

News, Connections & Joys

North Central Jurisdiction United Women in Faith

Volume 2, Issue 3 October 2022

What is in the Word H. E. L. L. O.?

How many ways we can invite a person to be a member of United Women in Faith by simply saying, Hello? Or, what does the word 'hello' actually say about United Women in Faith and the work that we do on behalf of women, children and youth? Have you thought about the word 'hello' as it relates to our organization, yes or no? In addition to the word, what about the letters that makes up the word? When I think about the letters, I could see so many other friendly words that they might represent when describing our organization. So, I decided to challenge myself to think of at least four words for each individual letter in the word 'hello' that is fun, simple and also inviting new women to be a part of United Women in Faith.

Here are the results of my challenge:

- **H**= Hello, Hi, How are you, Howdy
- **E**= Engage, Enjoy, Encourage, Exciting
- **L**= Lasting, Laugh, Love, Lifelong
- **L**= Link, Livelihood, Loyalty, Likeable
- **O**= Offering, Okay, Optimistic, Outspoken

I know that there are many other words that an individual could have chosen in my challenge of using the word 'hello', but like anything there is always a beginning. There are many simple and wonderful ways to say, "Welcome and we would like to invite you to be a part of the United Women in Faith organization." So, when we see each other and/or meet a new friend, let's remember the importance of a greeting word or phrase. Many of us begin our greetings with the word 'hello' and continue with other inviting words.

Let's continue to think of the various ways that we can be inclusive with our words and use those methods often!

Marchelle "Micki" Phelps
NCJ President





Celebrating in Illinois Great Rivers Conference

October 1st we held our Annual Celebration at Morton, Illinois UMC. We are grateful for the year that is past and looking forward to an exciting year to come. We had 72 registered for our in-person meeting and a speaker from Woodin' It Be Lovely organization that helps addiction recovery for women in the central part of our state. June 2nd & 3rd is **Cunningham Children's Home** Festival of Quilts in Urbana, Il. Cunningham is one of two National Mission Institutions in our state and we always have a good turnout of volunteers and a wonderful experience learning about quilting and seeing a variety of quilts. Some on display have been a hundred years old! **Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House** in East St Louis is beginning to schedule UWF tours. As President of the Conference, I am on both Board of Directors. Our newest project at Cunningham is Cup of Hope Coffee House where staff and visitors to Cunningham can buy a cup of coffee or snack and help the older residents on our campus learn good work skills and experience dependable responsibilities. The United Women in Faith of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference are helping to fund this program, as well as the residential and school programs at Cunningham. Plans are to have Cup of Hope open for Festival of Quilts guests. Come join us.

Susan Connor, President
Illinois Great Rivers Conference

WE'RE on the WEB! umwncj.org
"LIKE" us on Facebook!
North Central Jurisdiction UMW

Resurrection United Women of Faith

Interrupting the School-to- Prison Pipeline Grant Recipient

Resurrection UMW, now UWF received a grant in the Fall 2021 to give students an opportunity to learn strategies to be successful in 2021-2022 school year. This was part of the Interrupting the School-To-Prison Pipeline Initiative. The program was entitled, "Becoming GREAT". The grant required partnerships. Resurrection partnered with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Chicago Alumnae Chapter, the Betty Shabazz Academy and the Illinois Poor People's Campaign, Westside Cluster. Two events were held. The first, during Black History Month which was virtual with the students of the Betty Shabazz Academy and the second one was in May at the Austin Public Library located on the Westside of Chicago. The primary presenter was Dr. Tamela Odom, author of Run the RACE: A Guide to Successful Living. Rita L. Smith, also presented giving UMW history and Methodist women's history including Mary McLeod Bethune and Dorothy I. Height. Dr. Odom and Mrs. Smith, co-chair the Illinois Poor People's Campaign. The students from the City of Chicago, public and charter schools in grades 5-6-7-8 participated, received autographed copies of Dr. Odom's book and a "Becoming GREAT" t-shirt. Also participating was Imani N. Smith, college student and Tamara L. Davis, Chicago Public School Principal. It was a very successful program.

**Rita L. Smith, Program Advisory Group
Member, Northern Illinois Conference**



Fruits of the Spirit and Soul Care

Change in the season is a great time to do Soul Care for yourself, and that is exactly what I did for two days last week. I returned from a Women's Retreat feeling so much better and full of energy. This is my second time to participate in the Chillicothe Trinity Women's Retreat at Proctor Center; however, I have learned this is the 17th year for this annual Retreat to take place. The theme last week was 'Celebrating The Fruit' and Bible study based on Galatians 5:22-23, fruits of the Spirit. It was a wonderful time of camaraderie with friends and meeting new friends. We not only studied, we sang, we danced, we prayed, we meditated, we ate! In the 24-hour event, we celebrated and ended with peace and joy. Our daily lives need to be filled with Soul Care. Create a sacred space in your home where you can go and meditate and talk to God. A battery candle is nice. A flat rock with 'peace' written on it. Never fail to take care of yourself. Remember to breathe deeply and clear everything out of your mind and focus on bringing peace to your body. You cannot take care of anyone else unless you take care of yourself first. This lesson even applies to finances. Take care of yourself a dollar at a time to your private vault. God will know, and you will be rewarded many times over when you are able to extend a helping hand to someone that needs a little kindness. We are all part of God's Story.

Sylvia Kempton,
NCJ Treasurer



Charter for Racial Justice Activities in the Michigan Conference

In 2021 the Michigan Conference UWF Charter for Racial Justice (CRJ) Committee implemented the practice of a "Charter for Racial Justice Moment" at every leadership team meeting. We wanted a way to keep the Charter for Racial Justice vital and alive for our leadership. Each of our CRJ Committee members volunteers to provide this time at our meeting and it has been educational and an absolute joy to hear what they share. At the end of 2021 our Michigan Conference UWF Leadership Team authorized the Charter for Racial Justice Committee to implement a mini-grant project for local units.

Our hope was to encourage our local UWF units to engage in projects to expand their understanding of racial justice issues. We provided a few ideas – racial justice book study, bring in a guest speaker, or travel to a museum or other site of racial justice significance. These grants were offered in amounts up to \$300. So far, the Committee has made 4 grants: two units (one urban and one suburban) went together in sponsoring a youth theatre production, "The Epic of Mwindo, an African creation myth". One unit brought in a speaker to moderate a panel discussion of women with different racial/ethnic backgrounds; and another unit traveled to the Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia at Ferris State University. Each of these units shared these activities at our Conference Annual Meeting in October for a "Charter for Racial Justice Moment", and, since we still have some grant funds available, our CRJ Committee is hopeful this will inspire other units to find projects to expand their understanding of racial justice issues.

We are working to keep the Charter for Racial Justice alive and well in the Michigan Conference!

Julia Paradine-Rice, President
Michigan Conference



Ties That Bind

My United Women in Faith started about two years ago to make fleece blankets that are knotted and we donate them to the local hospital ER. These are then used to place over the body of a deceased person before the family enters the room to be with the body. As the family leaves the hospital they are given the blanket to take home. We have gotten thank you notes from families to say how comforting it was to have these as they go through the grief process. They know they came from us because we sew a label in each one saying, "Ties that Bind Ministry. Hand made for you by the women of First United Methodist Church, 200 W. 5th Street, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920" We have now diversified to give blankets to the children who come to the local battered women's shelter with their mom, as well as smaller ones to give to nursing homes as lap robes. Our congregation supports us with finances to purchase the material. Before we deliver the blankets they are placed on the altar and the pastor and congregation pray over them. We are a fairly small unit with 12 members, but reaching out in faith.

*Judy Kidder, President
East Ohio Conference*

North Central Jurisdiction

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News

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Connections

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Joys

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North Central Jurisdiction

News, Connections & Joys

News:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring **good news** to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." *Luke 4:18-19 NRSV*

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

UMH #251

Connections:

United Women in Faith is a Sisterhood acting in faith. We connect spiritual women to act boldly for justice and transform communities.

"In prayer, there is a connection between what God does and what you do."

Matthew 6:14 "The Message"

Bind Us Together

The Faith We Sing #2226

Joys:

"**Make a joyful noise** to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness, come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God, it is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good, his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations."

Psalms 100 NRSV

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH #89

2024 NORTH CENTRAL
JURISDICTION

Get Together!



United
Women
in Faith

North Central Jurisdiction Event (May 30, 2024 through June 2, 2024)



**Sheraton Hotel
31 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204**

North Central Jurisdiction

President – Marchelle (Micki) Phelps
marchellephelps@gmail.com (Michigan)

Vice President – Patricia (Pat) Bostic
pbostic02@att.net (Michigan)

Secretary – Becky Heeren
becky@alumni.iastate.edu (Iowa)

Treasurer – Sylvia Kempton
kemptonss@yahoo.com (West Ohio)

Nominations Chair – Elizabeth Everitt
e.everitt@comcast.net (Minnesota)

2021-2024 Leadership Team

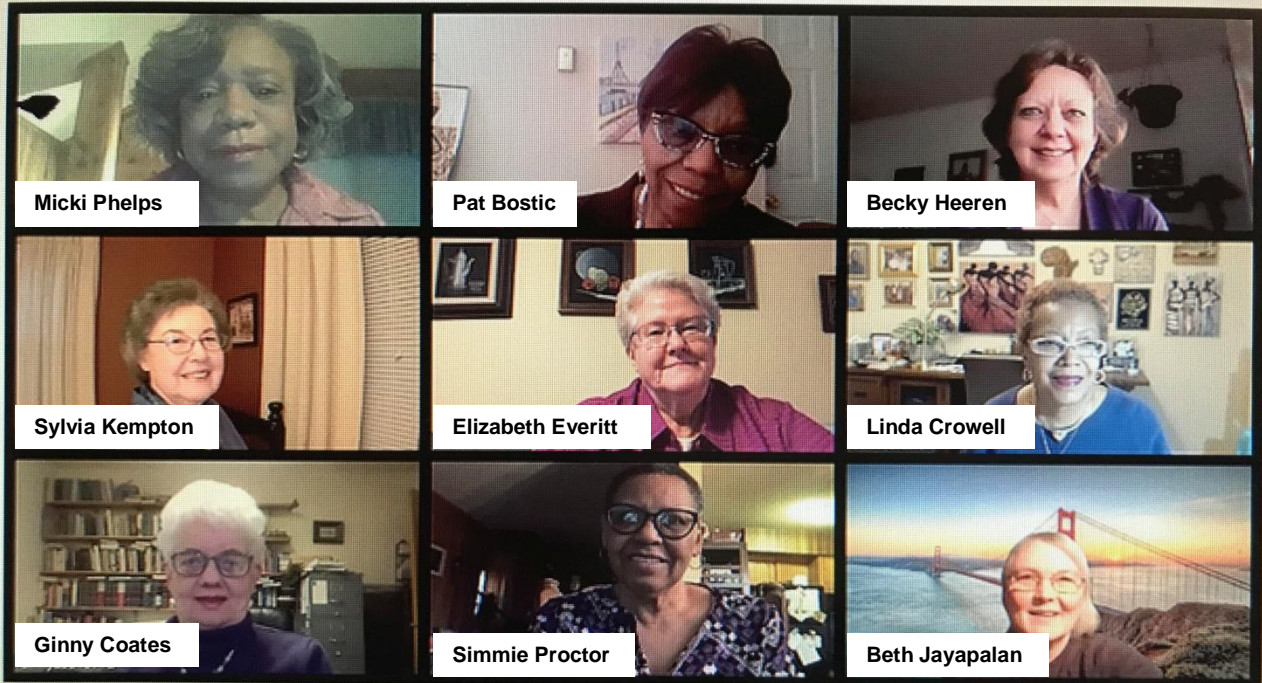
Nominations Committee:

Dr. Linda Johnson Crowell
lfchso@msn.com (East Ohio)

Virginia (Ginny) Coates
edcoates@gwtc.net (Dakotas)

Simmie Proctor
simmiepr@hotmail.com (Michigan)

Elizabeth (Beth) Jayapalan
purplemountainlaurel@gmail.com
(Northern Illinois)



Stay tuned for updates on our North Central Jurisdiction Quadrennial Event to be held in Indianapolis in 2024!



Recommendation to the NCJ Committee on Nominations

Date _____

I recommend: (please print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Age: ___20's ___30's ___40's ___50's ___60's ___70's ___80's+

Race/Ethnicity _____ Languages Spoken _____

Employed: ___Yes ___No

Why this person should be considered (use back side, if needed):

Positions I would recommend this person for:

Office of _____

And/or _____

References:

1. Name _____ Phone/e-mail _____

2. Name _____ Phone/e-mail _____

Person submitting this information:

Signed (your name) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Conference _____

Please return to: Elizabeth Everitt, Chair of Nominations, NCJurisdiction
4460 Jack Pine Trail North
Lake Elmo MN 55042
651-260-5347

Thank you and God Bless You!

**United Women in Faith
North Central Jurisdiction
Committee on Nominations
<https://www.umwncj.org>**



United Women in Faith

Tell me more....I may be interested!

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-Mail _____

Conference _____

My ethnicity/race (to help us be as inclusive as possible) _____

My Experience in United Methodist Women/United Women in Faith:

What I might be interested in doing _____

Please return this form to a NCJ CON Team member.

Elizabeth Everitt, Chair
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Thank you and God bless you!

**United Women in Faith
North Central Jurisdiction
Committee on Nominations
<https://www.umwncj.org>**