



THE HOLSTONIAN

Holston Conference United Methodist Women
April • May • June • Spring Edition 2021

Janie Hull • Communication Coordinator • Newsletter Editor



Mission u • July 23-24, 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)

Mission u will examine anxiety, the culture of violence that impacts children in and out of schools, and how we as God's people can deepen our moral witness and respond faithfully.

The 2021 **Mission u** will offer the following studies:

- ***Finding Peace in an Anxious World***, edited by Erin James-Brown
- ***Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in School***, by Monique Morris
- ***Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living Into the Church's Moral Witness Through Radical Discipleship***, by Darryl W. Stephens
- ***Becoming Peacemakers in a Culture of Violence: A Curriculum for Youth Leaders***, by Jay Godfrey

Mission u will be held virtually via Zoom on Friday, July 23 – Saturday, July 24, 2021. More detail to come, or contact Susan Daffron, Dean @ spdaffron1@gmail.com.

Growing our Faith. Widening Our Circle. Increasing Mission.

Greetings, to my Sisters in Christ!

As I reflect on the United Methodist Women PURPOSE, I do so by considering what it means to me personally, as the conference president, and perhaps to other women, and then on what fulfilling the PURPOSE might look like in Holston Conference.

Seeking to fully understand and striving to fulfill the PURPOSE helps us to assess if we, as individuals, as a conference, as a district, and as local organizations

are moving in the right direction. Key indicators for this assessment would be: Are we planning, organizing, and providing leadership in ways that help us know God?

Each of us needs to be engaged in forming a daily relationship with God through prayer, reading, studying, understanding, and giving thanks for His Word. This includes loving and accepting the love of Jesus and attending to the works of God's whole

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creation. Are we organized in a way that undergirds



this work? Are we becoming whole persons through Jesus Christ? Do we trust in His directing our lives? Do we know ourselves as redeemed, beloved, and gifted daughters of God who give of ourselves in serving and loving others through missions of the global church? I believe that we are called to organize in ways that support and encourage us in these directions.

Finally, we are to build creative and supportive fellowship with each other. Encouraging, expanding, energizing, and reconciling relationships is not only possible for us but is also necessary. The ultimate model of supportive fellowship is that of the Trinity. The three persons of the Trinity teach us that unity and love must always go together. The oneness of God and the love between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not separate. We are able to be in fellowship with others who are different from ourselves because of the passion and compassion of Christ. If we are to become whole, we must be in relationships that stretch us.

Are we expanding concepts of mission? Are we growing in our understanding of how God is at work

in the world and continually asking how we should be involved in order to participate in making the world more loving and just? This expansion and growth require our study of mission, advocacy, and critical thinking about how we are serving and where women and children are being transformed to be whole persons themselves.

The work of United Methodist Women is global. It begins with each individual woman and works to address needs in our congregations, communities, conference, region, and the whole world. No one of us can do everything or go everywhere; but together United Methodist Women can do a great thing and go anywhere that God leads us.

A vision of Holston Conference United Methodist Women is to fulfill this PURPOSE. This vision includes having a bold presence in all our churches and at every level of the conference. We are prayerfully engaged, contributing, and giving of our time and financial resources to missions. We are acting on our 150-year legacy which prioritizes and addresses local, national, and global issues, including matters of race, racism, and social justice. We fully understand mission work and how God is revealed through missions. Ultimately, we are bringing our whole selves to the work of addressing the needs of women and children around the world!

Faithfully yours,
Donna M. Mosby, President

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 fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

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Vice President/Program Coordination

Happy Spring ladies! As your vice president and chair of the program coordination committee, I am excited about the opportunities available for the women in Holston Conference. The program coordination committee is working to plan an exciting program for the Rise Event 2022. Watch for details to be revealed later this year.

Planning has already begun for the 48th Annual Meeting of Holston Conference United Methodist Women. The event will be held virtually via Zoom. That decision was reached after much discernment, discussion, and prayer. Please know that it is because we want our membership to be safe during this pandemic. We look forward to the day we can safely gather again, hopefully next Fall if not before.

I encourage you to send me your suggestions and recommendations for speakers and musicians you would enjoy hearing for future events.

Shalom, Margaret Forby
Vice-President and Program Coordination



Supporting Mission Through Giving

United Methodist Women is trusted with pledges and donations from individual women and local units, as well as mission partners and anonymous donors who have a heart for mission. Through this generous giving, we support programs in the United States and around the world that benefit women, children, and youth - thereby impacting entire communities.



Pictured above, a map of the locations listed by state of the National Mission Institutions in the United States. Here is where our Mission Giving money goes to serve women, children and youth.

At the turn of the 20th century, in response to the needs of marginalized and vulnerable communities, newly arrived immigrants, freed Blacks, the working poor, and indigenous peoples, our United Methodist Women's predecessor organizations established social service programs across the United States. Many of these programs survive today as independent, autonomous non-profit agencies known as **National Mission Institutions**.

Located across the United States, United Methodist Women, national office assists these organizations through grants, technical support, and member involvement. The close to 100 National Mission Institutions are empowering women, caring for children, educating youth, housing the neglected, advocating for social justice, creating economic opportunities, and changing neighborhoods.

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Mission Giving funds also go to support **The Regional Missionary Initiative** which was created because of requests for leadership and organizational development from Methodist and United Methodist women around the world.



United Methodist Women regional missionaries hold a lock box that is part of a new loan program for women during a four-day training in Freetown, Sierra Leone. The microfinance project is funded by United Methodist Women. Photo by Phileas Jusu. UM News

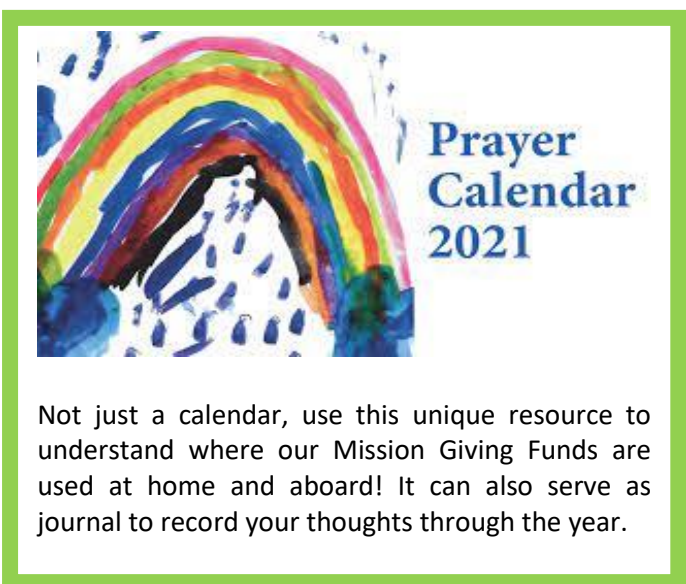
Regional Missionaries located in Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean implement their work through community and organizational needs assessments, training programs, workshops, strategic planning, and network development to focus on impacting poverty by enhancing the capacities of local women leaders and supporting the economic development of programs to provide women with the tools required to make positive, measurable change in their communities.

In addition, Mission Giving funds support our **International Work** by empowering local women in Central Conferences of the United Methodist Church to be leaders in the church, community, and the world. United Methodist Women have supported skills and livelihood projects, founded schools, and provided leadership opportunities for women and girls.

United Methodist Women's international work focuses on impacting poverty through enhancing the capacities of local women leaders and supporting economic development programs. We provide women with the tools required to succeed in finding local solutions and making positive, measurable change in their communities.

The fourth major use of Mission Giving funds is through **Grants**. The Theresa Hoover Community Service and Global Citizenship Award is one such grant. This fund and grant honors Ms. Hoover's dedication to community service, public policy, and ecumenical global views. It is awarded to young women for the purpose of study, exploration, learning and research in a subject area that matches United Methodist Women's priority issues.

The National Ministries Grants is another such opportunity. These grants support the work of nearly 100 National Mission Institutions, which are serving and advocating for women, children, and youth in their local communities. And then there are International Ministries Grants that support the work of our International Partners throughout the world.



Not just a calendar, use this unique resource to understand where our Mission Giving Funds are used at home and aboard! It can also serve as journal to record your thoughts through the year.

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Holston Conference United Methodist Women 2021 Mission Giving Focus

The Bethlehem Center • Chattanooga, Tennessee

The Bethlehem Center is one of the two *National Mission Institutions* located in the Holston Conference, (Wesley House Community Center, Knoxville being the other) and is the 2021 Mission Giving Focus. Born out of two separate Methodist ministries; The Good Shepherd Fold daycare, run by Reverend Sallie Crenshaw, and the Wesley House, established by Mrs. Miriam Brock, the now known Bethlehem Center offers programs for children, youth, adults, and the community.



Photograph above, two elementary girls pictured outside The Bethlehem Center, Chattanooga.

During this time of COVID 19, the Bethlehem Center has partnered with Hamilton County Schools to launch Virtual Learning Centers whereby students gather in small groups, under the supervision of qualified adults to engage in remote learning. This partnership ensures students who are learning remotely have support and supervision when needed.

Other programs offered include Read to Lead After School Academy and Camp Restart which provides children with a safe place after school where they can grow academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually and provides children with adventure-filled summers that includes science, technology, art, reading, and more.

Programs and activities for youth include leadership training and mentoring programs like the Bethlehem Leadership Unit (B.L.U.), the Independent Youth Services Foundation (IYSF), Boys to Men at the Beth, and the Omega Lamplighters, all seeking to empower high school youth with the tools they need to be effective citizens. The primary focus of these mentoring programs is to stress personal and social development with educational, cultural, social, emotional, and psychological activities. They are designed to provide good life skills and prepare them to become successful and contributing members of the community.

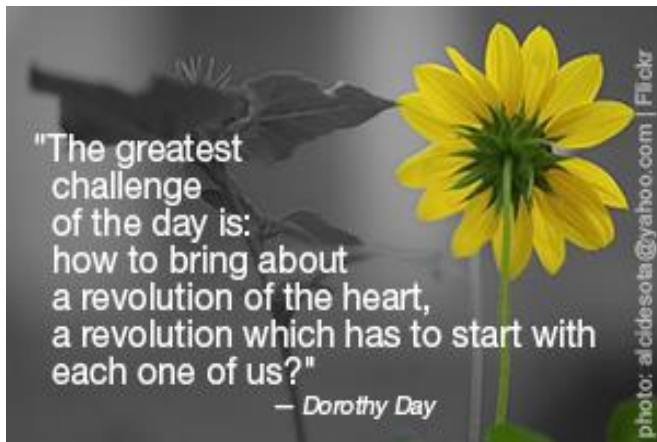
Other happenings for children include a sports program and The Nehemiah Project. Being a part of one of the sports leagues encourages growth and togetherness, develops skills such as trust and teamwork. Partnering with other agencies, The Nehemiah Project provides backpacks and school supplies to ensure children have basic items they need to do well in school.

Adult programs include Faith and Finances which provides faith-based support for financial stability, Building Stable Lives provides life coaches in neighborhoods to empower participants to develop social and economic independence, and Impact1!, a mentoring program for men who strive to achieve their goals and are provided with employment assistance.

The Bethlehem Center also partners with other agencies and provides four Community Outreach programs that support families in the areas of economic empowerment, leadership & spiritual development, and connection to resources.

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Spiritual Growth



As your conference Spiritual Growth Coordinator, I want to encourage the district coordinators to reach out to your membership with support and spiritual guidance. We have certainly learned during this past year that there is not one way or one place to connect with one another or with God. We connect in a deep and profound way when we are connected through the power of the Holy Spirit that flows within and among us. And that can happen anywhere. At any moment. God's love connects us and binds us always and will never fail us.

Think outside the box during these challenging times. Be creative in sharing your gifts and ideas. Below are some suggestions that you might consider with your units, remembering that we will still be using Zoom for a while as well as hoping for some in-person gatherings:

- *Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship*, a book by Janet Wolf, is also an excellent resource to use on your spiritual journey. It explores "what it means to live a life of radical discipleship today using the Gospel of Mark as the foundation."
- Organize a special time(s) in your district for prayer, meditation and/or study. Think about organizing a retreat. Share devotions regularly

with your member using email, Facebook or other social media.

- Understand and communicate the connection between personal spiritual development and mission as expressed through social and global involvement. Show and teach, through your witness and words, that our spiritual growth is inherently tied to our mission work.
- Share the United Methodist Women (UMW) prayer calendar at every meeting, program, etc.
- Use *response* magazine, the program book and other books from the Reading Program to lead studies and to grow spiritually.
- Incorporate language and images into worship opportunities that are inclusive and affirming to women, people of color, people with disabilities and thoughtful toward native peoples and social climates.
- Encourage prayer! The link between prayer and action is one of the most important components of our work as women organized for mission.
- Listen to the UMW Faith podcasts unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks
- Think about creating an Advent devotional book for 2021, asking district members to write devotions.

So, as we begin our work for 2021, we give thanks for those who came before us. We pledge to work together, to enact change, to create a world where all are treated with equity. We commit to use our passion, our energy, our words to put faith, hope and love in action. We pledge to follow our Purpose of United Methodist Women and the example of Christ.

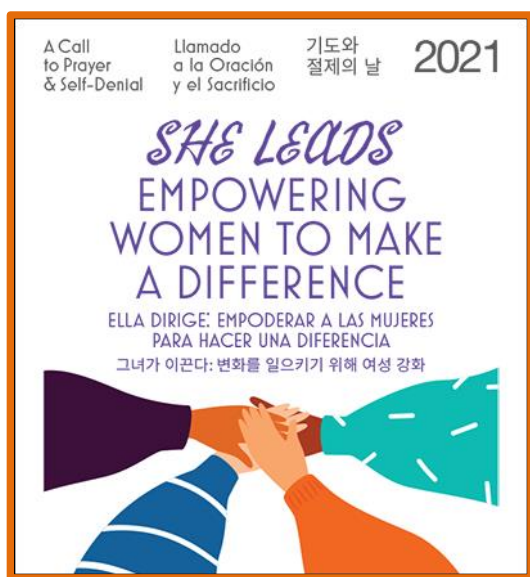
Please reach out to me for anything – Patbellingrath@gmail.com.

Pat Bellingrath
Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Holston Conference United Methodist Women

Call to Prayer and Self Denial, *Rescheduled*

Please mark your calendars and save the date, Friday, September 17th, 7:00 p.m. for this Spiritual Enrichment Event. To be held the Eve of Holston Conference United Methodist Women 48th Annual Meeting. Watch for more details forthcoming.



Program Resources

A new year of reading is upon us. The United Methodist Women Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share, and discuss the books. The purpose of the Reading Program is to

better understand and participate in God's mission today, to increase sensitivity to all human beings, to explore contemporary issues, and to enhance and act on self-knowledge.

Individual women are encouraged to participate by selecting one of the four plans and start reading! From captivating novels and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues such as climate

change and mass incarceration; the books are available for people of all ages and reading levels.

As you read, track your progress using the reporting form. Once you complete your plan; submit your information to the district through your local unit to be recognized during your district annual meeting and conference recognition event. Download the Reading Guide, report form and receive more specific information by visiting <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/reading-program>.

Ways to promote the Reading Program Share the 2021-2022 Reading Program guide with those in your district and unit, your church, and the community. You do not have to be a member of a United Methodist Women unit or church to participate. Men are also welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Promote one book from each of the five reading categories (Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, & Spiritual Growth) per year. By following this recommendation, you can easily achieve Plan I status and earn recognition.

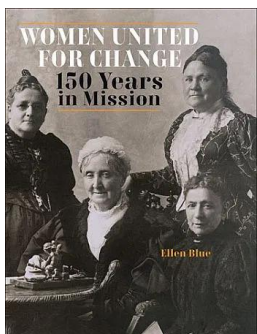
Sponsor a movie night! Watch and follow-up with a discussion using one or all of these movies, Just Mercy, The Hate U Give, and/or Push Out. All three movies are based on books by the same name that are on the Reading Program booklist.

Participate in Mission u, which also counts toward the Reading Program. The Mission u studies count as Bonus Books (in two categories). You can also register for and participate in two Faith Talks podcasts which can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. Hope you enjoy your reading.

Blessings, Deborah Carte, Program Resources

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Education & Interpretation



I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well.

I would like to inform you that the Educational & Interpretation Committee met and revised the Mission Today Unit Reporting Form for 2020. The year of 2020 has

presented unusual circumstances in our lives and due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic local units have been unable to meet in person or host regular events. Therefore the criteria have been modified to allow for units to receive recognition for participating in the program during these unprecedented times.

What is the purpose of a Mission Today Unit? The purpose of promoting a Mission Today Unit is to: Energize United Methodist Women to be more involved in mission through prayer, study, and action. Increase contacts between units and mission. Personal and mission projects so the United Methodist Women understand where their money goes. Encourage the use of mission resources through United Methodist Women. Expand concepts of mission, including social justice as mission.

The *NEWLY revised* Mission Today Unit Report Form may be obtained from your District Education and Interpretation Mission Coordinator or District President. The form can also be found on the Holston Conference UMW webpage under forms. If you have questions regarding the form, please email me at singdancemusick@yahoo.com.

Social Action & Advocacy

United Methodist Women interprets the biblical passage from Luke 4:18 as both a model and a mandate for Christian social action and advocacy:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

United Methodist Women has been challenging social injustice for almost 150 years. We continue our advocacy work on peace and justice, education, the rights of children, human rights, and farm workers' rights, to name a few.

In all advocacy efforts United Methodist Women supports its work with a scriptural basis and adheres to the denominational mandates in the Book of Discipline and Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church.

United Methodist Women works in partnership with coalitions on many justice issues to extend our reach. Please save the date, August 7th as we partner with others to address one of the two national campaign priorities for 2021-2024. Circle this date on your calendars and watch for details to follow.

Brittany Eastridge, Social Action Coordinator



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Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Dear Sisters, who knew a little over a year ago we would be facing a global crisis such as this—one that would disrupt our lives and alter our very existence. We recognize that COVID-19 has impacted the districts and local units and the work you do as United Methodist Women.



But, let me offer you this as encouragement: We are Women of Hope! We must face these days of fear and uncertainty and not passively accept or surrender to them. These times can and should be days of renewed worship, rededicated service, care, friendship, work, and love. We must be alert to the stranger among us, and we must love one another and be kind to one another as God in Christ has been merciful to us (Ephesians 4:32-5:2).

Take these days for opportunities to nurture and strengthen one another. Plan ways to grow your local membership through outreach opportunities. Here is an exercise the district and local unit officers can do to connect with one another and perhaps learn ways to attract new members.

Share enthusiasm about why you belong to United Methodist Women. To know how to attract members, you must first look at yourselves: 1) How did you become a member of UMW? 2) Why are you a member today? 3) What has kept you involved in UMW over the years when you had so many other things competing for your time? Use the responses to plan for a new member recruitment event.

Please know that the conference leadership team is available to help. Contact us to set up a group Zoom call learning opportunity. Just email me and I can get you connected- dmosbyumw@gmail.com.

Nominations & Leadership

United Methodist Women members from across the conference are elected to leadership roles to serve at the conference level. Accepting a leadership role requires a commitment of time, energy, and effort. But in return, you develop a deeper understanding of mission, grow spiritually, and are sustained by the knowledge that you are making a difference in the lives of women, children and youth and unjust systems.

The Nominating Committee of Holston Conference United Methodist Women continues to accept nominations for leadership positions to fill vacancies for the 2021 program year. Positions include: Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, the committee is continuously receiving Talent Bank forms from women who are willing to serve on the conference leadership team.

Please contact a member of the committee if you know someone who is interested in serving. Election of officers will be held during the Annual Meeting set for September 18, 2021.

Ella Howard, Nominating Chair

A Message from the Historian/Archivist

As your new Historian/Archivist, I am requesting that each of my district counterparts prepare an updated history of their districts. We are approaching the 50 Year Anniversary of the first meeting of the Holston Conference UMW. We first met in March 1973. I will be updating the Conference UMW history and would like to include a few brief paragraphs from each district. Please send me what you want to be included in the Conference history update by July 30, 2021. I can then begin to incorporate your information into the Holston Conference UMW history.

Carolyn Haerr, Historian/Archivist

Holston Conference United Methodist Women

2021 CONFERENCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS (Spring 2021)

January 28-30	Leadership Development Days
February 1-28	Black History Awareness Month
February 20	Remit to District Treasurer 1st Quarter Pledge to Mission
March 1-31	Women's History Month
April	Rise Event (Rescheduled to April 22-23, 2022) "Climate Justice Campaign: Just Energy for All"
May	Charter for Racial Justice Policy Kickoff
May 1-31	Asia American & Pacific Islander Awareness Month
May 20	Remit to District Treasurer 2 nd Quarter Pledge to Mission
June 12	Holston Annual Conference (Virtual Event)
July 10	Holston Conference Leadership Team Meeting
July 23-24	Holston Conference Mission u (Virtual Event) "There's Far More Here Than Meets the Eye." 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
August 7	Holston Conference Social Action Event (Virtual Event) "Criminalization of Communities of Color and Mass Incarceration Campaign: Interrupt the School - to - Prison Pipeline"
August 20	Remit to District Treasurer 3rd quarter Pledge to Mission
August 21	Racial Justice Event - The United Methodist Church: Perspectives & Challenges 50 years after Unification (Virtual Event)
Sept. 15-Oct.15	Hispanic/Latino Heritage Awareness Month
September 17	Call to Prayer & Self Denial Spiritual Enrichment Event (Virtual Event) "She Leads, Empowering Women to Take the Lead."
September 18	Holston Conference United Methodist Women 48 th Annual Meeting (Virtual Event)
November 1-30	Indigenous People Awareness Month/ Native American
November 20	Remit to District Treasurer 4th quarter Pledge to Mission
December 15	All Local Unit Membership & Finance Reports are Due to the District.

United Methodist Women's Day should be observed on a Sunday selected by the local unit in consultation with the Church's Pastor.

A NEW Virtual United Methodist Women Unit Being Formed!

Are you looking for a UMW unit to join? Perhaps you know of someone looking for a unit to join? There is a place for you! Meetings will take place over ZOOM and will use BASECAMP as a platform for documents and resources. More information to come!

Organized by Lori Sluder - if you are interested contact her at LoriLSluder@gmail.com with your name, email address, church, and district.

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2021 Conference Elected Executive Officers

<p>President Donna M. Mosby 106 Haven Hill Lane Oak Ridge, TN 37830 (865) 482-4193 (home) (865) 919-5866 (cell) dmosbyumw@gmail.com Tennessee Valley District</p>	<p>Mission Coordinator: Education & Interpretation Tawana Teague 205 Redstone Drive Bristol, TN 37620 (423) 573-1550 (423) 367-9371 singdancemusick@yahoo.com Clinch Mountain District</p>	<p>Nominations Committee Chair Ella Howard 1015 First Branch Road Vansant, VA 24656 (276) 597-0080 birders3@gmail.com Clinch Mountain District</p>
<p>Vice President Margaret Forby 118 Skyview Drive Greeneville, TN 37745 (423) 620-2680 margaretforby@yahoo.com Mountain View District</p>	<p>Mission Coordinator: Membership Nurture & Outreach Donna Camper 319 E M Cross Road Piney Flats, TN 37686 (423) 366-0905 camperd743@gmail.com Clinch Mountain District</p>	<p>Nominations Committee Jackie Reop 4890 Hwy 126 Blountville, TN 37617 (423) 323-8064 roopjackie@yahoo.com Three Rivers District</p>
<p>Secretary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VACANT</p>	<p>Mission Coordinator: Social Action Brittany Eastridge 3917 S Mission Oaks Drive Chattanooga, TN 37412 (423) 605-1119 bheastridge@gmail.com Scenic South District</p>	<p>Nominations Committee Cheri Patterson 226 Grace Street Bristol, TN 37620 (423) 306-3842 cwinepat@gmail.com Clinch Mountain District</p>
<p>Treasurer</p> <p style="text-align: center;">VACANT</p>	<p>Mission Coordinator: Spiritual Growth Pat Bellingrath 801 Bluff Drive Knoxville, TN 37919 (865) 591-6274 patbellingrath@gmail.com Tennessee Valley District</p>	<p>Nominations Committee Monica Sheppard-Viator 4429 Plymouth Drive Knoxville, TN 37914 (865) 691-5552 monicaasv@comcast.net Tennessee Valley District</p>
<p>Communications Coordinator Janie Hull 1549 Highway 126 Bristol, TN 37620 (423) 764-0049 janiehull1234@gmail.com Clinch Mountain District</p>	<p>Secretary of Program Resources Deborah Carte 1503 N. Main Street Hillsville, VA 24343 (276) 733-1182 deborah_carte@comcast.net New River District</p>	<p>Nominations Committee Nyoka Holder 130 Beryl Blevins Road Elizabethton, TN 37643 (423) 543-2509 nokiholder@yahoo.com Three Rivers District</p>



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Holston Conference
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**Janie Hull, Editor
1549 Highway 126
Bristol, TN 37620**

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Please visit and LIKE our new facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/United-Methodist-Women-of-Holston-Conference-101096578699114>



Turning Faith • Hope • Love into Action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

2021 Newsletter Deadlines

**Spring Edition March 20, 2021
April, May, June**

**Summer Edition June 20, 2021
July, August, September**

**Fall Edition September 20, 2021
October, November, December**

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.” — Desmond Tutu
