mission Giving Pledge \$70,000		Mission Giving Pledge \$70,000	
Planning Meetings & Expenses		Planning Meetings & Expenses	
Retreat Planning & District Training	\$1,000	Retreat Planning & District Training	\$1,000
Assembly and/or NCJ Quadrennial Registration and Travel	\$4,700	Assembly Registration and Travel	\$4,700
Executive & Team Travel	\$300	Executive & Team Travel	\$300
Finance District Treasurers Travel	\$75	Finance District Treasurers Travel	\$75
Annual Celebration Expenses	\$650	Annual Celebration Expenses	\$650
UWF Sunday	\$100	UWF Sunday	\$100
Officer Expenses (speaker)	\$1,000	Officers Subcommittee Meetings	
Misc	\$1,000	Officer Expenses (speaker)	\$1,000
Printing and Postage	\$150	Conference Supplies/Postage	\$400
Zoom Expenses	\$400	Misc	\$1,000
Mission U Scholarships	\$500	Zoom Expenses	\$341
Mission U Expenses: deposit for Mt Union	\$250	Mission U Scholarships	\$500
Mission U facility expense to Mt Union	\$5,500	Mission U Expenses: deposit for Mt Union	\$250
Mission U Expenses: training	\$500	Mission U facility expense to Mt Union	\$5,500
Mission U Expenses: teachers	\$1,000	Mission U Expenses: training	\$500
Mission U Team expenses	\$400	Mission U Expenses: teachers	\$1,000
Officer Dev/National Committees	\$900	Mission U Team expenses	\$400
North Central Jurisdiction Pledge	\$1,900	Officer Dev/National Committees	\$900
Conference Audit	\$200	North Central Jurisdiction Pledge	\$1,900
AMD allocations	\$7,000	Newsletters	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,525	AMD allocations	\$7,000
		TOTAL EXPENSES	\$27,516



Do you recognize these symbols? Or do you know someone who might? We're looking for the right person to help us with social media. To share our message and reach more women, we need to step more fully into the world of online communication.

This role wouldn't require attending meetings — just partnering with our Communications Coordinator to help expand our presence in our communities. If you or someone you know has a heart for this ministry and a bit of social-media know-how, we'd love to connect. eoc.uwf.news@gmail.com

Social Action

DEAR SISTERS IN CHRIST,

In a complex and demanding world, we are drawn in numerous directions, tasked with performing numerous actions in our lives and in our larger communities...who among us has “spare time?” Throughout history, it has been the women—the mothers and grandmothers, the aunts and granddaughters, the sisters—who share, care, and dare to be the “care providers” of others, whether it is their own children or their neighbors, their church or their community. In Northern Ireland, it was the mothers who organized for peace as they grew angry at burying their sons. As other nations slowly recognized women as deserving to have a voice in electing their leaders, it was females in America who marched for their right to participate in electing OUR leaders. Even in the Church, it was WOMEN (and some BRAVE men who joined them) who fought systems that did not recognize our ability, our integrity, our strength to BE PART OF A COMMUNITY OF ACTIVISTS: making change where needed.

THAT history is our legacy, both as Methodists, and as Americans, and as part of a much larger “community of change makers...” CHANGE that begins within our own compassionate hearts and desire for peaceful, healthy communities of care for one another... At this time, our communities and

the wider world, are challenged by changes, and by conditions, that are both distressing, and at times frightening. But it is exactly such times that have needed, and prompted, women to step up, to step in, to speak, and to act, together, in small circles, or larger events...

I ask you to reflect on such times and ways in which you contributed to needs in your community, in your neighborhood, or in your church...and in that reflection, remember the good you contributed to someone else’s life, whether to someone you knew, or to a cause, a group you never got to know... Such action—from meals to quilts, from providing rides or helping at local schools, from baking to babysitting, or leading a Bible study...

WHEREVER THERE IS A NEED, IT IS THE WOMEN WHO STEP UP, STEP IN, ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES, and get to work – women’s work: compassionate care, for others...THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!

P.S. Please take some time to reflect on what YOU do, have done, or might do. I would so very much like to share YOUR stories of the CARE you give. The VERY heart of this body: doing ‘women’s work!’

Dr. Carol Nelson Burns
Social Action Coordinator

Membership, Nurture and Outreach

The Coordinator for membership encourages Districts and Local Units to use resources on uwfaith.org to promote membership in United Women in Faith. She works with Districts and local Units to collect membership data for the UWFaith National Office. This data is used to develop programs and resources. One need not be a United Methodist to join a local or online Unit. We are a Christian organization that welcomes spiritual women of all faiths. All people who identify as women are welcome to join us. Many of our events are open to women and men. This position is open. Contact Kim Allen for more information.

Program Resources

The National Office has many interesting events and gatherings such as Faith Talks, Voices of the Field, Podcasts, and Webinars—as well as *response* magazine and the Reading Program. Go to the United Women in Faith website, <https://uwfaith.org>, to find out more and to subscribe to their digital communications to stay up on the latest scoop. To become a member of ‘All Access’ go to uwfaith.org, scroll to the bottom of the home page, Find ‘Get Involved’ and click on ‘Become a Member.’ Read about Assembly in the September/October issue of *response*. While you are at the bottom, read all that the website has to offer. Beth Saling is our Program Resources Coordinator. She can be reached at bwsaling@gmail.com

PAG—Program Advisory Group

Greetings from National!

Let me begin by saying thank you for your dedication to United Women in Faith. We have much to be thankful for within our organization, but none more important than our members. Please thank five members for their loyal and dedicated service and see how this spreads. We could not do what we do without you!

As we begin our second year of our quadrennial (2025-2028) we are Unstoppable in our growth. We want to exceed membership of 500,000 women, giving of \$10 million in annual giving and exceed \$60 million for the Legacy Endowment Fund. Unstoppable Influence means using our voices with intention. What social justice issue has moved you? Share it, post it, tag United Women in Faith. Put justice into action year around. "Injustice for one means injustice for all." Make it a priority in your local Units.

Continue support of National Mission Institutions, so they may continue to advocate for marginalized women, children and youth in their communities. The one NMI in Northeast Ohio is the West Side Community House in Cleveland.

It's been an exciting year already with Assembly, Mission u, and LOL (Live Out Loud) Retreat with West Ohio Conference. There will be an exciting Fall as well. District Gatherings will be held, and I hope to see many of you at Annual Celebration on October 24, at Otterbein UMC in New Philadelphia.

And thank you again for your dedication to United Women in Faith.

Kathy Hopkins, kathleenhop1953@gmail.com

PAG (Program Advisory Group) representative from East Ohio.

Each conference in the U.S. has one representative on the National Board.

Are you ready to be Unstoppable? Quarterly Officer training will be held on September 17!

We have struggled in recent years to provide officer training at Annual Celebration. We prepare, but many of you are anxious to get home after a long day of sitting. Now, National is taking up our cause and offering virtual officer training. We hope many of you will take advantage. Perhaps your officers can meet and watch together and put this training to good use within your Team. There will be a new topic each quarter.

United Women in Faith Leadership Development is offering quarterly officer training to leaders at all levels. The quarterly training – Thursday, September 17, 2026 (7 p.m.- 9 p.m. ET) for this quarterly training session will focus on the Unstoppable Member Growth Campaign.

Please register here https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/v75v9QYqRZOyYcna_jMF_Q?_x_zm_rtaid=v0mXQVkvRhOe6LsXkzY9Qw.1788459917836.81a927d0fc96d6acca48cf871302451d&_x_zm_rtaid=225#/registration Sorry about this long link. But press the control key and click on it.

This virtual session will feature guest presenters from the United Women in Faith Engage, Membership Nurture, and Development Team, who will equip you with fresh ideas to welcome new generations of women into our sisterhood!

Why are we providing this training?

Upon surveying District and Conference Officers in 2025 – overwhelming feedback revealed that leadership development training is desired on topics of interest to our member leaders across both groups. Our goal is to provide quarterly training to fit this need.

I traveled out to Springfield last week to participate in a week of action in support of Haitian neighbors in Springfield. Many faith leaders traveled across the country to accompany families to appointments, pack food, call lawmakers, and ask for donations to support the tens of thousands of Haitians living in Ohio. Many Haitian neighbors have now been shackled with ankle monitoring devices to track their movements.

Despite the fear, the anger, and the confusion, I saw something more powerful in Springfield this week - I saw community.

I continue to see God's presence in our community. This love is expressed through donors, activists, and volunteers. It is shown to us by our neighbors who are determined to navigate this broken immigration system to guarantee a future for their children. Regardless of where we are born, we are neighbors and our community is strengthened for all of us when we are in relationship with one another.

Understand the issue:

Haitians were invited into this country under a program called TPS. This federal law gives people from designated countries legal right to be in the U.S and to work. TPS remains in place during a time of tragedy in their home country, often due to natural disaster or war. Haitians were given TPS in 2010, but the situation in their country has become worse since the 2010 earthquake.

About a month ago, the administration revoked TPS for Haitians and many other nationalities, creating a legal, economic, and humanitarian mess. Many Haitians have lost the right to work and now must navigate the immigration system individually instead of as a group (more costly, timely, and confusing). Many have been shackled with ankle monitoring devices, even though they have no criminal history and a long-standing record of working with immigration officials.

In the face of this confusion and fear, you can make a big difference through actions described on this website! TAKE ACTION TODAY! Visit <https://www.hungernetohio.com/>

In service, Dn. Nick Bates, J.D.

This article was submitted by our Social Action Coordinator, Carol Nelson burns.

East and West Ohio United Women in Faith

Live Out Loud Retreat at MTSO in Delaware Ohio

Interacting and meeting new people was the order of the day.



Mission u

Mission u 2026 was a wonderful weekend filled with faith, fellowship, learning, music, and service as we gathered at the University of Mount Union. We were blessed to have 38 women and one youth join us for a meaningful time of connecting with one another and growing together in faith. Our fearless leader, Rev. Dr. Anna Guillozet, guided us through the 2026 study, *Experiencing Emmanuel*, giving us opportunities to reflect on the many ways we experience God's presence in our lives and in the world around us.

Throughout the weekend, we shared plenty of laughter, fellowship, and song, creating memories that will stay with us long after Mission u ended. We were also reminded that our learning is meant to lead us into action. Together, we made more than 180 blessing bags for the Purple Raider Food Pantry, helping provide a little extra encouragement and care to those in our community.

We also created ornaments that will be donated to Red Bird Mission, extending our hands and hearts beyond our own community. From the

classroom to the service projects, and from singing together to simply enjoying one another's company, Mission u was a beautiful reminder of what can happen when we come together with open hearts and a willingness to learn, serve, and share God's love.

As we look ahead, we can't wait to see everyone at Mission u 2027! We are looking forward to gathering together again in July for another opportunity to learn, worship, serve, laugh, sing, and grow in faith together. We invite everyone to join us for our 2027 study, *Showing Hospitality: An Exploration of Christian Welcome*. We hope you'll make plans to be part of this special time together as we explore what it means to welcome others with open hearts and reflect Christ's love through hospitality. Dates and additional information will be shared as soon as they are available, so be sure to watch for updates. Until then, we'll be looking forward to seeing you all at Mission u 2027!

With love and gratitude,
Mikaela Weimer & Olivia Doran
Mission u Deans



THE EAST OHIO CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

2026 OFFICERS

President	Rebecca Sutton	rlsutton5@yahoo.com
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Secretary	Margaret Harvey	margaret.k.harvey@gmail.com
Treasurer	Beth Canfield	bnbcanfield@yahoo.com
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Historian	Rita Kyser	ritajkyser@aol.com
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Central Valley.....	Elizabeth Feldman.....	eflogil@gmail.com
Northern Waters.....	Mary Lane Wright.....	wrightm667@gmail.com
South Forest.....	Betty Parry.....	bjparry46@hotmail.com
West Plains	Rosalyn Barnhill.....	barnhillrosalyn@aol.com



LEGACY FUND – A permanent endowment that will support the mission outreach of United Women in Faith of future generations. This fund was set up in 2019, with a goal of \$60,000, to celebrate the dedication and foresight of our foremothers in mission. Gifts to the Legacy Fund can be made in several ways:

Mail check to:
 United Women in Faith
 Attn: Legacy
 Church Center for the United Nations
 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
 New York, NY 10017

Online: uwfaith.org/legacyfund

By phone: 800-278-7771

- Read response magazine

Annual Celebration

East Ohio Conference
United Women in Faith
October 24, 2026
9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Otterbein UMC
156 Beaver Ave NE
New Philadelphia OH 44663

Speaker for the Day
Katie Petersen
Director of Mission Barn Inc. in New Castle, PA
Deaconess, Church and Community Worker

The Mission Barn was established in 2008 as a ministry of the Eastbrook UMC, our mission is 4-fold: *Collect, process, package, store, and ship UMCOR kits in a tri-state region. *Construct handicap access ramps and help with local needs *Provide material support for ERT (Early Response Teams) doing disaster response. *Provide education about Christian mission – especially UMCOR and UMVIM.



Please complete the separate Registration Form and mail to Treasurer, Beth Canfield—details on the form.



United
Women
in Faith

REGISTRATION FORM

East Ohio Conference United Women in Faith

Annual Celebration

OCTOBER 24, 2025

Otterbein United Methodist Church
56 Beaver Ave NE
New Philadelphia, OH 44663
330-343-4131

Please fill out one form for each person attending. Send your Unit's reservations together in one mailing. Check in at the registration table when you arrive.

Name _____

Address _____

District _____

Church _____

Special dietary needs _____

Adult Reservations are \$15 each.

Child Care is available for children 12 years of age and under. Please bring a sack lunch and beverage for each child.

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Make check payable to EOCUMW and mail completed registration form to:

Beth Canfield
6721 Idlelawn
Canal Fulton, OH 44614-9420

Final deadline for registration is October 10, 2026

No. of reservations @ \$15 each. _____ Total enclosed _____

Contact person _____

Phone _____

United Women in Faith

East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church
8800 Cleveland Ave NW
North Canton OH 44720

PLEASE PRINT/COPY THIS NEWSLETTER AND GIVE IT TO ALL WHO WISH ONE.
THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPREAD THE NEWS!

IF you wish to receive this newsletter by email, send your email address to:
The United Women in Faith Communications Coordinator at
eoc.uwf.news@gmail.com

Fall 2026

Newsletter of the United Women in Faith
East Ohio Conference, Becky Sutton, President
Published twice a year, Winter & Fall

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Questions, comments, additions/deletions to mailing list should be sent to the
UWFaith Communications Coordinator: eoc.uwf.news@gmail.com.