



# The Bridge



## IGRC United Methodist Women Matters



**President Susan Connor**

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Greetings and blessings to all my sisters in the IGRC United Methodist Women. I pray that 2022 will be a blessing to you and yours.

Each year we look at a new year in hope and expectations of new opportunities to serve Jesus Christ and to gather together to share our love for him and the activities accomplished in the past year.

This year I am really excited that Assembly 2022 in Florida is going to be in person and virtual. Remember you can still register for Assembly until April 11<sup>th</sup> by going to the United Methodist Women website. Currently we have 26 registered to attend from IGRC. Along with great worship and informative sessions, National officers are planning a big reveal of a name change and logo change at Assembly.

The New Wineskins campaign information can be found on the United Methodist Website in the Faith Talks section. Click on that blue box and it will give you the opportunity to listen to the

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presentation of the **New Wineskins Campaign**. Several years of gathering information from the members of United Methodist Women in all conferences have been used to energize the look of our website and how we are seen as women doing mission together. The New Wineskins Campaign was also mentioned last year in a September/October Response magazine article. Many things will not change. We will still be part of the United Methodist Church. The Purpose Statement has not changed. The 5 Channels of giving have not changed. How we organize as a local, district and conference will not change more that it has already. Our Constitution and Bylaws have not changed. Our Mission Focus on Spiritual Growth, Leadership Development and Education and Service and advocacy have not changed. Our Social Justice issues for 2022 are still Climate Justice and Ending Mass Incarceration.

Many of you have also chosen to meet in a hybrid fashion. Even our IGRC Annual Conference Meeting by the UMC in Peoria is planned as hybrid. Which means some of us will be present in Peoria in June. I am hoping to have a UMW luncheon at the Civic Center and hope that if you are attending Annual Conference you will register for the lunch.

I also want to congratulate the districts that met their Pledge to Mission last year. And I want to express gratitude to all districts because you made it possible for the IGRC UMW Conference to meet our pledge to National UMW. Jesus said to love your neighbor. He also said love others as I have loved you. Your hours of service through your local church and your local UMW unit as well as your generous giving show how much you love.

With your continued dedication and the eagerness of new members, we can be as creative and effective as our foremothers in being a strong women's mission organization. Move forward to provide and advocate for women, children and youth in your community, your national institutions and around the world through our regional missionaries.

God be with you and I am eager to see you at our many District and Conference events!!

Susan Connor, IGRC UMW President

*Your hours of service through your local church and your local UMW unit as well as your generous giving show how much you love.*

The organized unit of 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.





## Vice President Christina Krost

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I hope this message finds you mentally, physically, and spiritually healthy and strong. It looks as if we might be entering a new phase of the Covid-19 pandemic. I'm cautiously optimistic that the mask wearing, distancing, and vaccinations have worked to get us to a more safe place. I'm still mindful of the vulnerable in my community, though, and will do my best to advocate and care for their health and well-being in this new season.

Speaking of new seasons, this year's theme is Healing, Joy, and Justice, and our scripture is Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. I can think of no better way to look back at the last few years and look forward to the next by recognizing that there is "a time for everything under heaven". This verse gives me great hope while recognizing the real pain many of us have felt in our communities during the pandemic.

I've completed the materials for our Personal Growth gatherings for 2022. We will be discussing the variety of ways that Covid-19 has impacted economic justice, mass incarceration, climate justice, domestic violence and women's health, and racial justice and how United Methodist Women can advocate for women, children, and youth in their communities.

District Presidents have received a recording of a presentation that can be used for an in-person or virtual event. They have also received copies of the presentation that can be shared to members. Please connect with a member of your district leadership to learn more about the Personal Growth events.

And be sure to invite all the women in your life to join an upcoming UMW event to see what United Methodist Women is all about--faith, hope, and love in action! AND, save the date: Annual Celebration will be held at Morton UMC October 1, 2022!

In connection and community,

Christina

IGRC UMW PERSONAL GROWTH 2022

HEALING  
JOY  
& JUSTICE

*"To everything there is a season..."*





# ASSEMBLY 2022

MAY 20 – 22, 2022  
ORLANDO CONVENTION CENTER

[WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG](http://WWW.ASSEMBLY2022.ORG)

I want to personally invite you to come with me to **ASSEMBLY 2022** in Orlando, Florida. In 2022 we will reflect on today's challenges and together find comfort and strength to move forward, building new ways for faith-filled women to make a difference in their communities and the world. We will recommit to our purpose, but also more. For such a time as this we will **TURN IT UP!**

At **ASSEMBLY 2022** we will **TURN IT UP!** for spiritual healing and renewal.  
We will **TURN IT UP!** for rebirth in a new time.  
We will **TURN IT UP!** for women leaders.  
We will **TURN IT UP!** for justice for women, children and youth.

This is our chance to continue building on our more than 150-year heritage as women leaders who know how to organize and serve. We are women who are willing to be challenged to grow in our faith as we build deeper connections with one another, community leaders and partners in the work of justice for all of God's children.

Past keynote speakers at **ASSEMBLY** have included:  
Nobel Peace Prize winner **Leymah Gbowee**  
Civil rights activist **Michelle Alexander**  
Founder of Children's Defense Fund **Marion Wright Edelman**  
Former Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton**  
PBS NewsHour host **Judy Woodruff**  
Worldwide YWCA General Secretary **Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**  
Grammy-award winner **CeCe Winans** and more

Bold action, like faith, takes courage. Our bravery is inspired by God's love and driven by our powerful commitment to improve the lives of women, children and youth. We're a sisterhood acting in faith to tackle the hard work of the world without hesitation. We show up, we take action, we get it done. Our passion is boundless.

And it all begins with you. Come to Orlando with me to care for your spirit, worship with your sisters and celebrate the positive impact women create in the world. It's time to **TURN IT UP!**

Sincerely,





**Secretary Ginny Riggins**

27 Broadway Place

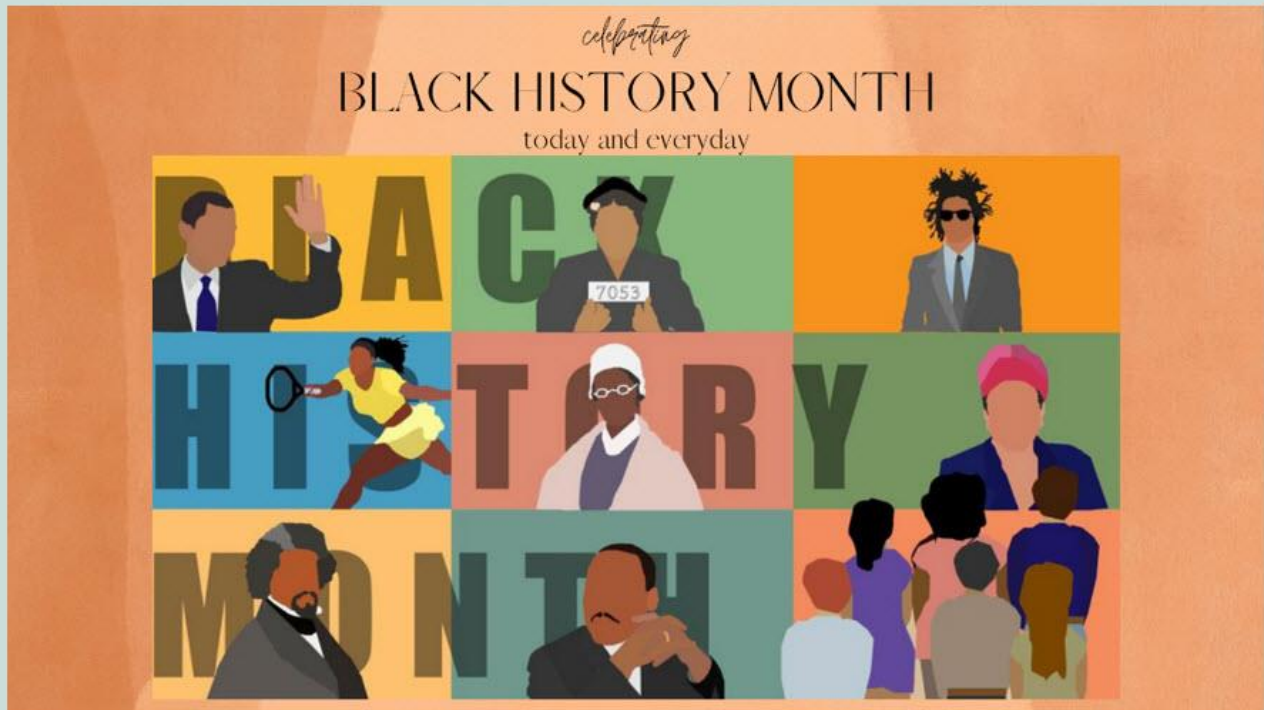
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**2022  
Directories**

The 2022 IGRC United Methodist Women Directories are complete! They are available electronically by emailing [ginnyriggins@comcast.net](mailto:ginnyriggins@comcast.net).



“To say ‘I see no color’ is not the goal. ‘I see your color, and I honor you. I value your input. I will be educated about your lived experiences. I will work against the racism that harms you. You are beautiful. Tell me how to do better.’ ... That’s the goal.” –Carlos A. Rodriguez



### **Treasurer Louella Christensen**

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## **How Goes the Mission?**

United Methodist Women Constitution and Bylaws tell us each unit is to set an annual Mission Pledge goal and work to meet it. What we give in the five Mission Giving channels funds the budget that supports United Methodist Women programs here and around the world. Our continued support for UMW Mission work is critical. We make Mission happen.

### **Does your church have an active unit of United Methodist Women?**

Remember, every penny counts! Set a Pledge goal and give at least a penny in the Pledge or World Thank Offering channel as soon as you can so your unit will be counted as active in 2022.

### **Has your unit set a 2022 Unit Pledge goal?**

Do your best to estimate what the unit hopes to give in the five Mission Giving channels this year. Then report that goal to your District Treasurer. Districts will be meeting soon to make any needed revisions to 2022 District Pledge goals and budgets and to set 2023 Pledge goals and budgets. Unit Pledge goals provide important information to use in this multi-year process. We don't want to overspend.

### **Have questions about archiving financial records?**

Unit and district treasurers give the same records to their secretary for archiving. Give her the budget, annual financial reports and all Finance Committee minutes (if applicable). Unit Treasurers, contact your District Treasurer if you need a copy of the unit audit form. District Treasurers, the unit audit form and district audit form may be printed from Quick Tabs in the District Treasurer's Excel workbook.

Unit records are archived by the local church. District and Conference records are sent to:

Archives and Historical Society  
Attn: Kenyon Reed, Archivist  
c/o Wesley United Methodist Church  
1602 Salem Road  
Mount Vernon, IL 62864

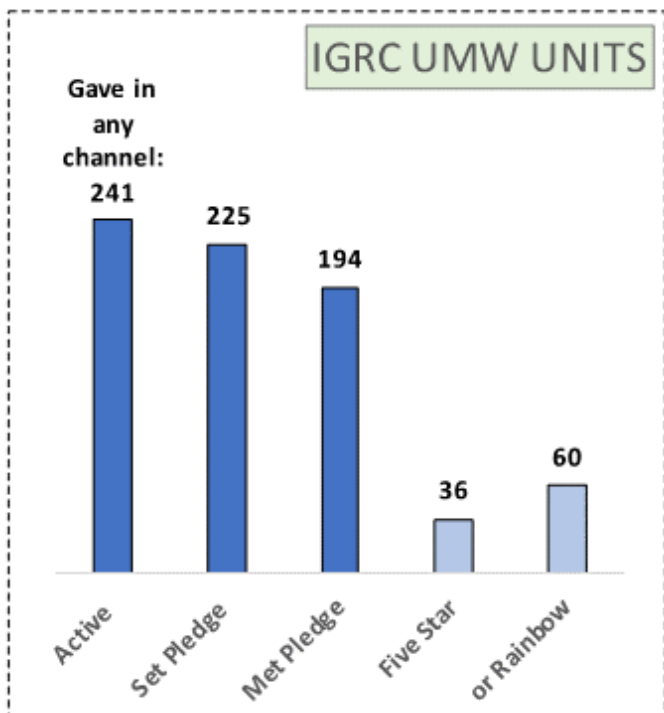
Ph: 217-299-4486  
Email: [archives@igrc.org](mailto:archives@igrc.org)

Contact Kenyon Reed before  
sending materials to be archived.

*Our continued  
support for  
UMW Mission  
work is critical.*

*We  
make  
mission  
Happen.*

### How goes the Mission in Illinois Great Rivers Conference?



In 2021, 194 of 241 Active Units, 5 Districts and the Conference met our Pledge goals!

**Thanks for everything  
you do to support  
the Mission of  
United Methodist Women!**

Our 2022 Conference Pledge goal is \$210,000.

Thank you for answering God’s call to be in Mission with women, children and youth. I am praying for you.



**Find us on the web!**

<http://www.igrc.org/umw>

<https://www.facebook.com/IGRCUMW/>



## Secretary of Program Resources Diane Goff

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## Resources Galore!



Two scriptures come to mind at this time. The first is Ecclesiastes 3:1- “For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.” For UMW Program Resources, this seems to be a season for change.

You may have already noticed that the annual “Sampler” is on hold for now: they are switching to a new vendor, so perhaps it will become available again in the future. The Prayer Guide (formerly the Prayer Calendar), Program Resource (formerly the Program Book), the Mission u Curricula and much more are available through the **e-store**. If you have difficulty with orders, try calling the direct number (972-905-0827) or FAX (214-528-2288) your order- if anyone still uses FAX.

Many resources are also available digitally, so that you can access them on your computer, tablet or phone. When receiving resources digitally, you will automatically be part of a community of United Methodist Women members who are engaged with the same content. For \$10/year you can subscribe to the digital version of our 2022 Program Resource at **UMW Digital Resources**. Once you’ve signed up for a membership plan, you will not only have access to resources, but can connect with others, join virtual events and take part in online discussions. By fall additional innovative subscription plans and resources will be offered. I’m sure they will be exciting and informative.

The second scripture that comes to mind is John 8:32- “...you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” UMW Resources have historically offered and still do offer reliable insight and information that is difficult to find elsewhere.

*Response* magazine offers up-to-date information about what is happening within the organization generally and shares insight into what individual United Methodist Women and UMW units are experiencing. It keeps the reader connected spiritually, politically and culturally.

The reading program encourages the reader to delve into the lives and activities of people and cultures with knowledge and understanding that would likely otherwise be unavailable to the average person. It gives us opportunity to see as God’s children those whom the dominant culture calls ‘the other’. With knowledge comes compassion and understanding, and ultimately a recognition of truth. Our society is in dire need of a common truth; without such, freedom slips from our grasp, individually and as a nation.

If you haven’t already, check out the website: [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org). It’s a treasure trove of information.

Blessings, Diane





### Membership Nurture & Outreach Kay Fisher

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## Membership Happenings

I know that you have all been wondering about when we will be going online to fill out the Unit Survey (formerly known as the Census). Unfortunately, we will still be waiting a little bit longer. As we go through the process of re-branding, updating the website is a major undertaking. But according to the Zoom call with other MNO's across the country last night, the new website will be going live soon! A new look, a new logo, new colors, easier navigation are all coming once the website goes live. By the time you receive this issue of The Bridge, you should see a whole new look at [www.unitedmethodistwomen.org](http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org).

Sometime towards the end of April, each unit will be able to go online and report their membership counts for 2021. So if you haven't already, gather those numbers (members at the beginning of the year, members gained, members lost, and final count at the end of 2021). Designate ONE person from your unit to go online and report (last year we had a few units who reported more than once, with different numbers!). I will have Denise send out a special email once the link is available, with complete instructions. There will also be a few questions that will be asked in order to get feedback on programming, use of social media and the internet, the new branding, etc.

I know many of you have been a bit frustrated with moving to this new process, and if you can at least get your membership count turned in to me or your district MNO, we will make sure the information is entered online. Thank you so much for your patience in this process.

PS – if you are on Facebook, be sure to like and follow the United Methodist Women page. [www.facebook.com/UMWomen](https://www.facebook.com/UMWomen) They will be having a special live event on March 1.



### Communication Coordinator Denise Caparula

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Due to United Methodist Women's focus and commitment to Climate Justice, The Bridge is distributed electronically. The Bridge is published 3 times a year: March, June, and September.

**Please forward copies** of this newsletter and post publicly to share with those who are interested.

Newsletter questions or contributions: [igrumwbridge@gmail.com](mailto:igrumwbridge@gmail.com)

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The newsletter of IGRC United Methodist Women  
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255 W 2nd St  
Manteno, IL 60950



Please feel free to make copies of this newsletter - either individual pages, or the complete issue - for others in your districts and units who would be interested in the information!

### Upcoming Important Dates!

- September 1: Registration opens for Assembly 2022
- October 1: IGRC United Methodist Women Leadership Team
- October 2: IGRC United Methodist Women Annual Gathering
- Maty 20-22, 2022: Assembly 2022!

Please watch your District newsletters for District event dates!

