



Issue 2

From the Sierras to the Seas

*Cal-Pac North District Newsletter
United Women in Faith*



March 2025

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March 16, 3 p.m.

Sally Vonner speaks

Pasadena First UMC (see p. 20)

March 23

Day of Giving (see p. 16)

April 29, 10 a.m.

David & Margaret Tour/Lunch

LaVerne, CA (see p.21)

May 3, 11 a.m.

USC Arcadia Auxiliary Tea

(see p. 22)

June 14

UWF Luncheon, UMC Annual

Conference

Mission u

July 11-12

Cal State Long Beach

North District Annual

Celebration, September 20

Location TBD

October 19

53rd Cal-Pac Conference

Annual Celebration

Local Roster

30-31

Gifts & Graces

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President

Diane Garner



Let me share parts of a litany voiced during our recent Conference Mid-Winter Event. We, in the North District, are blessed to have the prayers of our Sisterhood.

The Hawaii District welcomes our sisters in the North District with aloha during this time of heartbreak and loss.

From the Sierras to the Seas, the North District is grateful, but still hurting in the midst of the devastation of the fires. We greet our Sisters in the East District with thanks for prayers in the long process of healing...

Let us continue to be in prayer for one another as we travel this road toward recovery.

Continued on p.2

Continued from p.1

At the Mid-Winter Event, we also recognized our **Mission Today** units. In the North District, those who achieved this distinction in 2024 included **Camarillo, Pasadena First, Santa Barbara First, Simi Valley and Sherman Oaks.**

I would commend for your consideration becoming a Mission Today unit. The criteria provides guideposts for developing a robust program in order to *inspire, influence and impact!* You may find the Mission Today information on p. 26 of this newsletter. Will your unit be

a 2025 Mission Today unit? I hope your answer is "YES!"

Practicing hope,
Diane Garner
North District President
rdgarner47@hotmail.com
(805)795-0344

North District Leadership Team

Names and phone numbers can be found on p. 12-13.



David & Margaret
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

All UWF women are invited to a tour and light lunch.

David & Margaret Youth and Family Services*
LaVerne, CA

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 29

*David and Margaret is a National Mission of UWF

Flyer on p. 21



United Women in Faith

Mission

The Mission of United Women in Faith is 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.

Vision

The Vision of United Women in Faith is a world in which women, children, and youth can thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Purpose

The Purpose of United Women in Faith is to 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.

Sally Vonner Visit

I trust you will make every effort to join your fellow UWF sisters in Cal-Pac for a rare opportunity to meet and converse with Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith, in person! General Secretary Vonner is eager to share time with us at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, March 16 at Pasadena First United Methodist Church, 500 E Colorado Blvd, Pasadena 91101. (see flyer on p. 20.) Let us gather and listen and share.

Complete Your Unit Survey

All local unit presidents are responsible for completing the Unit Survey for 2023 (yes, 2023!). The Sample Survey can be found in Issue 1 (Nov/Dec 2024) of *From the Sierras to the Seas*. If you do not have a copy of this issue, you may find it at www.calpacumc.org/uwfaith. Once you have completed the Sample Survey, it must be submitted electronically at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2023California-Pacific.

To those who have already completed this survey, THANK YOU! You have helped to forge the way forward for our organization. If you still have this on your “To Do” list, do it today!

Social Action

Labarbara J. Madison



A Crisis

A crisis exists! United Women in Faith’s response through its *Just Energy 4 All* campaign is critical. Your North District Leadership Team has committed to doing what it can as it carries out its work. Among other measures, bringing one’s own beverage container to gatherings will be encouraged in order to reduce the waste that goes into our landfills. A recent *response* magazine (November/December 2024) article offered these suggestions so you can be part of the solution:

- Donating, rather than discarding, gently used clothing and household items
- Using laundry detergent eco sheets and toilet bowl eco strips to eliminate plastic jugs
- Choosing digital over printed receipts
- Wasting less (water, leftover food)
- Avoiding single use plastics
- Using compost barrels
- Selecting public transportation or carpooling
- Recycling aluminum, glass,

- metal and paper as allowed by your trash service
- Educating ourselves and others about climate justice
- Using glass plates and cups, and stainless steel silverware at church meals and gatherings rather than paper and plastic

We are only a small piece in the whole climate justice puzzle, but to complete the puzzle, every single piece is needed, however small. What will be your “piece of the puzzle?”

Message provided by Diane Garner, North District President

Labarbara Madison
Social Action Coordinator
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(626) 627-9788

Next Newsletter

June, 2025



Treasurer

A.S. Hedges



And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of David his Father, and turned not aside to the right nor the left hand. 2 Kings 22:2

Take time meditate and read 2 Kings 22:1-6. Encourage giving Godly. Thank God!

The North District recently recognized the United Women in Faith-North District Local Unit Milestones and enjoyed recognizing our ladies' dedication. It was also a pleasure to join with some during this 2025 California-Pacific Conference Mid-Winter Event in Los Angeles (& Hawaii)!

Congratulations North District United Women in Faith Local Organization's 5 Star and Sixty-Forty Mission Giving during 2024:

Bishop
Canoga Park
Camarillo
First-North Hollywood

First-Pasadena
First-Santa Barbara
Knollwood
Ridgecrest
Scott
Simi Valley
Thousand Oaks

As we gain momentum into 2025 **REMEMBER:**

Make your checks payable to: North District United Women in Faith

Mail to: A.S. Hedges,
#1549, Flintridge,
California 91012

Keep your rosters up-to-date; inform your district of changes. (See form on p.30)

Let us know! If your local organization is having a special event or meeting and leadership team may attend. Invite us :-)

Review Newsletters North District *From the Sierras to the Seas* and California-Pacific Conference *Pacific Waves* for the most current information.

Interested in seeing your hard work in action? Join us Tuesday, April 29 for a Mission Trip. (See flyer on p. 21 for additional details.)

Move to Mission in 2025 and help reach our \$55,000 pledge goal.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Lord's Love
A.S. Hedges
visionarychair@gmail.com

Interested in sharing your event in the North District
uwnorthdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com

Publication Deadlines - May 10, July 10 and September 10, 2025.

Publication: June, August and December 2025

Our amazing creativity and talents give back a portion of what God has gifted us with the support work of United Women in Faith. Always looking for members...if interested in joining the North District Team, please email Ms. Pinnock
megpinn@sbcglobal.net

UWF Handbook

The new 2025-2028 UWF Constitution and Bylaws Handbook is now available in the UWF Shop to download: <https://uwwfresources.org/prodlist.cfm?catid=0>

Nominations

Megan Pinnock



North District Nominations

Since last month's Eaton/Altadena wildfire, Megan Pinnock, who is our North District Chair of Nominations, has not been at home with access to her computer. She asked me to support her with this Nominations article. Let us continue to pray for our North District women and all those who are dealing with hardships as part of the aftermath of the LA area wildfires, as well as for disaster victims near and far.

By Rosalie Niemann CON member

A recent verse on my Bible app comes from 2 Chronicles 15:7. “But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded.”

Writer, actor and director Woody Allen has said that 80% of success is showing up. So I urge us to show up!

At my church, we were fortunate to have as guest teacher and preacher Father Gregory Boyle,

founder of Homeboy Industries and author of a new book, **Cherished Belong: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times.** I recommend listening to the Audible version where he reads his book.

I showed up on the day of Fr. Boyle's visit and was rewarded to hear some of his stories of humility, humor and goodwill. He used the Luke 5 story of Jesus' call of his first disciples at the Lake of Gennesaret. When we say, “There's nothing there,” Jesus replies, “Go deeper and look again.” This worship service is available using YouTube's link for Pasadena FUMC, February 9.

As we United Women in Faith plan our Mid-Winter Event at Holman UMC, I hope and pray that we seek ways to stay connected, go deeper and look again for answers to our challenges as we build our faith and enjoy life in Christian community!

In this faith work, the Nominations Committee has leadership positions for you who are able and interested. Complete the Gift and Graces form (p. 32) and contact Megan. She can answer any questions you have and help you take the next step. We hope that you will show up and put God's love in action!

Vacant district positions include:

Spiritual Growth Coordinator, Membership, Nurture & Outreach Coordinator, and Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator.

Megan Pinnock
Nominations Chair
Cell: (626) 861-5429
megpinn@sbcglobal.net

Program Resources

Marilynne
Wilander



Hope that most of you are doing OK after the horrific fires and winds that swept through Pasadena, Altadena, Pacific Palisades and Malibu. I am amazed at the resilience of those who lost their home...and inspired by the countless stories of so many reaching out to others during this time of crisis. I think that these simultaneous fires have affected all of us whether directly impacted or not. Thoughts and prayers are with all who are dealing with so much.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
23 READERS FROM FOUR
AREA CHURCHES WHO
Continued on p.6

Continued from p. 5

EACH COMPLETED ONE OF THE FOUR READING PROGRAMS AND READ 93 BOOKS!! In addition there were many who participated in the Reading Program although they did not earn a certificate. Thanks to each of the readers who were present and made the group more interesting!

CAMARILLO UMC

Kathy Brickman, Kiti Silver, Barbara Williams

NORTH HOLLYWOOD FUMC

Kathi Ellis, Shirley Kurushima, Anne Roche, Wendy Welch, Myriel Tyree, Lynn Yoshizumi

PASADENA FUMC

Priscilla Baca, Kim Brorby, Ann Burke, Valli Cowan, Bev DeVoy, Patti Godshall, Carole Kuruma, Marilyn Nobori, Marilynne Wilander, and Aisha Williams

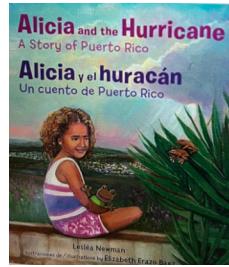
SIMI VALLEY UMC

Ruth Dempsey, Debbie McAlister, Christine Palotay, Sharlene Petersen

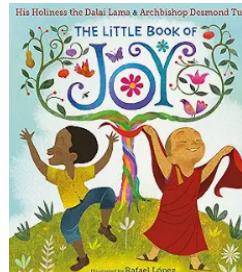
IS THERE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF BOOKS THAT YOU NEED TO READ TO ENJOY A READING GROUP? At Pasadena FUMC, Ann Burke, who was our book leader encouraged us for five years before we really started our reading group. There is NO MINIMUM NUMBER of books

that you can read AND NOT RECEIVE THE BENEFITS OF READING AND SHARING GOOD BOOKS.

Below are five inspiring children's books, one from each category; you can easily read one of these books together at a regular meeting.

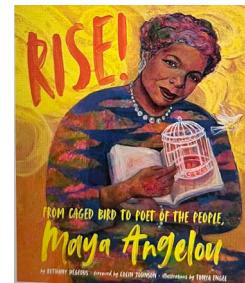


Alicia and the Hurricane: Bestselling author Lesléa Newman offers a tender and timely story of a Puerto Rican child facing a hurricane and her concern for the beloved coquíes of her home island: *Education for Mission*



The Little Book of Joy: Nobel Peace Prize winners His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu share their own childhood struggles to show young readers how they can thrive and find joy even during the most challenging times in this picture book adaptation of the international bestseller, *The Book of Joy*. *If you just focus on the*

thing that is making you sad, then the sadness is all you see. But if you look around, you will see that joy is everywhere: Spiritual Growth

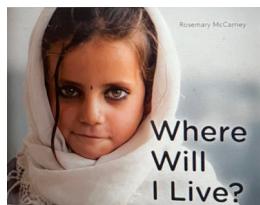


Rise: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People: In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the publication of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, this beautiful biography of Maya Angelou describes how she rose above a childhood of trauma and emotional pain to become one of the most inspiring voices of our lifetime: *LeadershipDevelopment*



Sitti's Bird : A Gaza Story: A sensitive and heartwarming story of how a little girl in Gaza finds strength and hope through her painting. **Sitti's Bird** is a unique children's picture book, written and illustrated by Palestinian artist, Malak Mattar, reflecting *Continued on p. 7*

Continued from p. 6
her experiences of childhood in Palestine: ***Education for Mission***



Where Will I Live? Every child needs a home. Children need somewhere safe where they can be happy, eat their meals with their family, play with their toys, and go to sleep at night feeling unafraid. But many children all over the world have had to leave their homes because they are no longer safe. Because of war and conflict, they and their families have become refugees. For them life is hard and full of questions. In spite of everything, they find time to laugh, play, and make friends. And most importantly, they have hope that somewhere, someone will welcome them to a new home: ***Nurturing for Community***

READING BOOKS, ESPECIALLY WHEN SHARED AND DISCUSSED, IS SUCH A BLESSING! Books can challenge us, inspire us, entertain us, AND bring us closer together.

There are over 350 books that YOU can count for the 2025 Reading Program...and I can't read them ALL! IF YOU HAVE

A FAVORITE, PLEASE SHARE A SHORT REVIEW WITH ME AND I CAN INCLUDE YOUR REVIEW IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

My email is
marilynnewilander@gmail.com
(626) 278-3314

Marilynne Wilander
Program Resources Coordinator



Communications

Kim Smith



It Begins with You

You, as Communications Coordinator, are an important part of the United Women in Faith unit. Publicity about the workings of the unit and the various programs is an important way to inform not only members, but non-members and the church of what your unit is doing to make the world better for women,

children and youth. It may just be a short paragraph in your church newsletter, but it raises awareness of the goals of your unit.

Most units promote in the bulletin and the church newsletter, but have you ever thought about buying UWF t-shirts, hats or mugs for publicity? Your presence is also vital at Church Council or at church events – be available for questions and to talk about the organization.

Be sure to invite visitors to come to the meetings so they know it's not a closed group. Welcome others to take part in the events you are hosting – speakers, fundraisers, and causes you support in social action. Photos can tell a story and appeal to concerned women.

Let book lovers know about the great Reading Program where they can learn about racial, ethnic and spiritual issues from first-hand accounts. Promote a book discussion group open to all.

It all begins with YOU, as Communications Coordinator! Be open to new and effective ways to promote United Women in Faith in your environment. You make a difference!

In Christ,
Kim Smith
rivermiss05@gmail.com
(218) 556-7516



Rosalie
Niemann,
Women's
Auxiliary
Vice President



Women's Auxiliary News

Dear friends and members of the Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care,

At the Mid-Winter Event are members of the Women's Auxiliary. We welcome you to talk with us and learn more about this historic group of women who, in 1903 in Los Angeles, saw a need to improve women's health care and founded the Methodist Hospital, now named USC Arcadia Hospital!

Since then, there have been many changes. But consistent has been our care for the spiritual welfare of the whole patient.

We invite you to join the Auxiliary and to look at the hospital's website, uscarciadiahospital.org.

Last month, we held our general meeting and the new Spiritual Care Director, **Pastor Matthew Heyn**, installed the slate for 2025:

- Barbara Miller, president
- Rosalie Niemann, vice president,
- Diane Harris, treasurer
- Lidya Morrison, secretary
- Julie Asuncion, membership chair
- Sylvia Coussa, nominations chair
- Melinda Songco, nominations member
- Angel Copeland-Wolf, nominations member
- Elvira Hernandez, nominations member
- Diane Gin, Green Sheet editor

We are grateful to meet regularly face to face with hospital executives, such as President and CEO Ikenna "Ike" Mmeje, who describes why USC Arcadia has become recognized as one of the best in Southern California. The president of the hospital foundation, Sandra Chen Lau also makes time to offer reports of the wonderful support of the foundation that makes advanced technology of specialized treatments possible. Our Cal-Pac UWF President, Jackie Campbell, serves as a director on the Board of Directors.

Last September, we heard from Ms. Gwen Y. Blackmon, the director of the Kathy Kredel

Nursery School of the hospital. We learned that this day care facility, so near the hospital, started decades ago with the encouragement of the Methodist Women who knew it would support the employees with children. Ms. Blackmon described some of the exterior updating in the plans that will benefit children's outdoor experiences. When we asked how we might support the nursery school, she shared this wish list:

Balance bikes for preschoolers and toddlers; stepping stones for children 2-5 years old; a Big Dog Sandbox Digger Excavator Crane; shovels and buckets for 2-5 year olds; other outside toys; and gardening materials, such as clay pots and seeds.

Whenever we meet, we are sure to stop at the lovely gift shop which is our main source of revenue. The volunteers can be young people, but the more demanding tasks need to be done by adults who can devote 2-4 hours regularly. **We need you!** This shop funds the support of the Spiritual Care Department in addition to our membership dues and gifts.

Thank you,
Rosalie Niemann

(Save the date, May 3,
"Honoring our Special Heroes"
Membership Tea)

Simi Valley UWF Installation

Simi Valley United Women in Faith had our Christmas meeting in early December, 2024. Our evening was enjoyed with a nice turn out with sewing, dessert, entertainment, business meeting, and installation of officers for 2025.

At our business meeting, we approved our Pledge to Mission of \$14,000 for 2025. We also approved giving \$1,200 to local missions at the end of 2024. We have five active small groups in our unit.



At the end of our evening, we were honored to have our District President, Diane Garner serve as our installing officer.

Our Officers for 2025 are:

- *President* - Christine Palotay
- *Vice President* - Joyce Martin
- *Secretary* - Sandy Stephens
- *Treasurer* - Jeanne Corr
- *Spiritual Growth* - Nancy Kinsinger
- *Education* - Ruth Dempsey
- *Membership* - Linda Seck
- *Courtesy* - Kathy Hobiger Montgomery

- *Scholarship* - Bridget Elliott
- *Nomination Committee* - Judy Thomson, Nancy Kinsinger, Charlene Peterson
- *Program Resources Coordinator* - Christine Palotay
- *Publicity* - Judy Thomson
- *Historian* - Ildiko Scott

Left: Officers of the unit

Right: Diane Garner, North District President,



**You are our most powerful ambassador.
You can excite and invite others like no one else.
You are love in action.
And together, we can change the world.**

From Excite literature, UWF

United Women in Faith on USAID: To Continue to Freeze Aid Is to Break With Precedent and Sacrifice Human Lives

February 12, 2025 For Immediate Release

Contact: dfrancisco@uわfaith.org

NEW YORK – Following the administration's decision to shutter the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), **United Women in Faith** expressed concern for the millions of individuals and programs served by USAID. They lamented the challenge the lack of funding will have on core programs, including **Africa University**, which is affiliated with The United Methodist Church:

"It is imperative that the courts step in and save the lives of thousands of persons served by programs of USAID, including Africa University. To continue on this path of cruelty, in the freezing of foreign aid, is to break with precedent and sacrifice human lives. With each passing day, humanity hangs in the balance.

"We shouldn't wait to see bodies piled up in international streets to take action. Nor should we allow our conscience to be desensitized to the pleas and pain of our

brothers and sisters abroad.

"USAID was mandated by Congress, and the government has a responsibility to act. People of faith must hold their representatives accountable for doing so. We are urging all members of United Women in Faith to call their congressional leaders and plead for mercy and action.

"We are also reminding the nation of these words from Matthew 25:37-40: *"Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'*"

Cast Your Eyes Forward

By Sally Vonner, General Secretary and CEO United Women in Faith

I recently addressed the New Mexico Conference United Women in Faith, where their annual meeting theme was "Loving Wastefully." What an interesting concept to ponder in this new year.

Loving wastefully is using more love than necessary, not saving it, but rather, using it, as we learn we should do in 1 Corinthians 13.

Jesus and Paul made it clear that love is our superpower. That's how the "New Interpreter's Bible Commentary" describes it—superpower. Love is our superpower.

First Corinthians gives us the roadmap to be, live, and share love. So does our 155-year-old legacy of United Women in Faith and our predecessors. I am convinced that we would not still be in existence if we were not using love as our superpower.

Love and faith are grounded together. Faith is being in relationship with God, our creator. Jesus said love God; that's step one. Step two is loving your neighbor as yourself.

Our faith is lived out in community, with God and neighbor. Neighbors are our sisters and brothers who are believers and nonbelievers, friends and enemies, local and global; of different cultures, races, immigration status, gender identities, and whoever may be in front of you at any given time.

Read more at <https://uわfaith.org/latest-news/2025/jan-feb-response-responsively-yours-2/>

2024-2025 North District Leadership Team Members

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Membership, Nurture, Outreach Coordinator

Position vacant

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Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Position vacant

Contact: Megan Pinnock
megpinn@sbcglobal.net

Mission Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Position vacant

Contact: Megan Pinnock
megpinn@sbcglobal.net

**Next Newsletter
June 2025**



Nurture Your Soul

The Soul Care Deck is designed to help you weave care for your body, mind, and spirit into the fabric of your daily life. This 31-card deck features three categories of cards: grounding exercises to center yourself, inspirational quotes to guide your interactions with the world, and affirmations to nurture your inner journey. There are a couple additional cards left blank for you to write your own practices, affirmations, or inspirational quotes for reflection.

Each card is meant to serve as a reminder that, as women of faith, caring for our well-being and seeking balance is part of embracing the fullness of life that God offers and desires for all people. As we pursue abundant life and joy for ourselves, we are also called to inspire others to seek their hopes and aspirations—as we seek it for others, we find it for ourselves.

These cards are designed to be used personally, or to bring a moment of Soul Care to group settings. They are packaged in a custom-fit box, making them portable and accessible wherever Soul Care is needed.

Order the deck in the UWF Shop:
<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12332>

Order Soul Care brochures, magnets, t-shirts, posters at:
<https://uwfaithresources.org/searchresults.cfm?searchText=soul+care>

Plan your own Soul Care retreat using the Soul Care Retreat Toolkit in printed or digital format at: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11140&catid=2204>

This Soul Care Retreat Manual is a step-by-step guide to design and host a successful United Women in Faith Soul Care Retreat. This manual will explain what soul care is, how to assemble a design team, create a budget, and shape an experience that is appealing and fulfilling for your retreat guests.

This new approach to member enrichment is a welcoming event focused on giving care to the whole person: mind, body, and spirit.



Transforming Communities

For more than 150 years, United Women in Faith members have taken action to turn faith, hope, and love into work on behalf of women, children, and youth in every corner of the world. As an annual part of our action, United Women in Faith invites women from all over to gather locally and participate in **A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial**.

2025 Focus: Economic Development: Empowering Women Worldwide

In 2025, the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support economic development and microenterprise projects, vocational training, life skills, and livelihood training internationally. Specifically, funds will support the work of United Methodist conference women's teams that design and lead projects that make a direct impact on improving the lives of their

families and community members. Funds raised will also support the work of the conference women's desk coordinators and Regional Missionaries who partner in this work.

One hundred percent of the offering goes to the focus projects for the year. Our goal is to have young women make up 50 percent of the participation in these programs. You make these programs possible!

Services can be held anytime in 2025, though most choose to hold theirs early in the year.

<https://uwfaith.org/blog/2024/a-call-to-prayer/>

Order your resources including the 2025 pledge service, brochure and poster on the UWF website: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12267&catid=2186>



Prayer Against Racism

Lord, we are tired of the senseless acts of violence, the injustices, the oppression, the racism, and the ignored laments of black and brown communities. Hear us, Lord. Open the hearts, minds, and ears of all your children to hear and understand the cries of pain, of sadness, of trauma, and of immense loss.

Your Son, Jesus, came to us that we "may have life, and have it abundantly." May each of us be committed to sharing life and love in our world. May we speak truth to power. May we allow the Spirit to lead us to act for justice. Lord, we invite you to use us so that we might bring about a transformation in our world; a transformation that makes a beloved community real here on this earth. Amen.

Excerpted from A Prayer for Racial Justice, the Grotto, <https://www.grottonetwork.com/stories/prayer-against-racism>.

Cal-Pac North District website:
<http://www.calpacumc.org/uwfaith>

January 14, 2025
For Immediate Release
Contact: dfrancisco@uわfaith.org

NEW YORK – United Women in Faith today lamented with the people of California over the devastating wildfires there. The fires were exacerbated by the climate crisis which has brought prolonged droughts and hardships to communities already struggling to access support.

The organization released the following statement:

“Our hearts are in agony over the devastating wildfires in California. We mourn with the Altadena, Pacific Palisades and the entire Los Angeles community. We grieve with those who are grieving over the loss of life, the loss of ways of life, and the loss of items that contributed to a family’s well-being. We can only imagine the pain of going to sleep in one’s home only to be displaced several hours later. The trauma of the fires cannot be understated.

“We are holding all impacted persons in our hearts and prayers. We are also mindful of the unique challenges of communities of color, low-income communities, persons who are unhoused, renters, and persons who are incarcerated. They are particularly vulnerable. These groups have also historically faced barriers

accessing FEMA funds and resources in emergencies. We pray that they — and all impacted persons — obtain the support and resources they need to rebuild.

“We know that in times of natural disasters or conflict, women, children, and youth are uniquely vulnerable. They are more likely to be displaced, more likely to suffer from gender-based violence, and more likely to struggle to rebuild. We are also concerned about the acute vulnerability of young people currently incarcerated near the wildfires.

“We pray that the nation’s leaders take seriously their responsibility to address the root causes of these disasters by confronting the climate crisis and ensuring equitable access to resources and support for all.

“It is not lost on us that there are some people who are navigating this crisis while attempting to serve others. We are mindful of our friends and colleagues at the California-Pacific Conference of The United Methodist Church, who are serving even as they are in agony over this challenging time.

“United Women in Faith is urging its members and the public to bolster the United Methodist Church’s efforts to help in relief and recovery by contributing to

UMCOR’s US Disaster Response and Recovery (Advance #901670). Alternatively, our members and the public can give directly to the Advance at umcmission.org/advance-project/901670/.”

<https://uわfaith.org/press/2025/united-women-in-faith-laments-over-the-wildfires-in-california/>

Mission u

Practicing Hope is an adult curriculum exploring hope, particularly when hope seems hard to find. The curriculum asks questions such as: What is hope in the face of neofascism? What is hope in a time of genocide? How do we imagine a future for the next generation as our planet grows hotter by the season? How does Christ teach us to embody hope when our backs are against the wall?

This study’s purpose is to allow all of our communities to cultivate hope that is honest about our current conditions (refugia), hope that is restorative when everything feels urgent (rest), and hope that is possible even when we transgress (repair).

Order from UWF: <https://uわfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11781>

Mission u will be held July 11-12 at Cal State Long Beach.

Earth Day

by Tara Barnes

General Conference is more than just voting on legislation. While gathered together, United Methodists from around the world worship, pray, break bread, and lift up causes with one another.

This year, sponsored by the church's **Creation Justice Movement**, United Women in Faith is partnering with Global Ministries, the Love Your Neighbor Coalition, and the General Board of Church and Society for an Earth Day vigil on April 22. The featured speaker will be Dr. Musa Dube, Botswanan theologian and Professor of New Testament at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University. She is author of *The HIV and AIDS Bible* and *Postcolonial Feminist Interpretation of the Bible*.

If you'll be in Charlotte later this month, **join us at First United Methodist Church in Charlotte for the 7 p.m. (ET) vigil**. Global Ministries is also hosting dinner at the church at 5:30. The event will be livestreamed as well. Whether you'll be joining us in person or in solidarity online, please register [at this link](#).



The United Methodist Social Principles state, "The adverse impacts of global climate change disproportionately affect individuals and nations least responsible for the emissions. We therefore support efforts of all governments to require mandatory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and call on individuals, congregations, businesses, industries, and communities to reduce their emission."

Stay Inspired

"Our Loving God,
we thank you for
your mercy you
show us, help us to
be in unity and
peace in the world,
and put our faith in
you. Amen."

*Akouvi Blessing
Dedjinou, Global
Mission Fellows*

From UWF Facebook

Creation Justice Movement of the UMC

The Global Ministries Creation Care Network is an online platform to help members of The United Methodist Church and established ministry partners put Creation Care and environmental justice values into action.

Join others at <https://creationcare.umcmission.org/>

Micah 6:8 pledge

Presidential administrations, Congress, and elected officials come and go, but the call of our faith endures. We can't know what the next four years will bring, but we can be intentional about our own commitments.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8)

Take the Pledge

As a member/friend of United Women in Faith, I make a public commitment today:

1. To do justice, working together with my sisters towards a long-term vision of racial justice, climate justice, and gender justice, putting one foot in front of the other even when it's an uphill climb.

2. To love kindness, remembering that all people are beloved by God, created with inherent dignity, and worthy of respect and kindness, even if they do not

share my same thoughts or beliefs.

3. To walk humbly with our God, in prayer and action, trusting that while I may not know the path ahead, God has promised us a future with hope, and God does not disappoint.

As a sisterhood of women, we are committed to work together across lines of difference. We will continue the work to which we have been called, today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.

Sign the pledge at: https://win.newmode.net/unitedwomeninfaith/todojusticetolovekindnesstowalkhumblywithgod?mc_cid=1f99b47f4d&mc_eid=ac257d414b

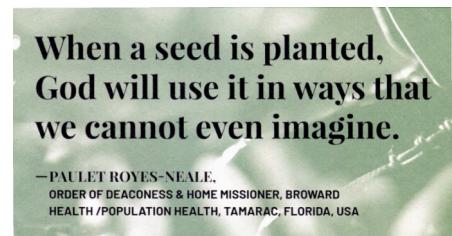
Thanks Prayer

Creator God, we give you thanks. We thank you for the community that we have with one another. We thank you for the opportunity and the space to gather. We give thanks for all that you have provided for us and for all that we have shared. We pray that our gifts and offerings to one another would be given and received with your abundant love.

May what we share, be it a meal, our time, our gifts, or simply our presence, be honoring and loving

gifts to you as well. Teach us to better love one another. Teach us how to better love our neighbor as ourselves. Teach us how to better love ourselves. May our acts of kindness and love be received as our acts of worship to you, our loving God. Amen.

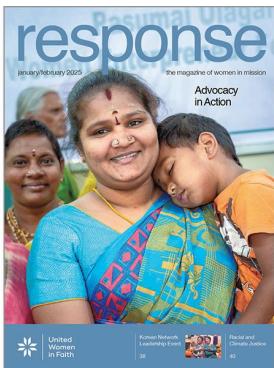
Excerpted from the 2024 Program Resource: Food, Faith, and Fellowship



Day of Giving

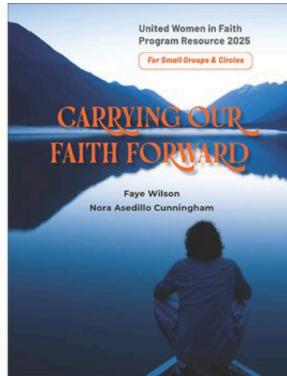
Join us in celebrating Day of Giving on March 23, United Women in Faith's 156th Anniversary! Giving to the Legacy Endowment Fund supports the continuation of United Women in Faith's service and advocacy for women, children and youth from this generation to the next. There are many ways to contribute to the Legacy Endowment Fund. For example, you can make a one-time gift, a monthly gift, a major gift or pledge over time, as well as a planned gift. Please reflect on the best way to make a significant gift.

(From 2025 Prayer Guide)



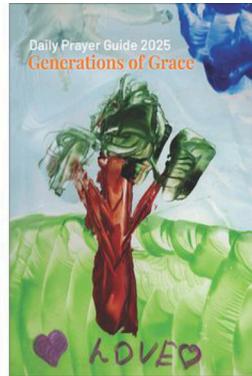
response is the award-winning, official magazine of United Women in Faith. We explore spiritual growth and living our faith, and report on our local, national and international work.

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/>



Order your 2025 Program Resource book now: M3386

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11780&catid=2175>



Order your 2025 Daily Prayer Guide now: GC2025

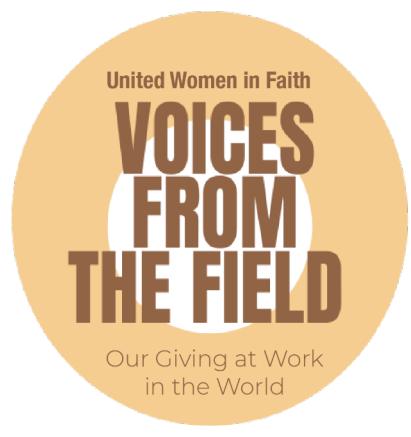
<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11779&catid=2186>



March is Women's History Month! Join us for conversations with United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer. Each month, we'll explore timely themes and resources, from expert insights on ways to live your faith to inspiring interviews with spiritual leaders. Visit our [events calendar](#).



Tune in to audio versions of some of the top articles from each issue of **response** magazine, the award-winning official magazine of United Women in Faith. Topics cover everything from spiritual growth and living our faith to reports on local, national and international work. Visit: <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>



Did you know United Women in Faith has our own regional missionaries globally and nearly 90 national mission institutions? Join us for Voices from the Field, our quarterly virtual gathering focused on national and global mission, to learn more. Come and be inspired! Visit our [Calendar of Events](#).



Welcomes You to an Online Space
for Resources & Community



Come connect with your sisters, make new friends, and experience your favorite print resources through an online digital platform.

Joining the community is free! Go to uwfaith.org/digital to connect with the United Women in Faith community or subscribe to one of the paid resources.

What You Can Expect:

Content:

- **Digital versions** of your favorite resources, including the Program Resource, Daily Prayer Guide, and Mission u curricula
- **Multimedia** to complement your resources, including facilitator guide videos
- **Free downloadable PDFs** if you prefer to print your materials
- Program Resource subscribers can join **Monthly Community Gatherings** with the author to support you as a leader
- **Regular educational and inspirational content** from the *Reading Program, Faith Talks, Voices From the Field, and Soul Care*

Community:

- **Free access** to the United Women in Faith network
- **Opportunities to engage** with sisters in fellowship, networking, and community building.
- **Activity feed** that lets you read inspirational messages, respond to polls, ask questions, and engage with community
- **Discussion groups** are available for you to join according to your interests or leadership roles
- **Online space** to share ideas in a safe environment created just for you

“I have always enjoyed the Community Gatherings I was able to be a part of, not only for being able to learn and worship together, but also the community of women.”

—Alice Staley, Program Advisory Group member

NEW! Forms Section for your unit's use: pages 21-33

How to use fillable forms:

If you have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, use the tools to add your information.

Email the form to the address given or print out the completed page and photograph/scan to send it by email.

For print versions, fill out the form, then mail it to the address given.

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2025 Newsletter Schedule

The purpose of the newsletter is to inspire and help unit leaders, and to promote United Women in Faith resources such as the website, **response** magazine and the 2025 Program Resource book and Daily Prayer Guide.

June

Due date:

May 10

August

Due date:

July 10

December

Due date:

November 10

uwnorthdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com

Please send your articles in to the above email by the due dates. Please send a Word file, with 12 point Times New Roman, and no formatting to allow for layout and design of the newsletter. Kim Smith, editor



United
Women
in Faith



CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Invites You to Join Us for

“An Afternoon with Sally Vonner”



General Secretary/CEO
for United Women in Faith

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 2025

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

in the Chapel of

Pasadena First United Methodist Church
500 E. Colorado Blvd. | Pasadena, CA 91101

**You are welcome to join us
for a light supper afterwards in the**

**Fellowship Hall
5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**

Suggested donation: \$5.00

**If you plan to attend, please contact
Jackie Campbell, Cal-Pac Conference President
at msjjbc@aol.com or 310-922-2647**

or

**Diane Garner, North District President at
rdgarner47@hotmail.com or 805-795-0344**



United
Women
in Faith

North District MISSION TRIP

You are invited to join your fellow UWFaith sisters in touring one of four National Missions located within the boundaries of the California-Pacific Conference.



Tuesday, April 29, 2025

10:00am PST



1350 Third Street

La Verne, CA 91750

David and Margaret Youth and Family Services empowers youth and families through culturally diverse services fostering emotional, educational, spiritual, and identity development.

A presentation, tour of the facilities, and a simple lunch provided by Dave and Maggie's Cafe on the campus of David and Margaret including a Q & A session will be part of the day. Come and see your mission dollars at work!

Cost: \$20 | These funds will be used to purchase gift cards that can be used as incentives for those served by D&M, or help transition young people to independent living.

****Registration deadline: April 14, 2025****

Please make check payable to North District UWFaith

Send registration form and check to Amber Hedges, P.O. Box 1549, Flintridge, CA 91012

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

UWF District _____ Local Church Name _____

(Registrar info: Date Received _____ Amount _____ Check # _____)

Indicate any food allergies: _____ Vegetarian? _____



READING PROGRAM

Reporting Form

Formulario de Información del
Programa de Lectura

독서 프로그램 독서 프로그램

PLAN I

- 5 books each year.
- 1 book from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN III

- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

Books can be purchased directly from the retailer of your choice or borrowed from your local public library.

For books on previous reading lists, go to:
unitedmethodistwomen.org/readingprogram



REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

NAME:

PLAN CHOSEN:

I

II

III

IV

CURRENT YEAR:

MISSION EMPHASSES

Education for Mission

Leadership Development

Nurturing for Community

Social Action

Spiritual Growth

I have completed the required reading for PLAN _____. The books I have read are listed on this form.

LOCAL UNIT

DISTRICT

CONFERENCE

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

I have also read response regularly.

response Check off the issues you have read!

--	--	--	--	--	--



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
REMITTANCE FORM FOR ALL TREASURERS
Thank you for giving

Local Unit: _____ Remittance #: _____
District: North Date: _____
Conference: California-Pacific Period From: _____ To: _____

Local: Submit Remittance Form to district treasurer with every check to explain how the money should be used.

District: Consolidate local remittances. Submit Remittance Form (online or paper) to conference treasurer with check.

Conference: Consolidate district remittances. Submit Remittance Form (online or paper) to national office with check.

MISSION GIVING*	\$ Donation
1. Pledge to Mission (general) For Conference only: Minus designated percentage of Pledge retained for budget	
2. Special Mission Recognition (SMR)	
3. Gift to Mission (GTM)	
4. Gift in Memory (GIM)	
5. World Thank Offering	
* All five channels help fund the budget and count for Pledge goal. Sub-Total Mission Giving \$	
SUPPLEMENTARY GIFTS**	\$ Donation
6. A Call to Prayer and Self-Denial #3001145	
7a. A Brighter Future for Children and Youth #3001146	
7b. Assembly Offering #3001148	
7c. United Women in Faith Project Names & Codes (list below):	
7d. Enter Total from Supplementary Gifts Details Form (if attached to list more projects)	
8. Bequests #3001177 (attach copy of or excerpt of will)	
9. Other designated gifts (list):	
**6-9 are unbudgeted extra support for specific projects.	Sub-Total Supplementary Gifts \$
Make check payable to: _____	UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH _____
Last remittance of year due: _____	TOTAL CHECK \$ _____
	Check Number _____

Prepared by: _____, Treasurer
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Submit to:
A.S. Hedges
607 Foothill Boulevard, #1549, Flintridge, California 91012
(Keep a copy of submitted forms for your financial records.)



United Women in Faith

UNITED WOMENIN FAITH

COMBINED ATTACHMENTS

FOR LOCAL TREASURERS

Local Unit: North
District: California- Pacific
Conference:

Remittance: _____
Date: _____
Period From: _____ To: _____

Local: Submit with Remittance & OR Method to district treasurer. May use individual forms instead.

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION (SMR) ORDERS

PIN TYPE OR DONATION	HONOREE NAME (IF KNOWN)	GIVEN BY (IF NOT YOUR UNIT)	\$ SMR
Total Special Mission Recognition (enter on Remittance & ORM)			\$

PIN TYPES: \$40 Gold pin, \$60 Sapphire, \$100 Pearl, \$200 Emerald, \$500 Ruby, \$1,000 Diamond, \$2,000 2 Diamonds.
Please note whether you are purchasing the CrossPin or Logo pin.
Pins will be sent to Treasurer listed at bottom.

GIFT TO MISSION (GTM) ORDERS			Donate \$5 or more per card on Remittance Form when ordered.		
TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS	TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS
Peace M7078 (10)			Thank You M7079 (10)		
In the Service of Christ M7077 (10)			Encouragement M7071 (10)		
Thinking of You M7080 (10)			Happy Birthday M7076 (10)		
			Christmas M7070 (10)		

Will pick up from district treasurer? YES NO - Please email. If mailed, cards will be sent to treasurer listed at bottom

GIFT IN MEMORY (GIM) ORDERS			Donate \$5 or more per card on Remittance Form when ordered.		
TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS	TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS
GIM- In Loving Memory M7068 (5/10)			GIM - Thoughts and Prayers M7069 (5/10)		

Will pick up from district treasurer? YES NO - Please email. If mailed, cards will be sent to treasurer listed at bottom

Prepared by: _____, Treasurer
Address: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Submit to: A.S Hedges
607 Foothill Boulevard, #1549, Glendale, California 91102
(Keep a copy of submitted forms for your financial records.)

(Keep a copy of submitted forms for your financial records.)

Form 3 (rev. 10/2024)



Due December 15, 2025

To become a Mission Today Local Organization, the Local Organization (LO) must meet EIGHT (8) of the following criteria, including a minimum of FOUR (4) of those marked with an Asterisk (*). Return To: Diane Garner, : rdgarner47@hotmail.com, 4817 Avedon Road, Moorpark, CA 93021

District Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator's Name _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Local Organization Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

E-mail / Phone: _____

C R I T E R I A

1. *Use the Prayer Guide at EACH general meeting of the LO to pray for persons in mission & for our mission work with women, children, & youth.
2. * The LO will lead their members in the United Women in Faith Purpose EACH meeting.
3. * The LO will make and meet its pledge to mission.
4. * The LO will add at least TWO members to its roll.
5. * The LO will have at least TWO members subscribing to response magazine. (Order from the Mission Resource Center)
6. * The LO will use TWO programs from the Program Book each year.
7. * At least ONE member of the LO other than a Conf. or Dist. officer took Mission u Study in person or virtual class.
8. The LO will ADD or ENCOURAGE their LO's Young Women's or Youth Circle.
9. The LO will ADD or ENCOURAGE their LO's Language Group Circle.
10. At least TWO members of the LO other than a Conf. or Dist. Officer attended the District or Conference Annual Celebration, in-person or virtually.
11. At least TWO members of the LO attended any Young Women's Event in the Cal-Pac Conference, in person or virtually.

- 12. Members shall write to FIVE persons listed in the Prayer Guide at least once a year.
- 13. The LO will BE a Five Star LO, contributing to ALL FIVE channels of Mission Giving.
- 14. Each LO, circle, or subgroup will INCLUDE a mission moment where an article from Response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
- 15. Have at least TWO persons from the LO, circle, or subgroup complete one of the Reading Program Plans and report on at least ONE of the books read.
- 16. The LO invited a District or Conference officer, other than a member of the LO, to ONE of the LO meetings during the year.

Other Mission Work:



THIS IMAGE REPRESENTS THE COMMITMENT
OF **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH** TO WORK FOR RACIAL JUSTICE.
IT SYMBOLIZES A WORLD OF RACIALLY AND ETHNICALLY
DIVERSE PEOPLES WORKING TOGETHER SIDE BY SIDE TO
CREATE A WORLD IN WHICH EVERY PERSON HAS A VOICE,
RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ABUNDANT LIFE.
WITHIN THE IMAGE ARE TWO HANDS JOINED TOGETHER TO
WORK FOR JUSTICE FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN.

In order for a local organization(LO) to become a member of the Charter for Racial Justice Club, the Local organization must:

1. Meet the required activity marked with an Asterisk(*)
2. Complete at least one activity from each of the three sections
3. Return completed criteria form to your District SocialAction Coordinator no later than **December 15, 2025**

District Social Action Coordinator's Name: Labarbara Madison

Address: 840 Neldome St, Altadena CA 91001

E-mail: labarbara.madison@gmail.com

Local Organization Name: _____

Contact Person's Name: _____

E-mail/Phone: _____

 * Devote a meeting to studying and discussing the Charter for Racial Justice. Supply each member with a copy of the Charter for Racial Justice.

UNIT PROGRAM (complete at least one)

1. Hold a group study or present a program on “The History of UMW on Racial Issues.”
2. Establish a workshop to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contribution of each race to the church and community.
3. Share and discuss an article from *response* magazine relating to racism.
4. Be creative and develop a Racial Justice learning experience for your Local Organization.

ENRICHMENT(complete at least one)

- ___1. Hold a small group study of a book on racial justice from the Reading Resource Program and discussing these three questions: Who is being exploited? Who benefits from the exploitation? What are we going to do about it?
- ___2. Have at least one member attend a webinar or event on Racial Justice and report back to the Local Organization.
- ___3. Study a particular issue relating to the Charter for Racial Justice i.e.: racism, immigration rights, voting rights, racial/ethnic profiling.
- ___4. Develop an enrichment activity of your own related to Racial Justice.

ACTION(complete at least one)

- ___1. Gather and share with Local Organization (or Sunday school class or church members) information on local school system regarding ethnic makeup, suspension rate by ethnicity, graduation rate by ethnicity.
- ___2. Research current legislation on racial issues and present information as a program or in a church newsletter.
- ___3. Research what organizations in your community are working to uncover, challenge and transform racism in local systems and institutions. Discuss how you might be a partner and/or support this work.
- ___4. Develop a Racial Justice action of your own choosing for your local organization or church.

RESOURCES

The following resources may be obtained at uwfaith.org

Books from UWF Reading Program

response magazine

Racial Justice Timeline

History of Racial Justice

For more information go to: [https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/
racial-justice/](https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/serve-and-advocate/racial-justice/)

Local Organization Roster for United Women of Faith Year: _____ District: North

Church Name and Address: _____

	Name	Address	Phone (C/H)	Email
President				
Vice President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Chair Committee on Nominations				
Spiritual Growth Coord.				
Mission Education & Interp. Coord.				
Social Action Coordinator				
Membership Nurture, Outreach Coord.				
Program Resources Coordinator				
Communication Coordinator				

Use page 2 to add co-officers and nomination committee members and their information.

Local Organization Roster for United Women of Faith Year: _____ District: North

Church Name and Address: _____

	Name	Address	Phone (C/H)	Email



United Women in Faith

Gifts & Graces Inventory

Potential Leaders Information Form

(to be completed by potential
leader)

Type or Print: (Add additional sheets as necessary)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (hm/cell) _____ (wk) _____ Email: _____

Member of Local Church: _____ District: _____

Age: 20's ____ 30's ____ 40's ____ 50's ____ 60's ____ 70's ____ 80's ____

Languages Spoken: _____ Racial/Ethnic Group: _____

Employed: No ____ Part Time _____ Full Time _____

Professional skills, job experience _____

Office(s) held in United Women in Faith:

	<u>Office</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Local	_____	_____
	_____	_____
District	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Conference	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Jurisdiction	_____	_____

Additional experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Women in Faith), or in the community:

How will your spiritual journey strengthen your commitment to serve on the North District Leadership Team?

March 2025

Return to: Megan Pincock - District Committee on Nominations
Email: MeganPincock@sbcglobal.net
872 E. Sacramento Street, Altadena, CA 91001



United
Women
in Faith

North District Newsletter

From the Sierras to the Seas newsletter is for the North District United Women of Faith and is free with an email subscription. Email your name, telephone number, church and district to calpacnorthandistrictumw@gmail.com

Cost for a mailed subscription is \$15.00 **yearly** (4 issues). Make your check payable to North District UWF and send it to the District Treasurer, A. J. Hedges, P.O. Box 1549, Flintridge, CA 91012. Also, send in the form below. Please print clearly.

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Pacific Waves Newsletter

Pacific Waves is the newsletter for Cal-Pac United Women of Faith and is **free** with an **email subscription**. Email your name, telephone number, church and district to calpacuwfcommunications@gmail.com

Cost for a mailed subscription is \$15.00 **yearly** (4 issues). Make your check payable to Cal-Pac UWF and send it to the Conference Treasurer, Freda Low, 8437 Village Ln, Rosemead, CA 91770. Also, send in the form below. Please print clearly.

Name:

Address:

City: State: Zip: