

LAKESIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LAKESIDE LANTERN
SHARING THE GRACE OF GOD IN OUR 62ND YEAR

APRIL

Women's agency hits refresh, expands welcome

By Jim Patterson

March 17, 2022 | UM News

United Women in Faith is the new name of the organization for women in The United Methodist Church.



**United
Women
in Faith**

The name change that's transformed "United Methodist Women" into "[United Women in Faith](#)" was [announced](#) the same day word came that General Conference was being delayed again, this time until 2024.

That timing overshadowed the changes to this 153-year-old organization, which go deeper than a new name.

"Changing the name was not our starting place," said Sally Vonner, transformation officer of United Women in Faith. "The research process was more about our own self-examination. How do we present to women in the church and even women beyond the church? It was always about being inclusive."

Sally Vonner and Harriett Jane Olson, top executive of the agency that works to connect and nurture women to inspire and impact their communities, answered questions about the changes during a Zoom meeting with United Methodist News. Answers have been edited for brevity and clarity.

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Women's agency hits refresh, expands welcome-continued

Does General Conference have to approve your new name before it becomes official?

Olson: No. We're going to remain United Methodist Women as our corporate name. United Women in Faith will be a doing-business-as name. We're not changing the purpose or how the deaconesses act or our governing structure, and those are the things for us that are in the (Book of) Discipline. There's no necessary disciplinary changes to effectuate this.

Does the deletion of "Methodist" from the agency name indicate you will be trying to attract women who aren't United Methodist, similar to ecumenical organizations like [Church Women United](#)?

Olson: That was not the intention. I will say, though, that the bylaws have always allowed persons outside the church to be members. We have a handful of Roman Catholic members and women from other Protestant traditions. ... There are churches that don't have women's organizations, so for women who are looking to connect with other faithful women, deepen their faith and put their faith into action, United Women in Faith will be available.

Do you have specific goals in connection with this change, like attracting a certain amount of new members?

Vonner: We didn't think so much about a number that we're aiming for. For me, it's looking at all the things that we're doing and asking, is it going to sustain us for the next generation? ... We're trusting that we are laying groundwork to grow and to sustain those coming after us, just like we're living off of what our foremothers put into our hands.



Harriett Jane Olson gives closing remarks at the United Methodist Women Assembly 2018 in Columbus, Ohio. Olson is top executive of the organization for women in The United Methodist Church, now known as United Women in Faith. File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.



Women's agency hits refresh, expands welcome-continued

How long has the rebranding been in development?

Vonner: We've been at it for over five years. It began when we were constantly hearing from members, "Help us get new members." We began research, starting with a communication audit. With each phase of research, we were learning something new about ourselves and then testing that out to leaders and members and getting feedback to see if we were on track with the assumptions and the conclusions that we were drawing from research. That would often lead us to additional questions. Five years have passed, but the shifts we needed to make became clearer and clearer as that process unfolded.

What are some of the questions you asked?

Olson: What do women spend time and money on? What needs are driving how women spend time and money, especially when it's for themselves? In what kind of setting are women looking to form relationships and friendships?

Vonner: What are women looking for in a faith-based organization? What's most important to women? How do women want to give? We have a particular model in which our members engage in pledges and other means of mission-giving. Is that process still relevant today?

What are some of the important changes aside from the name?

Olson: There will be more ways to join United Women in Faith and more complimentary digital access to some of the resources that were just printed materials before. The new digital component will allow people to compare notes, maybe meet some of the authors and they can share online resources, video links, music and other things to animate the programs. One of the things we've said for a long time is it's about connecting the faith and the action. ... So the new [Mission u](#) resource brings those things together and says, "You cannot look at the Bible and not see the social justice questions that are raised."

Sally Vonner is transformation officer of United Women in Faith. Photo © Janet Joyner.com.



Women's agency hits refresh, expands welcome-continued

Vonner: One of the needs that we found out in the research is to connect with other women. ... So we came up with this concept of [SOUL Care Retreats](#). The way it was set up was a United Methodist member had to invite at least two other friends who were not part of United Methodist Women, and we had a gathering. We are now building on those pilots and going to have templates that members can use to create a similar kind of event in their context, as a means of reaching women who aren't necessarily a part of their unit right now. We've continued to come up with new newsletters and e-newsletters.

Recruiting members is one of your stated priorities. Is that driving a lot of these changes?

Olson: That's very foundational. We want to make sure that women in the church really do feel invited. That's missional for us. On a parallel track, as the conversations (about the future of the church took place), we had inquiries from women who were in settings where their churches were talking about leaving, both progressive women and women in places that might be called traditional. "We want to stay connected and how would that work?" What would change in the church mean for them?

There are now two ways to be a member — locally at a church or the national model of [All Access Membership](#). What's the purpose of that?

Olson: We were looking for an opportunity that would allow our current members to do the things that are meaningful to them and also open the door to new members. The national membership model, alongside the local unit membership model, is a way to make that happen, because they're different doorways into the same structure.



Joni Lincoln (center) of the Upper New York Conference joins other United Methodist Women in a rally for a fair living wage on the steps of the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus during the United Methodist Women Assembly 2018. Going forward, the organization will be known as United Women in Faith. File photo by Mike DuBose, UM News.

Women's agency hits refresh, expands welcome-continued

Are you hoping that women in churches who move to the Global Methodist Church will remain involved with United Women in Faith?

Vonner: We hope that they could still see themselves connected to us as United Women in Faith. We feel that faith is our anchor of the sisterhood and what calls us into relationship with God, but also relationship in terms of living out that faith. Issues impacting women, children and youth are still important now, as they've always been since this organization began in 1869. That hasn't shifted. If that's where their heart and passion is continuing to engage, then they certainly are welcome.

Patterson is a UM News reporter in Nashville, Tennessee. Contact him at 615-742-5470 or newsdesk@umcom.org.

Lenten Bible Study will continue on Wednesdays, April 6th & 13th at 6 pm.

United Methodists often take the Lenten season to grow and strengthen their faith, spending time reflecting on what it means to be a follower of Christ.

Our Lenten Bible Study will be on Wednesday, March 9th at 6pm.

"The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer"

"The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer," a new book by United Methodist pastor and popular author Adam Hamilton, guides the reader to better understand prayer that Jesus taught us to pray. By exploring the lines and their meanings, we take a look at what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves while learning how to use the Lord's Prayer as a pattern for our own prayer life.

Matthew Meals

Matthew Meals will be on hold for a while. Our kitchen renovation plans will be starting soon. We regret that we will be discontinuing the Matthew Meals Program until the kitchen is finished. We will announce when it will start up again after everything is complete and inspected.

Lakeside Family and Friends,

We hope you all are safe and well.

As you know there are several variants of the COVID-19 virus presenting themselves all over the country. Even though some of them are not as harmful to us, they do spread more easily. Those who have been vaccinated/boosted are able to catch these viruses just as easy as those who are not vaccinated. Please follow the guidelines that we have been asked to follow from the beginning of all of this. Wash your hands frequently, wear a mask in crowded areas, social distance yourself whenever possible, not just for your health & safety, but for the health & safety of those around you.

We are having in person worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

We are observing facial covering and sanitizing guidelines from the CDC and the UM Conference. We want to see smiling faces in worship even if it is behind a mask. We love you all and want us to be safe and together again in God's House.

On Sunday morning we will be live streaming the service on our website.

www.lakesideumchurch.org and on youtube for those of you who do not feel comfortable meeting in person.

We will take prayer requests and special needs through the office via phone (561-585-7519) or email lumc_lw@bellsouth.net.

We encourage you to continue with your giving through your tithes and offerings. Keeping our campus functional and the mission and ministry that we currently support to be maintained; We hope you prayerfully consider supporting the amazing ministry Lakeside UMC is known for. As this situation continues it will have a lasting effect on our community and we want to be the refuge so many will seek.

God is firmly in control and we are confident we will weather this storm together and be stronger in our faith for it.

Book Club 2022 Selections

Book Club will be on Zoom again. We hope YOU will be ready to join us on APRIL 18TH at Noon.

Here we go again ... COVID-19 concerns.

We thought it would be safe to meet together at Lakeside in the library. Some are having reservations about that and want to Zoom again this month.

Please watch your emails for our final decision. If you do not have email then call the church office if you are not sure where we are meeting as we get closer to the date.

Book Club List for 2022.

APRIL 18: Defending Jacob by William Landay. Joyce Gooding, leader

MAY 16: That Summer by Jennifer Weiner. Cecilia Broadwater, leader.

JUNE 20: A Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers. Clare Shore, leader.

JULY 18: On the Rez by Ian Frazier. Janet Lane, leader.

AUGUST 15: Eternal by Lisa Scottoline. Betty McMurchy, leader.

SEPTEMBER 19: Title not chosen yet. D'ette Mathews, leader.

OCTOBER 17: Hornet Flight by Ken Follett. Anne McCartney, leader.

NOVEMBER 21: selection of books for 2023

DECEMBER 19(?): Christmas Luncheon. Location to be determined closer to the event.

Glory to God! He is Risen! Hallelujah!

LENTEN AND EASTER OFFERINGS

The following are the Lenten and Easter offering recipients.

Please pray for God's direction as you give generously.

Holy Thursday- Annual Conference Offering

Lenten Offering – C.R.O.S. Ministries

Easter Service- General Fund

United Methodist Women News

There have been so many changes in our lives during the past few months that sometimes fear, frustration and anxiety can creep in on us. We need to remember Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Find a quiet place to pause and listen for God's voice (from the Upper Room).

The Bookworms Circle and Susanna Wesley Circles won't meet until whenever we can resume meeting at the church. Members will be notified of the next meeting and the meeting schedule will be discussed at that time. The book club that meets at Lakeside has had several zoom meeting for their book reviews. We do not plan to issue a new yearbook now so please use the current one for phone numbers.

Barbara, our Treasurer, has sent our pledge money to the district. Payment of our district pledge is one of the requirements for the Mission Today award. Our pledges also support many local and national projects. Even though the district payment has been made please consider completing your pledge for this year if you haven't done so. You might also consider giving an amount equal to the cost of a ticket to our luncheon that we were unable to hold this year. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. They can be sent to the church (1901 12 Ave. South, Lake Worth FL 33461) attention Barbara Russum/UMW.

When we do meet to make plans for a new year, we need to consider the following: What can we do to make a difference? How can we improve what we do? Your suggestions and comments would be appreciated.

Nancy Gettys, President
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HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, April 10th, Worship at 10 AM.

Holy Thursday, April 14th, Worship at 7 PM.

Easter Sunday, April 17th, Worship at 10 AM

Church and Mission giving– Our giving has to be modified to accommodate the reality that not all of us are comfortable gathering in person to worship right now. Electronic giving through PayPal is the best way of giving from home. Many of you are already on our giving platform. If you are not giving electronically, this would be a good time to think about it. You can click on the giving option on our website at lakesideumchurch.org under the GIVING banner

If you prefer to make your gifts by check, you can mail it to:

Lakeside UMC
1901 12th Avenue S.
Lake Worth, FL 33461

2022 Non-Lilies for Easter

In lieu of purchasing a lily plant to decorate the Sanctuary, please consider making a donation to one of the three ministries listed. Simply fill out the form below by choosing "in honor of" OR "in memory of", write the name(s) of the individual(s), designate your choice of fund, and attach your donation. You may use more than one form, if needed. The names of the donors and the honorees will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. Last date to turn in forms and money is Sunday, April 10th.

DONOR NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

AMOUNT (will not be printed in the bulletin) \$ _____

TO BE USED FOR: (circle one)

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief)

FL UM Children's Home

Lakeside United
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David Branson, Pastor

Newsletter Editor:

Carolyn Ludwig

**We have a Place for
You!**

Don't see your
April birthday
listed?
Please let us
know.
Happy Birthday!



April Birthdays

- 4 Vincent Manna
- 6 Charlotte Holloway
- 7 Marlene Simmons
Kyauna Salter
- 13 Lori Kimmey
- 14 Bonnie Keene
- 19 Anthony Grispino
- 25 Sharon Weissbach
- 30 Mary Lou Brenenstuhl
Bonnie Malone
Karen Boothe

Lakeside United Methodist Mission Statement

Sharing the grace of God through: Worship,
Sacraments, Fellowship, Prayer, Study,
Service, Witness, and Love.

Vision Statement

Be a welcoming church reaching people with
God's love within our community
and beyond.



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FOOD PANTRY MINISTRY

**THE CROS FOOD PANTRY IS ON THE 1ST, AND 3RD THURSDAY
OF EACH MONTH IN THE AFTERNOON.**

Remember all you need to bring is a picture ID and something with your current address on it. The next Food Pantries will be on Thursdays, April 7th and 21st from 4 – 6 PM. We will be partnering with CROS Ministries, who will be bringing the food to pass out from their truck.

At this writing they will still be coming to give out already bagged food to people. Because the Pantry is held outside on the porch if it is raining they do not come.