



## A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT:



Dearest NM Conference Sisters,

This spring has truly been a season of renewal for me. First, an unexpected cruise with my sorority sisters to the Panama Canal. Next, the long-anticipated family cruise of the Hawaiian Islands planned before COVID. It was a wonder to finally arrive in Oahu after so many years of thinking and planning for this. After cruising the islands, we spent 6 days at sea seeing nothing but water as far as the eye could see as the ship sailed to Vancouver. The ocean is truly my place of solace and connection with God. The ocean restores my soul.

Speaking of renewal and restoration, what a wonderful time with our South-Central Jurisdiction President, Ellen Lipsey who led us in a Spiritual Retreat, *What Grounds Us?* in BOTH Sacramento and Albuquerque! Our hope with the realignment of our leadership was to be able to offer these events throughout the conference enabling more members and friends to attend. A big thanks to Ellen and Central United Women in Faith for making that happen.

On the day of the Retreat in Albuquerque, there was a Special Called Meeting of the New Mexico Annual Conference voting for 31 Churches to disaffiliate. Nine churches in the Conference are still in the discernment process. Sadly, some of these churches have United Women in Faith units, so please carry these sisters in your heart and prayers as they make this transition in the hopes their units and members will stay affiliated with us.

Please plan to attend the Charter for Racial Justice Committee Webinar, *Conversations on Race: Because We Believe...Call to Prayer & Self Denial* June 24 at 10:00 MT. Then, come to the mountains July 28-30 for Mission u 2023 *Living the Good News, Reflecting God's Love*. Please invite your pastor, a friend, child, and youth to join you. Look inside for more information and registration for these exciting events.

*Here is the ocean vast and wide, teeming  
with life of every kind both large and small.  
Psalms 104:25*

In Faith, Action, and Sisterhood;  
Kathy



I took this off my balcony!

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## A Message from our Vice President:

*"Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." poet Audre Lorde*

The United Women in Faith have all sorts of avenues to achieve the will of God and bring in the Kin-dom – NOW. The above quote brought all sorts of ways to my mind that helps us to gird ourselves for this work that can be challenging.

First, we have a sisterhood that is supportive, and knowledgeable (someone will know something that will be helpful). Spiritual guidance is abundant in this sisterhood. We keep each other on track for the Kin-dom by trying our best to live in the realm of love and not worldliness. (Everyone has my permission to call me on the carpet when I go off road – please.) Also, I have noted many skill sets sprinkled around this sisterhood. The more a woman does the work of uwFaith, the more she can accomplish. We all have our gifts and graces, and each is important for the body to work well.

Second, we have Soul Care. This is where we care for ourselves. My Soul Care happens every time I go hiking. I am "preserved" and energized for the next thing after a hike. (I hope that doesn't sound like I am a pickle.)



Third, Fourth, and Fifth, but certainly not last, uwFaith has Mission u (this issue of the Word Sower has lots of articles about it), webinars to get involved/informed with/about our social issues (climate justice and racial justice), and the reading program. I just love reading and learning about issues so that I may have intelligent sounding conversations. Sometimes, I even get confident enough to get my "soap box" out and take a stand.

May you be blessed. (That is code for taking action I recently learned on a webinar.)

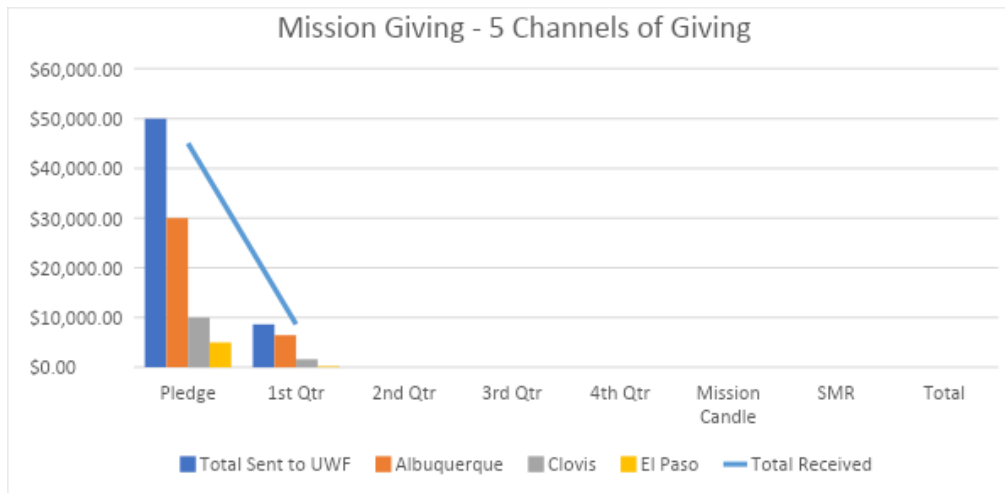
Tanya Barlow,  
NM Conf. UWF VP and, very important, mission u assistant dean (I love mission u)



## Meet United Women in Faith's New CEO – Sally Vonner

*"My primary focus is to continue and expand the mission and reach of United Women in Faith as we put our love and faith in action to change the world, and work to improve the lives of women, children, and youth around the world," Ms. Vonner*

## Treasurer's Report



Peggy Arensdorf  
NMCUWF Treasurer  
Your Mission u Assistant Dean

The first quarter Pledge to Mission was sent to the National UMW office in April 2023. Above is a summary of the amounts received by the district with a comparison to the pledged amount. As you can see, we have a lot to contribute if we are to meet our conference pledge. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (505) 301-1978.

## Legacy Luncheon

HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT RAISING MONEY FOR THE LEGACY FUND? SOME OF OUR UWF FRIENDS HAVE HAD SOME CREATIVE WAYS TO RAISE MONEY.

IN CASE YOU DON'T KNOW, THE LEGACY FUND, A PERMANENTLY INVESTED ENDOWMENT, IS MONEY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL MISSION INSTITUTIONS SUPPORTED BY THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH. THE PROCEEDS FROM THE INVESTED FUNDS WILL ENDOW CORE EXPENSES SO THAT EVEN MORE \$\$ CAN BE DIRECTED TO SUPPORT AND TO GROW THE ORGANIZATION'S VITAL WORK THROUGHOUT THE U.S. AND THE WORLD.

TONYA BARLOW, CREATED A LEGACY LUNCHEON BAG FOR \$25. THE LUNCH INCLUDES HER HUSBAND'S FAMOUS VEGETABLE SOUP, A CHOICE OF GREEN CHILE QUICHE OR A TURKEY SALAD SANDWICH, AND A PIECE OF ROCKY ROAD FUDGE. SHE RAISED \$475.00 FOR THE LEGACY THIS YEAR. WAY TO GO!

WHAT CAN YOU DO?



## Education and Interpretation:

After the article this spring. I have only received 4 Mission Today Reports. I know there are more out there. Last year there were 7 so ladies I need those before Annual Meeting. I hope to see you at Mission u and Annual Meeting.

Never stop learning and our reading program is a good way to do that.



Kay Martinez

[kaykewpie@gmail.com](mailto:kaykewpie@gmail.com)

505-296-7308  
505-604-3953 C

Last year Kay Martinez raised \$850 in our rock-a-thon for the Legacy Fund.

# Mission u 2023



**LIVING THE GOOD NEWS**

**Reflecting God's Love**

Join us at Mission u as we explore the good news and what it means for our lives!

Jesus' teachings in the Gospels proclaim the good news of the kin-dom or reign (*basileia*) of God. In fact, Jesus mentions the kin-dom 90 times in the Synoptic Gospels! What does the Bible tell us about God's *basileia* and why do we call it the kin-dom? For Jesus, the kin-dom was not simply something to talk about but something we could live and experience. From the Lord's Prayer to the beatitudes to the parables, this good news is at the heart of Jesus' preaching, teaching and ministry.

Come! Let's explore together the heart of Jesus' good news and what fresh vision it offers us as we seek to be in mission today.

**Our 2023 Mission u will offer the following curriculum available on our e-store by January 2023:**

- *Living the Kin-dom: Exploring the Lord's Prayer as a Spiritual Practice for Social Transformation* by Riva Tabelisma (Adult)
- *Seek and You Shall Find: Living in the Kin-dom* by Rachel Mosher (Youth)
- *We Are the Kin-dom* by Kathleen Stone (Children)

## Join us at.

Sacramento Camp and Conference Center on July 28 - 30.  
Registration Form on Page 6

## Mission u 2023

"It's time to sign for Mission u!  
All are welcome Learn more:

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/0a02114g szg7t6q/Mission%20u\\_Final\\_1.mp4?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/0a02114g szg7t6q/Mission%20u_Final_1.mp4?dl=0)

## Mission u Scholarship Opportunity

*If you are a first-time attendee of Mission u, the New Mexico Conference of The United Women in Faith have a scholarship for YOU! The scholarship includes room, meals, as well as any cost required for attending the study. If you have children, your scholarship will also include the cost of your children up to the age of 18 or 12th grade.*

*Here is how you apply: send me (Tanya Barlow, Assistant Dean of Mission u) a letter (email is fine) telling what you hope to experience at Mission u, and what plans you may have for the learning and spiritual growth experience that awaits you.*

*The Deadline is July 12th . Do come and learn about the Aramaic way of reading The Lord's Prayer (so much more in there than I ever thought), and learning about the ubuntu Life-way.*

Tanya Barlow  
Skyvue Drive, Ruidoso NM 88345

Phone: 575-973-1630 email: [grandedta@hotmail.co](mailto:grandedta@hotmail.co)





## **MISSION U PROJECT: PLEASE BRING EXTRA POSTCARDS & GREETING CARDS**

The mission project this year will be to write greeting cards or postcards to people, including refugees, who are homeless. Please bring your extra greeting cards with envelopes. It will be an activity for all age groups. Thanks Anne

## **Mission u 2023**

This year at Mission u, you will have your soul eyes opened, your body rested - some, and your mind spinning. We will learn how the Aramaic is translated into English, and how different that can be compared to Greek translated into English.

This is important because, a lot of the Bible is translated from Greek, and that Greek is a translation itself from Aramaic. Who'd a Thunk it?

We will also learn a little about ubuntu. Never heard of it? Last year was the first time for me. Apparently, it is a little difficult to translate this African word into English, but the gist is, "I am human because you are human." I present a list of short ubuntu meanings that come from the book *Everyday Ubuntu* by Mungi Ngomane.

1. Ubuntu tells us we are only who we are thanks to other people.
2. Ubuntu lies at the heart of the power a crowd can harness for the common good.  
(See, sign up for those action alerts!)
3. Ubuntu encourages us to drop out judgements and embrace compassion and understanding.
4. Ubuntu teaches us that we should actively look at the world from every perspective, from every angle.
5. Perhaps the most crucial underlying principle of ubuntu is respect, both for oneself and for other people.
6. Ubuntu reminds us to try to see the good of everyone in all aspects of our daily lives.
7. Ubuntu teaches to choose hope (requires trust and having faith) over optimism (a feeling that doesn't last).
8. At times of stress and disconnect, ubuntu teaches us to reach out to humanity. Do not hide away alone.
9. Ubuntu tells us forgiveness can give us back our self-respect and dignity.
10. Ubuntu tells us to put aside national or societal differences and to see one another for what we are: human beings in this together.
11. Ubuntu teaches us always to look to one another for support. We don't need to struggle alone.
12. The essence of ubuntu - defenses are shattered and connections are made when you make someone laugh.
13. Ubuntu tells us that gratitude for other people and what they do is what makes us human. The little things matter. Everyone matters.
14. Ubuntu invites us to listen to others as we would like to be heard.

There is a lot of gist here to chew on. If you come to Mission u, you will have a lot of sisterhood community to help. We all do better together. I have learned that I am a better human with you.

See you at Mission u, Tanya Barlow, Assistant Dean for Mission u



**New Mexico Conference Mission u  
Sacramento Camp and Conference Center**

**July 28 – 30, 2023**

**Registration Form**

Please print or type information in the appropriate spaces

Name		Church	
Address	City	State	Zip
Telephone (home)	Cell		
Email address		District	

Registration begins at **3:00 pm** in the Front Porch at the camp. Supper is at 5:30 pm.

**Registration Deadline: Must be received by July 22, 2023**

Registration fee is non-refundable but is transferable and paid by all participants.

Registration Fee: \$40.00      Late Registration Fee: \$55.00 (after July 22)  
Children (12 and under) Registration Fee: \$15.00      Make checks to: NMCUWF

Circle your profile:

Woman	Spouse of UMW Member	Mother w/child(ren)	Teenage Girl	Teacher	Officer	First time attendee
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Register each child attending: Name	Age of Child	Gender of Child	Grade Completed

**\*\*\*Housing Arrangements\*\*\***

Housing in the Forrest Lodge will be prioritized by need and then by first registration received.

Circle your first choices of lodging:	Aspen	Forrest Lodge
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Downstairs Only \_\_\_\_\_ Indicate special needs \_\_\_\_\_

Will share room: Yes      No      Requested roommate: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*Meals\*\*\***

Meals will include Friday supper through Sunday breakfast. Please indicate **first** on the first meal you plan to eat and **last** on the final meal you plan to eat at the camp cafeteria.

Special dietary requirements: \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Supper	Saturday Breakfast	Saturday Lunch	Saturday Supper
Sunday Breakfast	School concludes before lunch on Sunday		

**\*\*\*Camp Fees\*\*\***

Circle if you wish to reserve linens.      Aspen Lodge \$11.00

<b>Aspen with meals \$172.00 (shared) \$204.00 (single)</b>	<b>Forrest with meals \$194.00 (shared) \$260.00 (single)</b>
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**Children 5 – 12 years of age: \$100.00. No charge for children 0 - 4 years of age.**

**Remember to add in registration fee of \$40.00 for adults/teens and \$15.00 for children.**

The study "Living the Kin-dom" will be for everyone.

Do you need the use of the golf cart for transportation? (circle) Yes      No

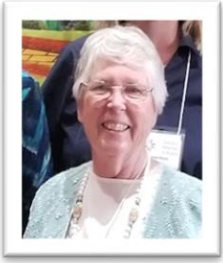
Send Registration Form with \$40.00 to:

Peggy Arensdorf  
PO Box 53429  
Albuquerque NM 87153  
(505) 301-1978

**Make checks to: NMCUWF**

[parensdorf@comcast.net](mailto:parensdorf@comcast.net) Or online at: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z6PG/home>

## Program Resources



### Finishing Up Your Reading Plan

I hope your Reading Program reading has been going well. Are you learning about a lot of new ideas? Is your mind getting stretched? We're almost getting to the **August 1 deadline** for reporting. "Yikes!", you say, "Where did the year go? I'm not there yet." Don't panic. I have a few last-minute ideas for you if you just need a little help to finish a plan. First, let's review the plans.

#### The categories:

Spiritual Enrichment, Nurturing for Community, Social Action, Education for Mission, and Leadership Development.

#### The Plans:

Plan 1 is 1 book in each category. Plan 2 is 2 books in each category. Plan 3 is 2 books in each category plus 5 more books in any category. Plan 4 is 2 books in each category plus 10 books in any category. If you have misplaced your 6 year master book list, let me know and I can send you another one.

These last-minute ideas are for finishing up a plan, not for putting together an entire plan. Here goes:

1. Three books are available as DVD movies- Pushout, The Hate You Give and Hidden Figures
2. Lots of the children's books are on YouTube or probably in your public library.
3. Two Faith Talks count as 1 book in the Spiritual Growth category. Find Faith Talks by Googling United Women in Faith podcasts.

If you just can't get a plan finished, please send me a list of what you have read anyway. I want to be able to recognize every reader when the Reading Program certificates will be presented at the Conference Annual meeting in October.

Give your lists to your Program Resources secretary who will send them to me (with the year they are on the Reading Program) either by snail mail or email. Feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Happy reading!

Carol Mead  
10 Bonito Place  
Los Alamos, NM 8754  
(505-662-9475)  
cjmead@ansr.biz



Several of us have been attending the online quarterly author talk/book discussion. So far, they've covered "*The Land Is Not Empty*", "*A Knock at Midnight*", and "*All We Can Save*". The next book will be:

***Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents***  
**Thursday, July 13th at 5 p.m. MDT.**

To participate in the discussion, you need to read the book.

**To register go to:**

[https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpd-6uqz8tGNEwo7o5c\\_4VbahzGfMWBTew#/registration](https://uwfaith-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYpd-6uqz8tGNEwo7o5c_4VbahzGfMWBTew#/registration)



## El Paso District News

Hi, my name is Anne Grant, and I am the El Paso District coordinator, serving on the New Mexico Conference UMW/UWF executive board. I am also the Dean of Mission u this year. I am a retired healthcare worker and active in my church here in Las Cruces. I would like to understand what you see the UWF doing in the future and your thoughts on how we get there! Especially from those ladies in the El Paso District.

My email is [grantanne482@gmail.com](mailto:grantanne482@gmail.com). Thank you

## Albuquerque District News

Central United Women in Faith "Souper Bow luncheon and UWF Fashion and Accessory Sale – February 2023 – raised money for the unit and Youth trip to Youth 2023 Event in Florida this summer.



*Ellen Skark, Heather Shoop (Youth Director), Mimi Smith, Vera Olson*



*Dodie Hawkins, Peggy Arensdorf*



*Goodies for Guests*



*Second Annual Ladies May Day Luncheon hosted by Los Alamos United Women in Faith*





## St. Paul's United Methodist United Women in Faith Collect Purses

UWF at St Paul's United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico has been assisting Pursonalities Plus abq. by collecting new and/or slightly used purses along with personal items to fill those purses. Pursonalities Plus abq was founded in 2016 when they gifted 180 filled purses to deserving women in organizations supporting homeless, abused, recovering, and recently incarcerated women in the Albuquerque area. With the help of St Paul's, the number of gifted purses has grown to 2,066 gifted purses in 2022. The number of receiving organizations has grown to 29 in the Albuquerque area. Those 29 organizations include:

Alongside Ministries, Barrett House, Crossroads, Enlace Comunitario, Family Promise, God's Warehouse, Joy Junction, Safe At Home, Steel Bridge Center of Hope, U Turn for Christ, and Wings.

The purses are filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, brushes, combs, chap stick, hand sanitizer, tissues, etc. They are accessorized with donated scarves, gloves, hats, and jewelry. They are tagged with the Pursonalities Plus guiding scripture: Psalm 91:4 "He will cover you with his feathers, He will shelter you with his wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection." Pursonalities Plus delivers the purses, with the assistance of the Albuquerque Police Department, as Mother's Day and Christmas gifts to the various women's programs.

St Paul's UWF created a collection box for the purses and/or items to fill/accessorize the purses. The box is in the church narthax. The purses and items are collected each Sunday and delivered to a member of the Pursonalities Plus Team. For more information about how you can help Pursonalities Plus abq contact Jane Bickleman at [jbick@comcast.net](mailto:jbick@comcast.net) or call 505-263-8366. Also, visit Pursonalities Plus abq on Facebook.



## Clovis District News

Hi friends! I realized in the last newsletter my phone number was wrong. Please note my correct phone number is 575-491-8816. Please let me know if you need any help or have questions.

Cheetta McMurry, Clovis District Representative



# SOCIAL ACTION

Unite Women in Faith,

As the summer rolls around, it is a time to recoup, rejuvenate and spend time with families.

During a recent Social Action Session with New York, the following phrase was presented to us:



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

Doesn't it speak volumes about who we are. Sometimes it means that we work year-round to take action on behalf of women, children and youth. So while you take a few minutes to relax this summer, please contact your congressional representation to pass the following acts which impact our youth, women and children.

**Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline  
Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2023**

<https://p2a.co/i3od24w>

**Just Energy for All**

Tell Congress to prioritize climate justice!

<https://p2a.co/7nDlIFr>

**CONVERSATIONS  
ON  
RACE:  
BECAUSE WE BELIEVE.....  
CALL TO PRAYER & SELF-DENIAL**

June 24, 2023, 10:00 a. m.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEId6trjwrGNAMOfm95MY9Vz7jQwIq8Nqg>

Contact the Charter for Racial Justice Committee at:  
nmconferencewomenfaith@gmail.com for more information



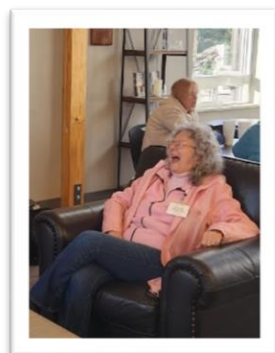
United  
Women  
in Faith

**Living The Charter  
For Racial Justice**



**Upcoming Event:**  
Conversations  
on Race:  
Medical Trauma In  
Underserved Communities  
September 9, 2023

## *Spiritual Enrichment Retreat at Sacramento in March was a grounding weekend!*



*These are the things that ground us.*

*Led by Ellen Lipsey*

*Ann Grant, Mission u Dean*



	NM Conference Women in Faith Calendar 2023	
<b>June 24</b>	Conversations on Race: Because We Believe... Call to Prayer and Self-Denial	<a href="mailto:Nmconferencewomennfaith@gmail.com">Nmconferencewomennfaith@gmail.com</a> zoom
<b>July 28</b>	Executive Board Meeting	Sacramento Camp & Conference Center
<b>July 28-30</b>	Mission u – Living the Kin-dom	Sacramento Camp & Conference Center
<b>October 26</b>	Pre-Conference Executive Meeting	First UMC Deming, NM
<b>October 27-28</b>	New Mexico Conference 51 <sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting	First UMC Deming, NM



What's your group up to?

Send pictures and articles to Julie Risch

[NMConferenceWord.sower@gmail.com](mailto:NMConferenceWord.sower@gmail.com)

Deadline for Fall newsletter is August 15, 2023.

### Updates to United Women in Faith New Mexico Conference 2023 Directory

Page	From	To
5	Provost: Rev. Dr. Eddie Rivera	Provost: Rev. Randall Partin
5	Albuquerque District Superintendent: Rev. Craig Cockrell	Albuquerque District Superintendent: Rev. Randall Partin
5	Clovis District Superintendent: Rev. Ernie Vineyard	Clovis District Superintendent: Vacant
8	Celebration Coordinator: Mildred Langston	Celebration Coordinator: Open
10	Membership, Nurture and Outreach: Patty Coulter	Membership, Nurture and Outreach: Vacant
10	Education and Interpretation: <a href="mailto:kaykewpie@msn.com">kaykewpie@msn.com</a>	Education and Interpretation: <a href="mailto:kaykewpie@gamil.com">kaykewpie@gamil.com</a>
20	Secretary – Program Resources: <a href="mailto:dabencoe@yahoo.com">dabencoe@yahoo.com</a>	Secretary – Program Resources: <a href="mailto:dabencoes@yahoo.com">dabencoes@yahoo.com</a>
23	President: <a href="mailto:cjmead@ansr.com">cjmead@ansr.com</a>	President: <a href="mailto:cjmead@ansr.biz">cjmead@ansr.biz</a>
23	Nominations: <a href="mailto:mlittle@aol.com">mlittle@aol.com</a>	Nominations: <a href="mailto:mlittlegal@aol.com">mlittlegal@aol.com</a>
28	Co-Presidents: <a href="mailto:imvedder@yahoo.com">imvedder@yahoo.com</a>	Co-Presidents: <a href="mailto:imveeder@yahoool.com">imveeder@yahoool.com</a>
29	St. Paul's UMC – El Paso, TX Beth Caster 7000 Edgemere El Paso, TX 79925	St. Paul's UMC – El Paso, TX Beth Caster 1404 Brookhaven Dr El Paso, TX 79925 (915) 204-7049 <a href="mailto:eacaster@att.net">eacaster@att.net</a>



United Women in Faith

# Get Together!

SOUTH CENTRAL JURISDICTION  
QUADRENNIAL EVENT  
[UMWSCJ.ORG](http://UMWSCJ.ORG)

Come to St. Louis, Missouri. June 21-23, 2024

GET TOGETHER to feel the joy of faith-filled women, uniting.  
GET TOGETHER to nurture your soul.  
GET TOGETHER to deepen your relationship with God.  
GET TOGETHER to explore the power of love to make a difference.

#### WHY YOU SHOULD REGISTER

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another" (John 13:34) in 2024? Come GET TOGETHER to explore the possibilities through

- Inspiring worship
- Engaging workshops
- Riveting and motivating speakers
- Renewing soul care

#### PRICE

The South Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event is a great value at the early registration fee of \$300. Few other faith-based conferences offer so much for such a low fee.

#### FEATURING

CEO Sally Vonner, President Ainise I'samau, Regional Missionaries, and SCJ UMC Bishops!

**TOGETHER we can do more. TOGETHER we can be more**  
**TOGETHER the power of love in action can change the world.**



