



United Women in Faith

East Ohio Conference



Volume 43 Issue I

February 11 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

Inside this issue:

Vice President 4
Meeting Dates 4
Treasurer 5
Mission u 5
PAG 6
Assembly 2026 6
Historian 6
Secretary 7
Nominations 7
2026 Exec. Team 8

Greetings From Your President

Greetings Sisters,

As our state was experiencing the wrath of winter, I was reading this devotion titled 'No Storm Lasts Forever.'

'For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.' — Psalm 30:5, NIV

Every storm will eventually pass. Perhaps right now your life feels unbearably heavy—pressures closing in from every side, your body exhausted, and your heart nearly ready to give up. Yet the Word of God reminds us that all of this is only temporary. The night may feel long, filled with tears and struggles. But morning always comes, bringing new light. God will not allow you to remain trapped forever in the valley of darkness. Financial struggles, sickness, family conflicts, loneliness—none of these are permanent. God's plan for your life is a plan of peace, not of disaster. He has prepared a future filled with hope, restoration, and beauty. His miracles are still real. His ways are always marvelous—beyond what we can imagine or comprehend. What God has spoken over your life will surely be fulfilled. The winds may blow, the storms may rage, but the storm is only temporary—God's blessing is eternal. Your days ahead will be filled with light, joy, and victory. Believe this: the best is not behind you—the best is still to come. Clarinda, Regina. Daily Hope: 365 Devotions for Strength and Peace (p. 36). Kindle Edition.

Sisters, the best is yet to come!! I am looking forward to the opportunities to meet new people this year – District Meetings, Assembly, Mission u, East-West OH UWF Retreat. I encourage you to check out the new resources for: Our Growth Campaign Unstoppable / United Women in Faith

Assembly—there is still time to register, seats are available on the bus. Any questions contact me at rlsutton5@yahoo.com

The Task Force on United Methodist Immigration Ministries of Ohio is committed to migrant justice and interested in building community, sharing resources, and advocating for policy change in Ohio. They work together to distribute Know Your Rights materials, encourage local churches to offer tangible support to asylum-seekers, and educate churches and policymakers on what is happening at the border and in our local communities. If you would like to join, have questions or concerns contact Rev. Emily Kvalheim co-chair at deaconemilykvalheim@ gmail.com

In light of what is happening in our country and to learn why we do what we do, I ask that you read our Charter for Racial Justice (on the following page).

Looking Forward,
Rebecca Sutton, Conference President
Becky can be reached at rlsutton5@yahoo.com

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

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

to take the following actions:

Resolution #3371, *The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church*—2016.
Copyright © 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission



United
Women
in Faith



United
Women
in Faith

Day of Giving 2026: How to Give & Celebrate

Day of Giving, March 23, 2026, is our opportunity to gather together as one sisterhood to thank God for the continued grace shown to United Women in Faith, by giving to ensure the future of our vital mission work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth at home and abroad. We invite you to join us and show your appreciation for God's **Grace in Abundance** with your generous gift.

- Live phone lines will be open to accept your gifts on Monday, March 23, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. EST – call 1-800-278-7771.
- Give securely online at bit.ly/DayofGiving2026.
- Checks can be mailed to United Women in Faith, Attn: Day of Giving, Church Center for the United Nations, 777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10017. Please put **"Day of Giving"** in the memo line of the check.
- Text "Give" to **20503**.
- Consider giving a planned gift through your estate. Visit uwfgift.org for more information.
- Watch for our live Facebook feeds and updates throughout the day and from throughout the country.
- Plan your own Day of Giving celebration and let us know about it by emailing CCampos@uwfaith.org. We are highlighting various celebrations throughout the country.
- Scan this QR code to give now!



Greetings From Your Vice President

As I prepare to write the UWFaith Sunday 2027 service, I feel blessed to take on the task of writing a service to be shared by so many women in the East Ohio Conference. UWFaith Sunday allows women to share their history, Bible studies, and all of the mission work women do in the church. It used to be women did the work, and were not acknowledged. We carry out mission work in many ways to serve people locally, nationally and internationally and are seen in all we do. Women in our churches have found creative ways to share God's love. Start planning your UWF Sunday now, the people in your church need to know about the ways you serve God.

Our program titled "Mapping Our Way Forward" states "by holding onto God and letting our core values strengthen us, we will be filled with power, and have God on our side and our sisterhood around us." This book will be our guide as we move through 2026. It will help us understand some life struggles, like climate justice, brokenness and inequality. By studying some Biblical pathways, we see those whose lights shone bright enough to allow us to follow them today. Please use your program book as your guide and reference in your meetings. Invite all the women in your church to join you. Our openness shows we welcome all new members.

This is a busy year. Assembly is being held on May 15,16 and 17 in Indianapolis, Indiana. This is an international event. If you have not registered – you still can. There are workshops, music and lots of information to be shared. The Theme is "Dream It! Believe It! Do It!" Stacy Abrams is a keynote speaker. Join us for a transforming experience.

Mission u will be held on July 10,11,12, this year at Mount Union University in Alliance. We have two younger women leading the way, Mikaela Ashburn, and Olivia Doren. The theme is "Experiencing Emmanuel." The study book can be ordered on line to be used during the weekend.

On August 15, there will be a retreat for all East Ohio and West Ohio UWF in Delaware OH. It will be from 9:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This will be a time to meet all Ohio women involved in UWF, there will be a buffet lunch, communion and keynote speaker Julie Carter, Director of Faith Formation and Lay Servant Ministry. Julie was our speaker at Annual Celebration last year.

On October 24, the East Ohio UWFaith Annual Celebration will be held at Otterbein UMC in New Philadelphia in the South Forest District.

Mark your calendars for all of these events and plan to attend.

Every season is full of signs of God's beauty and goodness, we can choose to act and move forward in it. We can be led by what we believe in, just like the Magi were led. I encourage all of you to be an active part of UWF and make it an exciting year together.

Blessings, Marcia

Marcia lives in the West Plains District and can be reached at adamczykmarcia@yahoo.com

District Spring Meeting Dates

Districts	Date	Location	Time
Central Valley	April 18 (Sat.)	Western Reserve UMC	9:00 am
Northern Waters	March 21 (Sat.)	Bay Village UMC	9:30 am
South Forest	April 19 (Sun.)	Roscoe UMC	2:30 pm
West Plains	April 25 (Sat.)	Bucyrus UMC	11:30 am

United Women in Faith, the largest U.S. denominational women's mission organization, supports programs to empower women and improve life for women, children, and youth in the United States and internationally since 1869.

Greetings From Your Treasurer

For those who do not know me, I am married for 34 years to Brian Canfield who has assisted me in volunteering for this responsibility. We have two adult children who do not live near us. Our daughter, Emma is married and lives with her husband in Georgia. Our son, Issac lives in Westerville, Ohio. Since we are empty nesters, we own two corgis which I enjoy taking to various dog sports.

This is my second year of being your Conference Treasurer. Last year was my initiation year, which means I have my feet wet by now. Receiving our totals for giving to UWFaith National, I was ecstatic! You women are amazing in your dedication to UWF and mission. Over \$91,000 in total for all mission giving, not just our pledge. This far exceeded our pledge!! Wow! Everyone needs to take some time to let this sink in and praise God! Each of you are part of this. Local Units, District teams, and our Executive team!

We were asked for some goals for 2026! The first thing I want to see is our bus filled for Assembly! I have not participated at Assembly, which will be another first for me. Another goal is to make time to attend some District meetings this year. I want to meet the wonderful women who are part of our conference. As for mission giving and our pledge, I want us to meet our pledge and exceed it like we did for 2025! This is actually a goal for all of us! Are you ready to make 2026 a fabulous year with OH—IO known for more than football!

One of my personal goals is to learn more advanced tricks with my corgis and new dog sports. We are a little slowed here at the beginning of the year due to Lucy having a partial ligament tear in her back leg. She is healing well, but cannot jump on bales of hay for *barn hunt* yet.

Zoey and Lucy performed fabulous at dog trials in Cadiz, Ohio over the weekend of Annual Celebration. These are their accomplishments for Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Beth can be reached at bnbcanfield@yahoo.com



Mission u

Join Us at Mission u 2026!



Hello all,

We hope everyone is doing their best to stay safe and warm during this frigid winter we are having. We do not have a ton of information to share about this years Mission u with it still being February. but what we can share is East Ohio Mission u will be held July 10-12 at the University of Mount Union in Alliance. The theme for the curriculum this year is *Experiencing Emmanuel!* As more information becomes available we will make sure it is shared. For now, please mark your calendars for July 10-12, a week earlier than in the past. And please

continue to pray over us as we start to get plans solidified for this years fabulous Mission u.

Mikaela and Olivia, Deans, Mission u

Mikaela can be reached at mashburn96@gmail.com

Olivia at oliviaa.dixon@yahoo.com

What to Expect at Mission u

- ⇒ Be nurtured and encouraged—A transformative experience designed to recharge and refocus your faith. Offering study on biblically grounded curricula, Mission u motivates, informs, and enriches our commitment to create a more just and equitable world, locally and globally.
- ⇒ Let's discover together—Join us as we collectively discover how God calls us to respond to suffering with compassion. Gain confidence in your interpretation of scripture, with a justice lens that connects to today's world. Connect across generations with curricula for adult, youth, and children that use the same focus and themes. Develop the confidence to speak about social issues as a person of faith.

Join us at Mission u, July 10-12, and embark on a journey of faith, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. We look forward to sharing this incredible experience with you.

Location: University of Mount Union, 1972 Clark Ave. Alliance Ohio 44601

PAG—Program Advisory Group

DREAM IT! BELIEVE IT! DO IT!

Make a difference in your life, in your spiritual life, in the lives of others. Let's get together in Indianapolis for Assembly 2026, May 15-17. Registration remains open until April 13. Go to UWfaith.org

East Ohio also has a block of rooms being held at the Downtown Marriott. Call the Indy Housing Bureau at 317.262.8191, mention UWFaith Assembly and reserve your room before April 20. Currently, only king rooms remain available and are going quickly.

Seats do remain on the bus. Roundtrip fare is \$100. Four convenient stops will be made on the outbound as well as the return trip. Make check payable EOC UWFaith and mail to Beth Canfield at 6721 Idelawn Ave. Canal Fulton, OH 44614

Come together. Grow your faith along with this sisterhood of women from around the country and across the world. It will be life changing. Hope to see you there.

Kathy Hopkins

Kathy lives in the Central Valley District and can be reached at kathyh1953@frontier.com



Assembly 2026
May 15-17, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana
Indiana Convention Center

Assembly 2026 Highlights

Assembly 2026 is a once-every-four-years gathering of women from all around the world who are committed to faith, empowerment, and making a difference. Picture a weekend that uplifts your soul, strengthens your faith, and brings you together with an unstoppable sisterhood. There has never been a more important time for women of faith to come together, tap into our strength and unite to change the world. Assembly 2026 will host longtime United Methodists Stacey Abrams and her mother, a longtime UWFaith member, Rev. Carolyn Abrams in conversation as our Inspiration Speakers. Many different events are offered including Community Gatherings, Workshops, and Experience Hall (Trade-Show).

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 Bishop Malone's article about Assembly in the January/February 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

Historian

As many of you are aware, our UMC, UMW and UWFaith history and archives are stored at The Methodist Theological School in Delaware. Continue to hold onto articles from former and current districts –Secretary's minutes, Gathering programs, Yearly program booklets, and pictures. Our Historian is Rita Kyser who can be reached at ritajkyser@aol.com

Secretary

Hello fellow UWFaith members.

As secretary for the Conference, I have been struggling with the details of recording minutes. You see, I spent my life as a nurse with protocol, procedures and charting with details and precision. It came easy. When I retired six years ago, I thought details and precision were gone. But I decided to take up quilting where precision and details were very important. You could see every seam, every cut that was not done with precision and attention to detail. I learned that I had to go back and practice precision and accuracy. But being a secretary has been a struggle. There is a different kind of “attention to detail” as they say. The taking of minutes means that words must be written down as spoken and recorded for future use. Minutes become an official document that is used through our history to document important decisions. This is a different kind of precision I have had to embrace and pay attention to.

I attended a seminar/presentation on Women of the United Methodist Church and many seminary students who presented on these women found interesting facts. Women were always referred to as Mrs. John Smith not Elizabeth Smith etc. Most women were just footnotes in conference journals. Women were not given credit for their work in the forming of the church and communities, even though, most of these women did more than was even mentioned. And as we all know, behind every successful man is a woman.

It's important to record our history and make sure our words are documented for the present and future generations. Help me to record and preserve our legacy/history by taking accurate minutes and preparing reports that go along with the minutes. We need to be precise to record and to build on the future.

Margaret Harvey, Conference Secretary

Margaret lives in Northern Waters District and can be reached at margaret.k.harvey@gmail.com

Nominations

Dear Ladies, I hope 2026 is treating you well! We are on the lookout for a President for the 2027 year. Do you have a friend who would be willing to join our group? We are all willing to help that person feel comfortable. Maybe there is someone you haven't thought of that would be a great leader! Please think outside of the box. Please feel free to contact me, 740-680-1810, text or call. Thanks for all that you do!

Kim Allen, Conference Chair of Nominations

Kim lives in the South Forest District and can be reached at kallen2168@gmail.com

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.

Social Action

Our social action priorities for the next four years are climate justice, ending mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color. Carol Nelson Burns is our Coordinator for Social Action and serves as the contact person for district and local unit Mission Coordinators for Social Action. She shares resources and keeps us up-to-date on ways that we can put our faith into action. Carol can be reached at cnbkelleys@yahoo.com

THE EAST OHIO CONFERENCE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

2026 OFFICERS

President	Rebecca Sutton	rlsutton5@yahoo.com
Vice President	Marcia Adamczyk	adamczykmarcia@yahoo.com
Secretary	Margaret Harvey	margaret.k.harvey@gmail.com
Treasurer	Beth Canfield	bnbcanfield@yahoo.com
Communications	Elizabeth Feldman.....	eflogil@gmail.com
Historian	Rita Kyser	ritajkyser@aol.com
Membership Nurture & Outreach	OPEN	
MEI	Beth Saling.....	bwsaling@gmail.com
Mission Education and Interpretation/Program Resources		
Mission u Dean	Mikaela Ashburn.....	mashburn96@gmail.com
Mission u Dean	Olivia Doran.....	oliviaa.dixon@yahoo.com
Nominations Chair	Kim Allen.....	kallen2168@gmail.com
Nominations Committee	Cynthia Knox.....	cynthia_knox@sbcglobal.net
Nominations Committee	Kelly Korb	kkorb210@gmail.com
Nominations Committee	Gloria Allen-Levert.....	allenlevert@yahoo.com
Program Resources	Beth Saling.....	bwsaling@gmail.com
Social Action	Carol Nelson Burns.....	cnbkelleys@yahoo.com
Spiritual Growth	Kathryn Kuhn	kjk.now69@gmail.com
Tea/University Women	China Williams.....	chinawcommerce@gmail.com
President North Central Jurisdiction	Linda Crowell	lfchso@msn.com
Program Advisory Group (PAG)	Kathy Hopkins.....	kathyh1953@frontier.com
District Presidents		
Central Valley.....	VP, Linda Martin.....	330.787.1857
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. As of October 2025, the balance was \$52,455,923.

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

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

Winter 2026



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

Copying permission is granted.

Copies emailed to local Unit presidents and treasurers, East Ohio Conference UWF District and
Conference Mission Team members.

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

Fall newsletter article deadline – August 24, 2026