

United Women in Faith

Twin Cities District

Winter (January) 2024

Connection

“Celebrate and Grow in Leadership”

Winter Gathering – Saturday, January 27, 2024 on Zoom

9 am – Meet and Greet

9:30 – Program begins with worship

Members of United Women in Faith are leaders! Whether you were elected to a particular position or follow your passion to put hope, faith and love in action, you are a leader – in UWFaith, your congregation and your community.

Good leaders need great tools. In January 2024, the Twin Cities District will share tools available through United Women in Faith to help you grow your capacity for leadership. Can awe and wonder create a more inclusive community? Does reading recommended books expand my understanding of mission or provide ways to be engaged? What tools are available from the national office of United Women in Faith?

We will offer some answers and suggestions when we gather on Zoom, Saturday, January 27. We’ve tapped the collective wisdom of district and local leaders, as well as Deaconess Sophia Agtarap. The event is free, and we invite you to participate on your own or with a gathering of women from your congregation.

We’ll begin with an informal, open “meet and greet” time at 9 a.m. Brew a cuppa and greet others from our district. Following that fellowship time, we will gather for inspiring worship.

Our program begins with Deaconess Sophia Agtarap sharing “Spiritual Formation: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.” She invites us to move beyond our understanding and use of those terms to think more broadly about interdependence, liberation, and abolition of systems that do not serve the folks who most need them.



She describes herself this way: She is a pathfinder (“Yes, I did give myself that moniker”). She is a 1.5 generation Filipina American who values curiosity and wonder as she navigates the world. She works alongside individuals and communities at the intersections of justice, equity, belonging, and sustainability as we do the brave and hard work of imagining the world we want to build and animating others to create a more just society where all may thrive. Much of her life’s work has involved communication, advocacy, and engagement in the areas of immigration, economic justice, healthcare, homelessness, climate justice, and educational access. She and her family live in Tacoma, Washington.

District leaders will offer two panel discussions. The first will review what leadership is needed for local units, what responsibilities go with those positions, and how to invite and involve others. A different group of leaders will share resources available through the national office of United Women in Faith.

A different group of leaders will share resources available through the national office of United Women in Faith. They include Faith Talks, climate justice discussions and webinars, the Reading Program, online book discussions/author presentations and more! These resources are available to all, whether you are an individual member of United Women in Faith or are interested in the topics discussed.

Our last panel will feature women from local churches, talking about their units and involvement with United Women in Faith. Both small and large congregations will be represented. No matter how many women are in your unit, explore how to put hope, faith and love into action!

Along the way, we'll have time for small group sharing in breakout rooms. There will also be time for Q & A with our panel participants.

Treasurers have a very specialized role. They are invited to stay a little longer for specific training with District Treasurer Peggy Rhodes.

We're excited about connecting with you in 2024. Did we tell you this amazing opportunity January 27 will be on Zoom (no winter driving worries) and it's free? Please register to receive the Zoom link.

Note: Sophia Kristina Agtarap's presentation is shared with permission from the World House Institute for Social and Ecological Responsibility, Oklahoma City University.

REGISTRATION FOR WINTER GATHERING on Zoom

To register for the gathering, go to <https://forms.gle/cqXrzde3Pu1cTnDbs8> You can register for yourself or a group. You will need to register at least one email address to receive the ZOOM link for each viewing location. Registration DEADLINE is Thursday, January 25. Questions? Contact Sandy at 952-270-1157 or regmnumw@gmail.com

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From the President

Greetings, UWF Sisters!

One thing I'm looking forward to in this new year, is the completion of Restoring Waters, the housing project where women can heal, recover, and built a stable life. As many of you know, I am a big supporter of Emma Norton Services and the work they do to transform the lives of women and families facing homelessness. I want to share a poem titled "The Scattered Woman" by an Emma Norton Services board member, Michelle Ma. It gives me a glimpse of what it's like to be homeless. My hope is that all of us can help Emma Norton Services accomplish its goal to get Restoring Waters up and running with full services. You can read more about the need on pages 3-4 of this newsletter. Blessings.

Melinda Kohrt, Twin Cities District President

The Scattered Woman

*See her walking, her nose is to the stars
they echo her confusion, with their immensity
She mutters to herself, her hands shake
remembering when life had a point
not merely charity for the homeless, the
forsaken
she strides from shelter to shelter
clutching her hole ridden bag
protecting what little she has
scared of the future
when things will undoubtedly get worse
she is 40 now, what about 50, 60, 70?
she's been estranged from her family for
years
an uncalm explosion at thanksgiving
got everyone ignoring her
and here she's at her shelter
she takes to her bed
and sobs
big globules of tears fall on her pillow
"Oh what makes God so cruel"
giving the happy people everything they need
what about the sad, the grieving, the
wretched
what about the babies unborn
what about the thunder and chaos
that threaten only the lives that are already
broken
like hitting a dead dog
she waits there on her bed
for sleep to overtake her
and then she dreams
not of food or permanent shelter
but the sweetness of her first kiss
-----by Michelle Ma*

Emma Norton News

Emma's Place: These are exciting times at Emma Norton. Families at Emma's Place are enjoying the updates to their apartments. Children are in school with Emma's Place programming to support thriving.

Restoring Waters: The new Residence at Highland Bridge, Restoring Waters, is becoming a reality as construction moves toward completion in spring. Individual tours have begun as daily progress allows a glimpse of the future building that will replace the Emma Norton Residence.

Currently, Restoring Waters is slightly over half completed. The capital campaign is at \$3.75 million with \$1 million left to go. Many churches, public and private agencies and other entities have contributed about 70% of the campaign total.

As was previously reported, the new Emma Norton Restoring Waters is unique in several ways:

1. It is being built with a **trauma-informed design** to serve the residents who have experienced trauma in their lives. The building design will include calming colors throughout, structural features that eliminate environmental aspects that contribute to trauma, such as hallways with doorways through which people suddenly enter the hallway as residents are walking through them. The goal is to offer safety, privacy, comfortable and inviting surroundings that give a sense of security. The inclusion of nature aspects, such as the roof-top garden, aim to offer a calming and supportive environment.
2. A state-of-the-art feature will be the **Living Room Model** that provides space within the building as well as peer supported care for residents under extreme stress/breakdown, thus reducing emergency room trips for mental health-related conditions. Restoring Waters will be the first Minnesota agency offering the Living Room Model.

The **Restoring Waters Capital Campaign Team** continues to reach out to the community, church groups, and many individuals, both long-time and recent supporters. With the hope that the campaign will fully-fund the building, increased staffing and programming needed to serve 60 residents (more than at the current Emma Norton Residence) in nurturing, comfortable, safe surroundings, the Capital Campaign currently remains a main focus of Emma Norton. We pray for generous support from United Methodists as well as other



Drawing of Restoring Waters in St. Paul’s Highland Bridge area

individuals who stand for residents who are overcoming homelessness, mental health issues, addictions and other results of trauma in their lives.

Congregations have the power to make Restoring Waters a success through their prayers, generous gifts, fundraising efforts, and volunteer service. The staff, board, residents all thank those who offer this loving support. Please contact Shawna Nelsen-Wills at 651.251.2632 to donate to this wonderful contribution in service of the innovative Restoring Waters.

Emma Norton Ongoing Expenses

While we focus upon the Capital Campaign, ongoing expenses also need to be filled. As we close the chapter on 2023, let’s continue to work together to open new doors and create opportunities for home, hope, and healing during the holidays and throughout the whole year.

Thank you for your support and your partnership in our mission to provide transformational housing and growth for women and families on their journey of recovery. **If you already made a recent gift, thank you!** All of us here at Emma Norton wish you a hope-filled & joyful holiday season! Together, we can help residents build futures brimming with opportunity and growth. **Your donation, combined with others like yours, make a healing home possible for individuals and families in need EVERY DAY of the year.**

Ongoing donations of \$25 gift cards are accepted at Emma Norton to the following locations: Target, Walmart, Dollar Tree, Aldi, Cub, Hy-Vee, Lunds & Byerlys, or general Visa/Mastercard gift cards.

Submitted, with thanks, by Shirley Jackson, UWF Emma Norton Twin Cities Representative

Social Action News

What a season we are in! God’s love for us shines clearly through the gift of Jesus! As we feel that love of grace and forgiveness, we are being offered a chance at the life God intends for us. How can we make a better world going forward?

We can take action by getting involved in the upcoming Legislative Session. By going to the MN Interfaith Power and Light website, mnipl.org, you can sign up to receive updates and actions you can take in the next Legislative Session including Our Day at the MN Capitol on March 12, 2024, for Indigenous rights and climate justice. They need people who care to get involved.

The 28th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held this year in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The summit met from November 30 – December 7th, bringing together 197 countries plus the European Union. Governments discussed how to limit and prepare for future climate change. It was one of the largest and most important international gatherings in 2023. It is the world’s highest decision-making process on climate issues and included about 80,000 delegates to build consensus and facilitate progress on climate action. MN Interfaith Power and Light sent a staff member, Analyah Schlaeger dos Santos to COP28. If you’re interested in hearing more about MN Interfaith Power and Light’s Global Repair work, you can request Analyah to come speak to your congregation or neighborhood group by emailing her at analyah@mnipl.org.

There are small actions that we can take that can make a big impact on our world and those who need justice. United Women in Faith need you to visit their website at uwfaith.org to join thousands of women of faith around the world who are making a difference by signing petitions and sending letters to let our leaders know how we feel about justice and caring for our world and all who live in it

I'd like to end by sharing this prayer written by Chanequa Walker-Barnes, a professor at Columbia Theological Seminary in GA from The Upper Room Disciplines 2023:

God of Everlasting Love, you have called us to fellowship with one another across the lines of difference and diversity that you have intentionally seeded into the earth. Grant us the strength to resist polarization, the grace to sustain fellowship, and the wisdom to build each other up. Amen.

Submitted by Nancy Kipp, TC District Social Action Coordinator

REMINDER: MISSION TODAY FORMS

The end of the year brings with it some duties to get ready to start a new year. One of those duties for United Women in Faith is to look back over the past year and report unit activities to the District using the Mission Today form. Each unit is asked to complete this simple form of the past year's activities. The Mission Today form has been shared in past issues of this newsletter. However, if a form is not readily available to your unit, please feel to contact me by phone or email and I will get a copy for you. My phone number for text or voice messaging and email address are shown below.

Please complete the 2023 Mission Today form reporting on the activities that your local unit engaged in during the year. The completed Mission Today Form should be sent to me by email or snail mail (4724 Zane Ave, N, Crystal 55429) preferably by the end of December but no later than the final deadline of January 20, 2024.

Units that complete the Mission Today forms will be recognized at the Winter Gathering on January 27, 2024.

Blessings,

Carol Foster, Twin Cities District Education & Interpretation Coordinator

Ph: 763-234-7543

Email: grumpytf@aol.com

OFFERING FOR DISTRICT MEETING

Once again with the January meeting of the Twin Cities District of United Women in Faith, we have the opportunity to show financial support for issues that impact women, children and youth. The offerings collected at our meeting will be divided between Emma Norton Services and Mission Giving of the United Women in Faith.

Emma Norton Services is one of the Mission Institutions of United Women in Faith and certainly a favorite for us in the Twin Cities District and greater Minnesota. ENS for over 100 years has been directly helping to alleviate homelessness, overcoming addictions, and giving second chances at life. Half of the offering collected will go to Emma Norton Services to be used in the operational expenses that keep the doors open and services flowing to those whose lives they enable to make the changes necessary for living their best lives.

The second half of the offering will go to United Women in Faith as part of our pledge to mission giving. Those funds will be used in fighting injustice, especially actions that harm women, children and youth by racial and gender injustice, economic inequality, and climate issues. UWF is "a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation." (UWfaith.org). Dr. Martin Luther King Jr is quoted as saying "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single

garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.” By adding our voices and offering to funds contributed by other United Women in Faith, we will be increasing the impact our dollars can make.

Because our January meeting will be offered via Zoom, the opportunity to give is by mailing a check to our Treasurer, Peggy Rhodes (address below). Please be as generous as possible for these two worthwhile causes.

Instructions for Offering to be split between Emma Norton Services and Mission Giving of UWF:

Writing checks is the **PREFERRED** method of giving to Twin Cities District UWF. If online giving is your **only** option, it is available. Below are instructions for sending a check and/or giving online through the MN Conference UMW website.

PREFERRED METHOD:

Instructions regarding checks for the offering are:

1. **ALL checks** should be made payable to **TWIN CITIES UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** or **TCUMW** (this is our legal name and should continue to be used).
2. **On the memo line write the name of your church.** Your unit will receive credit towards its own yearly pledge,
3. **MAIL the check to PEGGY RHODES, 2849 Farrington St., Roseville MN 55113.**
4. **PLEASE DO NOT send cash.**

Instructions regarding on-line giving option:

1. Go to this link: <https://bit.ly/TCUMWDonate> and find the box for TC District Gathering
2. Enter the amount next to District Gathering.
3. Next to “Donation Frequency” click the “Choose One” and make your choice. Today’s date will fill in automatically, but you can change it if you want to. If making a one-time donation, you do not need to give an end date.
4. Click “Continue” and fill in the required personal info on the next page.
5. **Be sure to choose Twin Cities as the District** even if you are not from the TC District so that your donation will go to our two recipients
6. **Questions regarding online giving, contact Shirley Durr at shirley.durr@gmail.com**

Thank you and see you via Zoom in January.

Submitted by Carol Foster, Twin Cities District Education & interpretation Coordinator

A Reminder from the Resource Manager

For those who have been busily reading, watching and listening to Faith Talk, and watching movies for Reading Program credit – now is the time to send in the report of your accomplishments for the 2023 year. You could also email the titles you read or watched. Let Paulette Malecek know at 4609 W 85th Street, Bloomington 55437 or at gpmalecek@q.com Deadline to Paulette is January 15, 2024.

Submitted by Paulette Malecek, Resource Manager

2024 Dates to Remember

Sat., January 27-TC District Winter Gathering	Sat., August 3-TC District Planning for Fall Gathering
Sat., March 16-TC District Planning for Spring Gathering	Sat., September 21-TC Fall Gathering-Camphor UMC
Sat., April (not determined)-Spring Gathering	Sat.-Sun., October 5-6-Conference Annual Gathering &
Fri.-Sun, May 31-June 2-North Central Jurisdiction, Indianapolis	Leadership Development-Centennial UMC, Roseville
July-Mission u	

THANK YOU TWIN CITIES DISTRICT UWF AND OTHER DONORS

Your monetary gifts to Give a Little Gift this holiday season funded a wonderful group of Holiday Cheer programs for residents in our nine Walker Methodist Senior Communities.

With the change to monetary donations instead of physical gifts, the Auxiliary was able to fund almost a dozen holiday programs and experiences for our many residents. The Life Experience Directors were excited to receive funding to plan a variety of holiday programs previously not accessible for the residents.

As we move into the new year, please consider other opportunities to support the seniors in our Walker Methodist Communities with activities and funding.

Submitted by Susanne Mattison, Walker Methodist Communities Auxiliary Representative

2024 Twin Cities District Liaisons

Your liaison is a connection between your local UMW unit and District & Conference UWF.

Your liaison should be contacting you several times a year, but you are always welcome to call her.

BC- Becky Coleman: Fairmount, Fridley, La Puerta Abierta, New City, New Life

BB - Bonnie Bougie: Centennial/St. Anthony Park in Roseville

CL - Clarice Lien: Richfield

DD - Diane Denkmann: Brooklyn, Brunswick, Recovery, Lake Harriet

JP - Joyce Prudden: Living Spirit

LO – Linda Oberg: Path of Grace

MK - Melinda Kohrt: Excelsior, Minnetonka

NK- Nancy Kipp: Mounds Park, Prospect Park

PM - Paulette Malecek: Church of Peace, Normandale Hylands, Hillcrest

PR - Peggy Rhodes: Minnehaha

PL - Pricilla Luitjens: Hamline

RE – Rena Moran: Camphor, Epworth

SM - Sandy Meyer: Discovery

SD - Shirley Durr: Faith in West St. Paul, Walker, St. Paul's in Mendota Heights

SJ – Shirley Jackson: Faith in St. Anthony Village, Park Ave, Northeast

SM – Susanne Mattison: Hennepin

SF- Sylvia Farrells: Eden Prairie, Portland

Submitted by Diane Denkmann, TC District Membership Nurture & Outreach Coordinator

TWIN CITIES 2024 DISTRICT OFFICERS

Elected

PRESIDENT Term 2, Year 2

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TREASURER Term 3, Year 1

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CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Term 1, Year 1 – OPEN

Appointed

PROGRAM COORDINATOR - OPEN

EDUCATION AND INTERPRETATION COORDINATOR - OPEN

MEMBERSHIP NURTURE AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR – 3rd year

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16145 70th Ave N, Maple Grove 55311

SOCIAL ACTION COORDINATOR – 3rd year

Nancy Kipp nanc.kipp@gmail.com
612-817-5456
11324 Xenia Ave, Champlin 55316

SPIRITUAL GROWTH COORDINATOR-OPEN

RESOURCE MANAGER - 4th year

Paulette Malecek gpmalecek@q.com
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COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Classes if 2023, 2024, 2025 – OPEN

Class of 2026-Jak Anderson

COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR – OPEN

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WALKERMETHODIST HEALTH CENTER REPRESENTATIVE

Susanne Mattison - see information above

METHODIST HOSPITAL REPRESENTATIVE

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CHURCH WOMEN UNITED REPRESENTATIVE

Rita Moran

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TWIN CITIES DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT

Reverend Cynthia Williams
cynthia.williams@minnesotaumc.org
612-230-6153

122 W Franklin, Room 400, Minneapolis 55404

CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP –Linda Oberg

2024 North Central Jurisdiction



You are invited to join others in the Minnesota Conference at the North Central Jurisdiction's United Women in Faith Quadrennial "Get Together", May 31 – June 2, 2024. It is described as a mini-Assembly, with its great speakers, workshops and displays. Participate in community gatherings and worship; listen to discussion groups and multi-media presentations; explore today's relevant issues in workshops; engage in breakouts with opportunities for activities with your UWF sisters and connect with friends. There is an optional pre-conference Soul Care Retreat on May 30th. The speakers include Deaconess Garlinda Burton; Grace Musaka, Regional Missionary; Sharon Priddy and Dawn Armstrong from the National Office. The music director is Amanda Powell, who many of you know as the inspirational song leader from Assembly. Come and feel the joy when faith filled women unite! To register, go to <https://www.umwncj.org>

The registration deadline is April 24, 2024.

WANTED: YOUR IDEAS!

The Twin Cities District wants to offer programs of interest at our gatherings. You can help us by offering ideas for speakers you would like to hear, topics you would like covered or experiences we might do as a group. This is an invitation to brainstorm **DON'T BE SHY!**

As an example, on a very cold April Saturday in 2023 we went on a Sacred Sites tour to learn more about Dakota history. (The cold was Nature's joke on us!) What other kinds of on-site learning or service projects would interest you? We are also gathering speaker suggestions, especially for our September annual gathering. The entire district team is responsible for program planning. You can send ideas to Melinda Kohrt, president, at gatoruser@comcast.net

Sylvia Farrells, Newsletter Editor
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