



The Compass

Newsletter of the Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

November 2025 Edition

A note from your President...

Greetings, I'm writing this on November 1st and it's hard to believe the year is coming to a close. It seems not long ago we gathered for our District Annual and Michigan Conference Annual celebrations. That being said, today your District team got together and planned celebrations and activities for 2026! There are some missing pieces of information but bear with us. Additional information will be passed on as soon as it is available. Please mark these 2026 dates on your calendar.

Virtual Mission u— Four Thursdays in January: 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 6:30—8:30 p.m. If you weren't able to attend Mission u last July or would like to revisit the program, you may do so from the comfort of your recliner! The fee is minimal: \$35. A group from your church can zoom for one fee. To register visit uwf.org.

Soul Care Retreat— Saturday, April 11. We're planning to do **two** retreats on the same day in different locations. We hope this will encourage more ladies to attend if the retreat is closer to home.

Assembly— Friday, May 15 through Sunday, May 17. Dream it! Believe it! Do It! Assembly is in Indianapolis, close enough to carpool! For complete details about Assembly, including hotel information please visit uwf.org and click on Assembly.

Mission Night—On a Thursday evening in June, but we haven't secured the site or exact date.

Mission u—July 16—18 at Mt. Pleasant UMC.

District Annual Celebration—Saturday, September 26, location to be determined.

Michigan Conference Annual Celebration—Saturday, October 17 at Hope UMC in Southfield.

I hope you've all been able to enjoy the most wonderful autumn I can remember. I see God's handiwork everywhere I look!

Cheryl Proctor, President
Greater Southwest District United Women In Faith

A note from Program Resources...

Dean United Women in Faith Members and Friends,

We are delighted to announce the release of the 2026 Reading Program! It is available on the Reading Program webpage. The Reading Program is a beloved tradition with a powerful future. Through the Reading Program, members and friends of United Women in Faith read and grow together, engaging contemporary books on spiritual growth, social action, leadership development, nurturing for community and education for mission. We are for readers (and listeners) of all ages, with titles available for adults, youth, and children.

If you're looking for a centralized spot to buy Reading Program books while earning cash back for the organization, you can do so at bookshop.org/shop/uwfaith.

A few books that you might like to read are *Hope in Disarray* by Grace Ji-Sun Kim, *The Light We Carry* by Michelle Obama and *Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness* by Kaitlin B. Curtice.

You are invited to join Julia Hulka, Michigan Conference Secretary of Program Resources in a Book Talk on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. "*All You Can Ever Know*" by Nicole Chung. This is a Nurturing for Community book in the Reading Program. Register for this great discussion by emailing Julia Hulka at jahulka49@gmail.com. Deadline for registration is December 7, 2025. Reading the book is not required for participation, but will be helpful. Any questions, let me know.

Jan Hedgcock
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Your District Team Meets...

Cindy from Allegan, Cheryl from Gobles and Rhonda from Plainwell carpooled with Linda and Mary from Hopkins. President Cheryl and Jan drove from Union City. Julia came from Schoolcraft. Linda headed north from Coldwater. We all met at the Climax church for a District Team meeting where Laura had breakfast goodies waiting. There was the financial report, approval of minutes, and other information was shared. BUT the big business was planning the 2026 calendar of events. Look for the Soul Care event with breakout activities in April. Mission Night in June will be on 'feed the people' or food ministry. The October District Annual event theme is on prison ministries. Dates and locations to be announced. We hope to see your local Unit team at these events.

A note from Education and Interpretation...

Happy Fall my friends!

First, I want to recognize the Bangor Simpson UWF for being a Faith, Hope and Joy Unit regarding the Mission Today Unit Objectives. They were regrettably overlooked at our District Celebration in September.

The Mission Today Unit Objectives worksheet has been revised and included in this newsletter. If you would like an electronic copy, just let me know and I will send it to you. Take time to look it over and see how your unit did this year (and send it to me by February 2026) and you can also use it to plan for 2026.

I have also included a list of UWF Resources for you and your unit to consider using if you are not currently doing so. I will be highlighting each one in our newsletters next year. Again, if you have any questions, feel free to contact me and I would love supporting the use of these resources in your unit plan. God's blessings for your holiday season!

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Mission Today Unit Objectives

United Women in Faith - Michigan Conference

Please print clearly!

Name of Unit _____	District _____
Name _____	(_____) _____ Telephone
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Email _____	

A unit will receive a Certificate of Achievement upon completion of one of the following categories between January 1 through December 31, to be presented at their District Annual Meeting the following October. Check the numbers completed.

*Units completing any **8** or more objectives will be a “FAITH” unit.

*Units completing **9** or more objectives, with 8 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” unit.

*Units completing **17** or more objectives, with 10 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” unit.

*Units completing **25** or more objectives, with 12 asterisks (*) will be a “FAITH” “HOPE” “JOY” “LOVE” unit.

Mission Giving

- _____ 1. *Made and met its Pledge to Mission.
- _____ 2. *Became a 5-Star Unit by contributing to all 5 channels of undesignated giving.
- _____ 3. Donated to local women’s shelter or children’s/youth program.
- _____ 4. Offered scholarships to *Mission u* and/or other United Women in Faith activities.

Spiritual Growth

- _____ 5. Participated locally in a retreat, prayer vigil or Bible study.
- _____ 6. Attended a District Retreat, Spiritual Day Apart, or Prayer Breakfast/Brunch.
- _____ 7. Had at least one member participate in Faith Talks/Voices From the Field/Author Talks

Membership

- _____ 8. *Added at least one new member.
- _____ 9. Had at least one member join United Women in Faith Digital.

Attendance

- _____ 10. Invited a District or Conference officer (other than a member of the unit) to a meeting.
- _____ 11. Had a combined meeting/event with other Women’s groups.
- _____ 12. Attended Church Women United or participated in an ecumenical group activity.
- _____ 13. *At least one member attended a conference *Mission u*.
- _____ 14. *At least two members attended the conference or district annual meeting/celebration.
- _____ 15. *At least one member attended the *District Elected Leadership Training*

Mission Education

- _____ 16. *At least two members completed a *Reading Program Plan* and reported on one of the books.
- _____ 17. *At least two members participated in but did not complete the *Reading Program*.
- _____ 18. *Used two programs from the *Program Book*.
- _____ 19. *Used the *Daily Prayer Guide* regularly in the unit meetings.
- _____ 20. Communicated with at least one person listed in the *Prayer Guide*.
- _____ 21. *Unit had at least two members reading **response** each month.
- _____ 22. *Unit included a *response Moment* during its meeting using an article to tell our mission story.
- _____ 23. Unit had at least one program/activity for social action.

Mission Action

- _____ 24. *Participated in a District or Conference mission focus giving.
 - A. Had a member of United Women in Faith present/assist with a mission program for youth or children.
- _____ 25. *Had at least one person receive and respond to legislative information from the United Women in Faith's Action Network.
- _____ 26. Unit or member participated in a workshop, seminar, or book study related to social concerns.
- _____ 27. *Unit participated in advocating for children in at least two ways. Possibilities are:
 - * Volunteered for a children's food program, baby pantry, or other program.
 - * Involved with mentoring, tutoring or programs for youth.
 - * Communicated with representatives advocating for children's issues.
 - * Attended a school board meeting.
- _____ 28. Made a pledge to care for God's creation and worked to become a "green" United Women in Faith Unit.
- _____ 29. *Implemented the Charter for Racial Justice policies in at least one way during the year.
 - Possibilities include:
 - * Read books and articles about another racial group or culture.
 - * Participated in an event celebrating other racial groups/cultures.
 - * Recruited women of color to be members or officers of the unit.
 - * Corresponded with elected representatives to support legislation affecting issues such as immigration, affirmative action, civil rights, and programs for low-income persons, etc.
- _____ 30. Sent this completed form to your **District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation**

This year our Unit qualified as a Mission Today FAITH HOPE JOY LOVE unit.

(Circle all that apply)

Send to your District Mission Coordinator for Education and Interpretation

Greater Southwest District United Women in Faith

Officers for 2026

OFFICERS

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Open

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Open

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National Director & Finance Cmt. Chair

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Understand & Interpret United Women in Faith's Mission:

Utilize and Promote UWFaith Resources

United Women in Faith national office produces several publications that communicate our collective mission story. These publications connect our members to the work happening across the national organization and internationally. They allow us to see what we are enabling through our mission giving and participation.

1. *response* Magazine

response is an award-winning publication, is the official magazine of United Women in Faith and is published by the national office. Topics and issues cover spiritual growth, mission outreach and reports on our local, national and international work. **Ensure each local unit and circle is subscribing and encourage members to purchase their own subscription.**

2. Faith Talks

Faith Talks is a monthly series of live conversations, or pod casts, that explore themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. You may participate in the pod casts live or listen to the recordings later. Encourage units to tune in!

3. Mission Studies

Every year, United Women in Faith produces books for use as [mission studies](#) at Mission u. These books are great sources of information and learning and can be studied outside of the Mission u context. Encourage your units to have members attend Mission u.

4. Program Book & Prayer Journal

The [Program Book](#) is published annually as a program guide for UWFaith units. The [Prayer Journal](#) is a yearly planner that highlights the work of our missionaries and mission institutions across the country and around the globe.

5. Reading Program

The [Reading Program](#) is a cherished tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the books. Encourage your units to participate in the Reading Program. Your district program resources person will also assist in promoting the Reading Program.

6. Website and online resources

Numerous resources covering various topics are available for download on [the United Women in Faith website](#) (umfaith.org). United Women in Faith also has a [YouTube channel](#) with video resources spanning the full range our work. The United Women in Faith Digital (Mighty Networks) has many resources available and is very easy to navigate (www.uwfaith.mn.co). There is a link for E&I Coordinators.

A note from our National Director/Finance Chair...

Looking for a program as you plan for 2026?

I (and your Greater SW District UWFaith Leadership Team) am here to help. We would love to have a chance to visit your unit and share about what's new with UWFaith, answer your questions, and just get to know each other. Below are just some ideas to spark your interest:

Laura Marlowe

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Becoming a Green Unit

UWFaith Reading Program

Using UWFaith Resources

Mary Howard

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Fundraising

Pledge to Mission Service

Where the Money Goes

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Why UWFaith?

Mission u

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Where the Money Goes

Pledge to Mission Service

Julia Paradine-Rice

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Where the Money Goes

Increasing Membership

All things UWFaith!

We look forward to hearing from you in 2026!

Julia Paradine-Rice

Director/Finance Chair

United Women in Faith

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The PURPOSE of United Women in Faith:

United Women in Faith 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.

IMPORTANT 2026 DATES

- * Virtual Mission u, January 8, 15, 22 and 29
- Soul Care Retreat, April 11 * Location TBD
- Assembly, May 15 - 17 * Indianapolis, IN
- * Mission Night, June ?? * Location TBD
- * Mission u, July 16 — 18 * Mt. Pleasant First UMC
- * Greater Southwest District UWF Annual Meeting
September 26 * Location TBD
- * Conference Leadership Training for District Officers
October 16 * Hope UMC in Southfield
- * Conference UWF Annual Celebration
October 17 * Hope UMC in Southfield