

THE SIGNAL

FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT
 GREAT PLAINS CONFERENCE
 UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

2018 Calendar of Events

- Aug. 17-18** Mission u, Topeka KS
Sept. 14-15 Great Plains Conference UMW Annual Meeting
 Church of the Resurrection, Leawood, Kansas
Sept. 22 Five Rivers Fall District Meeting, Paola UMC
Dec. 3-5 Great Plains Conference Seminar
**Mass Incarceration: Remember Those Who Are
 in Prison, Church Center for the United Nations,
 New York, NY**

2019 Calendar of Events

- Feb. 17-18** L.E.A.F., Unity of Spirit, Topeka First UMC
May 3-5 Great Plains Spring Spiritual Retreat
 Camp Comeca, Cozad, Nebraska
TBA Five Rivers District Spring Meeting

2020 Calendar of Events

- Mar. 26-29** 2020 South Central Jurisdiction UMW Meeting
 Downtown Marriott, Little Rock, Arkansas
 Convention Center
Registration Begins: September 15, 2019

Fall 2018

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Great Plains Conference Office in Topeka: 1207 SW Executive Dr. Topeka KS 66615 (785) 272-9111	Response & New World Magazine 1-877-881-2385 Great Plains UMW website: greatplainsumw.org	Supplies and books: www.umwmission resources.org 1-800-305-9857	Five Rivers District Office 704 8th Street Baldwin City, KS 66006 (785) 841-4804 5riversdistrict@greatplainsumc.org
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2018 FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT OFFICERS

President: Barbara Kruger, 826 E 12 th , Eudora, KS 66025, (785) 550-6075, blkruiger@sunflower.com	Class of 2018
Vice President: Carolyn Elder, 1146 S Willow, Ottawa, KS 66067, (785) 242-3791, t.riffic46@gmail.com	Class of 2018
Secretary: Dorothy Miller, 23723 NW Mitchell Rd., Garnett, KS 66032, (785) 448-3007, rdmiller62@gmail.com	Class of 2019
Treasurer: Donna Grigsby, PO Box 661, Iola, KS 66749, (703) 403-8257, donna.grigsby46@gmail.com	Class of 2022

MISSION COORDINATORS:

Journey in Faith: Carol Shobe, 21050 S Gardner Rd., Gardner, KS 66030, (913) 884-6501, rcshobe@embarqmail.com	Class of 2018
Journey in Action: Rogene McPherson, 12921 Faucett Rd., Centerville, KS 66014, (913) 579-6379, rkj.mcpherson65@vahoo.com	Class of 2022
Journey Giving & Learning: Shirley Benjamin, 21757 SW Maryland, Garnett, KS 66032, (785) 448-3105, No E-mail	Class of 2022
Journey in Growth: Ruth Jansen, 741 S Tremont, Ottawa, KS 66067, (785) 242-1917, ruthjansenZ13@gmail.com	Class of 2019

Program Resources: Vacant

Communications

Coordinator: Rachel Wegener, 4210 W 26th Terrace, Lawrence, KS 66047, (785) 766-9598, drwegener@reagan.com Class of 2019

Nominations

Chair: Sarah Peters, P.O. Box 163, Richmond, KS 66080, (785) 835-6170, sedpdep@embarqmail.com Class of 2018

Nominations

Committee

Kay Salisbury, 31025 S Croco Rd., Melvern KS 66510, (785) 549-0116, larryandkay@embarqmail.com Class of 2018

Sheryl Reiter, P.O. Box 261, Richmond, KS 66080, (785) 304-0471, no email Class of 2018

Vacant

Big Sister/Little Sister List

Please call us for anything

Barbara Kruger:	Clearfield, Iola, Edgerton, and Wellsville
Carolyn Elder:	Ives Chapel, Lawrence First, Melvern, Richter, Plum Creek, and Osawatomie
Dorothy Miller:	Blue Mound, Parker, and Turkey Creek
Rogene McPherson:	West Liberty, Hiattville, Ft. Scott First, Hammond, Prescott, Fulton, and Pleasanton
Ruth Jansen:	Eudora, Ottawa Trinity, Welda, Princeton, and Richmond
Carol Shobe:	Mapleton, Uniontown, Vinland, Paola, and New Lancaster
Donna Grigsby:	Colony, Garnett, Humboldt, Elsmore, and Yates Center
Rachel Wegener:	Baldwin First, Lawrence Central, Lawrence Centenary, and Worden
Shirley Benjamin:	Gridley, Lyndon, Vassar, and Kincaid/Selma
Sarah Peters & Sheryl Reiter:	Beagle, Fontana, Lane, Mound City, Ottawa First, LaCygne

From our President

I can't believe that this is the last newsletter article I will write as your district president – the past three and a half years have flown by!

A huge thank you to all who have invited me to speak at their UMW services throughout the district. I have really enjoyed visiting your churches and making many new friends! I hope to visit as many more as I can before December. Watch for me on Sunday mornings.

I do want to remind everyone that there are several district positions that will need to be filled by our fall meeting (September 22 at Paola UMC). Our Nominations Committee has been working very hard to fill these positions.

I am reminded of a quote by an unknown author: *“Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it, and Anyone could have done it. But in the end Nobody always ended up with the task.”*

I know there are many capable ladies in our district who would be great district officers. Unfortunately, either they don't know just how capable they are, or they are waiting to be “discovered”! While it's always nice to be asked to do something, it's just as great to step up and volunteer your services! (I did!)

We are all busy ladies, some of us still work at full-time jobs. Don't let that be your excuse, if it's important, we always find time.

Being a district officer is not an individual job, you will have your fellow officers, your conference counterpart officers, and all of those ladies want you to succeed and feel comfortable in your position! The two leadership training meetings (winter and summer) are very beneficial. It is not lonely at the top!

Each officer brings her own personality into the position, you do not have to follow the path of the previous officer. Feel free to create your own vision of what your position could bring to United Methodist Women. It's not just about you...it's about encouraging others to help make a difference for women, children and youth around your community, state, and world.

It would be so sad if our district wasn't represented in the conference due to a lack of volunteers. Please, prayerfully consider stepping up (and perhaps, stepping OUT of your comfort zone) to volunteer for a district officer position.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions, or contact Sarah Peters (Nominations Chair) to offer your services for an officer position!

From our President (Continued)

Also, the Great Plains UMW Annual Meeting will be held at Church of the Resurrection in Lenexa, September 14-15. Information has been e-mailed out to all units—everyone is welcome to attend. There is a registration fee for those who are not district officers (another perk of being an officer!) Let's have great attendance from the Five Rivers District!

I hope to see many of you in Paola in September. Put the date on your calendar now to attend *your* fall meeting, it will be worth your time!

Peace and blessings to all of you,

Barbara A. Kruger
Five Rivers District President

Secretary Notes

Greetings to all of you! Hope you've had a great summer! Fall is just around the corner, and hope you can all attend the Five Rivers Fall meeting in Paola on September 22.

The job of UMW secretary is important, not only in keeping accurate records of what is going on in our units currently, but for future UMW members. When we think that in 2019, our women's organization will celebrate 150 years, it's neat to think that a secretary kept track of the business of the organization for all these years. Perhaps we can look at those old records from the past during 2019. As we record our minutes in the present, we can listen deeply and actively before writing, write plainly and accurately, and know that in the future others will read our minutes and hopefully find them helpful in some way.

Our small group of UMW members recently led the worship service at our church in Welda, celebrating UMW Sunday. We read the UMW Purpose, sharing the words and message with the congregation. I've always thought the simple statement is profound, and can remind us to refocus on our goal as United Methodist Women.

Hope to see you at the September district meeting!

Respectfully,

Dorothy Miller
Five Rivers UMW Secretary

“WISDOM GROWS WHEN WE LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF MATURE BELIEVERS”

From Our Daily Bread – Sept-Oct-Nov- 2018

From our Treasurer

As summer draws to a close, let me say “thank you” to all local treasurers who have been so faithful in sending in the remittances for your unit’s pledges and other giving. Because our Great Plains Conference Treasurer wants the monthly remittance sent to her by the 25th of each month, it is important that you get me your monthly checks no later than the 22nd. This will be especially true when it comes to December so you can get everything counted for 2018.

Your local unit pledges for 2019 need to be submitted by the Fall District meeting in Paola. If you are not going to be able to attend, either mail it to me with your remittance or send it with a unit member who will be attending the meeting. It is important to get your pledges so the District Team can make a reasonable pledge for the conference. For the past three years, Five Rivers has paid less than 80% of their pledge to the Great Plains Conference. We need to get that closer to 90% or more. As of the end of July our total submitted to GPC is \$16,147 which is 36% of the \$45,000 total pledge for the year. So you can see that it is really important that we have a better idea of what pledges to expect from all our local units.

As I said in our Spring Signal, the Conference is encouraging each unit to strive for either 5 Star or 7 Star giving. To be a 5 Star Unit, your unit needs to complete your Pledge to Mission, give one or more Special Mission Recognition (\$40), purchase and give at least one Gift to Mission card (\$5 per card), give at least one Gift in Memory card (\$5 minimum), and give a World Thank Offering. To become a 7 Star Unit, you need to complete all the above plus give a Dedicated Light (\$45 per recipient) and a Corsage for Mission (\$1.00 each). There has been some confusion concerning the Special Mission Recognition (SMR) and Dedicated Light. The instructions say the cost of these can be shared by up to eight purchasers. That means that up to eight people can contribute toward the cost of the SMR or Dedicated Light for a recipient. The suggestion for World Thank Offering is a dime a day, or \$36.50 for the year.

I have a good supply of Gift to Mission cards and Gift in Memory cards. Just let me know if you need some and I will send to you. Speaking of the Gift to Mission cards, at the Spring District meeting in Iola, someone paid \$15 cash for 3 Gift to Mission cards. The amount collected was recorded but not the name of the person who purchased them. Please check with anyone who attended the Spring meeting to see if they purchased these cards. I would love to give \$15 Gift to Mission credit to the unit whose member purchased these. Remember that is one point of your 5 or 7 star requirement.

I hope to see you at the District Fall meeting at Paola UMC, September 22, 2018.

Donna Grigsby, Treasurer
PO Box 661, Iola, KS 66749
(703) 403-8257
donna.grigsby46@gmail.com

Deadline to register
August 31, 2018

“150 Years; Our Past, Our Present, Our Future, Our Legacy”

Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women Annual Conference

September 14-15, 2018

Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS, Bldg. B, (913) 897-0120

Hotel questions: Contact Joyce Solomon at: Solomon.joyce@gmail.com

Friday, September 14

Registration: 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

3:30 p.m.-5 p.m., Della Lamb Community Services Mission and Prayer Walk

5:30 p.m., KC BBQ

7 p.m., Communion and key note speaker: Harriett Jane Olson

Saturday, September 15

7:30 a.m., Continental Breakfast

8 a.m.-10 a.m., business meeting and conversation on “A Way Forward”

10:15-11:00 & 11:15-12:00 Breakout Sessions (Officer training for district officers only), as well as additional sessions open to all attendees as follows: Not Worth Saving; Social Media; Prayer is a Four Letter Word; Holistic Health; Care for the Least of These; Prison Ministry; Charter for Racial Justice; Immigration Issues; and Thirsting for Justice: The Politics of Water.

12 p.m., Box lunches to go or enjoy sitting with a friend



Great Plains Conference UMW Local Unit Mission Program

“Every Unit a Mission Do Unit”

Each local unit is to fulfill the PURPOSE of the United Methodist Women. Each unit is to determine how to do this in their unit. The Great Plains Conference is using Journey Teams to identify the journey each United Methodist Woman and unit makes as we put Faith, Hope and Love in Action. Your unit’s programming for the year should have something from each of the Journey Teams as part of your program. By selecting the activities your unit will do, you will have participated in a Journey in Planning.

Below are some ideas to get you started thinking about the Journey; however, use your creativity to make the PURPOSE come alive for your unit. You are encouraged to try at least one thing you haven’t done before as well as continue ongoing mission work.

Put a check mark by the activity your unit completed. Use the blank lines for a one sentence report of something new that you tried.

Name of Unit: _____ District: Five Rivers

Name of person completing this form: _____

Address _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

REPORT IS DUE JANUARY 10, 2019 to: Shirley Benjamin, 2757 SW Maryland Rd., Garnett, KS 66032. Units will be recognized at the Spring District Meeting.

Journey in Faith – Activities might include the following:

- Use the Prayer Calendar to **pray** regularly for a Missionary/Church and Community Worker.
- Use a United Methodist Women’s resource to provide a devotion for each meeting.
- Have a program on one of the recent spiritual growth mission studies:
 - 2016 *The Bible & Human Sexuality – Claiming God’s Good Gift*
 - 2017 *Living As A Covenant Community*
 - 2018 *Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living*

• _____

• _____

Journey in Action – Activities might include the following:

- Attend Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith (LEAF)
- Become a Green Unit and implement one step.
- Study the difference between mercy and justice then do a justice activity.
- Have a program on one of the recent Social Action Studies:
 - 2016-2017 *Climate Justice – A Call to Hope and Action*
 - 2018 *What About Our Money*
- A focus on Maternal and Child Health is a new initiative of United Methodist Women. Do your women know that part of your Pledge to Mission goes to help improve Maternal and Child Health globally?

- Make **UMCOR Health Kits**

Journey in Giving – Activities might include the following:

- Sponsor a young woman for the METour, June 2-9, 2018.
- Adopt one of the three Great Plains Conference National Mission Institutions (NMIs) and give a designated financial gift to them each month—**Della C Lamb**, Kansas City, KS and **Epworth Village**, York, NE are paid through your District Treasurer. **The Big Garden**, Omaha is paid directly to them.
- Become a 5-Star Unit with contributions to Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition (\$40), Gift to Mission, Gift in Memory and World Thank Offering;
- Or a 7-Star Unit with all the above plus Corsages for Mission (\$1 each), and Dedicated Light (\$45) given in memory or in honor of someone. *Both 5-Star & 7-Star are paid through District Treasurer.*
- Provide hats, scarves, mittens, and underwear to local schools.

Journey in Growth – Activities might include the following:

- Make a list of the women in your church who are not members of UMW and invite them to join you for a special program or mission activity such as making UMCOR kits.
- If you are a small unit, consider joining with a nearby unit to do some meetings or special activities together.
- Reach out to women in your community and welcome them to participate (women do not need to be United Methodists in order to participate).
- Participate in a Mission Do activity (volunteer your services for an NMI or other local agency).
- Invite a METour participant or staff to share about her experience.

Journey in Learning – Activities might include the following:

- At least one member complete a level in the UMW Reading Program.
- Regularly share information from Response magazine at meetings.
- Participate in the District UMW Meetings.
- Participate in the Great Plains Conference United Methodist Women’s Annual Meeting/Celebration.
- Participate in a District or Conference Mission u.

UMW PURPOSE



United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Five Rivers District Fall Meeting



September 22, 2018

Paola UMC

209 S Silver

Paola, KS 66071

(913) 294-3175

Welcome and Fellowship 9 a.m. / Meeting 9:30 a.m. until 12 p.m.

Learn About What Other Churches Do for Programs and Projects

Mail in registrations due by September 17, 2018

Registration Fee: \$5.00

(Covers Program Booklets, Church Usage Fees, Honorarium for the Speaker and Musician)

Complete form below with check made payable to: Five Rivers District UMW

Mail Bottom portion only to: Donna Grigsby, Treasurer, PO Box 661, Iola, KS 66749

Please designate someone in your unit to pick up all the name tags and Agenda packets.

Name of Local Unit _____ Contact Person _____

Print names of those attending:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Non-refundable Registrations at \$5.00 each x _____ = \$ _____

Make check payable to Five Rivers District UMW (in Memo: Fall District Meeting)

Child Care provided at NO charge. MUST BE REGISTERED.

Children's Names and age: _____

Journey in Faith Coordinator

For many of us the summer has been really hot and dry. It is easy to lose hope when you look out at the brown lawns and withered flowers and crops. We must remember that sometimes we may look that way because we have lost faith and hope. Thank goodness God never loses hope or faith in us nor views us as withered and dry. His love is always there to help us grow and blossom. God always provides even though it may not be in the time frame that we had planned. We can hope and pray that rain will be provided in the fall so that plants and trees have adequate moisture to go into winter. I live on a farm and we always felt better when the ponds were full for going into winter.

This will be my last article as my term as Journey in Faith team member (formerly Spiritual Growth Mission Coordinator) will come to an end this fall. I have enjoyed being able to provide the devotions for the district meetings and getting to know many of you. I especially have enjoyed visiting my Little Sister groups. My husband and I have sold our farm and we will be moving to Basehor in October. So we will be moving out of the Five Rivers District. I will not be able to attend the Fall District Meeting on September 22 at Paola because our farm auction is that day. I certainly will miss seeing everyone but please say a little prayer for us as we transition from farm to town.

I know that several District Officers terms are ending this fall and I know that the Nominations Committee is working hard to fill those positions. If asked please consider helping if you can. It is a rewarding experience. My best wishes go to whoever becomes the new Journey in Faith Team Member.

Always remember that God is Good - All the Time and All the Time - God is Good.

Carol Shobe, rcshobe@embarqmail.com
(913) 884-6501



Journey in Action

At a recent training meeting in Hastings, Nebraska, I had the pleasure of meeting Journey in Action team leaders for the respective districts. Most of our hour-long meeting revolved around UMW's proposal/position as to the separation of families. In summary, it is a complex issue somewhat defined by politics and procedures. When I am able to put together a list of Action leaders for each unit, I will send National's letter regarding this issue so that everyone has an opportunity to discuss and respond, if desired.

It was with special pleasure I met our conference Journey in Action leader, Gwen Sharpe. Gwen is eager to challenge districts and our individual circles to enhance the role of Action leaders by taking ACTION. More in future newsletters, but for now, I am going to offer a simple suggestion how to begin.

With a new school year approaching, many stores will be offering huge discounts on school supplies. If you are buying for your children/grandchildren may I suggest you add at least one or two extra items to your cart? Eventually we will collect such items for care packages for children of incarcerated parents. School supplies are consumable and new items need to be replaced throughout the year.

I believe God wants us to use our resources wisely. This is an opportunity to shop and serve wisely.

Rogene McPherson
(913) 579-6379, rkj.mcpherson65@yahoo.com

Communications Coordinator

It is my job to remind each unit to remember to turn in your lists of officers and members each year.

Please fill out the **2019 Five Rivers District Local Officers form** located on page 9 of this newsletter and return it to me no later than November 20, 2018. These forms can be handed to me at the Fall Five Rivers District meeting in Paola on September 22, by mail, or e-mail. The deadline of November 20 should allow me ample time to enter all the changes that are necessary. Thank you for your diligence in helping me manage to keep our records accurate.

Rachel Wegener, Communications Coordinator
(785) 766-9598, drwegener@reagan.com

From the Vice President

It's time to mark your calendar for the **2018 Five Rivers Fall District Meeting**. Plans are well underway for our meeting on **Saturday, September 22 at the Paola United Methodist Church**. I encourage you to plan to arrive at the beginning of the **registration time which starts at 9 a.m.** so you can enjoy fellowship, refreshments and have the opportunity to check out the resource table.

Our meeting will start promptly at 9:30. We'll have election and installation of our 2019 district officers. For our program, several of our units will be sharing about some of their special programs and projects; ideas you can share with your local units as inspiration for future planning.

Sadly, my time as a district officer is coming to an end for now. I was blessed to serve in the past as your Spiritual Growth Coordinator and now as your District Vice President. I will miss being in the thick of executive meetings and having a hand in planning the Spring and Fall District Meetings but you will continue to see me at all of our events. I've loved serving as an officer and I encourage all of you to prayerfully consider holding a district office. It is definitely a growing, learning and uplifting experience. Each of you has been blessed with talents to share. Ask God how you can use those talents to serve at the district level.

Carolyn Elder
Five Rivers District Vice President

Journey Giving & Learning Coordinator

Here it is August already. Summer is flying by, school will start, and fall will fly in.

We have had a lot of hot days that have given us time to stay in and read. Hopefully it's books on the reading program. Some are easy, and some are hard reading, but that's how we learn and grow, right?

We have one lady who is using the Prayer calendar to send birthday cards to missionaries. She has had some responses that she has shared with us.

The Response is good for lessons and God's moments.

Know you all are working on being a 5 – 7 Star Unit, as we are at Welda.

God is so good to give us time and resources to enjoy and learn.

Hope to see you soon at Mission U.

Shirley Benjamin
Journey Giving and Learning Coordinator

**2019 L.E.A.F. —Unity of Spirit
Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith
February 17 & 18, 2019
Topeka First United Methodist Church
600 SW Topeka Blvd.**

Registration: \$30 Students: \$15 Scholarships Available www.greatplainsumc.org

Speakers: Govenor John Carlin, Kansas 1979-1987 and Dr. Sharon Cranford, Historian & Author

Two-day annual event hosting speakers, panel discussions, workshops, and lunch with Kansas Legislators. This event teaches those of all faiths to use their spiritual gifts to drive legislative advocacy.

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”

Ephesians 4:3

FIVE RIVERS DISTRICT, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2019 BUDGET

PLEDGE TO CONFERENCE \$45,000.00

2019	A&MD BUDGET
Travel	\$950.00
Meal/Lodging	\$200.00
Postage	\$300.00
Printing/copies	\$250.00
Office supplies	\$350.00
Resources/lit	\$150.00
Signal	\$400.00
Signal Postage/labels	\$170.00
Dependent Care	\$50.00
Miscellaneous	\$450.00
Audit	\$200.00
Officer Recognition	\$300.00
Scholarships	\$300.00
 Proposed 2019	
TOTAL BUDGET	\$4,070.00



5/7-Star Unit



1. **Pledge to Mission:** Mission giving through United Methodist Women.
2. **Special Mission Recognition:** Mission giving through Women’s division in honor of the recipient. The basic gift is \$40 and can be shared by more than one purchaser (up to 8). A pin is then given to the recipient.
3. **Gift to Mission:** Themed greeting cards can be purchased for \$5 to recognize a special event in the honoree’s life.
4. **Gift in Memory:** Honors a special friend or family member with a card and a dollar amount for mission work to be filled in by the purchaser and then sent to the family of the deceased person. \$5 minimum.
5. **World Thank Offering:** Shares a portion of God’s blessing with others. (Suggestion: a dime a day)
6. **Dedicated Light:** Mission giving through Women’s division in honor of the recipient. This is a certificate that is purchased for a minimum of \$45 that can be given in HONOR or in MEMORY of someone. At the Great Plains Conference UMW Annual Meeting a candle is burned for 1 minute in honor or memory of that person.
7. **Corsage for Mission:** \$1.00 purchases a ribbon. They will be available at the district meetings. Thanks for all that you do.

Five Rivers District UMW
Rachel Wegener, Communication Coordinator
4210 W 26th Terrace
Lawrence, KS 66047

