

Mountain Sky Nominations Report

Members will be voting on new and returning officers for the Mountain Sky United Women in Faith Leadership Team at the Annual Gathering on October 13 & 14 in Billings, MT and on Zoom. The vacant positions are: President, Treasurer, Membership Nurture and Outreach, Education & Interpretation, Program Resources, Communications, Spiritual Growth, Director, Mission u Dean, and Nominations (Big Horn Dist., Mile High Dist., Trinity Dist., and Western Mtns Dist.) If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, you may do so during the voting process at the Annual Gathering. Here are the women running for offices.

Robin Ball - President & UW in Faith Delegate

My first experience of mission work was with my grandmother and mother as they supported local, regional and international missions through Women's Society of Christian Service and then United Methodist Women. This was the beginning of my education about the world. And how we can effect change and offer mercy to the most vulnerable, especially women and children. Over time I discerned my call to mission as supporting and promoting the mission work of United Women in Faith and the United Methodist Church. During my time with United Women in Faith I have held these offices in my journey to support mission work:

Local — Education & Interpretation, Treasurer and President

District – Nominations, Treasurer and President

Conference – Mission u Dean, Treasurer

What do I see for 2024?

Assess the effectiveness of the current district configuration for United Women in Faith and Mtn Sky Conference of UMC. If a change is needed, what would be more beneficial for our districts.

Activate the Membership Committee as part of our efforts to support current members and reach out to share our story of faith, sisterhood and justice to other women

Thank you for your support of our great organization of women committed to their faith.



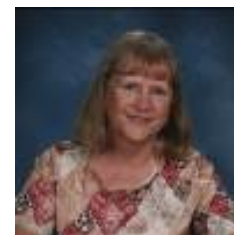
Connie Pittenger - Treasurer



Although I have been a member of the Montrose, CO, Unit since 1984 when I moved to Montrose, I didn't become really active until I retired from being a Speech/Language Pathologist in 2007. Since 2007, I have served as the Unit Social Action Coordinator many times, the Unit Vice President for 2 years, and as the Unit President for 8 years. In Spring, 2017, I attended a Next Steps Leadership meeting in Cedaredge, CO, and learned about an opening for the District Treasurer. I told the District Nomination Committee person that I had never been the Treasurer of my Unit but I had been the Treasurer for other organizations and that I was good with details. That fall, I was elected to serve as the UT/Western CO District Treasurer and have served in that position since that time. During my tenure as the District Treasurer, I have learned some of the basics of QuickBooks and have been an active participant in the UT/Western CO District Team.

Karen Waldron - Membership, Nurture & Outreach

Karen Waldron is finishing her 4th year as Unit President for Fort Collins First United Women in Faith. She is also currently serving as Co-Chair of Nominations for the Peaks Pikes Peak District, before which she served as District Treasurer and District Spiritual Growth Coordinator. Currently retired, Karen served 6 years as the Business Manager for Fort Collins First UMC. Prior to that, she was a Software Solution Architect for FileNet Corporation, Software Developer for StarTel Corporation, and kept the books for the business she owned with her husband for 30 years. Karen has five grown children, including two step-children, nine grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. She loves spending time with grandchildren, volunteering at and through the church, traveling and enjoys reading mystery novels and books on the United Women in Faith reading program.



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Nomination continued

Michaele Ann Buell-McFeeters - Education and Interpretation Coordinator



Michaele Ann was born in Bentonville, Arkansas (home of Walmart) and graduated high school there. She attended college at Cottey College, University of Central Arkansas, University of Arkansas, University of Central Missouri, and taught in the public schools, grades 2 and 4, and at John Brown University, Southern Illinois University and NW Arkansas Community College in the areas of Education and Geography. She has been a member of many environmental and conservation groups as well as professional organizations. Michaele Ann is an active P.E.O.

Michaele Ann grew up in the Disciples of Christ Christian Church where she was a member the major part of her life until she and her husband moved permanently to Trinidad, Colorado in 2015 where both are now retired.

We began attending the Methodist Church-Bob is a Methodist-and I found a new church home. Pat Minton invited me to my first Mission u in Colorado Springs and I have been "hooked" on UMW ever since. I have served in several offices at the district level including MN&O, Chair of Nominations, and Social Action Coordinator. I have always loved attending the conference and Mission u meetings and connecting with people from all over. I am really looking forward to being a part of the Conference Team (something I have wanted to do for years) and hope to be able to contribute to the work of the United Women in Faith!

Mary Ann Tabor - Secretary of Program Resources

I am retired from the State of Colorado (office manager at a community college) and am blessed always by my three adult children and the world's most precious little granddaughter, now age 9. I have been active in United Women in Faith (formerly UMW) for many years, serving on local, district, and conference levels, most recently as Social Justice and Action Coordinator. Now I look forward to spreading the word about the all the wonderful books in our Reading Program.



Linda Cockett - Communications Coordinator



Linda Cockett currently lives in Torrington, WY. She is married and has one child. She is the Executive Director of Goshen County Senior Friendship Center which encompasses five senior centers throughout the county. She is also heavily involved in church and United Women in Faith activities. She is a cradle Methodist and truly believes in all aspects of the Wesleyan Quadrilateral, especially the emphasis on Reason. She loves that her church encourages her

to think! She is always grateful for all the mentoring and love she has received from her sisters in United Women in Faith.

Denise Logan - Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Hi, I am Denise Logan. I am a member of the First United Methodist Church of Rocky Ford, Colorado. My husband, Ray, and I have lived in Rocky Ford since our marriage 45 years ago. We have one son, Mitch. He and his wife Rachel live in Rye, Colorado. We have a dog named Izzy and a cat named Pongo who are very spoiled.

I am a certified lay servant and a Sunday School teacher. During my 40 plus year membership at the church I have taught several different age groups of Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School, directed the children's choir, helped with youth group and been a member of the adult choir. I have also been a member of the United Methodist Women, now United Women In Faith since my early days with the church. I am currently the Treasurer of our local unit and the Spiritual Growth Coordinator of the Trinity District. Most recently I was a co-instructor for Mission U.

I am honored to be considered for the position of Conference United Women in Faith Spiritual Growth Coordinator.



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Nomination continued

Teresa Rivera - Committee of Nominations - UW in Faith Voting Delegate



At our local church I have served as our unit's secretary on the UMW Board, the coordinator for Program Resources and the Reading Program. I am currently the chair of Hilltop UMC's Church Council and have been on the Leadership, Selection and Development Committee, Finance Committee, Staff Parish Committee and the Worship Committee for our church. I spent many years playing handbells and enjoyed being part of the Gospel choir. I am currently the secretary for the Hilltop Gospel Choir Board.

I love to spend time watching my grandson and love to garden. I travel between Utah and Washington state to be with family in both states. I also volunteer at the Salt Lake County State Health Insurance Program and a hospital in Vancouver. I look forward to serve where I can make a difference!

Pat Blasi - Committee on Nominations (Trinity District)

Raised on an eastern Nebraska farm and graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan with a major in Physical Science, minors in mathematics and music. Pat taught for over 40 years, probably some of her most memorable years was 3 years in Kanpur India as a short-term missionary for the Methodist Church. Pat returned and went to Los Alamos, New Mexico and taught for 3½ years where she met her husband Ed. They were blessed with 51½ years of marriage and four children. Pat lost Ed during the pandemic years in 2020. A lifetime member of the church and some form of United Women in Faith for most of her life. She has formerly served on Nominations for our Conference team and was Dean of Missions for the Conference 2012-2016. She has served as the Trinity District's Representation on the Nomination Committee for the Conference for the past two years.



Belinda Alkula - Mission u Dean



Belinda Alkula is married to the Rev. Dr. Charles Alkula, current pastor of the Boulder St. Paul's UMC. She serves as that church's lay member to annual conference. She has served in a variety of United Methodist Women's officer roles in the Legacy Yellowstone Conference UMW: Local unit president; District nominations committee member, vice president, spiritual growth/membership coordinator. And she has served in the Mountain Sky Conference (MSC) UMW, as the spiritual growth mission coordinator. In 2022, she began service as the assistant dean of the MSC Cooperative Mission u.

Hamu Chigwada - UW in Faith Director

I balance my work in the insurance industry with my commitment to family and United Women in Faith. I immigrated from Zimbabwe to the U.S. in 2006 to attend graduate school in Milwaukee and I graduated with a Master's degree in statistics. Later I received MBA from U of Colorado in risk management and insurance. I am president at the Green Mountain UWF and serve as the secretary of the Western Jurisdiction UWF leadership team. I previously served as communications and social action coordinator for the UWF Mile High Metro District and was a member for the Charter for Racial Justice for the Rocky Mountain Conference. UWF has given me a chance to grow spiritually, and I've learned to serve in many ways. I have met many great women over the years and continue to grow through the many UWF events. I look forward to serving and doing all I can to grow spiritually in the years to come. When I am not working, I enjoy spending time with my husband, my 25-year-old daughter, my mother, and my two-year-old son.



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Nomination continued

Peg Plimpton - Committee of Nominations (Western Mountains District)



WSCS, UMW, and UWF have been part of my life since I was 25. When our family of four, including two daughters, moved to Grove City Ohio, the Welcome Wagon visitor TOLD me that she would pick me up for Circle "next Thursday" and that was that. In the years since then I have held every office but Treasurer, and loved most of these moments.

Currently I serve as Secretary to the Missoula FUMC UWF unit and enjoy a much calmer life than that of a young mother and "Church Lady." Life is rich and includes volunteering to help families find housing in Missoula, Scouting Coordinator and Trustee of First UMC, fandom for the Ohio State Buckeyes and Montana Grizzlies, walks with a terminally friendly dog along the river bank and various yarn and needlework projects. God has been good.

Deborah Bondie - Committee of Nominations (Mile High Metro District)

I was born in August 1953 in Southern Illinois. My family moved to Michigan about the time I started Junior High School. I graduated High school in 1971. Three years later I joined the Navy. Boot camp was in Orlando, Florida at the time. Following Boot camp, I went to Hospital Core School. Then I was sent to San Diego for six months of training to learn to be a pharmacy Technician.



After finishing Pharmacy school, I was sent to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. After spending two years in Hawaii, I was transferred to Vallejo, California. I lived in Vallejo about two years. Then my Navy time was up.

Moving to Connecticut to be with my boyfriend was a journey across the country. I met my husband in California a year before I left the Navy. Bill and I lived in Connecticut for about two years. Bill was in the Navy also. We moved to Denver because Bill became a Navy recruiter.

We have two grown children, Cora and Robert. We have lived in Lakewood, Colorado since 1987. I have been a part of Phillips Church since 1987 and am now the current President of the UW Faith unit.

Jana Jones - UW in Faith Director



Jana Jones currently serves as a National Director to United Women in Faith, representing the Western Jurisdiction and the Mountain Sky Conference. She is chair of the UW Faith Reading Program committee and a member of Planning and Assessment committee. As part of her role as a United Women in Faith Director, she represents UW Faith as a director on the General Board of Global Ministries on the UMCOR/Global Health committee. Jana also serves as the chair for the Mountain Sky Conference Abundant Health Team, part of Mission Engage-

ment.

Jana is an active member at Smoky Hill United Methodist Church in Centennial Colorado, serving on the Missions team, Abundant Health team, Worship team and Choir as well as being the communications coordinator for her local UWF unit at Smoky Hill. Jana is a retired pediatric nurse who has worked in hospital in-patient settings and as a school nurse consultant.

Janet Ulrich - UW in Faith Director (alternate)

Janet serves as the President of the Western Mountains District. She hails from Alaska where she served as President of the Alaska Conference. Her organization and willingness to serve in any capacity is greatly appreciated

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Cheryl Runyon - UW in Faith Delegate



Cheryl Runyon is a member of Mountain View UMC in Boulder, CO. She is a member of the Mountain View United Women in Faith unit and has served as co-president of the unit. Cheryl is a member of the Wesley Annes circle, Women of the Word and Strangers as Neighbors small groups, and the Books at Lunch Bunch. She is the unit Education and Interpretation coordinator and assists with the Reading Program.

She currently serves as the Vice-President of the Mountain Sky Conference (CO, MT, UT, WY) of United Women in Faith. Cheryl previously served as Vice-President of the Peaks Pikes Peak District in the Mountain Sky Conference and Social Action and Education and Interpretation Coordinator for the Peaks and Plains District of the Rocky Mountain Conference of UMW. She also recently reviewed books under future consideration for the UWFAith Reading Program.

Cheryl and her husband, Gary Schmitz, will celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary in 2023. Gary and Cheryl are the proud parents of a son, Ryan, who resides in El Paso, TX, and works for the Locomotives, a minor league soccer team. The family are fans of baseball (St. Louis Cardinals and those poor Colorado Rockies), football (Broncos), and basketball at the University of Colorado. We have learned a great deal about soccer in the past few years.

Cheryl is a native of southern Illinois and attended college at Eastern Illinois University and law school at Southern Illinois University. Her focus as an undergraduate was zoology and political science and she had a concentration in environmental and energy law in law school. She is a retired member of the bar in Illinois and Colorado. Cheryl worked for the Illinois General Assembly, served as a staff attorney for the Illinois Supreme Court, and worked for the National Conference of State Legislatures in the areas of energy, science, and natural resources. Cheryl has researched and written several books and reports for state legislators and staff about low-level radioactive waste, wetlands protection, and emergency management, as well as drafting model legislation for consideration by state legislatures. She also worked for Boulder County in the Safeguard program explaining the legal system to school children and as the Medical Reserve Corps coordinator for natural and man-made disasters.

Cheryl has contributed articles to a business newspaper in Nebraska, as well as to her local church and UMW and UWFAith newsletters. She currently substitutes at the Boulder Public Library and thoroughly enjoys discussing good books with all readers.

As part of her personal mission work, Cheryl knits and donates scarves for former foster children (Red Scarf Project), hats for local non-profits through Community Knitting, and hats, scarves, and dishcloths for Christmas shoe boxes for Native American elders in South Dakota (One Nation Walking Together).

Janet Ulrich - UW in Faith Director (alternate)

I grew up in Idaho and Montana, graduating from Flathead High School, in Kalispell, and Montana State University in Bozeman, with a degree in accounting. I began my career in Helena, with the Federal Highway administration. Then moving to Baltimore and next to Alaska. I lived in Anchorage for over 35 years, retiring from the Federal Aviation Administration in 2016. I returned to Kalispell shortly after retiring.

My mother and grandmother are/were United Methodist Women, so it was natural for me to join UMW when I established my membership in Alaska. I was immediately recruited as treasurer, and served in many local, conference, regional school, and jurisdiction positions, from the committee on nominations, to president. The Alaska Conference does not have districts, so I am now beginning tenure in district positions, starting with Program Resources, as I love the Reading Program! I have been District president for the past four years. I am currently treasurer of my local UMW, and my mother is the local Program Resources chair!

Hobbies include sewing, latch hook rugs, traveling, reading, canning, cross stitch, playing Bridge, and visiting family and friends! I enjoy hiking, being a life member of Volkssports, a non-competitive sports organization. I attended the national Volkssports convention in 2017, as it was held in Billings, and I figured I would never be closer to the convention site! I did my first bike event there, as well as 3 hikes and 3 swim events!

My parents returned to Kalispell full time in 2017, and we help each other with various activities. We have a tree farm south of Kalispell and we spend time up there, cutting firewood and pruning trees. I tried to learn as much as possible from my dad about managing the tree farm, before he passed away two years ago!

