

Manchester United Methodist Women
Zoom Meeting Minutes April 17, 2021

Attendees: Chair Pam Myers, Sallie Anderson, Carol Boone, Anne Marie Hanna, Jody Sharrow, and Sherry Wagenknecht, Heritage District UMW president.

Pam called the meeting to order at 10 AM with prayer.

Heritage District UMW President – Pam introduced our guest Sherry Wagenknecht, the president of the Heritage District UMW.

Frances Willard Video – We then watched a video about Frances Willard, who was the president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (which would later become UMW) for 19 years. Frances was an early voice for women's rights. Frances was actually elected to the United Methodist General Conference before women could be elected to the conference. Her influence help secure the passage of the 18th and 19th amendments (prohibition and women's suffrage). This faithful Methodist was the first woman honored with a place in the National Statuary Hall of the U.S. capitol. The narrator said, "Frances Willard embodies that Wesleyan sense of practical divinity – that you don't just go to church to hear a religious message, but the religious message you hear changes not only your life but changes the life of the world around you."

Sherry then told her story. She had worked as a spiritual growth leader. In 2005 after Hurricane Katrina, Sherry joined a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) group that went down to Biloxi, Mississippi to help. Inspired to help more, Sherry joined lay servant training and continued learning how to lead. She believes serving is not always easy, but God equips us for service. As many others have, UMW has had to learn how to reach out during this time of social distancing. Last year's UMW annual meeting via Zoom has 84 attendees. Saline UMC will host the 2021 UMW annual meeting which will also have a Zoom option. Sherry encouraged us to look into the MissionU in-person and Zoom events. She added that the District UMW team is looking for people to become involved especially in the following committees: spiritual growth, social action, and nominations.

UMW Social Justice Video – We then watched another video that described how UMW is nationally involved in social justice issues and passing on that legacy to their children and grandchildren.

UMW 150 Years of Mission Video – This video celebrates UMW 150 year history. UMW began in Boston in 1869 by a handful of women who raised funds to send Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain to India. As they cared for women there, they trained them to become educators and healthcare providers. This work expanded exponentially and grew to help millions worldwide. Hundreds of dedicated deaconesses and home missionaries serve local communities across the U.S. through their pledge to love, justice and service. Today UMW members are at the forefront of social issues that continue to marginalize women, children and youth and are currently engaged in four

social campaigns: Just Energy for All, Interrupting the School to Prison Pipeline, Living Wage for All, and Ending Maternal Mortality.

Carol Boone mentioned that when she began, it was called the Women's Society of Christian Service. Sherry noted that she has a book that shows the timeline of UMW and how all of the different groups merged to become what is now UMW.

Business – Pam called the business part of the meeting to order at 10:45AM. The minutes from the March meeting were read and approved.

Carol asked about our yearly pledge to missions to the larger UMW organization. Nothing was given in 2020 due to lack of fundraising. Sherry said that Mission pledges weren't actually due until October 30 so we still have time. Ideas for fundraising safely during the pandemic were discussed. It was suggested we could ask people to think about how much they would normally spend on the Salad Smorgasbord and Christmas in the Village and ask them to donate that amount. A virtual Bake Sale was also suggested. UMW members could offer items (baked goods, food) and people could sign up to purchase or bid on these items. Then the baker and the purchaser could work out delivery. Pam will send a flyer about the Bake Sale to all for comment. We could hold this fundraiser from mid-May to June.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Next meeting is Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 10 AM by Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Sharrow, UMW secretary