



United  
Women  
in Faith

WEST DISTRICT

# WESTWORDS

West District | United Women in Faith | California Pacific Conference

WINTER 2024

## Responsively Yours: CALLED TO MISSION

Happy New Year! I greet you in faith, hope, and love this new year. What a blessing to welcome 2024 as a new beginning—a chance to reset, refresh, and renew our commitment to loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves as Jesus taught.

In the Wesleyan/Methodist tradition, we often begin the new year with a covenant service to recommit ourselves to God and remember our baptism when we renounced the spiritual forces of wickedness; the evil powers of this world; sin, evil, injustice, and oppression; and professed faith in Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit. The service usually includes “A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition” (United Methodist Hymnal, #607) about giving and loving selflessly. It is also about understanding that we are called to a mission and life in service for God’s work in the world.

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

Does this prayer convict you? It does me. I make it a practice to pray at the beginning of every new year and other times throughout the year whether I participate in a covenant service or not. It grounds me in remembering that I am part of something bigger than me and my perspectives. I am invited into a journey where God leads me and others to transform the world through love. I consider it a blessing that I get to be on this journey with each of you and together with God’s call and help, and our love in action, we can change the world.

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Join me in looking forward to 2024 being a great year in which United Women in Faith will keep dreaming new possibilities and innovative ways to inspire, influence, and impact lives, expand our reach to connect

with more women, sojourners, and advocates whose values align with ours. Values like our concern and advocacy for the well-being of women, children, and youth, growing in faith and transformative education, seeking justice for the oppressed and care for creation — ultimately being God’s tangible presence and light in communities and the world.

Let us seek to serve God’s people throughout 2024 by committing our time, talents, giving, and service collectively, understanding that together our strength helps God’s glory and light shine brighter each day. To God be the glory for the great things God will do through and for United Women in Faith in 2024!

**SALLY VONNER**  
General Secretary and CEO  
United Women in Faith

Source:  
RESPONSE: JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2024  
<https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/>



United  
Women  
in Faith

Our new logo represents the past, present and future of our organization. The symbol refers to our Christian roots.

The multicolored pieces of the cross coming together represent the diversity we aim for and the inward and outward reflection we engage in as women of faith. The typography is solid, modern and bold, showcasing our power to support the causes in which we invest.

## response magazine

The official magazine of United Methodist Women and is published by the national office.

Each issue will touch your heart, stir your soul, and challenge your mind.

Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work.



Subscribe  
Today

response

## A PRAYER FROM AUDREY STANTON-SMITH, EDITOR OF response MAGAZINE

Dear God, I am so thankful for each person who opens this magazine or clicks through its digital pages. I am thankful for the wonderful writers, photographers, artists, and designers who grace these pages. May this new year bring great things for United Women in Faith and our response readers. Help us all to continue putting love into action. Help us to connect and nurture our sisters so that they may inspire, influence, and impact communities at home and abroad. In Jesus’ name, I pray. Amen.



# Message from the **PRESIDENT**

## **Together We Inspire, Influence, and Impact**

***So in Christ we, though many, form one body,  
and each member belongs to all the others.***

Romans 12:5

The idea of community comes from the sense of responsibility we have for each other. In the Bible, we are encouraged to take care of each other. Maintaining the connection with our sisters in Christ and building a community of love through words and action is what UWFaith is all about.

A common element in all the West District Local Leadership Training Sessions that I recently attended was the abundance of resources available on the uwfaith.org website. As we consider ways of attracting younger women who are often working mothers to our sisterhood, let us review some way those web resource might be helpful in bringing them into our community. Although a virtual connection might be the beginning, in-person gatherings will deepen the connections.

Inspire: Resources to help women of faith deepen our faith and spiritual awareness include the Faith Talks webinars/podcasts and Soul Care retreat models. (Stay tuned for more information about WD UWFaith's Soul Care event this spring—invite a younger lady to attend with you,) Spiritual Growth and Nurturing for Community items from our Reading Program open our minds to how we can nurture ourselves and others.

Influence: Resources to help women of faith further develop their leadership skills within their local organization and beyond include virtual Community Gatherings and monthly previews of that month's chapter of our program book. Reading materials that focus on Leadership Development can be helpful to present and future leaders.

Impact: Resources to help women of faith act boldly through advocacy and service opportunities include the "one click" option to send messages to your congresspeople in Washington D.C. about issues that our organization supports as well as "Ubuntu" opportunities at many UWFaith gatherings, local and beyond. This spring, for example, prior to our Western Jurisdiction event in Anchorage, Alaska (see flyer on p.24), several opportunities to do hands-on service to local

(TOGETHER ... — Continued on page 4)

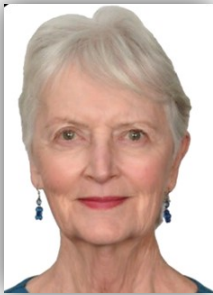
(TOGETHER . . . — Continued from page 3)

agencies will be available. Reading materials on Education for Mission and Social Action bring insight to our service.

Be sure all the ladies in your circles of acquaintance know of these resources, including the option to belong to an online community. If they are intrigued, share your own experience as to how these resources have helped you develop as a whole person in Jesus Christ.

Let us together *forge a bold new path toward the vision of the sacred goodness of humankind and the abundance of the planet's resources!* (From *Fierce Love* by Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis)

***Love in Action Can Change the World!***



Grace and Peace,

***Sara Marshkin***

President  
West District UWFaith

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

**Share the faith, action  
and sisterhood**

## **LOOKING AHEAD FOR WEST DISTRICT UWFaith UPCOMING EVENTS**

■ **West District UWFaith is currently collaborating with Torrance First UMC, UWFaith Unit to plan the *2024 Spring Event* at Torrance First UMC.**

The tentative dates are Saturday May 25, 2024 or Saturday, June 1, 2024. We will send a *Save the Date* flyer to announce which date we select.

■ **The West District will host a training class for computer users to receive CANVA Training.**

CANVA is a publishing program designed to make formatting and use of computer graphics faster and better.

CANVA created publications such as flyers and other event graphics are more cost effective.

Tootie Tu'ihalamaka will teach the class. The class will be about 3 hours long.

Currently we are working on a site for the training. As soon as we confirm the site we will send information on the training date, time and location.

# Words from your VICE-PRESIDENT

## “WE ARE NEVER ALONE”

Greetings United Women in Faith!

“Praise to God for all His Blessings.” I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. My holiday season was a good and blessed time for me. I was grateful and very fortunate because I was able to go on a 12 day cruise. I was happy and thankful I had this wonderful opportunity to travel to Rome, the Vatican, Athens, the Greek Isles and other exciting places in Europe. In my prayers I thanked God for this opportunity. However, on the eighth day of my cruise I felt ill and started thinking I was catching a cold. In the next 2 days I got worse. I was weak, not able walk. My muscles were sore. I had a temperature and difficulty breathing. My throat was hurting so bad I could not eat, drink or swallow. Daily I was praying to get better, but I continued to get worse. I was wrapped in a blanket to stay warm during the 13 hours flight from Paris to Los Angeles. All during the flight I would wake up in fear and listen to hear voices around me. I would start praying to God because I knew He was hearing my prayers. Then I would doze off again. Grace and mercy was knowing God was with me on the plane. When I arrived in Los Angeles, I immediately went to the hospital for Emergency Care.

God promises to be with us; our God is a promise maker and a promise keeper. I am so thankful to God because I knew He was with me and keeping me in His care until there were other angels to start caring for me.

As United Women in Faith we believe God is with us always in times of joy and times of trouble. Our Faith is grounded in truth. It causes us to be strong, fearless, courageous women who take action when we believe Action is needed. Our faith helps us to know and accept God’s Love all the time. Through Love we share the joy and troubles we experience with others to help them advocate for women and children all over the world.

He tells us “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

(Isaiah 41:10)

***We believe: “Love in Action Can Change the World.”***



Glory to God,

**Connye Thomas**

Vice President, WD UW Faith

# SHARING WORRDS FROM OUR 2024 CAL-PAC UWFaith MID-WINTER EVENT



(Held Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at Redlands United Methodist Church)

## *“Healing Community in a Hurting World”*

<sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God,  
which transcends all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble,  
whatever is right, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable  
—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

Philippians 4:6-8

### LITANY

**One Voice:** Today Lord, as sisters, we welcome you.  
We receive and thank you for your love.

**Many Voices:** Help us reflect that love.

**One Voice:** As part of your body, grafted in your love, you care for us daily.

**Many Voices:** Help us love each other as you love us.

**One Voice:** You have called us from every nation, tribe, tongue, and kingdom.  
Placed us into your body, and dressed us in your righteousness;  
born of The Spirit, and united in your blood.

**Many Voices:** We carry your precious treasures of joy, life, love, peace, and your  
Spirit in our earthen vessels.

**One Voice:** Help us see all people made in your image with grace and dignity.

**Many Voices:** Help us enrich others with our gifts and love.

**One Voice:** One day you will restore and make all things new.

**Many Voices:** One day we will see you face to face.

**All Voices:** Until then, help us to care for the earth and each other.  
We pray for wisdom, understanding and knowledge, boldness,  
compassion and strength. For as we live in earthen vessels,  
these earthen vessels need this earth and its people to live.  
Amen.

**May we embrace these words as we journey through this Lenten season.**

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH



## Getting to know God

Greetings West District UWFaith Sisters:

Some people want to read, engage, and apply the Bible but are intimidated by its 770,000 plus words divided into 31,000 verses and nearly 1,200 chapters. What are we supposed to do with this ancient library of 66 divinely inspired books?

By reading God's Word, we get to know God better. Each page reveals His character and tells us a little more about His plan. By engaging God while reading, we find that His word changes, transforms, and revitalizes us.

Ten ways to engage the Bible:

- **Listen to it:** Nehemiah 8:3; Luke 24:27
- **Read it for yourself:** 2 Timothy 2:15; Revelation 1:3
- **Learn to study it:** Psalm 119:11, 18, 27.
- **Memorize it:** Psalm: 37:31; 119:11.
- **Meditate on it:** Joshua 1:8
- **Discuss it:** Ephesians 5:19
- **Teach it to others:** Colossians 3:16
- **Pray the Bible:** Ephesians 1:15-23, 3:14-21.
- **Sing the Bible:** Colossians 3:16
- **Do the Bible:** James 1:22

As you engage and grow in your consistent reading of God's word, you will be blessed in nurturing your own special relationship with God. Micah 6:8 reminds us, *"And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."*



Be blessed,

***Patricia King***

Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
West District UWFaith

**Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care of USC Arcadia Hospital  
(formerly known as Methodist Hospital)  
Barbara Miller, President**

*"The purpose of the Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care shall be to promote and to advance the spiritual welfare of all who are served by the USC Arcadia Hospital in Arcadia, California..."*

Fall greetings from the Women's Auxiliary for our hospital! Did you notice our new name? We want to be more inclusive of women and men who may not be United Methodists but who love our hospital and want to support our chaplains through volunteer hours. Same work, new name.

Our hospital gift shop, The Present Place, is doing well and is stocked full of cute items, flowers, and snack foods that bring smiles to our visitors. Parking is free, and the shop is easy to find inside the hospital. The hours of operation are weekdays 11am-5pm, but will increase when more people volunteer their time for one four-hour-shift a week. Our work in the gift shop is appreciated by all who visit. **Please consider volunteering**, and bring a friend to share the fun! Please contact Lindsey Mannschreck, Volunteer Program Coordinator, at [lindsey.manschreck@med.usc.edu](mailto:lindsey.manschreck@med.usc.edu) or at 626-821-2325 for more information.

Delora Brown, our Auxiliary treasurer, reports that in 2022 we collected \$3,523 from membership dues, and \$50,000 from gift shop sales. Amazing! These funds help support the Spiritual Care Department and our multi-faith hospital chaplains as they provide spiritual care to our hospital patients, families and staff. Our membership dues are as low as \$10/individual and \$50/unit, and can be submitted to Delora any time during the year. Please contact her at [delorabrown@att.net](mailto:delorabrown@att.net) or at 626-287-7393 regarding donations, and Julie Asuncion, our Membership Chairperson, at [juleton610@gmail.com](mailto:juleton610@gmail.com) or at 626-862-2756 to learn about becoming a supporting member.

Our Auxiliary Boards's Committee on Nominations is looking to fill the office of Recording Secretary. If you know a person who has the skills to be a Recording Secretary, or if God is nudging you to become our Recording Secretary, please contact Sylvia Coussa at [sylvia.coussa@fumco.org](mailto:sylvia.coussa@fumco.org). Remember, God does not call the qualified, God qualifies the called.

Clean stuffed animals and baby blankets are again being accepted for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Please contact Delora Brown (see above) if you'd like to donate.

Our next General Meeting will be Monday, September 25, 2023 at 10:30 AM. It will be an in-person meeting. All are welcome to join us. Please contact our Vice President, Rosalie Niemann, at [niemann007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:niemann007@sbcglobal.net) or at 626-720-3384 if you will join us so we can know how many people to expect. I hope to see you then!



# **WOMEN'S AUXILIARY For Spiritual Care of USC Arcadia Hospital**

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions  
with all kinds of prayers and requests.  
With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying  
for all the Lord's people. (Eph. 6:18 NIV)*

**Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will instruct and guide us  
as well as the hospital personnel and chaplains in their transition  
from the past to the future as USC Arcadia Hospital.**

Dear United Women in Faith,

When I wrote the introduction above a year ago it made sense and it still does. Good changes have happened as the hospital has added specialties with its affiliation with USC Keck Medicine. Now leadership appears to be transitioning.

At our recent general meeting on January 22 at the hospital, we bid a fond farewell to the hospital's foundation president, Mr. Mike Driebe, who is retiring. Mike often was a genial spokesperson for us when we wanted hospital updates. Earlier last year some of us had the opportunity to bid best wishes to Mr. Dan Ausman, the former CEO and president who regularly attended board meetings of the Auxiliary. The new president and CEO is Mr. Ikenna (Ike) Mmeje, who joined us at an Auxiliary board meeting; it was good to hear our shared value of maternity and infant health.

This is a fine time to learn about the upcoming tea! Titled, ***Honoring our Special Heroes Membership Tea***, it is on **April 20, Saturday, 11-2 pm, at Lewis Hall of the hospital**. Please see the flyer and the nomination form for your Special Hero. This event will raise funds for the auxiliary and help us learn how the auxiliary supports the spiritual care program. Featured speaker is the gracious Rev. Brenda Simonds who has devoted her long ministerial career to build the chaplaincy program to what it is today. It will be a treat to hear her at this tea.

Sincerely,

***Rosalie Niemann***

Vice President, Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care  
and President, ND UWFaith  
niemann007@sbcglobal.net

(See pg. ? for nomination form)



USC ARCADIA HOSPITAL

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FOR SPIRITUAL CARE

# Honoring our Special Heroes

MEMBERSHIP TEA

A fundraising event in support of the chaplaincy program

GUEST SPEAKER:

**The Rev. Brenda Simonds**  
**Director, Spiritual Care**

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**LEWIS HALL**

USC ARCADIA HOSPITAL  
300 W. HUNTINGTON DR.  
ARCADIA, CA 91007

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20  
**APRIL**  
2024

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11:00- 2:00  
PM

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**\$40 PER PERSON OR \$300 PER TABLE OF 8**

Reserve your table by contacting Diane Gin (dlokgin@gmail.com or 323-243-5323).  
Deadline to register and submit a written bio and photo of the honoree is due **April 5**.  
Fill out the attached form and email to the above email address.

Make checks payable to: **"Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care"**  
Mail to: **Diane Gin, 1400 Pebble Hurst St., Monterey Park Ca. 91754**

# HONORING OUR SPECIAL HEROES MEMBERSHIP TEA

## Nominations Form

Please submit a written bio and photo of the honoree. How has your honoree exemplified God's loving care and concern...is it their exceptional kindness, their hospitality, their listening ears, their honesty, or prayerful nature? These are just a few suggestions! There definitely are many more attributes that make her Special!

Name of Honoree: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Be sure to include a photo. Bio and photo may be emailed or sent via USPS to Diane Gin, **no later than April 5.**

Diane Gin  
1400 Pebble Hurst St.  
Monterey Park, CA 91754  
323-243-5323  
dlokgin@gmail.com



# TREASURER'S NOTE



Greetings Sisters in Christ,  
Happy New Year!!

God has allowed us to be here for another year (2024). Thanks be to God.

West District United Women in Faith has been abundantly blessed in our Mission Giving for 2023. West District UWFaith pledged \$40,000 for 2023. We exceeded that amount by \$865.00.

Thanks to ALL of our local organizations that contributed to our Pledge Mission Giving for 2023. Twenty- three (23) Local Units sent in Pledge donations. Eighteen (18) Local Units met the Five Channels of Mission Giving. The Five Channels of Mission Giving are:

- (1) Pledge to Mission
- (2) Special Mission Recognition
- (3) Gift to Mission
- (4) Gift in Memory and
- (5) World Thank Offering

The following local organizations were recognized with a Five Star Certificate at our West District Local Leadership Training Culmination & Recognition Event held on January 27, 2024 at St. Mark UMC, Los Angeles, CA.

The West District Five Star Local organizations for 2023 were:

- |                         |                          |                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| ☆Chinese UWFaith        | ☆Compton First UWFaith   | ☆Crenshaw UWFaith          |
| ☆El Segundo UWFaith     | ☆Grace UWFaith           | ☆Holman UWFaith            |
| ☆Huntington Park UWF    | ☆Inglewood First UWFaith | ☆Los Angeles First UWFaith |
| ☆Los Altos UWFaith      | ☆Redondo Beach UWFaith   | ☆Riviera UWFaith           |
| ☆ Seal Beach UWFaith    | ☆St. John's UWFaith      | ☆St. Mark UWFaith          |
| ☆Torrance First UWFaith | ☆ Walteria UWFaith       | ☆Wilshire English UWF      |

As we support Mission Pledge Giving through United Women in Faith, we are sharing with others locally and globally. Thank you ALL for your generous support.

May you all have a Blessed year filled with Love, Joy and Peace!



*Barbara Hartell*

Treasurer  
West District UWF

# WEST DISTRICT UWF 2023-2024 LEADERSHIP TEAM

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<b>Communications Coordinator</b>	<b>TINA POOL</b> 8733 Dartford Pl., Inglewood, CA 90303 <a href="mailto:trmpool@gmail.com">trmpool@gmail.com</a> 310-210-7504 Crenshaw UMC
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# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS



Greetings,

The West District UWFaith Membership Co-Coordinator who will be providing services to our local organizations starting this year are Patricia Thomas (Inglewood First UMC) and Sandra Winston (St. John's UMC). Both have previously served as officers on the West District UWFaith Team for several years. We look forward to providing current information and updates to assist our local organizations throughout the year. We also express our appreciation to Linda Smith who previously served in this office and pray for her well-deserved retirement during this period. We were delighted to receive good attendance at the recent Local Leadership Training session in January. This edition of the Westwords will highlight the information we provided.

Romans 15:7

***“Therefore welcome one another  
as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.”***

Bylaw: Article 4. Membership. Membership shall be open to any woman who indicates her desire to belong and to participate in the global mission of the Church through United Methodist Women (now United Women in Faith). The pastor(s) shall be an ex officio member of the local unit and of its executive committee.

Mission Statement: 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 Scriptures, Bylaw, and Mission Statement requires and encourages us to welcome all to our fellowship. The role and responsibilities of the Membership Coordinator is to work actively to fulfill the Mission and Purpose and find creative ways to nurture current members and cultivate new members.

Once you've helped someone join or act, it's the start of a wonderful new journey. As she chooses what path works best for her, continue to support her, and offer guidance. To better meet the flexible needs of today's woman, we offer traditional and new ways to connect with our work: (1) Join or remain in an existing local group. (2) Join a virtual group. (3) Create or join a district group in your workplace, community center, college, or town. (4) Join via our NEW All Access Membership — Join directly through the

(MEMBERSHIP MATTERS — Continued on page 15)

(MEMBERSHIP MATTERS — Continued from page 14)

national website and gain easy online availability to member resources nationwide. Begin your search from the main webpage: <http://uwfaith.org>.

This will open and direct you to many resource tools and information.

The following two reports will be required for you to complete and submit at the end of each year:

UWF SURVEY (Form is located on the uwfaith.org website) – Due March 30, 2024.

This data collection tool gives a snapshot of the growth and impactful work that members, local and virtual groups are engaged throughout the year. Questions focus on membership growth, mission education, events, and social action. United Women in Faith is committed to staying connected to our members individually and collectively as we continue to increase our footprint in the world. Unit Presidents/Representatives will fill out the survey as it will continue to inform how we resource and support your journey as member sand member-leaders.

CHARGE CONFERENCE REPORT – (Charge Conference Report #b: UWF Local Unit Membership) The form is to be completed and submitted on behalf of the local unit UWF President/Representative at your local Church Charge Conference or by February 1 of the Report Year with information that is effective as of December 31 of the previous calendar year. If your church does not have a United Women in Faith unit, please complete the beginning of this form and mark "No UWF unit at this church" in the field for "Local Unit Type." It is also very important that you send/email a copy of this form to the West District Membership Coordinator for our reference each year.

We hope you will access, share, and take advantage of the many resources available to assist your organization.

Prayerfully submitted,



*Sandra Winston Pat Thomas*

sandramwinston@aol.com    hellopat5@sbcglobal.net  
Co-Membership Coordinators, WD UWFaith

(Please feel free to contact us for more information, if needed)

# PROGRAM RESOURCES

Good News West District!

For the calendar year 2023, nine (9) faithful, inspired readers are receiving Certificates of Recognition. They successfully combined the reading of recommended books from the five mission emphasis categories, podcasts, movies, and Faith Talks. All regularly read our national official publication, **response** magazine. West District was recognized for our active participation in the UWFaith Reading Program at our recent Mid-Winter event held at Redlands UMC.

The West District Faithful Nine (9) are:

- 📖 Mary Ross—Riviera UWFaith—Plan IV
- 📖 Nancy Brashears—Wilshire UWFaith—Plan I
- 📖 Eloise Elder—Redondo Beach UWFaith: Plan I ;
- 📖 Gloria Jackson—Compton First UWFaith—Plan I
- 📖 Sara Munshin—Los Angeles First UMC —Plan I;
- 📖 Lita Santiago—Artesia-Cerritos UWFaith, Plan I
- 📖 Helen Stockwell- Redondo Beach UWFaith—Plan I
- 📖 Sandrel Terry—Holman UWFaith—Plan I
- 📖 Ida Younge—Holman UWFaith—Plan I

We extend special congratulations to these dedicated readers!!

I encourage each Local UWFaith Organization to lift the reading program at each regular meeting. Plan to highlight the bi-monthly issues of **response** magazine. Promote the **uwfaith.org website Reading Program** and the 2024 Reading Program Catalog of recommended books. The books selected can be from the eligible list from the years 2019 to 2024. Books may be purchased online from Bookshop.org/shop, which donates 10% of your purchase cost back to support the work of UWFaith. Please also utilize your local libraries, retailers such as Amazon and Thriftbooks; both are good resources. Please participate in the monthly Faith Talks Podcast, and Voices from the Fields. The notifications are regularly e-mailed to our members

Response magazine is available to readers either in print or digitally. This year, 2024, a new feature entitled “reader submitted content!” is being promoted. Submit articles, member profiles and photos of the work of your organization to **response@uwfaith.org** Who are your bright lights? Share your local organization news. Please see the example in the January/February 2024 issue of the **response** member profile; meet ‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, our National President and a Cal-Pac West District member of United Women in Faith.

Thank you West District UWFaith for your gifts and graces, for your faithful work. Embrace this Lenten Season of our New Year, with new hope. Continue to “Inspire, Influence, and Impact in the interest of Women, Children and Youth.”



Peace, Power, and Blessings—Aché,

***Claudia Spears***

Program Resources Coordinator  
West District UWFaith



# UWFAITH

## READING PROGRAM PLANS

Choose and follow one of the four plans. When you have read the required number of books and magazine issues, report your completion to your local member in charge of program resources. Titles read from the 2019 list will be credited through December 31, 2024.

### **PLAN I: 5 books a year**

- One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2019 to the 2023–2024 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of response magazine.

### **PLAN II: 10 books a year**

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2019 to the 2023–2024 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of response magazine.

### **PLAN III: 15 books a year**

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2019 to the 2023–2024 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of response magazine.

### **PLAN IV: 20 books a year**

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2019 to the 2023–2024 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of response magazine.

# 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:

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

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

LOCAL UNIT

DISTRICT

CONFERENCE

PRINT NAME

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

I have also read **response** regularly.

response	<i>Check off the issues you have read!</i>

# COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

## STEPPING IN & STEPPING UP

*“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.  
To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom  
and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,  
to another faith by the same Spirit,  
to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,  
to another the working of powerful deeds,  
to another prophecy, to another discernment of spirits,  
to another various kinds of tongues,  
to another the interpretation of tongues.  
All these are activated by one and the same Spirit,  
who allots to each one individually, just as the Spirit chooses.”*

**I Corinthians 12:7-11 (NRSVUE)**

We are God’s children and each of us have God-given talents for the common good. We use these talents to worship God, to serve God, to share God’s love. When you know that God is calling us to a specific task, we know that God will give you the inspiration and tools to complete the task. Let us share our God-given talent as volunteers in West District UWFaith, the one organization where God is the leader and the beneficiary are women, children and youth. If this is the time where you are looking for an organization where you can use your talent and have the time. Let me share the idea of being a volunteer, stepping in and step up, to our West District United Women in Faith.

If you are not sure, the best time is now, when we have women leaders who will be mentor you. On the job training is the norm in UWFaith. Let us show the God-given light by joining United Women in Faith. According to the UWFaith Bylaws, leader in our organization have term limits. We abide by the bylaws. When you are ready to share your talents, and want to join the sisterhood of the leadership team (aka West District UWFaith leaders) call me or email me. The Gifts and Graces form makes it easier for us to call you.



Respectfully,

***Lita Santiago***

Chairperson, Committee on Nominations (CON) 2024-2025  
WD UWFaith

**"We're here for a reason.  
I believe a bit of the reason is to throw little torches out  
to lead people through the dark."**

—Whoopi Goldberg



**United  
Women  
in Faith**

**Gifts & Graces Inventory  
Potential Leaders Information Form  
(to be completed by potential leader)**

Type or Print (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ (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 Methodist Women:

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Pat Thomas - Chair, Committee on Nominations, West District UWF**  
616 E. Kelso, Inglewood, CA 90301 — Tel. 310-677-7321 — Email: [hellopat5@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hellopat5@sbcglobal.net)

**THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOU ON THE TEAM!**

# SECRETARY'S NOTES



Greetings my West District United Women in Faith Local Secretaries Sisters!

The Secretaries Local Officers' Training for 2024 was held via Zoom on Thursday, January 25, 2024, from 6-8 pm. If I may say so myself, it was a good training event. If you were unable to participate in this training and would like to receive the resources used in the training, please send me an email requesting them at: [urdaanahaydee@yahoo.com](mailto:urdaanahaydee@yahoo.com) and I will gladly send them to you.

It is very important that you provide me with the names of your local organization officers. This information is shared with our Cal-Pac UWFaith secretary to update the master officers directory for our Cal-Pac UWFaith. So I am requesting once again, that you send me this information. The form is included in this newsletter (pgs. 22-23). If you can type it, that would be greatly appreciated. If not, then please print very clearly on the form. You can return the form via email or to my home address: Ana-Haydeé Urda, 107 W. Mountain Street, Unit D, Glendale, CA 91202.

Have a fruitful, blessed and happy Lenten season and Easter.



Your Sister in Christ,

Blessings,

**Ana-Haydeé Urda**

Secretary, West District UWFaith



**West District UWFaith Facebook page:**

**California Pacific—West District  
United Women in Faith**

**West District UWFaith Instagram page:**

**west district UWF**



**LOCAL ORGANIZATION ROSTER OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**YEAR: 2023-2024**

**DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Church Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

ELECTED OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE [C/H]	EMAIL
President				
Vice President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Chair Committee on Nominations				
Spiritual Growth Coordinator				
Education Coordinator				
Social Action Coordinator				
Membership Coordinator				
Program Resources				
Communication Coordinator				

**USE SECOND PAGE ONLY to add Co-Officer information and Nomination Committee members. Be sure not to forget column one office information, LOCAL ORGANIZATION ROSTER OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - PAGE 1**  
 Revised August 2018

**LOCAL ORGANIZATION ROSTER OF UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

**YEAR: 2023-2024**

**DISTRICT: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Church Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_**

ELECTED OFFICE	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE [C/H]	EMAIL

**USE SECOND PAGE ONLY to add Co-Officer information and Nomination Committee members. Be sure not to forget column one office information,  
LOCAL ORGANIZATION ROSTER OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN - PAGE 2  
Revised August 2018**

# “GET TOGETHER”

## May 9-11, 2024

2024 WESTERN JURISDICTION

Get Together!

JOIN US IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event  
May 9-11, 2024

Hotel Captain Cook

\*spiritual worship\*  
\*engaging workshops\*  
\*motivating speakers\*  
\*exciting election\*

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
wjumw.com  
Facebook.com/wjumw

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE**  
**TO REGISTER!**

**<https://www.wjumw.com/>**

**WESTERN  
JURISDICTION  
QUADRENNIAL  
EVENT!**

**Hotel Captain Cook  
Anchorage, Alaska**

**Our Western Jurisdiction Event will be full of opportunities to mentor and be mentored, to discuss the rights and values of people of all races, to sing, pray, meditate and create, fellowship over meals, and meet new friends and greet old friends.**

**\*Workshops:**

- Community with God – Facilitator: Kelli Williams
  - Drum circle experience
- Supporting the LGBTQ Community – Facilitator: Rev. Autumn Krueger
- How to Create an Appropriate Land Acknowledgement – Facilitator(s): Glenna Kyker, Phd., Judy Halverson, Rev. Murray Crooks
- Helping New Neighbors on the Road from Harm to Home – Facilitator: Marcia Center
- Women, Leadership and Change – Facilitator: Andrea Reily Rocha Soares
- Women - Putting the Power in Philanthropy – Facilitator: Elizabeth Ripley
- Mini-Discernment Event, Office of Deaconess and Home Missioner – Facilitator: Maria (Chivi\_ Capezio Crooks

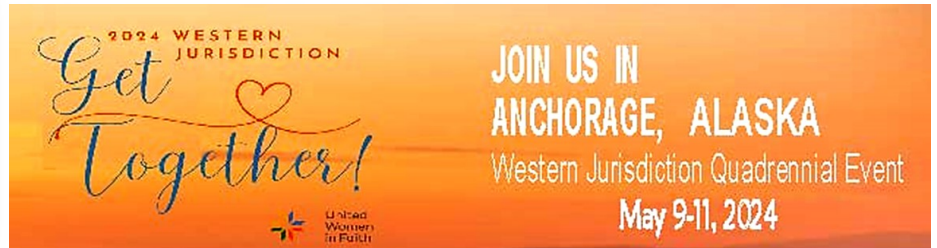
**Ubuntu Experience and Other:**

- AK Child & Family, a UWinFaith Mission Institution
  - Prepare campgrounds for the summer season with garden clean up and yard work
- Bean's Café and the Children's Lunchbox
  - Help assemble pantry boxes for emergency food distribution sites and local elementary schools for families in need
- Showered in Grace
  - Assemble hygiene kits to provide for Showered in Grace clients
- Hidden History Tour
  - Travel to Palmer, a town where the Russians arrived in 1741, and by 1874, missionaries began arriving. The Methodist Church set up its first mission and school in 1886. Stop at the Native Village of Eklutna and learn about their history.



# WORTH REPEATING

## From the Western Jurisdiction United Women in Faith



Greetings of Peace and Happy New Year 2024 - United Women in Faith Sisters!

We welcome this new year with much Faith, Hope and Love and much excitement as our much anticipated "Get Together" of the United Women in Faith - Western Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event in Anchorage, Alaska at the Hotel Captain Cook on May 9-11, 2024 will be taking place in a few months. (*Register at [wjumw.com](http://wjumw.com)*).

We hope you join us in this event where you will be able to participate and/or witness voting delegates elect our region's representatives to serve on the national Board of Directors. Our Cal-Pac Nominee(s) for national director and PAG members are: **Director** – Laddie Perez-Galang and **PAG** – Young Mae Kim, Maxine Wheeler

In addition, many activities planned includes: Worship, Music, Legacy Dinner, Workshops\*, Ubuntu Experience\*, Fellowship, Meditation Room, Displays of National Mission Institutions, Art Work, Alaskan Native Heritage, Tours, Presentations from Inspirational Speakers on topics: Climate Change, Racial Justice, Soul Care. (\**See below for Workshops and Ubuntu Experience.*)

Keynote Speaker: Amy Valdez Barker, PhD – the Congregational & Pastoral Formation Curator

Notable Speakers: Sally Vonner - our new General Secretary/CEO  
Ainise Isama'u, President/National United Women in Faith

Music Director: Makeda McCreary and Musical Assistants – Carrie Gruhn & Ola Mullikan  
(See Makeda's video at Western Jurisdiction United Women in Faith, Facebook)

### Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team 2024-2028

It is with joy that the Western Jurisdiction Committee of Nominations announce the Slate of Officers for the Western Jurisdiction Leadership Team 2024-2028 who will be installed at the Quadrennial Event in 2024. We thank these wonderful and dedicated United Women in Faith for saying YES to serve for the next 4 years—sharing their gifts, talents, and time. .

**President:** Diane Gin, Cal-Pac  
**Vice President:** Atina Pascua, Cal-Pac  
**Treasurer:** Merlam (Rosie) Kumar, Cal-Nev  
**Secretary:** Jeannie Boese, Ore-Id  
**Chair of Nominations:** Madelyn Bafus - PNW  
**Committee on Nominations:** Jennifer Miller - AK  
Jane Murray - DSW  
Saniata Melchor – Cal-Nev  
Laurie Fujinami - Mt. Sky



## CAL-PAC UW Faith Limitless

### WHAT IS LIMITLESS?

Limitless is a United Women in Faith Life Mentoring Program for Young Women. This UW Faith ministry is designed for youth, young adults, and young women of faith to actively engage in ministry and motivated by faith, hope, and love in action by becoming involved within our Young Women Ministries; Local churches, Communities, Districts, Conference, Global Ministry, but most importantly is our United Women in Faith Missions.

### VISION STATEMENT

Limitless Young Women in Action is a diverse community of sisters in Christ to stand for young women of today and tomorrow; promoting spiritual growth through acts of compassion, peace, and justice.

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Age Group: 12 - 45

- Have the Passion to serve others
- Have a strong spiritual growth

Limitless has a Young Women's Coordinator and Mentor Representative for each District.

Each district can have a limitless team filled with Limitless representatives, but they will only be part of the district team.

Please contact Nicole Nonies ([umwyoungwomen@gmail.com](mailto:umwyoungwomen@gmail.com)) if you or someone you know would like to participate in the Limitless program.

Our Limitless Coordinator for the West District is Tu'utanga "Tootie" Tu'ihalamaka, and she can be reached at [Ttuihalamaka@gmail.com](mailto:Ttuihalamaka@gmail.com).



**SAVE THE DATE—Friday, 07/12/2024**

**MORE INFO COMING SOON!!**

# SOCIAL ACTION



## PREMIERE AND DISCUSSION:

### **\_Never Give Up\_ with United Women in Faith**

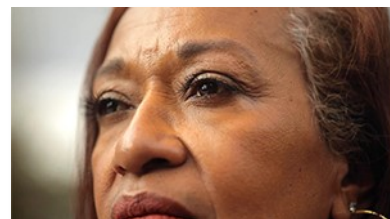
#### DATE & TIME:

**Mar 5, 2024 | 04:00 PM in Pacific Time (US and Canada)**

#### DESCRIPTION

Join United Women in Faith members and friends for the premiere of a new short film, **\_Never Give Up: Cynthia and Michelle's Faithful Fight Against Mass Incarceration.\_**

This short and intimate documentary portrait, created by Ania Freer, tells the story of United Women in Faith leader Cynthia Morrison Holland and her daughter, Michelle Morrison.



Following the screening, we will host a special conversation with Cynthia Morrison Holland, Michelle Morrison and Ania Freer, facilitated by Emily Jones.

We will also share ways that you can use this six-minute film to help educate and mobilize your church and community to support incarcerated people and end mass incarceration.

**Space is limited and registration is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.**

This event is hosted by United Women in Faith.

There is no cost to participate.

All are welcome.

**[REGISTER HERE](#)**

Source: <https://uwfaith.org/blog/2024/premiere-short-film-mass-incarceration/>

Our two **social action** priorities  
for the 2025-2028 quadrennium:



## climate justice

### Just Energy 4 All Working Group

Join us **March 6 at 3 p.m. ET**  
for a Just Energy 4 All Working Group webinar.

Register [here](#).

Just Energy for All Working Group meets to receive updates from the national office and plan and execute actions at the national and local level. It is a time to share best practices, engage in peer coaching, deepen connections with Just Energy for All, and expand the work of climate justice among United Women in Faith members. All those working on Just Energy for All at any level of United Women in Faith and friends are invited!

## ending mass incarceration and criminalization of communities of color.

H.R. 2690 Bill has only been introduced in Congress. It has yet to be passed. To be passed. Purpose: Ending Punitive, Unfair, School-based Harm that is Overt and Unresponsive to Trauma Act of 2023 or the Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2023

This bill requires the Department of Education (ED) to award grants to local educational agencies and nonprofit organizations for the purpose of reducing suspension and expulsion of students (i.e., exclusionary disciplinary practices).

The bill requires ED to collect data on exclusionary discipline in schools.

It also establishes a joint task force to end school pushout.

AS UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH WE CAN WRITE LETTERS TO OUR CONGRESS MEMBERS URGING THEM TO PASS THIS BILL. Form available [here](#).



***“Each of us is an essential thread  
in the fabric of our organization.  
We are not just leaders, we are advocates of change,  
and we are the voices that speak.”***

**‘Ainise ‘Isama’u**  
National President, UWFaith



# Artesia-Cerritos UWFaith *Love Tea*

Hello friends!

I am excited to share about the Artesia Cerritos United Women in Faith, and the **Love Tea** held on February 10th. we had our Love Tea. Our guest speaker was Rosalie Nieman, Vice President of the Women's Auxiliary at USC Arcadia Hospital, and President of the East District UWFaith. Rosalie shared the history and the current projects of the Women's Auxiliary. The Auxiliary continues to support the spiritual aspect and the chaplaincy of the hospital, as well as the Present Place, the gift shop at the hospital. It is a good place to go shopping for gifts for your friends and the proceeds go to the chaplaincy program. We enjoyed the awesome information she shared. We also had a chance to send our hearts to the chaplain.

We are renewed in our support for the Women's Auxiliary. They will have a Tea this April and the chaplain will be their speaker. As an important outreach ministry of the Cal-Pac UWFaith, I hope you will save the date, and make plans to join in that event to be held at the hospital.

Respectfully,  
**Lita Santiago**



# Crenshaw UWFaith Extends *Love* in Action



Inspired by a Response Magazine article (1/23) about the UWFaith of Dahlongas United Methodist Church Sewing Heart Circle, the Crenshaw UWFaith made pillows for Valentine's Day for residents of the Baldwin Hills Convalescent Home. During their February monthly meeting, they spent most of the time stuffing the material decorated in hearts that had already been sewn in the shape of a heart.

On Monday, February 12, the members visited the convalescent home, which is across the street from the church, and personally handed out the pillows that had been packed in bright red bags. The residents were very appreciative as they were wished *"Happy Valentine's Day!"*



the errand of  
angels  
is given to  
women



SERVE  
OTHERS  
for Him

**Crenshaw  
United Women in Faith  
Annual Women's Worship Service**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024  
10:30 a.m.**

**“THE FAITH OF A WOMAN”**

**Proverbs 31:26**

**She speaks with wisdom, and  
faithful instruction is on her tongue.**

**Guest Speaker:**

**Lydia Cincore-Templeton, Esq**

**Director of the  
Children Youth and Family Collaborative (CYFC)  
Los Angeles, California**

**Crenshaw UMC  
3740 Don Felipe Dr, L.A. 90008**

**Pastor Royce Porter  
(323) 292-0141**

**YOUR WEST DISTRICT UWF TEAM IS HERE FOR YOU!!**  
**Contact your liaison partner for guidance and assistance**

**WEST DISTRICT LIAISON LIST - 2023-2024**

**N: No unit**

<p><b>CONNIE THOMAS</b>  ceeteela@yahoo.com</p> <p>Anaheim Native American  <b>Bellflower — N</b>  Fullerton Orangethorpe  Westchester  Seal Beach UMC  Santa Monica</p>	<p><b>JONI ARLAIN</b>  jdvina@gmail.com</p> <p>Long Beach United with Hope  L.A. First  L.A. La Tijera  La Palma Korean</p>	<p><b>TINA POOL</b>  trmpool@gmail.com</p> <p><b>L.A.Faith — N</b>  L.A. Grace  Venice  Crenshaw  Echo Park</p>
<p><b>SARA MUNSHIN</b>  smunshin@gmail.com</p> <p>L.A. Centenary  Torrance Faith  L.A. Chinese  St. Paul's Redondo Beach  La Trinidad  Artesia Cerritos</p>	<p><b>LITA SANTIAGO</b>  lita_santiago@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>L.A. Kardia - N</b>  <b>Long Beach Cambodian — N</b>  <b>Long Beach Silverado — N</b>  <b>West Anaheim — N</b>  Carson Dominguez  <b>Wayside — N</b></p>	<p><b>SANDRA WINSTON</b>  sandramwinston@aol.com</p> <p>L.A. Wilshire  Norwalk  San Pedro  L.A. Young HWA  Belmont Heights  California Heights</p>
<p><b>ANA-HAYDEE URDA</b>  urdaanahaydee@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Church at Ocean Park — N</b>  <b>Lynwood — N</b>  Redondo Beach First  <b>Maywood — N</b>  Redondo Bch. Riviera  Zion Korean, Carson</p>	<p><b>GWENDOLYN WYATT</b>  t</p> <p>Heritage  L.A. La Plaza  West Los Angeles  L.A. St. John's  Long Beach Grace  Redondo Beach 1<sup>st</sup></p>	<p><b>PAT THOMAS</b>  programresourcecoordinator@yahoo.com</p> <p>Grace River  Kum Ran  Lakewood First  Lakewood Trinity  Long Beach Los Altos  Inglewood 1<sup>st</sup></p>
<p><b>BARBARA HARTELL</b>  Bhartell14@yahoo.com</p> <p>Hollypark  Huntington Park  <b>Downey — N</b>  El Segundo  <b>Rolling Hills — N</b></p>	<p><b>CLAUDIA SPEARS</b>  cjspears1@aol.com</p> <p>Saint Mark's  Westwood  Pacific Palisades  Korean Central  Holman</p>	<p><b>MARY PREYER</b>  Healthnut3690@gmail.com</p> <p>Hollywood  Hamilton  Wilmington  Culver Palms  L.A. United University UMC</p>
<p><b>TOOTIE TUIHALAMAKA</b>  ttuihalamaka@gmail.com</p> <p>Hawthorne UMC/Tongan  Lennox  L.A. Los Feliz  <b>Feta Ao Samoan, Torrance — N</b></p>	<p><b>PATRICIA KING</b>  2patking@gmail.com</p> <p>Crossroads  Compton 1<sup>st</sup>  Torrance 1<sup>st</sup>.  Torrance Hope  Walteria</p>	<p>Tongan Fellowships  Anaheim, Compton  Inglewood  <b>La Palma — N</b>  <b>L.B. Neighborhood — N</b>  <b>Torrance Korean — N</b></p>





United  
Women  
in Faith

## Mission u @ Cal State Long Beach – July 12-14, 2024



### A NOTE FROM THERESA ELLIS, CO-DEAN OF Mu2024:

Hebrews 10:25 exhorts us to “...not give up meeting together...” Yes, this scripture is about the Second Coming of Christ, but it seems to be good advice, nevertheless. All of us have felt the aftereffects of our Covid separation, still lingering in our churches and other organizations. The same is true for Mission u. But how do we get past it?

I had not been to Mission u since 2005, when it was still called School of Mission. When I returned for Mu2023, all I can say is that I was stunned at how wonderful it was. I was able to reconnect with many old friends and make new friends, but most importantly, I was able to really feel what it means to participate in a community of women whose faith shapes their lives. I am still basking in the glow of a revived spirit.

We have chosen Cal State Long Beach as the location for this year’s Mu. As an institution, CSULB is open and affirming to all people, including our LGBTQ+ siblings. The campus is beautiful and has state-of-the-art classrooms and meeting spaces. They offer a wide-ranging menu in the dining hall and the dorm buildings have lots of common areas, including a fully-equipped kitchen for a lovely cup of tea and conversation before heading off to bed. Mission u is not glamorous or posh by any stretch of the imagination. Yes, you will be sleeping in a twin bed in a dorm room. Yes, your normal, cozy home routine will be disrupted, but we all know that it is only when we are disrupted or inconvenienced that we can grow. This is a perfect time to (re)connect with God and your sisters in the faith. It is a time to feel what it’s like to live in the kin-dom.

What would make Mission u even better? YOU! And if you were there last year, now is your chance to bring someone with you! This year we are offering a \$15 discount to anyone who brings someone who is new to Mission u. Now is the time to start planting those seeds in the hearts of your friends. You don’t have to be in UWF or even be a Methodist to go to Mission u, so cast your nets wide! Think of the young women and girls in your life. We have excellent teachers and programming for all age groups.

My Co-Dean Barbara Miller and I are so very excited about this coming year’s Mission u! We hope you are getting excited, too! More information will follow, but if you have questions, please reach out to me at [ellis.theresa@gmail.com](mailto:ellis.theresa@gmail.com).

Valerie “Lani” Hungalu shared with us at our Annual Meeting in October. She said, “Be willing to be transformed for the transformation of the world.” Mission u is our opportunity to be transformed, we just have to be willing. Let us heed the exhortation in Hebrews and keep meeting together. It is in the coming together that we continue to be transformed.

# “Mission u

is a transformative educational program that encompasses both Bible-based curricula and events. All are welcome to engage with either or both components of Mission u.

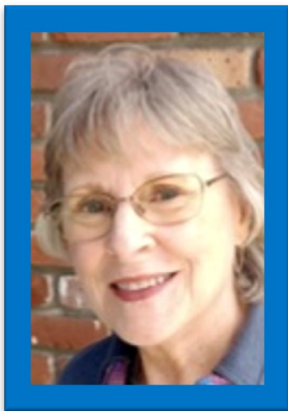
- + Interested in deepening your faith in community?
- + Gaining experience interpreting Scripture?
- + Working toward healing for yourself, your community, and all of creation? . . . ”

**Mission u is for YOU!!**

## FROM OUR CAL-PAC MISSION U TEAM:

What would make Mission u even better? **YOU!!** And if you were there last year, now is your chance to bring someone with you! This year we are offering a \$15 discount to anyone who brings someone who is new to Mission u. Now is the time to start planting those seeds in the hearts of your friends. You don't have to be a UWFaith member or even be a Methodist to go to Mission u, so cast your nets wide! Think of the young women and girls in your life. We have excellent teachers and programming for all age groups.

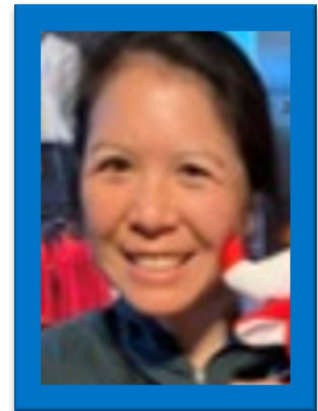
## Our Cal-Pac UWF Mission u Team



**BARBARA MILLER**  
Co-Dean  
626.327.0914  
Barbmiller700@gmail.com



**THERESA ELLIS**  
Co-Dean  
973.970.8791  
Ellis.theresa@gmail.com



**TIFFANY GIN**  
Assistant Dean

# SAVE THE DATES: July 12-14, 2024

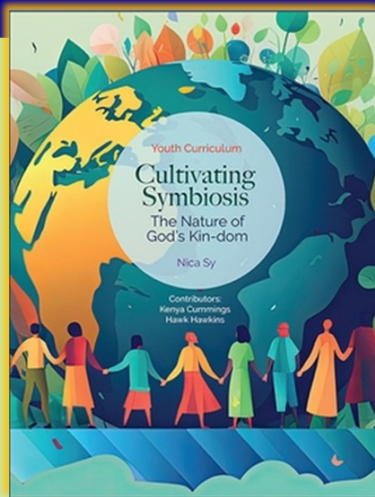
## 2024 Cal-Pac UWFaith Mission u

### The Kin-dom Is Among You: Drawing Closer to God and One Another



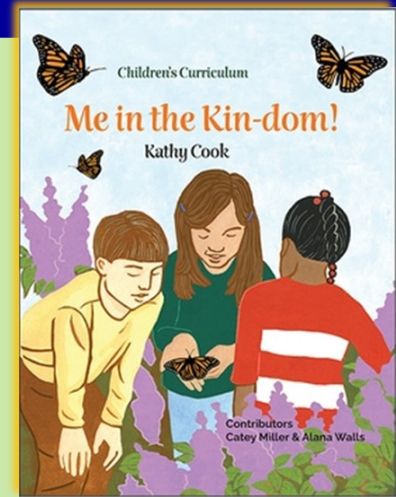
#### **WELCOME HOME**

is an adult curriculum that explores how we can know God as an intimate friend who welcomes us. Abiding in God's safety and dwelling in God's provision, allows us to open our hearts to a fuller embrace of the power and presence of God so that we may find our home in God. Participants are invited to dig deeper into what it means to live in the kin-dom of God and how this helps us to develop practices for building and existing in healthier communities....



#### **CULTIVATING SYMBIOSIS: THE NATURE OF GOD'S KIN-DOM**

is a youth curriculum that uses the idea of symbiosis to explore relationships with others and with God. Youth will examine different kinds of relationships and understand them as an ongoing journey toward the kin-dom. There is a symbiosis between our relationships to each other as humans and our relationship to God. By drawing closer to one another, we can draw closer to the kin-dom. By drawing closer to one another, we can collectively move, step by step, toward creating God's kin-dom on earth as it is in heaven..



#### **ME IN THE KIN-DOM!**

is a children's curriculum that helps children explore the kin-dom of God through the lens of the Lord's Prayer. Children will experience how they are unique members of God's kin-dom and learn they are also part of a larger community that welcomes all of God's children....

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

# National Mission Institutions support vital needs. That's why we support them.

“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. Today, United Women in Faith remains connected to these community centers, colleges, and residences providing vital services in vulnerable communities. 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. National Mission Institutions also advocate for the women, children, youth, and families in the communities they serve.

United Women in Faith assists these nearly 90 organizations across the United States through grants, technical support, and member involvement.”

There are FOUR (4) national missions of United Women in Faith that are located within the Cal-Pac Conference. We are grateful for all the ways you continue to support these organizations.

## David & Margaret Youth and Family Services

La Verne, CA

<http://www.davidandmargaret.org>

Serving Transitional living,  
Foster Care and Adoption,  
Learning Enhancement,  
School for At-risk Adolescent Girls,  
Mental Health,



**David & Margaret**  
YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

## Toberman Neighborhood Center

San Pedro, CA

<http://www.toberman.org>

Provides Afterschool, Youth Mentoring,  
Family Engagement, Case Management,  
Family Assistance, Gang Prevention



## Calexico Neighborhood House

Calexico, CA

<http://www.nhclx.org/>

Provides Emergency Assistance,  
Emergency Shelter for Women and Children,  
Child Development, Thrift Store



## Susannah Wesley Community Center

Honolulu, HI

<http://www.susannahwesley.org>

Programs: Youth and Family Service,  
Workforce Development,  
Trafficking Victim Assistant Program (TVAP),  
Community Service



Source: <https://uwfaith.org/what-we-do/what-we-fund/national-ministries/>

# **STAYING CONNECTED**

## **Hear, Together**

Discover inspiring podcasts and webinars that will stir your soul and explore how love in action changes the world with every episode. Subscribe to the podcasts on your favorite podcast platform.

Listen to UWFaith podcasts from below resources at <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>



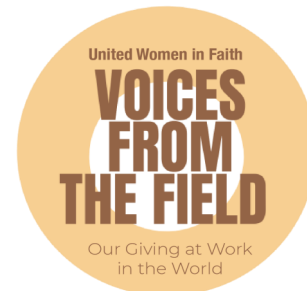
Faith Talks are monthly conversations with UWFaith hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action.

Listen to these recent podcasts:

- ◆ Black Woman Making a Difference
- ◆ Faith and Lenten Disciplines



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.



Voices from the Field Webinars provide the opportunity to learn about the national and international initiatives that benefit from Mission Giving, directly through the voices “from the field.” In this interactive format, you’ll hear firsthand from program leaders about their work, daily challenges, hopes and dreams.

## **WEST DISTRICT UWFaith Local Organizations:**

**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR UWFaith UNIT?!!**

**WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU AND SHARE YOUR NEWS, EVENTS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS!! WE WILL SHARE YOUR NEWS AS INDEPENDENT ARTICLES / EVENTS, OR UNDER LOCAL ORGANIZATION “TIDBITS”**

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO SEND US YOUR HAPPENINGS!!**

**SUBMIT YOUR “UWFaith NEWS” IN “WORD” OR “JPEG” (if it’s a graphic or picture) TO**

**[jdvina@gmail.com](mailto:jdvina@gmail.com)**



# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



We are celebrating 155 years  
of Faith, Hope, and Love in Action  
on March 23, 2024!



## *“Faithfully Forward”*

Celebrate the 2024 Day of Giving  
with a gift to the UWFaith Legacy Endowment Fund.  
Step faithfully forward to create a brighter, more compassionate  
tomorrow for women, children, and youth.

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO DONATE](#)**

### **The Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign**

In 2014, the Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign was created and set a bold goal of raising \$60 million for the endowment. Through the generosity and efforts of women like you, we are confident this goal can be reached!

With every gift received in 2022 and beyond, we will secure the financial resources needed to deepen and expand our mission. Consider joining your legacy with ours and making a gift today.

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 will support 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.

*“Sister by sister, story by story, we’re creating our legacy.”*

Source: <https://uwfaith.org/give/legacy-fund/>



# CALENDAR UPDATES

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT</b>
MAR—TBD	WD UWFaith LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
MAR 18-19	CAL-PAC UWFaith LEADERSHIP MEETING AND SPIRITUAL RETREAT
APR 20	WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FOR SPIRITUAL CARE —MEMBERSHIP HEROES TEA
MAY 43	WD UWFaith LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
MAY 15	WESTWORDS ARTICLES DUE
MAY 20-21	CAL-PAC UWFaith LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
MAY 31	WESTWORDS NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED
JUN TBD	WD UWFaith SOUL CARE EVENT
JUN 15-17	CAL-PAC ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUN 17	CAL-PAC UWFaith LUNCHEON @ ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUL—12-14	MISSION u—California State University at Long Beach
JUL 12	CAL-PAC UWFaith LIMITLESS EVENT
AUG 3	WD UWFaith LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
AUG 15	WESTWORDS ARTICLES DUE
AUG 25	WESTWORDS NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED
SEP 9-10	CAL-PAC UWFaith LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
SEP—TBD	WEST DISTRICT UWFaith ANNUAL CELEBRATION
OCT 26	CAL-PAC UWFaith ANNUAL CELEBRATION
NOV—TBD	WEST DISTRICT UWFaith LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
DEC 2-3	CAL-PAC UWFaith LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

*We look forward to “seeing you” at these events!!*





### MISSION STATEMENT

**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.**

### VISION

**TURNING FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE INTO ACTION ON BEHALF OF WOMEN, CHILDREN AND YOUTH AROUND THE WORLD.**

### PURPOSE

**WE ARE 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.**

## STAY CONNECTED

Our WESTWORDS newsletter is available FREE with an email subscription. Please submit your email address to our WestWords Newsletter Editor, Joni Arlain at [jdvina@gmail.com](mailto:jdvina@gmail.com). Include your telephone number, church name and district. Printed subscriptions are available by U.S. mail at a cost of \$20.00 a year for four (4) issues. Reference "WestWords newsletter" in the memo line. Make your check payable to "West District UWF" and mail to UWFaith West District Treasurer: Barbara Hartell, 6140 Canterbury Dr., Apt. 310, Culver City, CA 90230.

PACIFIC WAVES, our Cal-Pac UWFaith newsletter is FREE with email subscription, or \$15.00 for U.S. mail.

- Send your contact info (as described above) to [UWFcalpaccommunications@gmail.com](mailto:UWFcalpaccommunications@gmail.com).
- Mail your check with "Pacific Waves Newsletter" in memo line to Cal-Pac UWFaith Treasurer, [Grace Han](#), .

## BE IN THE KNOW!



United Women in Faith

### WESTWORDS NEWSLETTER

#### WEST DISTRICT UWF

Joni Arlain  
WestWords Editor, West District UWFaith  
1242 Meadowbrook Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90019

*Keeping Us Connected*

### WESTWORDS

A quarterly newsletter published by the West District UWF

## Share the faith, action and sisterhood

We've been around for 153 years now—not because we stay the same but because we're willing to follow God's call to new places. We are love in action. We are a faith-driven sisterhood ready to change the world. You are a crucial part of a bright future. I'm so glad I get to do this work with you.

Tara Barnes

**BE, KNOW, EXPERIENCE, DEVELOP, EXPAND!!!  
—THAT'S UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH! —**