



From the Sierras to the Seas

Issue 1

Cal-Pac North District Newsletter
United Women in Faith



March 2026

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United
Women
in Faith

2026 Calendar

May 15-17: United Women in Faith Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana

July 24-26: Mission u, Bell Memorial UMC, Rowland Heights, CA

September 19: North District Annual Celebration, Simi Valley UMC

October: Conference United Women in Faith Annual Celebration, Date and Location to be determined

Cal-Pac United Women in Faith **NEW** website:

<https://calpacumc.org/ministries/connectional-ministries/united-women-in-faith/>

President

Diane Garner



Sisters in Faith, greetings to you as we begin this new year!

In this new year, I would lift up for your consideration the following...

First, are you a **Mission Today** local organization? The criteria can be found on page 29 of this newsletter. These criteria assist local organizations in planning for the year in such a manner that our Purpose might be fulfilled. The North District is pleased to recognize four local organizations as Mission Today units in 2025. Congratulations to:

Pasadena First
Santa Barbara First
Sherman Oaks
Simi Valley

Continued on p.2

Continued from p.1

In 2026, the challenge is to increase these numbers by at least three fold. Are you up for this challenge?

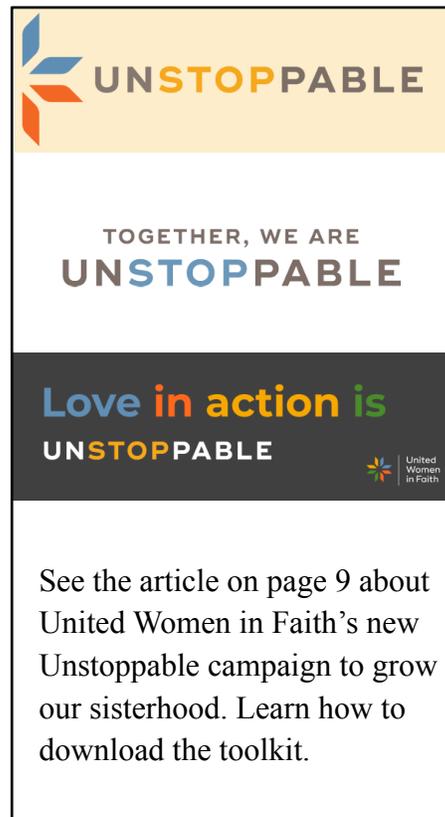
Second (and related to the Mission Today challenge), will you invite a North District Leadership Team member to one of your meetings or events to provide program leadership? In this new year, the North District Leadership Team is forging a new way forward by being available as a resource for program. Being in the local setting also provides the opportunity for district leadership to be better known and for district leadership to get to

know the women of our district more intimately; a win-win. On page 3 of this newsletter is an initial listing of topics and presenters...a **Speaker's Bureau**, of sorts. You may contact the presenter directly in order to secure a speaker. Just title your email "ND UWFaith: Speaker" so your email might be easily identified.

We hope to see many of you IN PERSON!

May our Purpose blossom in this new year as we gather in mission, fellowship and learning!

Dreaming it!
Diane Garner



UNSTOPPABLE

TOGETHER, WE ARE
UNSTOPPABLE

Love in action is
UNSTOPPABLE

United Women in Faith

See the article on page 9 about United Women in Faith's new Unstoppable campaign to grow our sisterhood. Learn how to download the toolkit.



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.

North District Speaker's Bureau

North District Leadership Team members **are available** as a resource for program. To arrange a speaker, contact the presenter directly by email with the subject line, "ND UW Faith: Speaker," so your email might be easily identified.

Finances

Title: *Where the Money Goes*

Presenter: Rosalie Niemann

Contact: niemann007@sbcglobal.net

Content: Learn about projects funded locally and globally through your mission giving.

Title: *Where the Money Goes*

Presenter: Diane Garner

Contact: rdgarner47@hotmail.com

Content: Discover where our money comes from and where it goes.

Mission Education and Interpretation

Title: *Did You Ever Attend Church Camp?*

Presenter: Ruth Dempsey

Contact: sewinforfun@icloud.com

Content: Mission u is offered every July by our Conference United Women in Faith. Learn more about this wonderful weekend experience that provides opportunities for learning and fellowship.

Title: *Mini Mission u Review*

Presenter: Rosalie Niemann

Contact: niemann007@sbcglobal.net

Content: A summary of the study topics covered in recent sessions of Mission u.

Title: *Your Vision is Too Small*

Presenter: Crystal Ward

Contact: crystalward721@gmail.com

Content: You can be a missionary from your armchair! As a member of United Women in Faith, you can help women and children who, otherwise, may never see their circumstances change. Learn more about some of the obstacles to mission giving, and how knowledge and understanding can set you on a course that will allow you to describe yourself as a missionary, i.e. engaged in or devoted to missions.

Continued on page 4

Program Resources

Title: *Planning UWFaith Programs*

Presenter: Kim Smith

Contact: rivermiss05@gmail.com

Content: Using UWFaith.org and the Program Book, find out what resources are available for program planning.

Title: *Sharing Highlights from Great Books*

Presenter: Marilynne Wilander

Contact: marilynnewilander@gmail.com

Content: Using books from the UWFaith Reading Program, discover ways to learn about Mission, Leadership, Community, Social Action, and Spiritual Growth.

Social Action

Title: *If You Are Not Sitting at the Table, You Might Be on the Menu*

Presenter: Labarbara Madison

Contact: labarbara.madison@gmail.com

Content: Thomas Paine once said, “These are the times that test men's soul.” I agree, and I say these are the times that test men’s souls and the very core of our existence. Never have so few with so little, corrupted so many.

Title: *Climate Justice: Sustainability*

Presenter: Diane Garner

Contact: rdgarner47@hotmail.com

Content: "Sustainability is all about choosing life, choosing care, choosing Love. It is about living wisely, justly, and joyfully in each decision we make so that all of us may live with dignity to our full potential, now and for generations to come."

Title: *Sustainability: Gardening*

Presenter: Carolyn Harrington

Contact: roncarolynharrington@gmail.com

Content: Learn how your flower and vegetable gardens in raised beds provide opportunities for canning and dehydrating.

Spiritual Growth

Title: *Growing Your Faith*

Presenter: Kim Smith

Contact: rivermiss05@gmail.com

Becoming a disciple of Christ involves growing your faith...on purpose. What can you do to inspire growth? This talk includes how to use prayer, Bible reading, volunteering, giving and more ideas to be intentional in your faith walk.

Continued on p. 5

Speaker's Bureau Continued

Other

Title: *Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care*

Presenter: Rosalie Niemann

Contact: niemann007@sbcglobal.net

Content: Learn about the work of the Women's Auxiliary in support of the chaplaincy program at USC Arcadia Hospital.

Title: *Aloha!*

Presenter: Diane Garner

Contact: rdgarner47@hotmail.com

Content: Hands-on experience in making a candy lei for celebrating graduations, birthdays and other special occasions.

Title: *Installation of Your Leadership Team*

Installing Officer: Diane Garner

Contact: rdgarner47@hotmail.com

Content: Are you in need of someone to install your Leadership Team?

5-Star Giving

Awards

The North District would like to recognize the following United Women in Faith Local Organizations who fulfilled their commitment to their 2025 5-Star Giving:

- Camarillo
- Canoga Park First
- Knollwood
- North Hollywood First
- Pasadena First
- Ridgecrest
- Sherman Oaks

Thrive

In this season of sacred beginnings, [*The Pivot Year*](#) is the perfect read for those ready to make measured and meaningful change. Internationally bestselling author Brianna Wiest provides 365 daily meditations designed to help you find courage in the moment you need it most.

Wiest understands that real transformation happens through consistent, intentional practice. Each daily meditation invites you to shift your thoughts, challenge limiting beliefs, and build the inner resources you need to become who you've always wanted to be. Whether you're

letting go of what no longer serves you, finding courage to step into new leadership, or simply learning to trust your own voice, these reflections meet you where you are and guide you forward with wisdom and compassion.

Perfect for the winter season of reflection and renewal, *The Pivot Year* helps you devote the next 12 months to personal growth. It's not about an overnight transformation; it's about showing up for yourself day after day and building a mindset that will sustain your journey throughout the year ahead.

(From *Thrive*, by from UWFaith.)

North District United Women in Faith Leadership Team

2025–2026

President:

Diane Garner

4817 Avedon Rd

Moorpark, CA 93021

Cell: (805) 795-0344

Email: rdgarner47@hotmail.com

Home Church: Pasadena First UMC



Treasurer:

Crystal Ward

1856 Sinaloa Ave

Pasadena CA 91104

Phone: (626) 354-9411

Email: crystalward721@gmail.com

Home Church: Pasadena First UMC



Program Resources Coordinator:

Marilynne K. Wilander

2018 El Sereno Ave

Arcadia, CA 90007

Cell: (626) 278-3314

Email: marilynnewilander@gmail.com

Home Church: Pasadena First UMC



Secretary:

Ruth Dempsey

1130 Wilson Dr

Simi Valley, CA 93065

Cell: (805) 501-5874

Email: sewinforfun@icloud.com

Home Church: Simi Valley UMC



Vice President:

DeeAnna Duncans

Cell: (214) 931-9613

Email: deeannaduncans@gmail.com

Home Church: Sherman Oaks UMC.



Membership, Nurture & Outreach (MNO)

Co-Coordinators:

Debi Bates

24 Faculty Court

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Cell: (805) 718-8856

Email: debrabates1954@yahoo.com

Home Church: Camarillo UMC



Communications Coordinator:

Kim Smith

558 E Magnolia Blvd, Apt H

Burbank, CA 91501

Cell: (218) 556-7516

Email: Rivermiss05@gmail.com

Home Church: Burbank First UMC



Carolyn Harrington

39011 Village, #39

Camarillo, CA 93012

Cell: (990) 562-8049

Email: roncarolynharrington@gmail.com

Home Church: Camarillo UMC



Committee on Nominations Member:

Class of 2029

Labarbara Madison

840 Neldome St

Altadena, CA 91001

Hm: (626) 296 – 3311

Cell: (626) 627 – 9788

labarbara.madison@gmail.com

Home Church: Scott UMC



Class of 2028

Rosalie Niemann

737 Earlham St

Pasadena, CA 91101

Cell: (818) 517 – 2788

Email: niemann007@sbcglobal.net

Home Church: Pasadena First UMC



Class of 2026

Lona Seymour (Chaplain)

15878 Larkspur St, #D205

Sylmar, CA 91342

Cell: (818) 290 – 4771

Email: LRseymour1@gmail.com



Vacant District Positions

- *Social Action Coordinator*
- *Spiritual Growth Coordinator*
- *Committee on Nominations, Chair*
- *Committee on Nominations, Class of 2027*
- *Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator*
- *Limitless Coordinator*
- *Language Coordinators*
Spanish, Korean, Tongan

Fill in the Gifts and Graces form on p.
and contact Labarbara Madison.



United Women in Faith is trusted with contributions from members, mission partners, and donors who have a heart for the work we do with women, children, and youth. We are committed to good stewardship of this generous support. We post our annual reports and disclosures for our members and supporters to see our impact. If you have questions, please email missiongiving@UWFaith.org

The 2024 annual report is available to view at:
<https://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/financials/>

Mid-week Prayer

Hold my hand, Lord, and walk with me, just as you walked with generations before me. I need you every hour.

GRACE MUSUKA, United Women in Faith
Regional Missionary, Africa

United Women in Faith Daily Prayer Guide 2025

From the United Women in Faith Facebook Group

Treasurer

Crystal Ward



Hello everyone!

We have begun an awesome year in which we can help women, children and youth to improve their lives in our nation and around the world. Our impact is so far-reaching that it boggles the mind, and your giving makes it all possible. Your United Women in Faith units are the grassroots of this effort, and that's why it's so important to keep the flame burning.

How can you keep it burning? By educating yourself and others about some of the recipients, mission programs, and initiatives that are impacted through your giving. For example, the many **scholarship** recipients around the world include Aracely Campos who is pursuing a law degree from the University of Ecuador; Kari Beth Van Nostrand who is pursuing a degree in Secondary Education from Midland University in Nebraska; and Judith Asomelo who is pursuing a degree in International Relations at Africa University in Zimbabwe.

One example of a **National Mission Institution** is the Atlantic Street Center in Seattle, Washington. They provide wrap-around services including early education, family support, and behavioral health services to families in need. Another is Emma Norton Services in St. Paul, Minnesota. They also provide wrap-around services, but to 350 formerly homeless low-income women and children.

An example of an **international mission** supported by United Women in Faith is Hope Secondary School which provides education for youth in Palestine.

One example of an **initiative** is the Dignity in Schools Campaign, New York. Among their four major goals is one that seeks to protect the safety of immigrant students and parents. Another example of an initiative is the Laos Mission Initiative that seeks to end sexual and gender-based violence in that country.

As a district, we have pledged \$45,000 in 2026 that will go to these missions, and we are totally dependent on you, our local units, to meet that goal. We have received approximately \$30,000 in pledges from local units; so, thank you for that. If your unit has not yet pledged, a pledge form is included in this newsletter on p. 23. Our district forwarded \$42,949.10 toward our 2025

Pledge to Mission, just missing our goal of \$45,000. Our challenge is before us; we can do this!

In His Service,
Crystal Ward

P.S. I am available to come to your unit to talk about this. Let's connect!
treasurernorthdistrict521@gmail.com

Mission Awards for 2025

60/40 Mission Giving represents a portion of the local organization gifts going in support of United Women in Faith missions while continuing to support their own communities.

The North District would like to recognize the following local units of United Women in Faith who fulfilled their 2025 **60/40 Mission Giving**:

- Camarillo
- Knollwood
- North Hollywood First
- Pasadena First
- Ridgecrest
- Santa Barbara First
- Sherman Oaks
- Thousand Oaks
- Trinity, Los Osos

See 5-Star Giving Awards on p. 5.

Secretary

Ruth Dempsey



Greetings to my Sisters in Christ of the North District from your Secretary, Ruth Dempsey:

We often hear the saying “that was a random act of kindness.” Sometimes after we hear about an amazing story of a helpful, friendly, caring person, we think it’s sad we don’t see more compassionate people in our community like that person.

I found this definition “of an Art of Kindness: harboring a spirit of helpfulness, being generous and considerate, doing so without expecting anything in return.” What is the personality of this person, who cares and loves others without expecting something in return? We could also remember at this point the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do to you.”

At Simi Valley United Methodist Church, our Bible study has just finished a five week study using Bob Goff’s book, **Everybody Always**. From the back cover: “What happens when we give away Love like we’re made of it.” The study guide gives scriptures

to help us follow Bob’s entertaining storytelling of his experiences. He lives in San Diego and, as a retired attorney, he pursues justice for women and children in conflict areas of the world such as Uganda, Somalia and Iraq.

The 20-25 people in our weekly Bible study thoroughly enjoyed the book and the 10 minute video that accompanies the study for each session. We suggested to our pastor that we study Bob Goff’s first book, **Love Does**, in the future. I wanted to share with you this book I’ve enjoyed so much, and I recommend it.

As Secretary of North District, please ask your unit president or secretary if they have sent me your president’s name, address, phone number and email...we need that information as soon as possible so the Conference can include your local unit in the Conference Directory.

Thank You.

Love from your Sister in Christ,
Ruth Dempsey



United
Women
in Faith

We serve.
We advocate.
We make a difference.
We equip women for leadership.
In our sisterhood, we lift each other up.

Welcome to the Unstoppable Campaign

Ready to grow with us? Whether you’re leading a unit, serving as a district officer, or simply passionate about sharing the movement, this is your all-in-one hub for inviting more women into United Women in Faith. We are a sisterhood helping women find a spiritual home filled with purpose, sisterhood, and action.

This hub was designed to equip and empower you as part of our **Unstoppable Campaign** — a bold, four-year journey to reach more than 500,000 women with our message of **Real Faith. Real Women. Real Community**. The tools here are designed to help you usher in the spirit of **Excite & Invite** — helping you share who we are, what we do, and how others can find belonging within our sisterhood.

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/growth-toolkit/>

Nominations

Labarbara Madison



Greetings to my fellow Sisters in United Women in Faith,

I am writing my second report about my new position as a member of the **Committee on Nominations**. I am still in the process of learning my new position, but I am happy to report that I am honored and excited to begin serving in this position on our leadership team. I look forward to working with others to prayerfully recruit and encourage new candidates for leadership in local units. This ministry is a joyful opportunity to recruit new candidates for leadership while getting to know one another more deeply - listening for God's call, recognizing individual gifts, and encouraging women to serve where their talents and passions can truly shine.

I stated in my last newsletter that I hope the task would be a happy assignment; well, I don't think that was exactly the word I should have used. Now that I know the assignment, understand the criteria, and the vital role we fill, I refrain from "happy" to "important."

The job is important because we have to know each position within the group. Importantly, how they work, what is required, what the tenure is, and then find candidates for each position as it becomes available. Well, this keeps you on your toes! I am still excited and I am appealing to you to join our nominating committee. Together, we can seek to recognize the gifts God has placed within each woman, and to encourage faithful service where those gifts can be shared. Please contact us if you or someone you know would like to be a part of **Committee on Nominations**.

Humbly submitted,
Labarbara Madison
CON member

labarbara.madison@gmail.com

Nominations

Rosalie Niemann



Greetings Friends,

Some of us participated in local officer trainings in the past weeks. Why? We participated because our work is important; we want to be well organized and ready to do our specific offices and to learn how to support each other well.

We in nominations want to be looking for women looking for better ways to do things, like how to do more to support racial justice. We know that the North District newsletter is a valuable resource for this. On p. 31 in this issue, we see the **criteria** that are used for a local group to qualify as a Charter for Racial Justice Club! And if a group uses a book from the Reading Resource Program on this topic, you have filled one box for each of these worthwhile projects!

Likewise, on p. 29 in this newsletter, we see how a group can meet the criteria for becoming a Mission Today local organization. It is not hard but it takes **intention** and planning to do a minimum of four starred criteria at the top. When the group's leadership incorporates other activities from the list, you will have interesting and varied meetings! And when we share our ideas with other groups we love seeing the progress and feeling the creative support.

Our newsletter always carries the Gift and Graces form (p. 33) for consideration to share at your gatherings. We will benefit with the addition of a chairperson for this Committee on Nominations. Please contact Labarbara Madison or me if you would like more information on leadership opportunities in our district. (See p. 6.)

Program Resources

Marilynne Wilander



Reading Resource Report

Congratulations to the six North District United Women in Faith units who submitted their Book Club reports:

- Burbank FUMC
- Camarillo UMC
- North Hollywood FUMC
- Pasadena FUMC
- Sherman Oaks UMC
- Simi Valley UMC

These six units reported 242 books that they read and eighteen gals will receive gold certificates recognizing their successful completion of one of the four official Reading Plans.

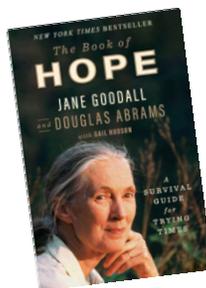
Special recognition to Kathy Silva from Camarillo UMC and Carole Kuruma from Pasadena FUMC who each read TWENTY BOOKS!

At Pasadena FUMC, our book group meets the week before our unit meetings and at each meeting we love to share briefly about the book we just read. Enjoy this

photo as we share the wonderful *Little Book of Joy* about the unique friendship between the Dalai Lama and late Bishop Desmond Tutu.



Pasadena First UWFaith Reading Group



How many of you are discouraged for so many reasons about the current situation? We just finished reading and discussing **The Book of HOPE: A Survival Guide for Trying Times**. Most of us think of Jane Goodall as a naturalist working with chimpanzees in Tanzania. However, the work that Jane did to inspire others is what she came to realize was her “mission” in life.

Why does she insist that we should be hopeful? Her four reasons are:

- The Amazing Human Intellect
- The Resilience of Nature
- The Power of Young People
- The Indomitable Human Spirit

Jane insists that hope is NOT wishful thinking. We must be hopeful, but absolutely must combine our hope with ACTION, knowing that we must ACT.

Whether you are in a reading group or not, I’m sure that EACH OF YOU has a favorite book about Mission, Leadership, Community, Social Justice, or Spiritual Growth. I know that our North District sisters would have fun knowing about your favorite book. PLEASE SHARE!

Happy Reading to each of you!

The history of the Reading Program is long and laudable. Reading has always been important to our organization. Maryann Verghese kindly pointed out a June 1876 issue of *Heathen Woman’s Friend* (yes, that was the name of the magazine!) that described a program of “Uniform Readings for Auxiliaries,” suggesting “the titles of helpful books of reference, such as may be found in school libraries and in those of ministers.” In 1922, the *Woman’s Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association* had 87,275 readers complete their reading course!

-from <https://uwfaith.org>

Communications

Kim Smith



Coming to you!

New this year for our District officers - we are offering to come to you to provide programs! It's been hard for women to travel long distances to our District meetings so we decided to come to you instead! Check the topics on pages 3-5 and find something of interest to your women.

Contact the speaker to schedule a date.

My passion is encouraging people to grow in their faith so I've created a short program on things to do that help you grow including prayer, reading the Bible and more. I also love to plan programs and the United Women in Faith has great resources, both online and in print. I will review what's available and show you how to put together a program with ease. In both programs, I'll highlight the Mission Today objectives (see p. 29) to help your unit build a quality program.

The North District is also planning Soul Care events that

clusters of churches can come to in the Fall. Watch the newsletter for dates to be announced in your area. This is a day of rest and rejuvenation of your mind, body and soul - a mini-retreat just for you.

In Christ,
Kim Smith
rivermiss05@gmail.com



Rosalie Niemann



Friends of the Women's Auxiliary,

You are cordially invited to attend the annual Tea at the USC Arcadia Hospital. The important part of the tea program is our recognition of Special Women! We hope local UWFaith groups nominate women of note for recognition. The application can be found on p.14.

We remember that this hospital was founded in 1903 in Los Angeles because our predecessor

United Methodist Women recognized an unmet need for medical care of people living in that neighborhood. The home hospital soon needed a larger facility, and in future years moved to Arcadia.

The auxiliary has sustained the gift shop in the hospital; the proceeds from it (thousands of dollars) go annually to support the spiritual care department. As we attend the tea we make new friends from around the Cal-Pac Conference and learn more about this amazing medical center with its whole person care.

For more information, see the flyer on p. 13.

Sincerely,
Rosalie Niemann
Women's Auxiliary
Vice President



The Legacy
Endowment Fund
Day of Giving
March 23



USC ARCADIA HOSPITAL
WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FOR
SPIRITUAL CARE

SAVE ^{THE} DATE

*Honoring our
Special Heroes*

MEMBERSHIP TEA

APRIL

SATURDAY

25

2026

11:00-2:00 PM

A FUNDRAISING EVENT IN SUPPORT OF THE
CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

*Details to follow



Assembly

May 15-17, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

<https://assembly.uwfaith.org/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=821058&>

At Assembly 2026 you'll **Dream It. Believe it. Do it.** With thousands of women whose faith is their fuel. From our Soul Care Retreat pre-event, to can't-miss-main-stage moments, this experience is designed to renew, equip and send you.

Keynote speakers: Stacy Abrams and Rev. Carolyn Abrams. Legacy Banquet Keynote Speaker, Elizabeth Eckford (Civil Rights Activist).

Register today!

**Members like you
change the world.**

Greetings from Sally Vonner

Happy New Year and greetings in Faith, Hope, and Love! I thank God that each of us is gifted to see 2026, a new year to continue serving and loving God and our neighbor. If 2025 taught me anything with so many disruptions, shifts, and unfathomable changes it is that God is with me and you. Amid my most difficult days, I could trust that God was with me. I hope that is your testimony as well.

Each year we begin anew, setting new intentions and goals. For me, it begins with evaluating last year. Did I follow through, did I take risks to adapt and grow—especially when new possibilities and challenges were presented, did I stay connected to God, trusting God to lead me, and did I love abundantly? Then come more questions: Are there familiar paths to continue or new ones to experience? Is there room for improvement (always)? Do I need to rely more on God's wisdom and guidance? After the evaluation, I'm ready to move forward with hope, commitment, and putting my love in action.

As we set our intentions and goals for 2026, may we once again pray the Wesleyan Covenant Prayer inviting us into

all the ways that surrendering our full selves and trusting in Jesus is the ultimate intention. My prayer in 2026 is that we embrace the many opportunities we will have as United Women in Faith, to put our love into action. There are some already available as noted in this issue. One is to come to Assembly and get fired up to leave ready to put your love into action to change the world because we are unstoppable. Join me in Indianapolis.

Another opportunity to put our love into action is supporting our National Mission Institutions, people practicing hope.

(Continue reading on page 5 of **response**, January/February 2026.)

SALLY VONNER
General Secretary and CEO
United Women in Faith

Did You Know?

Question: What is the correct abbreviation for United Women in Faith?

The correct abbreviation is **no** abbreviation: United Women in Faith encourages the use of our **full** name in all instances. However, *if space truly is an issue*, the preferred abbreviation is **UW Faith**.



2026 Call to Prayer & Self-Denial

We invite you to gather, pray, reflect, and put your faith into action. For more than 155 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.

The 2026 Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering will support vulnerable children through the work of National Mission Institutions (NMI). NMIs help children through low-cost early childhood education, after-school

programs, enrichment programs, mental health support, guidance for the transition to adulthood, reunification with family, and more. One hundred percent of the offering goes to the focus projects for this year.

The National Mission Institution programs serve the most vulnerable children. At MacDonell United Methodist Children’s Services in Louisiana, children find a home where they can experience safety and healing. In Georgia, the New Bethlehem Community Center empowers young minds with K-12 education and supports pregnant teens. In Arizona, the Wesley Community Center offers health care, after-school programs, and ESL classes. In Utah, Crossroads Urban Center helps families in crisis access emergency food, clothing, and household essentials.

These ministries are the hands and feet of Christ in action—and we are invited to join them through the Call to Prayer and Self-Denial offering. As we give, pray, and advocate, may we be reminded that when we welcome and serve a child, we are welcoming Christ. Let us open our hearts to the children around us—not just today, but every day—and be vessels of God’s life-changing love and unwavering justice.

Find resources including a service, brochure, posters, post cards, bookmarks at:

<https://uwfaith.org/blog/2025/a-call-to-prayer/>

National Mission Institutions (NMI) Make a Difference

572,398: Number of individual lives directly impacted by the work of NMIs.

202,998: Number of people, mostly women and children, who were served by NMI programs funded by UWFaith.

172,456: Number of women and children who were impacted by UWFaith funding for NMIs.

50 (or 64.9 percent): Number/percentage of NMIs with programs supporting youth.

42 (or 54.5 percent): Number/percentage of NMIs with hot meal programs and food pantries.

36 (or 46.8 percent): Number/percentage of NMIs conducting adult education and job training.

38: Percentage of UWFaith grant funding that supports early childhood development and youth programming.

From **response**, Jan/Feb 2026



THE LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

**\$60 million
goal**

The LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND was established in 2014.

As a permanently invested endowment, the LEGACY FUND will be an ongoing source of income, providing the assurance that our important work can always continue.

Giving to the Legacy Fund supports United Women in Faith in PERPETUITY. That's why gifts to the endowment fund are such a vital way to sustain and grow our capacity to serve and advocate.

Our Legacy Endowment Fund will ensure the future of United Women in Faith projects for women, children, and youth worldwide. Be a part of the legacy by contributing in these special ways:

- Give a \$20 gift today and receive a *150 Next* pin.
- Give a gift online or by mail to honor someone special.
- Become a Legacy Builder – pledge \$18.69 per month.
- Make a \$5000 gift or more to become Friend of Legacy

PRAISE REPORT LEGACY FUND CONTRIBUTIONS THROUGH JULY 31, 2025

Legacy Endowment Fund total:	\$51,183,300.00
Cal-Pac UWFaith Contribution for 2025:	\$6,819.14
Average monthly donation for Cal-Pac Conference:	\$974.00
Total Cal-Pac UWFaith Contribution since inception:	\$351,405.60

Visit <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/> for more information.



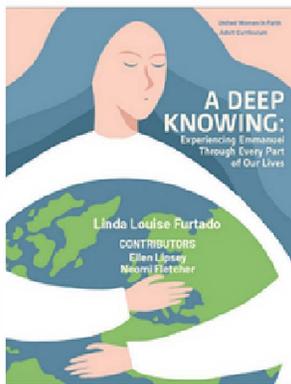
Mission u 2026: Experiencing Emmanuel

Join us at **Mission u** as we explore the theme, Experiencing Emmanuel.

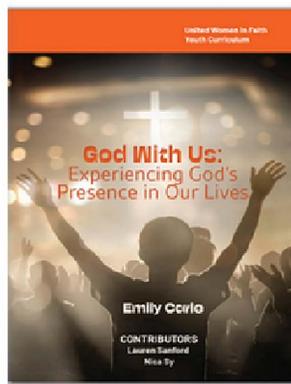
- How do we experience God in times of joy and in challenging times of anxiety, fear, or sadness?
- Can we experience God's presence in community as we work for justice?

Mission u will explore the times in the Bible when people experienced Emmanuel, or "God with us." What can we learn from these Emmanuel encounters in the Bible to help inform our discernment of faith, hope, and love in action?

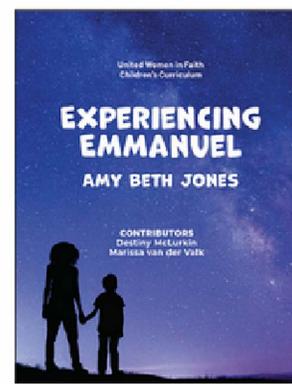
Mission u 2026 offers three exciting curricula on this theme.
Order your copy at: uwfaithresources.org



Adult Curriculum: *A Deep Knowing: Experiencing Emmanuel Through Every Part of Our Lives*



Youth Curriculum: *God With Us: Experiencing God's Presence in Our Lives*



Children's Curriculum: *Experiencing Emmanuel*

JOIN US dates/times:

July 24 - 26, 2026
Bell Memorial UMC
Rowland Heights, CA

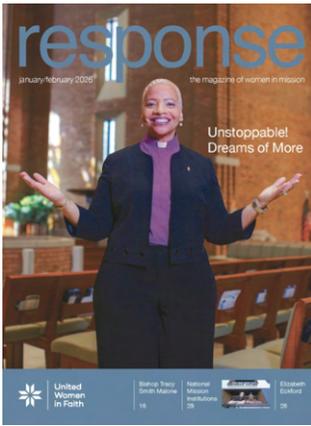
RSVP:

For further information, contact Mission u Dean, Sara Munshin: smunshin@gmail.com

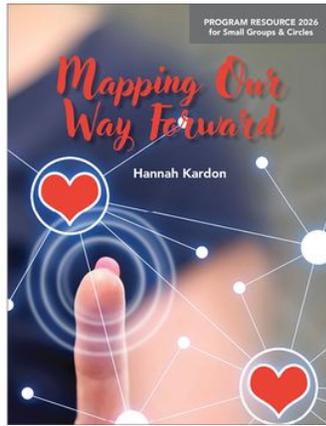
Come learn together for the transformation of the world!



United
Women
in Faith

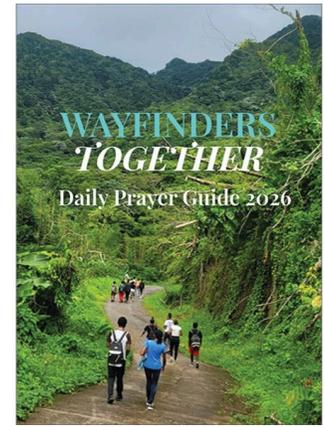


response is the award-winning, official magazine of United Women in Faith. The January/February 2026 digital issue is free at: <https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/>



Order your 2026 Program Resource book now:

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=13189&catid=2175>



Order your 2026 Daily Prayer Guide now:

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=13188&catid=2186>



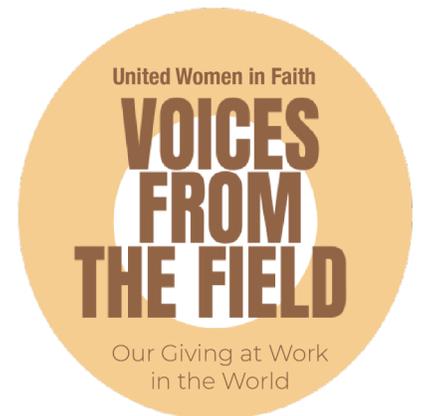
Join in for conversations with United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer. “Each month, the podcast explores timely themes and resources, from expert insights on ways to live your faith to inspiring interviews with spiritual leaders.”

Visit the [Calendar of Events](#) for links to programs.



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/>



Faith Talks is transitioning to a visual podcast format only, with live webinar experiences only a few times each year beginning January 2026. This new format allows us to focus our time and creativity on producing high-quality, engaging visual podcasts.

Visit [Calendar of Events](#) for a link to the programs.

Forms Section for Your Unit's Use

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.

FORMS Table of Contents

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2026 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, UWFaith.org, **response** magazine and the 2026 Program Resource book and Daily Prayer Guide.

June 1 August 1 December 1

Due date for articles is the 10th of the previous month.

uwfnorthdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com

Please send your articles 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



READING PROGRAM

PLANS



Eligible years: For 2026, books from the 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 Reading Program lists are eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not already read them.

PLAN I

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

PLAN II

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

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.

PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category

REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

(Send completed form to your Secretary of Program Resources or equivalent according to your conference's schedules.)

NAME: _____

PLAN CHOSEN: I II III IV

CURRENT YEAR: _____

Plans III and IV: After two books in each category, extra books can be any category.

MISSION EMPHASES	
Education for Mission	
Leadership Development	
Nurturing for Community	
Social Action	
Spiritual Growth	

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

LOCAL UNIT North District	
DISTRICT Cal-Pac Conference	
PRINT NAME	
ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP	
EMAIL	

Please send this form to Marilynn Wilander, 2018 El Sereno Ave, Arcadia, CA 90007
marilynnewilander@gmail.com

Date due: December 20, 2026

Pledge to Mission: Financial Gifts Change Lives

United Women in Faith supports programs in the United States and around the world that improves life for women, children and youth and their communities.

United Women in Faith assists nearly 90 organizations across the United States through grants, technical support, and member involvement. National Mission Institutions are community-based organizations and social service agencies that were almost exclusively founded by women in the 19th century to serve marginalized communities and populations across the United States. National Mission Institutions empower women, care for children, support seniors, educate youth, provide housing for domestic violence survivors, and offer residences for special needs children and youth.

United Women in Faith also supports and empowers local women in 39 countries around the globe to be leaders in the church, community, and the world. We provide academic scholarships and support Regional Missionaries—personnel serving in their home regions with church, ecumenical and grassroots partners in educational and empowerment programs for women and youth.

Thank you for your unit’s participation in the Pledge to Mission next year!

Please send your form to the North District Treasurer,
Crystal Ward, 1856 Sinaloa Ave, Pasadena, CA 91104



United Women in Faith *2026 North District Pledge*



Church: _____

Pledge Amount: _____

President: _____

Treasurer _____

Local Organization Pledge to Mission

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United Women in Faith

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION (SMR)

PIN AND CERTIFICATE ORDER FORM FOR ALL TREASURERS

Local Unit: _____ SMR Order #: _____
 District: **North** Order Date: _____
 Conference: **Cal-Pac** Period From: _____ To: _____

Local: Submit order form with remittance to district treasurer. Leave "Send To" blank if pin ships to treasurer listed at bottom.

District: Consolidate unit and district orders. FORM NOT NEEDED IF SUBMITTED ONLINE. If paper, send consolidated order form with remittance to conference treasurer. Leave "Send To" blank if pin ships to treasurer listed at bottom.

Conference: FORM NOT NEEDED IF SUBMITTED ONLINE. If paper, complete this form for any conference orders. Leave "Send To" blank if conference pin ships to treasurer listed at bottom. Send copies of all district and conference order forms to Mission Resources. See Special Mission Recognition Conference Summary of Orders form for remittance instructions.

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION ORDERS				
#	PIN TYPE OR DONATION ONLY	HONOREE NAME (IF KNOWN)	GIVEN BY	\$ VALUE
1				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
2				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
3				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
4				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
5				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
6				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
7				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
8				
	SEND TO: (NAME & ADDRESS)			
Total Special Mission Recognition (enter on Remittance Form)				\$

Remittance Check Number _____

VALUES: \$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 **Cross Pin** or **Logo** pin. Pins come with one certificate. Extra certificates are \$5 each.
Attach additional forms if needed.

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

Submit to: North District Treasurer
Crystal Ward
1856 Sinaloa Ave., Pasadena, CA 91104

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

Form 4 (rev. 8/2023)



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH GIFT TO MISSION (GTM) & GIFT IN MEMORY (GIM)

CARD ORDER FORM FOR ALL TREASURERS

Local Unit: _____ Card Order #: _____
 District: North Order Date: _____
 Conference: Cal-Pac Period From: _____ To: _____

Local: Submit order to district treasurer with remittance. Donate through your remittance.
 District and Conference: Submit order to Mission Resources. You will be billed shipping and handling.

LOCAL GIFT TO MISSION ORDERS			There are 10 cards in each pack.		
TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS	TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS
Peace M7078			Encouragement M7071		
In the Service of Christ M7077			Happy Birthday M7076		
Thank You M7079			Christmas M7070		

Will pick up from district treasurer? YES NO - Please mail. If mailed, cards will be sent to treasurer listed at bottom. Include donation with remittance when pacing order.

LOCAL GIFT IN MEMORY ORDERS			10-card pack has 5 of each type. Order with either number.		
TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS	TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS
GIM - In Loving Memory M7068			GIM - Thoughts & Prayers M7069		
					

Will pick up from district treasurer? YES NO - Please mail. If mailed, cards will be sent to treasurer listed at bottom. Include donation with remittance when pacing order.

DISTRICT AND CONFERENCE:

Indicate number of packs of each type you are ordering.

There are 10 cards in each pack. Packs with two card designs will have five of each. Packs with five card designs will have two of each.

Gift in Memory pack includes 5 of each type. Order using either number.

You will be billed shipping and handling.

Peace (10 cards - 2 each type)



M7078
No. of packs _____

Thank You (10 cards - 2 each type)



M7079
No. of packs _____

Happy Birthday (10 cards - 5 each type)



M7076
No. of packs _____

In the Service of Christ (10 cards)



M7077
No. of packs _____

Thinking of You (10 cards - 2 each type)



M7080
No. of packs _____

Encouragement (10 cards - 5 each type)



M7071
No. of packs _____

Gift in Memory (10 cards - 5 each type)

M7068 _____ M7069 _____



Christmas (10 cards - 5 each type)



M7070
No. of packs _____

District/Conference orders – Phone: 888.409.8137 Fax: 214-528-2288 Email: cs@uwfaithresources.org
 or mail to: United Women in Faith Mission Resources, P.O. Box 742349, Atlanta, GA 30374-2349

Prepared by: _____, Treasurer
 Address: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____
 Email: _____
 Submit to: Crystal Ward
1856 Sinaloa Ave, Pasadena CA 91104

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



Legacy Gift Detail Sheet (Checks)

FOR LOCAL TREASURERS

Conference: _____

Local Unit: _____

District Name: _____

Salutation: (Ms. Mrs. Mr. Dr. Reverend)			
First:	Middle:	Last:	Suffix:
Street:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Email:			
Check #	_____		
Check Amount:	_____		
Tribute (in Honor/in Memory): (Legacy Fund)	_____		

Salutation: (Ms. Mrs. Mr. Dr. Reverend)			
First:	Middle:	Last:	Suffix:
Street:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Email:			
Check #	_____		
Check Amount:	_____		
Tribute (in Honor/in Memory): (Legacy Fund)	_____		

Salutation: (Ms. Mrs. Mr. Dr. Reverend)			
First:	Middle:	Last:	Suffix:
Street:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Email:			
Check #	_____		
Check Amount:	_____		
Tribute (in Honor/in Memory): (Legacy Fund)	_____		

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				



United Women in Faith

Cal-Pac Conference United Women in Faith

2025 Mission Today Criteria Due:

December 15, 2026

To become a Mission Today Local Organization, the Local Organization (LO) must meet EIGHT of the following criteria, including a minimum of FOUR of those marked with an asterisk (*).

Return to:

District Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator

Name: Diane Garner Address: 4817 Avedon Rd, Moorpark, CA 93021

Email: rdgarner47@hotmail.com

Local Organization Name:

Contact Person:.....

Email/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:

Cal-Pac Conference United Women in Faith

2026 Charter for Racial Justice Criteria



THIS IMAGE REPRESENTS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S COMMITMENT 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 Social Action Coordinator no later than December 15, 2026.

District Social Action Coordinator's Name _____

Address: _____

E-mail:

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 discuss using 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
Read: Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice (174 pages), Books from UWFaith Reading Program, Response magazine. Racial Justice Timeline History of Racial Justice



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?



United
Women
in Faith

Newsletter Subscriptions

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

Cost for a mailed subscription is \$15 yearly (4 issues). Make your check payable to North District United Women in Faith and send it to the District Treasurer, Crystal Ward, 1856 Sinaloa Ave, Pasadena CA 91104 Also send in the form below.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip:

Pacific Waves is the newsletter for Cal-Pac United Women in 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 yearly (4 issues). Make your check payable to Cal-Pac United Women in Faith and send it to the Conference Treasurer, Freda Low, 8437 Village Ln, Rosemead, CA 91770. Also send in the form below.

Name:

Address:

City, State, Zip: