



Summer Edition  August 2026

SOUTHERN VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH DISTRICT
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH





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UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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Who We Are?

We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation.

Yellow: Life in Christ

Green: Sisterhood

Orange: Action

Blue: Faith

Our Logo



United
Women
in Faith

The Mission

United Women in Faith seeks 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.

The Vision

Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

The Purpose

We are a community of women whose purpose is to know God; to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative supportive fellowship and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



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President's Message

Who is My Neighbor? (Read Luke 10:25-37 NIV)

"The one who has mercy." Who is the one who is our neighbor, obligated to us and to whom we are obligated, beyond and through any ethnic identity, role in society, or fear of the other? The one who helps. The one we see as God sees. This is our neighbor, and that is who we are neighbor to, always, in the vision of Jesus—the one who acts.

Mission u 2026:
Experiencing Emmanuel
was held at Bell Memorial

UMC in Rowland Heights this year. We stayed at a nearby hotel, where we met in the conference room for morning praise at 7:00 a.m., then for breakfast. We met in the beautiful sanctuary of Bell Memorial UMC for worship, then moved on to our study group in the designated meeting rooms, followed by shared meals in the Fellowship Hall. We had 96-100 women register, but some were unable to attend. I highly recommend planning to attend next year.



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Mark your calendars for the upcoming in-person events. Check the newsletter for details and remember to register and pay before the registration deadline.

- **Ice Cream and Bingo Social, Sunday, September 13, at 2 PM,** at the New Entra Casa House, 3575 Pershing Ave., San Diego, CA 92104 (Fundraiser event sponsored by the NEC Associates Board). Parking is limited, so please plan to carpool. This is a **FREE** event. Registration is not

required.

- **South District United Women in Faith Annual Celebration – September 19, 2026,** at Santa Ana United Methodist Church, 2121 N Grand Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705
- **SAVE THE DATE: California-Pacific Conference United Women in Faith Annual Celebration – October 17, 2026,** at Laguna Country United Methodist Church

Please let us know if your church/unit can host an in-person event in 2027



Your Sister in Christ,
Lynette Hayes, President
South District United Women in Faith
619 818.5347 (cell/text)
lyn.hayes123@gmail.com



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Vice President's Sharing

Polly Petersen, Vice President

South District United Women in Faith

Email: pollypetersen52@gmail.com

Cellphone: 619-721-1473



Unity and Equality in Christ Jesus

26 in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

(Galatians 3: 26 - 29)

We are all one in Christ Jesus. Our United Women in Faith Charter for Racial Justice calls us to "commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed and to struggle for the rights and self-determination of every person or group of persons." We are very lucky to belong to a faith organization that is dedicated to promoting and empowering a rich diversity of membership. We know that in our daily lives we live in the wreckage of policies that continue to marginalize people based on race, cultural background, legal status, and gender. We are all affected by

this discord. It is not new. This was a problem for early Christians and is still a problem today. However, we see how Paul urges the new Christians in Galatia to understand that as Christians, we are all one in Jesus Christ. This means that if Jesus sees us as equally worthy, certainly we should see all our neighbors as equally worthy. The powers of the world seek to divide us and consider some groups as less than or unworthy. This helps them to maintain their power. Jesus offers a better way, the way of love.



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We will be highlighting the Charter for Racial Justice through a panel discussion at our Annual Celebration on Saturday, September 19th. I hope you will consider attending and celebrating the work that we do together to promote a vibrant, diverse, caring community of women. The registration form is included in this newsletter, so fill it out and send it in right now!

We are all blessed when we acknowledge that we are made in God's image and that all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God.

You are blessed,
Polly Petersen
South District UWFaith VP



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Secretary's Thoughts

Marcia Easton

South District Secretary

marciaeaston@cox.net

949-282-9310



***Hope is the clear window that allows light
and new possibilities to shine through.
Kind gestures, words and love open those windows.
Like warm sun, hope can bring us back to life.
Be someone's window.
(Anonymous)***

Make Me a Blessing to Someone Today.

As Fall approaches, it is a good time to clean out your files.
You need to keep all your minutes and treasurer's reports for this year.

They are needed for your annual audit. And it is good to keep the previous year to refer to next year.

Once minutes that noted them have been approved, you can discard correspondence.

Be ready to start next year fresh, or ready to pass on materials to the next secretary.

Thank you for serving your local unit.



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Treasurer's Notes



Dear UWF sisters in Christ,

Driven by God's love and united in sisterhood, we continue our work to improve the lives of women, children and youth.

At our **Quiet Disciple and Recognition meeting** on June 6, we presented certificates to Eight units that achieved **60/40 Giving** (60% or more of all expenditures to Mission Giving). They are: **Costa Mesa** (Mesa Verde), **Escondido**, **Foothills** (La Mesa), **Shepherd of the Hills** (Mission Viejo), **San Diego First**, **Nestor**, **Laguna Country**, and **Vista**.

Nine units achieved **5 Star Mission Giving** (to Missions, Special Mission Recognition, Gifts to Mission and in Memory, and World Thank Offering): **Chula Vista**, **Community** (Huntington Beach), **Laguna Beach**, **Lemon Grove**, **National City**, **Orange First**, **San Carlos**, **St. Mark's**, and **Santee**.

All units can achieve 5 Star Mission Giving! Spread your Mission Giving to include a minimum \$5 gift in each

Pledge, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory, and World Thank Offering.

All our Mission undesignated and designated giving supports our purpose of "expanding concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church".

Our Mission pledge for 2026 is \$80,000. As of July 29, units have remitted \$34,942.90, nearly 44% of our pledge. Good Work!

Blessings to all our members (and especially our Unit Treasurers).

Joanna Schwend,
South District Treasurer,
jwschwend@yahoo.com
PO Box 2403,
Del Mar, CA 92014

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may be able to do good for every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8



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Program Resources Coordinator's Report

Hello Sisters in Christ,

Our national UWF organization is making some big changes. They closed the UWF Store on June 30. Now you need to order all paid program materials such as program books, the Prayer Guide, Mission u curricula, and most Reading Program books from Amazon.

Free downloads of posters and flyers previously found in the eStore are now available at uwfaith.org/digital. This is also the place to find digital downloads of the Program Resource book, Daily Prayer Guide, Mission u curricula, and response magazine. You might need to set up a free account and before you can look for "Free Resources."

The District Treasurer is still your source for Gift to Mission and Gift in Memory cards, president's pins, membership pins, and mission recognition pins.

Please let a district officer know if you need help with accessing the UWF Resources you need.

Reading Program

I hope many of you are enjoying our Reading Program Books this summer. This is the last year that books on the 2021 list will count for credit. Those titles include Bonus Books (counts as two books) Pushout by Monique W. Morris

and Finding Peace in an Anxious World edited by Erin James-Brown. Other 2021 books include Gum Moon by Jeffrey L. Staley, and Beyond Loneliness: the Gift of God's Friendship by Trevor Hudson.

Good Read!

I recently finished reading Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence by Diane Butler Bass. It is a Spiritual Growth book. This memoir details her life experiences in which she discovered each of these aspects of knowing Jesus. It is like the blind men examining an elephant: one found the trunk, another a leg, and a third one the ear. It is hard to comprehend everything Jesus can be for you. Sometimes we even err by learning about Jesus instead of being with Jesus.



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Mission Today Criteria

Next year I will be the Education and Interpretation Coordinator for South District. I would like to encourage you to look at the Mission Today Criteria when you begin to plan your meetings and activities for 2027. You are asked to do 8 of the 15 activities including 4 of the 8 starred ones. Some would be a simple addition to your meetings such as saying the Purpose at EACH meeting or having a mission moment at EACH circle or subgroup meeting highlighting information from response

avenue. Other will take more work or planning like using two programs from the Program Book, perhaps Call to Prayer and Self-Denial or Special Member Recognition. Of course, you can adapt it to your needs. A simple one is to invite a district officer to give a program to your unit. Take a look at the list and see how many of them you actually do now like making and paying a pledge as a unit to district UWF treasurer or recruiting two new members each year. Let me know if you have any questions.

Judy Edelblute,
Program Resources Coordinator
UWF South District
judyedel@san.rr.com or
858-278-0255
(This is a land line, no texts, please)





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Social Action Coordinator's Report

Kay Guy

mkayguy@gmail.com



Living Our Social Action Priorities United Women in Faith reaffirmed two priorities for social action at Assembly 2026. Our social action priorities for 2025–2028 are **climate justice** and **mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color**.

How are your local units putting these priorities into action?

Many of us have become involved in supporting immigrant communities. Members have marched for immigration rights at the federal courthouses in Santa Ana and San Diego. Others are delivering food to immigrants who are afraid to leave their homes. Some units

have traveled to Tijuana to visit Centro 32 and other ministries serving migrants and refugees.

What is your unit doing to promote climate justice? Are you adopting more sustainable practices, such as reducing single-use plastics, recycling, composting, or keeping reusable items out of the landfill? Are you encouraging your church to make similar changes? Even small actions can make a meaningful difference when we work together.

As we continue to live out our social action priorities, may we remain open to the surprising ways God works through our acts of compassion, justice, and service.



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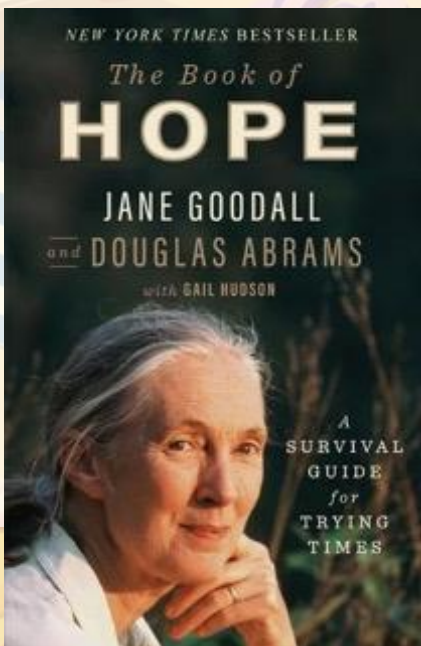
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Other Social Action Updates:

The Criteria for Racial Justice should be completed by each unit annually and emailed to the South District Social Justice coordinator by December 15. The form is in this newsletter, but you contact me if you want a digital copy or have questions. I can be available to do a program for your unit. Remember that Social Justice work takes many forms and serving our immigrant neighbors is one way.



We will discuss another selection from the UWFaith Reading Program on Monday, October 12, at 7 p.m. Our topic will be "The Book of Hope" by Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams. Jane focuses on her "Four Reasons for Hope": The Amazing Human Intellect, The Resilience of Nature, The Power of Young People, and The Indomitable Human Spirit. If your library doesn't have it, you can find used copies online.

Social Action Book Discussion

Monday, October 12, 7 p.m.

Email mkayguy@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.





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Spiritual Coordinator's Message



Ephesians 4:1-6 NRSV

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

It is time for me to answer God's calling to pass the calling of this position to the next person that God has highlighted as called to the Spiritual care of the South District United Women in Faith. We are each called to be who we are and to accept our challenges and limits, to maintain God's love within our world. Love helps us know that we are enough. As we struggle each day, there are times when we can feel anger and fear over the changes around us and the relationships we encounter.



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Today Father Richard Rhor's daily meditation introduced me to a new voice. Etty Hillesum, a Jew held in a transit camp during WWII, faced expected death and realized that her love for God was the most important treasure in her life. This statement speaks to my heart today as we face uncertainty in our changing world.

"One thing is becoming increasingly clear to me: that You cannot help us, that we must help You to help ourselves. And that is all we can manage these days and

also all that really matters: that we safeguard that little piece of You, God, in ourselves. And perhaps in others as well....You cannot help us, but we must help You and defend Your dwelling place inside us to the last.

[1] An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941–1943, trans. Arno Pomerans (Pantheon Books, 1984), 151.

Blessings,
Barb Eveland

District Spiritual Growth Coordinator
707-889-2277



Nomination Chair's Message

Perla C. Baker
Chair of Nominations
perla2012@cox.net
949-292-3064



Elected vs. Appointed Leaders

*(These two groups operate on completely separate clocks.
They do not overlap, combine, or carry over into each other.
(the Person clock and the Position clock))*

Elected Leaders:

8-year limit (tenure) – applies to the **PERSON**

A person may serve up to 8 years total in elected leadership.

Exception:

After completing 8 years, she must take a 2-year break

After the 2-year rest, she may serve up to 2 more years (not another full 8 years)

*This is the **PERSON** clock.*

4-year limit (term) – applies to the **POSITION** or **Office**

No position may be held by the same person for more than 4 consecutive years.

Exception:

The Treasurer position may be held up to 6 consecutive years.

*This is the **POSITION** clock.*

Appointed Leaders:

4-year limit – applies to the **POSITION**

Appointed roles have a 4-year limit per person

This limit applies to the role, not the person

Starting the Clock

Anyone entering an appointed role for the first time starts at Year 1.

If someone is already serving in an appointed role and continues in the same appointed role, she continues her year count.

Switching Appointed Roles Reset the Clock

If an appointed leader moves to a different appointed role, she starts Year 1 in that new role. This is the **Position** clock, not a person clock.



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2026-2027 South District UWF Slate of Officers To be elected at the SDUWF Annual Celebration on September 19, 2026

(This proposal aligns with the current Constitution & Bylaws of the district organizational structure.)

<u>Elected Leaders:</u>	Tenure = 8 years Term of office = 4 years Treasurer Term of office = 6 years	Start of Tenure	Status (2026-2027) (2-Yr Increment)
President: Lynette Hayes 3940 Hilltop Drive, San Diego, CA 92102 Church: St. Paul's UMC – San Diego	(619) 818-5347 C lyn.hayes123@gmail.com	2023	2 nd year of 2 nd term
Treasurer: Alpha Tomas #23 – 1111 Packers Circle, Tustin, CA 92780 Church: Santa Ana UMC	(714) 932-0095 C ulloalpha@gmail.com	2025	1 st year of 1 st term
Secretary: Marcia Easton 28032 Via Congora, Mission Viejo, CA 92692 Church: Shepherd of the Hills UMC – Mission Viejo	(949) 282-9310 C marciaeaston@cox.net	2023	2 nd year of 2 nd term
Chair of Nominations: Perla C. Baker 3206 Sangre de Toro, San Clemente, CA 92673 Church: San Clemente UMC	(949) 292-3064 C perla2012@cox.net	2025	2 nd year of 1 st term
Communication Coordinator: Cecil Bucud-Arceo 3009 W. Willits Street, Santa Ana, CA 92704 Church: Santa Ana UMC	(714) 383-7783 C uwfsdcommunications@gmail.com	2025	2 nd year of 1 st term

<u>Appointed Leaders:</u>	Appointment Max = 4 years	Start of Appointment	Status (2026-2027)
Program Coordinator/VP: Polly Petersen 1124 Connecticut St, Imperial Beach, CA 91932 Church: Nestor UMC – San Diego	(619) 721-1473 C pollypetersen52@gmail.com	2026	1 st year of appointment
Program Resources Coordinator/Management Patricia Smith-Martin 435 Sarno Place, Escondido, CA 92026 Church: Escondido UMC	(760) 670-6834 C pmartin979@gmail.com	2026	1 st year of appointment
Mission Coordinators:			
1) Membership Coordinator: Kay Guy 1550 Boyle Ave, Escondido, CA 92027 Escondido First UMC	(760) 519-0293 C mkayguy@gmail.com	2026	1 st year of appointment



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Appointed Leaders:	Appointment Max = 4 years	Start of Appointment	Status (2026-2027)
2) Social Action Coordinator: Randa Krakow 241 Calle de Sereno, Leucadia, CA 92024 San Dieguito UMC	(760) 815-3423 C randakra@gmail.com	2026	1 st year of appointment
3) Education & Interpretation Coordinator: Judy Edelblute 3512 Mt. Burnham Ct., San Diego, CA 92111 St. Mark's UMC of San Diego	(858) 278-0255 H Judyedel8@gmail.com	2026	1-year appointment
4) Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Amy Moberly 4885 Atlanta Drive, San Diego, CA 92115 First UMC, San Diego	(619) 549-2923 C Amoberly2000@yahoo.com	2026	1 st year of appointment
Language Coordinators:			
1) Filipino: Raquel Riingen 553 Valencia Parkway, San Diego, CA 92114 First UMC, National City, CA	(619) 847-4463 C Quelnari2003@yahoo.com	2026	1 st year of appointment
2) Korean:	OPEN		
3) Spanish:	OPEN		
4) Tongan:	OPEN		
4) Samoan	OPEN		
5) Cambodian	OPEN		
Committee on Nominations - Members:			
1. Grace Mallare 4400 W Florida Ave. #70, Hemet, CA 92545 Hemet UMC 3 more members needed	(949) 466-5295 C gracemal14@yahoo.com OPEN	2026	1 st year of appointment
District Registrar: Diane Vogan 4066 Nabal Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941 Church: Foothills UMC – La Mesa	(619) 980-9472 C (619) 670-7759 H dnvogan@cox.net	2023	4 th year of appointment
Limitless Coordinator: Is the young women's leadership. It focuses on empowering younger women (18-40) through mission education, leadership development, justice work, and spiritual growth.	OPEN		





Communications

Part III: Discernment, Authenticity, and the Proper Place of AI

Christians have always tested spirits; now we must test systems (1 John 4:1). When a devotion circulates, we ask: who wrote it? What church or teacher stands behind it? In an AI age, this means insisting on transparency—label what is machine-generated, cite Scripture and tradition faithfully, and keep context intact. Detached quotations can wound. A hard saying from the prophets demands its horizon of hope; a consolation from the Psalms must not be sold as a quick fix.

What, then, is AI's rightful role? Think of it as a librarian and a mirror. A librarian retrieves, organizes, and cross-references; it does not pronounce doctrine. A mirror reflects patterns in our notes and prayers, prompts

questions we might have missed, highlights habits in our speech. Neither librarian nor mirror can replace a pastor's wise presence, a grandmother's intercession, or a friend's hard truth. Authority in the Church is relational and accountable; wisdom is slow, communal, and cruciform (Phil. 2:5–8).

Privacy in spiritual life is not a luxury; it is reverence. Confessions, doubts, and consolations are holy disclosures. Christian communities that use AI should practice data chastity: collect little, retain less, encrypt by default, and make opting out easy. Publish clear policies: here is what we automate, here is what remains human, here is how we will protect your story (Prov. 11:13). Technology should lower the threshold for mercy, not raise the risks of exposure.



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Bias demands humility and plurality. Training data and design choices can tilt the witness of our tools. The antidote is catholicity in the small-c sense: draw from the broad river of the Church—Orthodox, Catholic, Protestant; voices from the Majority World; women and men; scholars and pastors; the living and the dead. Preserve room for holy disagreement, paradox, and mystery. Algorithms should not downrank lament or sand off prophecy's edge (Jer. 20:9; Ps. 13).

Finally, attend to the ecology of attention. God gives sabbath as command and gift (Ex. 20:8–11). Our designs can honor it: do-not-disturb defaults on Sundays or during retreats, gentle friction before we post in anger, reminders to pause and pray. The pace of charity is slower than the pace of outrage (1 Cor. 13:4–7). The Father runs to the prodigal; the Son lingers with the wounded; the Spirit broods over chaos. Let our digital rhythms learn from the triune patience of God.



(Special thanks to the contributor who chooses to remain anonymous)



Education and Interpretation (E&I) Coordination

Leader holds primary responsibility for interpreting the impact and importance of Mission Giving as an act of faith and commitment. Leader empowers women to understand, interpret and participate in United Women in Faith's mission with women, children and youth, and outreach of the church, as well as engage in raising funds for mission and outreach. She will:

- a. understand and interpret United Women in Faith mission projects and concepts of mission, working closely with the finance and program committees to ensure that members are well-informed about what happens to their gifts and what ministries are made possible through their Mission Giving;
- b. promote and interpret the need for Mission Giving to fund the total mission program of United Women in Faith, including ministries with women, children and youth, leadership development, spiritual growth, service and advocacy, and transformative education;
- c. develop and promote strategies for engaging in and growing Mission Giving at all levels of United Women in Faith, including promotion of the Five Channels of Mission Giving;
- d. inform United Women in Faith members of transformative education and leadership development opportunities such as Mission u and Leadership Development Days;
- e. promote mission studies, local mission opportunities, Mission u, leadership development events, spiritual growth retreats, Assembly, Ubuntu Days of Service, annual meetings and other events underwritten by Mission Giving;
- f. promote and utilize United Women in Faith print, online and audiovisual resources to tell the mission story, and ensure these resources are available for mission programs and projects;
- g. work with district mission coordinators for education and interpretation, provide resources and conduct training at least annually;
- h. serve on the conference Board of Global Ministries, or equivalent body, and work with the conference secretary of Global Ministries on mission education and interpretation (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016, ¶633.2); and
- i. serve on the following committees: leadership team, Program, Finance, Membership and Mission u.





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2025-2026 South District United Women in Faith Leadership Team

President: Lynette Hayes

3940 Hilltop Drive, San Diego, CA 92102

(619) 818-5347 C

lyn.hayes123@gmail.com

Church: St. Paul's UMC – San Diego

Vice President: Polly Petersen

1124 Connecticut Street, Imperial Beach, CA 91932

(619) 721-1473 C

pollypetersen52@gmail.com

Church: Nestor UMC – San Diego

Secretary: Marcia Easton

28032 Via Congora, Mission Viejo, CA 92692

(949) 282-9310 C

marciaeaston@cox.net

Church: Shepherd of the Hills UMC

Treasurer: Joanna Schwend

P.O. Box 2403, Del Mar, CA 92014

(619) 203-1476 C

jwschwend@yahoo.com

Church: San Dieguito UMC

Chair of Nominations:**Perla Baker**

(949) 292-3064 C

perla2012@cox.net

3206 Sangre de Toro, San Clemente 92673

Communications Coordinator:**Cecil N. Bucud-Arceo**

3009 W. Willits Street, Santa Ana, CA 92704

(714) 383-7783 C

uwfsdcommunications@gmail.com

Church: Santa Ana, UMC

Membership Coordinator: Alpha May Tomas

#23 – 1111 Packers Circle, Tustin, CA 92780

(714) 932-0095 C

ulloalpha@gmail.com

Church: Santa Ana, UMC

Mission Education Coordinator: OPEN**Program Resources Coordinator:****Judy Edelblute**

3512 Mt. Burnham Court, San Diego, CA 92111

(858) 278-0255 H

judyedel@san.rr.com

Church: St. Mark's UMC – San Diego

Social Action Coordinator: Kay Guy

1550 Boyle Avenue, Escondido, CA 92027

(760) 519-0293 C

mkayguy@gmail.com

Church: Escondido First UMC

Spiritual Growth Coordinator: Barbara Eveland

5665 Friar's Road, Unit 230, San Diego, CA 92110

(707) 889-2277 C

barbaraeveland993@gmail.com

Church: First UMC – San Diego

District Registrar: Diane Vogan

4066 Nabal Drive, La Mesa, CA 91941

(619) 980-9472 C

dnvogan@cox.net

Church: Foothills UMC – La Mesa

WJ – National Director Alternate:**Laddie Perez-Galang**

46-U Calle Aragon, Laguna Woods, CA 92637

(949) 245-4027 C

laddieperezgalang@gmail.com

Church: Laguna Country UMC – Laguna Woods



Leadership Team in Action!





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Cal-Pac/South District UWFaith 2026 Calendar of Events

JAN

17, 24, 31 -SDUWF Local
Officers Training

FEB

15 - Southern Voice
Winter Edition

21 - Cal-Pac UWF Mid-
Winter Event, Claremont
UMC

MAR

6 - World Day of Prayer

13-14 - SDUWF Retreat -
Cedar Glen, Julian

APR

faith
action
sisterhood

MAY

15-17 - UWF Assembly
2026 - Indianapolis, IN

15 - Southern Voice
Spring Edition

JUN

6 - SDUWF Quiet
Disciples

20 - Cal-Pac UWF
Luncheon

JUL

24-26 –
Cal-Pac UWF Mission u

AUG

15 - Southern Voice
Summer Edition

SEP

19 - SDUWF Annual
Celebration / Meeting
Santa Ana UMC

OCT

17 – Cal-Pac UWFaith
Annual Celebration
Laguna Country UMC

NOV

15 - Southern Voice Fall
Edition

DEC

Love in action is
UNSTOPPABLE





SOUTHERN VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH DISTRICT
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

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[REGISTER HERE](#)

2021
DAYTON LITERARY
PEACE PRIZE
FINALIST



Interreligious Book Study 2026- 4 Sessions!

4 Part Series

We will gather once a month for 4 consecutive months. We will discuss different chapters of the book at each session, so we hope you can attend all 4 sessions (though we understand if you need to skip one, of course).

Join our 2026 Interreligious Book Study 📖👥

We will be reading and discussing Valarie Kaur's first book, "See No Stranger". This is open to everyone in the community no matter their faith tradition.

About the Series

Hosted by the Cal-Pac Annual Conference Council on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations, this study is the first of many book studies. These studies bring together people of different life experiences. It creates a welcoming space to listen, question, and learn from one another. Please feel free to share with people in your community.



Reading Program

United Women in Faith

Author Talk with Rabbi Julia Watts Belser on *Loving Our Own Bones*

Thursday, September 3, 2026

7p.m.-8p.m. ET / 4p.m.-5p.m. PT

[Register Here](#)

Join United Women in Faith members and friends for a special Reading Program Author Talk with Rabbi Julia Watts Belser on *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole*.

Loving Our Own Bones

DISABILITY WISDOM
AND THE
SPIRITUAL SUBVERSIVENESS
OF KNOWING
OURSELVES WHOLE

JULIA WATTS BELSER

About *Loving Our Own Bones*: *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole* invites readers into a thoughtful and spiritually nourishing deep dive into disability and the Bible. Through fresh and unexpected readings, *Loving Our Own Bones* paints a luminous portrait of what it means to be disabled and one of God's beloved. Braiding the insights of disabled, feminist, Black, and queer thinkers with her own experiences as a queer disabled Jewish feminist, Rabbi Julia Watts Belser talks back to biblical commentators who traffic in disability stigma and shame. What unfolds is a profound gift of disability wisdom, a radical act of spiritual imagination and biblical scholarship that invites readers to claim the power and promise of spiritual dissent and to nourish their own souls through radical self-love.

Loving Our Own Bones will be a 2027 United Women in Faith [Reading Program](#) book selection in the spiritual growth category.



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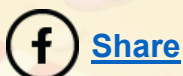
About Rabbi Julia Watts Belser: Julia Watts Belser (she/her) is a rabbi, scholar, and spiritual teacher who works at the intersections of disability studies, queer feminist Jewish ethics, and environmental justice. She is a professor of Jewish Studies at Georgetown University, Senior Research Fellow at the Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, and core faculty in Georgetown's Disability Studies Program. A longtime advocate for disability and gender justice, she currently directs the [Disability and Climate Change Public Archive Project](#), an initiative that documents the wisdom and insights of disabled activists, artists, and first responders navigating climate crisis. Her latest book, *Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing Ourselves Whole* (Beacon Press, 2023), won a National Jewish Book Award. She is a passionate wheelchair hiker, an avid gardener, and a lover of wild places.

All are welcome. There is no cost to participate. ASL interpretation will be available. Pre-reading of the book is not required, but it will enrich your experience of the author talk. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

*If you are unable to open the registration link above, please copy and paste the following text into your browser window:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/LiobNAJrRuW9MIKfUZiTBQ#/registration>

[Register Here](#)

Share with friends.





New Entra Casa

BINGO & Ice Cream Social

Set sail for a fun-filled fundraising day!

Sunday
September 13, 2026
2:00 p.m.

New Entra Casa
3575 Pershing Ave.
San Diego, CA 92104

Bingo Cards: 6 for \$5
* Extra Cards \$1.00 each



Quarterly Fundraising Event
All proceeds go to New Entra Casa

Bingo & Ice Cream Social * Fun for All Ages!



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New Entra Casa, a 501(c)3 established 54 years ago by the women of Wesleyan Service Guild, a predecessor organization of UWF, continues to save lives and restore families.

The program was established to support women leaving incarceration. New Entra Casa still accepts women from incarceration, but they now also serve women dealing with substance use.

New Entra Casa currently receives government funding, but additional funds are needed. The Board and staff are also committed to building financial reserves. Monetary donations are always needed, and appreciated. Staff also applies for a wide variety of grants.

Items can also be delivered to the house. Currently the need is for paper products: paper plates, napkins, paper towels, and toilet paper.

The Associates of New Entra Casa raise funds for the house. They host quarterly fundraisers. Everyone is invited to the house on Sunday, September 13th at 2:00pm for fellowship and Bingo. Please see the flyer in this issue. The Associates meet monthly at the house. Invitation is open to everyone who has a heart for NEC.

The Associates are always very appreciative of everyone's support for their annual gift basket fundraiser. This year, St. Paul UWF in San Diego will be hosting the event on Sunday, November 8th at 2:00pm. Donated gift baskets are always needed and appreciated. Please contact Shirley Ferrill if you or your unit are donating a basket.

We hope to see you soon as we support the ministry of New Entra Casa.

Susan Farnsworth
Associate & Board member
(619) 461-8363
patwin100@gmail.com

Shirley Ferrill
Associates Chairperson
(619) 267-2516 (home)
shirleyazf36@gmail.com



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South District Annual Celebration

UNITY AND EQUALITY IN CHRIST JESUS

19th September, 2026

Santa Ana UMC

2121 N Grand Ave,
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Join us for a Panel Discussion on
Racial Justice, our Annual Meeting,
and Breakout Sessions.

Registration

9:15 AM - 10:00 AM

Program

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Lunch

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM

Breakout Sessions

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM

A Mission offering will be taken to
help support Centro 32
that serves vulnerable
migrant families in Tijuana.

GALATIANS 3:26-29

SO IN CHRIST JESUS YOU ARE ALL CHILDREN OF GOD THROUGH FAITH,
FOR ALL OF YOU WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST HAVE CLOTHED
YOURSELVES WITH CHRIST. THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GENTILE,
NEITHER SLAVE NOR FREE, NOR IS THERE MALE AND FEMALE, FOR YOU
ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. IF YOU BELONG TO CHRIST, THEN YOU
ARE ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE.



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United
Women
in Faith

South District Annual Celebration 2026

"Unity & Equality in Jesus Christ"

Saturday, September 19th, 2026

Santa Ana UMC

2121 N Grand Ave, Santa Ana, CA 92705

Registration ~ 9:15 AM

Program ~ 10:00 AM

Lunch ~ 12:30 PM

Breakout Sessions 1:30



*Program includes
a panel discussion
on racial justice*

(cut along the dotted line and return)

Registration Form (One per person)

The **deadline** to submit your registration is **Tuesday, September 8th, 2026**

Registrations submitted by Sept. 8th fee is \$20 | If later, you must contact Registrar & fee is \$25

To Register, mail the form & check to Diane Vogan, 4066 Nabal Drive, La Mesa, CA, 91941

PAYMENT MUST BE MAILED WITH REGISTRATION

Make check payable to **South District UWF** & mark "Annual Celebration" in the memo section.

For questions, contact Diane Vogan at dnvogan@cox.net or call at 619-980-9472 or 619-670-7759

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Local Church/Unit: _____

Paid by Personal Check? Yes/No (circle) Paid by Unit or Other Person? Yes/No (circle)

(If Paid by Unit or Other please indicate Name of Person Paying) _____

Indicate food allergies: _____

Vegetarian/Vegan: _____

For South District Treasurer use only:

Date Received: _____

Check#/Amount: _____

Cash: _____



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United
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California-Pacific United Women in Faith

Save the date

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 17

Laguna Country UMC



Candle of Commitment 2026

The Cal-Pac United Women in Faith Candle of Commitment represents the cost of our mission work to women, children, and youth in the U.S. and countries around the world.

The candle will burn at the Cal Pac Annual Celebration on
October 17, 2026,
as a way of honoring the Mission-Minded Men and Women in Our Life.

The candle will burn for one minute for a
minimum gift of **\$16.56** per honoree.

Gifts can be given by a Local Organization or an Individual.

Submit form and check to District Treasurer by Sept 14, 2026



*Cut here and keep the top half for your records.
One form per person to be honored and please type or print neatly.*

Name of Honoree: _____
[] In Honor of [] In Memory of

Person/Local Organization submitting the name: _____ Amount: _____
\$ _____

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM TO YOUR UWFaith DISTRICT TREASURER:
Use District Treasurer Address
ALONG WITH A CHECK PAYABLE TO:
Joanna Schwend
PO Box 2403 Del Mar CA 92014



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Find United Women in Faith Online

Inspire

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>

<https://www.facebook.com/dailyprayerguid>

<https://uwfaith.org/events/mission-u/>

Social

<https://www.facebook.com/uwomenfaith>

<https://www.instagram.com/uwomenfaith/>

<https://www.youtube.com/uwomenfaith>

<https://twitter.com/uwomenfaith>

<https://uwfaith.org/digital>

Influence

<https://uwfaith.org/get-involved/>

<https://uwfaith.org/lead>

<https://uwfaith.org/response>

*It's easy to get to our website.
Click on or copy and paste the
link below to your browser.*

<https://www.calpacumc.org/uwfaith/>

<https://linktr.ee/calpacuwfaith>

Impact

<https://uwfaith.org/read>

<https://uwfaith.org/advocate>

<https://uwfaith.org/events/calendar/>



Fellowship, Education, and Service: FUMC Escondido Unit Gathers for Inspiring Summer Luncheon

On July 19th, the FUMC Escondido Unit came together for a wonderful summer luncheon filled with fellowship, education, and impactful service.

Summer gatherings offer a unique opportunity to pause, reconnect, and align goals for the coming months. This year's event beautifully blended personal connection with the unit's broader collective mission.

A Warm Welcome and Inspiring Assembly Highlights

The event was graciously hosted by member Jackie, who welcomed 27 attendees into her beautiful home. The inviting setting provided the perfect backdrop for a relaxed afternoon of shared stories and mutual encouragement.

Following the meal, the focus turned to education and future planning. Kate and Kay presented an informative program highlighting the key takeaways and milestones from Assembly 2026. Their presentation kept everyone informed and deeply connected to the broader initiatives of the organization.

Over 300 Reasons to Celebrate

Service remains a core pillar of the FUMC Escondido Unit's identity, and this luncheon put that commitment into action. Members were asked to bring boxes of snack bars and fruit bars to support the local snack pack program for Interfaith.

The response was overwhelming. Together, the unit donated over 300 bars to support families and individuals in need, demonstrating once again the power of collective generosity.

Looking Ahead with Purpose

Everyone left the luncheon feeling deeply inspired and motivated to continue working hand-in-hand in mission ministry.



South District @ UW Faith 2026 Assembly



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Quiet Disciples Celebration, June 6



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Quiet Disciples Celebration, June 6



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Quiet Disciples Celebration, June 6



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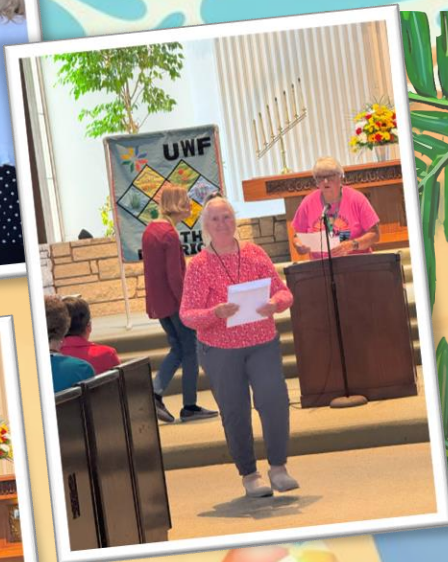


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Quiet Disciples Celebration, June 6



Quiet Disciples Celebration, June 6



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Quiet Disciples Celebration, June 6



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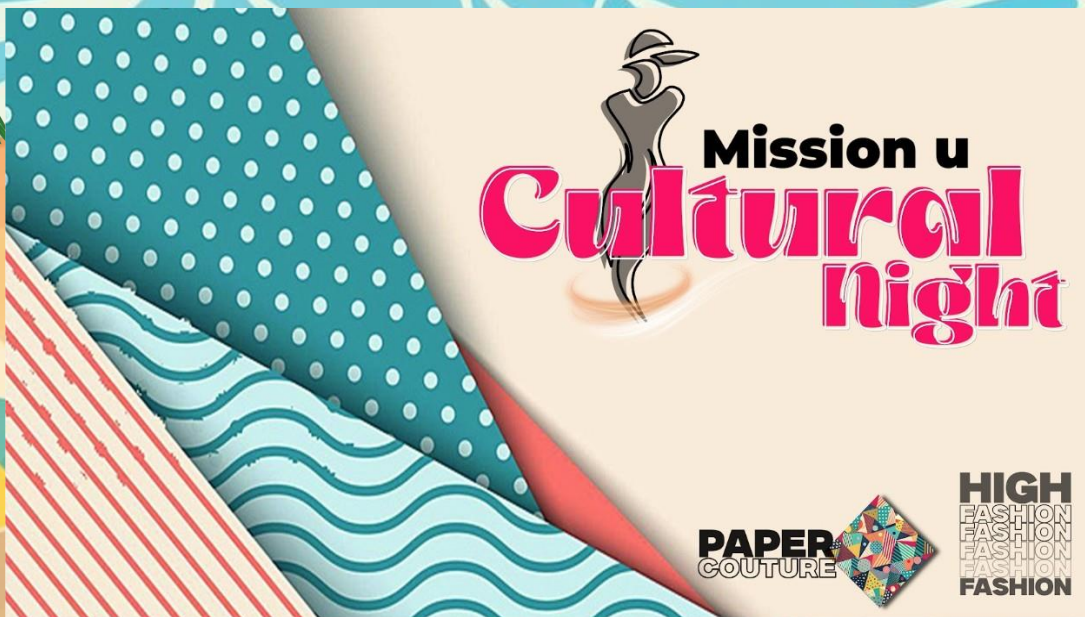


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Mission u 2026 • Mission u 2026



A night of discovery, imagination,
creativity, teamwork, and pure fun.

The picture:

The models, designers, narrators,
staff, and the crew.

What a joyful night of celebration!





South District Gathering @Mission u 2026



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READING PROGRAM Reporting Form

Formulario de Información del
Programa de Lectura

독서 프로그램독서 프로그램

BOOKS

- 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.





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REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

(Send completed form to your secretary of program resources or equivalent according to your conference's schedules.)

NAME:	PLAN CHOSEN:				CURRENT YEAR:				
					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.				

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



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Cal-Pac South District Gifts and Graces Inventory

Potential Leaders Information Form

(To be completed by potential leader.)

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

Email: _____

Member of Local Church: _____

Age: 20s ☐ 30s ☐ 40s ☐ 50s ☐ 60s ☐ 70s ☐ 80s ☐

Language Spoken: _____ Racial/Ethnic Identity: _____

Employed: No ☐ Yes ☐ Part Time ☐ Full Time ☐

Professional skills, job experience: _____

Office(s) held in United Women in Faith (United Methodist Women):

	Office	Date of Service
Local		
District		
Conference		
Jurisdiction		



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Cal-Pac South District Gifts and Graces Inventory

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

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

Return to: **Perla Baker**
Chair, Nominations
3206 Sangre de Toro, San Clemente 92673
949-292-3064
perla2012@cox.net



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Subscribe To

Pacific Waves – Cal-Pac United Women in Faith Newsletter

Published - January | April | June | September

Pacific Waves is FREE with an email subscription. All you need to do is send an email with your full name and telephone number, church, and District to:
calpacuwfcommunications@gmail.com

The cost for a mailed subscription is \$15. Make check payable to United Women in Faith. Please mark in the memo line: Pacific Waves 2026. Mail payment & the form below to Cal-Pac UWFaith Treasurer:

Freda Low, 8437 Village Lane, Rosemead, CA 91770
freda.umwest@gmail.com, Cell: 818-601-9142

Pacific Waves 2026 Subscription Form- mail Cal-Pac UWFaith Treasurer

Please print all information legibly:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code + 4 _____

Phone (home/cell) _____ email _____

Church _____ District _____

Official Area:

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ Check # _____ Date received by Cal-Pac UWFaith Treasurer _____



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Subscribe To

Southern Voice – South District United Women in Faith Newsletter

Southern Voice is FREE with an email subscription. All you have to do is send an email with your full name, telephone number, and church to Cecil Bucud-Arceo at uwfsdcommunications@gmail.com.

The cost for a mailed subscription is \$15 per year. Make check payable to South District UWF. Please mark in the memo line: "Southern Voice 2026." Mail payment and the form below to:

South District Treasurer, Joanna Schwend

P.O. Box 2403, Del Mar, CA 92014.

Southern Voice 2026 Subscription Form: Please print all information legibly.

Thank you!

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code+4: _____
Telephone (Home/Cell): _____ Church: _____
Enclosed: \$ _____ Check #: _____ Date Received by UWF Treasurer: _____



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