

# UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH OF INDIANA

United Women in Faith is a laywomen’s organization rooted in mission whose membership is open to any woman who shares its Purpose. She need not be a member of the United Methodist denomination. UWF not only provides advocacy and service on behalf of women, children and youth but also takes a lead role in expanding concepts of mission for the whole church as its leaders serve in various places throughout the United Methodist connection.

United Women in Faith is committed to our Purpose which states:

*We 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.*

United Methodist Women was rebranded as United Women in Faith in order to be open to all women desiring to be involved in our outreach programs and initiatives. Our traditional structures - conference, district and local levels (including circles) – remain the same. There are new tools and programs that give additional options to units to help nurture members and to recruit new women to our organization.

## Four Core Commitments

- Leadership Development
- Service and Advocacy
- Spiritual Growth
- Transformative Education

These core commitments guide us as we plan programs and events that lead us in our efforts to advocate for women, children, and youth especially those in unjust and unfair situations. We put Love into Action as we strive to serve God by serving God’s people.

## Quadrennial Priorities

- Climate Justice/Just Energy for All
- Criminalization of Communities of Color/Interrupting the School-to-Prison Pipeline

Although we strive to address situations of injustice, poverty, racism, sexism, ageism, hunger and homelessness, a variety of action steps are offered through programming, education, and opportunities for activism to inspire out women to put Love into Action.

## 2022 Goals

We are committed to connect with all women who want to be a part of our organization. Our goals are to:

### Promote the Charter for Racial Justice

- Establish a new unit in Spanish
- Prepare to hold a Soul Care Retreat for African-American women
- Plan and hold a mutigenerational retreat

### Improve Communication to District and Local Units

- Promote online resources: podcasts, Faith Talks, Voices from the field, Facebook, newsletters, and emails
- Focus on teaching how to use technology

- Conference and District officers communicate with their counterparts quarterly

### Promote the UWF Reading Program

- Include a brief synopsis of reading program books in each newsletter
- Encourage units to host viewing parties of the movies that are a part of the reading program

### Promote Mission Giving Opportunities

- Have mission giving moments at each team meeting (Conference, District, local)
- Educate about the different ways to give online which have been set up by the National Office

### **Highlights of 2022**

February 1 Legislative Day was held in conjunction with Church Women United. Using a virtual format Elizabeth Lee from the National Office educated us on Climate Justice and Just Energy for All with statistics informing us of the crucial need for action

March 4-5 was the Spiritual Growth Retreat held at McCormick's Creek State Park's Canyon Inn with Kathy White and Vickie Newkirk providing leadership. Both women are former UMW conference presidents and former members of Women's Division of UMW.

May 19-22, the Assembly of United Women in Faith was held at the Orlando Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Thirty-five women from Indiana attended in person and 19 virtually.

July 15-17 Mission u was held virtually with members studying Luke 13.

October 7-8 the Annual Celebration of United Women in Faith was held at St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis. On Friday evening we celebrated the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lucille Raines Residence ministry. Speakers for the evening were Carolyn Marshall, executive director, as well as a resident. Saturday's theme was New Beginnings with Isaiah 43:18-19 as our scripture. The annual business meeting was held with election of officers, approval of the 2023 budget and 2023 pledge to missions, and recognition of retiring officers. The afternoon speaker was Jessey Mason, director of the Sandra Eskenazi Mental Health Center Narcotics Treatment Program. Bishop Trimble then installed the 2023 officers.

October 15, United Women in Faith received a Children's Champion Award from the Indiana United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon in appreciation of UWF's support.

October 21-23 the Silent Retreat was held at St. Joseph Retreat and Conference Center in Tipton, IN. The Retreat offered a time of silent contemplation and spiritual renewal.

November 5 Leadership Development was held in the morning with two leaders from the National UWF office educating members on the use of the new website, uwfaith.org. In the afternoon, officer training was held for the District officers.

### **Treasurer's Report**

A pledge of \$310,00 was made to the National Office to support the many ministries of United Women in Faith. Unfortunately, we will be unable to reach our pledge since many local units have disbanded due to age, illness, and effects of the pandemic.

1 **Lucille Raines Residence**

2 United Women in Faith of Indiana owns and operates the Lucille Raines Residence and are very  
3 proud of this commitment. This ministry serves individuals from all over the state who are  
4 recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. This year the building in which this ministry is housed  
5 has experienced damage from a fire in one of its rooms. Also, the very old elevator, for which parts  
6 are no longer made, needs to be replaced. An accessibility campaign has been launched in order  
7 to raise funds to answer these needs. UWF cannot accomplish this task alone. Churches are asked  
8 to support this need. We believe that God has blessed this ministry and will continue to bless it into  
9 the future so lives can continue to be saved and individuals reunited with families as they walk the  
10 road to sobriety.

11 Thanks be to God for his wonderful blessings!

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13  
14 Kathie Clemenz, president  
15 United Women in Faith of Indiana