



# From the Sierras to the Seas

Issue 1

Cal-Pac North District Newsletter  
United Women in Faith



December 2025

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## Local Leadership Training

*Watch for an email with Zoom training dates in January for all your local unit officers.*

**The North District team will host Zoom sessions for:**

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Coordinators for:
  - Spiritual Growth
  - Mission Education and Interpretation
  - Social Action
  - Membership, Nurture and Outreach
  - Program Resources
  - Communications

**\*\*Send in the Roster on p. 26 as soon as you know your 2026 officers, so they can be part of the training.\*\***

## President

Diane Garner



DREAM IT! The Way Forward

Your North District Leadership Team has a dream and a vision for 2026!

Realizing that the District has its geographic challenges and as it becomes more difficult for our members to drive long distances, the members of the North District Leadership Team will be available to you at YOUR location or in a cluster setting of nearby UWFaith local units.

In the weeks ahead, a list of programs/topics will be shared that will be available for your unit's programming needs. The goal is to not only broaden  
Continued on p.2

Continued from p.1  
understanding of various topics within the framework of United Women in Faith, but also to become better acquainted with what is happening in our District and to create connections among the women of North District.

We will still gather as a District for our Annual Celebration in September at a location still to be determined. WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SERVE AS A HOST CHURCH in September, 2026.

Your Leadership Team will also be working to create a Soul Care

Retreat that will be offered in various geographic locations in a cluster setting so we can not only nurture our souls, but also experience the fellowship of others which is one of the hallmarks of United Women in Faith.

Pray for us as we move in this new direction for North District.

Dreaming it!  
Diane Garner  
District President

### *Team Visit*

On September 11, District team members Megan Pinnock and Rosalie Niemann traveled



to Trinity United Methodist Church at the invitation of the Los Osos UWFaith. Rosalie and I (Megan) represented the North District UWFaith leadership team as member and chair of the nominations committee, respectively.

Arriving around Noon, we were warmly greeted by Los Osos  
Continued on p.4



United  
Women  
in Faith

#### **Mission**

*The Mission of United Women in Faith is to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.*

#### **Vision**

*The Vision of United Women in Faith is a world in which women, children, and youth can thrive and reach their fullest potential.*

#### **Purpose**

*The Purpose of United Women in Faith is to 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.*

# North District United Women in Faith Leadership Team

## 2025–2026

### *President:*

**Diane Garner**

4817 Avedon Rd  
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Home Church: Pasadena First UMC



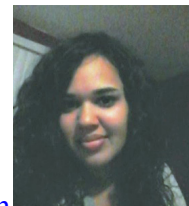
### *Treasurer:*

**Amber Hedges**

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Home Church: Scott UMC



### *Program Resources Coordinator:*

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### *Secretary:*

**Ruth Dempsey**

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Home Church: Simi Valley UMC



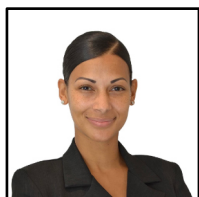
### *Vice President:*

**DeeAnna Duncans**

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Home Church: Sherman Oaks UMC.



### *Membership, Nurture & Outreach (MNO)*

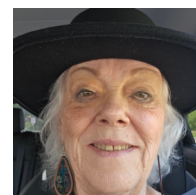
#### *Co-Coordinators:*

**Debi Bates**

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### *Communications Coordinator:*

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Home Church: Burbank First UMC

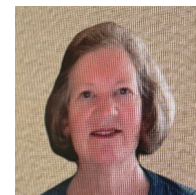


**Carolyn Harrington**

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Home Church: Camarillo UMC



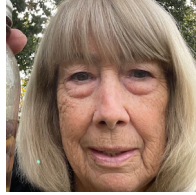
***Spiritual Growth Coordinator***

**Crystal Ward**

1856 Sinaloa Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91104  
(626)–354–9411

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Home Church: Pasadena First UMC



**Committee on Nominations Member:**

***Class of 2029***

**Labarbara Madison**

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Altadena, CA 91001  
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Home Church: Scott UMC



***Class of 2028***

**Rosalie Niemann**

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Home Church: Pasadena First UMC

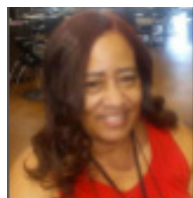


***Class of 2026***

**Lona Seymour (Chaplain)**

15878 Larkspur St, #D205  
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Email: [LRseymour1@gmail.com](mailto:LRseymour1@gmail.com)



***Vacant District Positions***

- ***Social Action Coordinator***
- ***Committee on Nomination, Class of 2027***
- ***Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator***
- ***Limitless Coordinator***
- ***Language Coordinators***  
***Spanish, Korean, Tongan***

Fill in the Gifts and Graces form on p. 27 and contact Labarbara Madison.

Continued from p. 2

president, Alta. We were treated to a very delicious lunch before the meeting. Two women from neighboring units also spoke; Gerry from Arroyo Grande UMC and Melinda from Estero Bay UMC in Morro Bay.

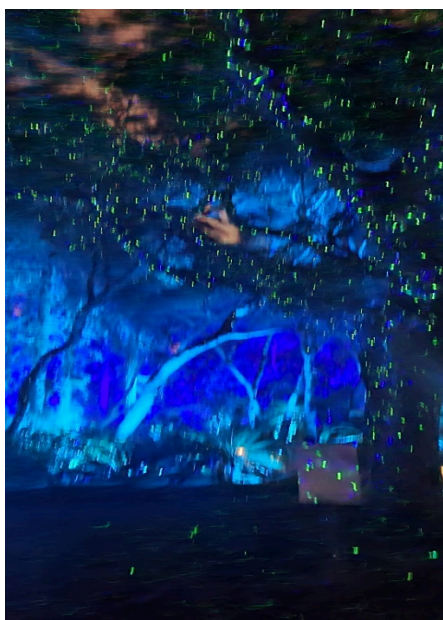
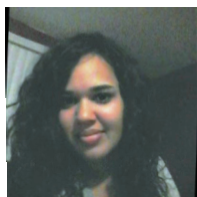
Each local group described ways they have positively influenced their communities. For example, we heard how one group supported families at the community center with a layette. Another event was hosting a Christmas party for Baby Jesus including a luncheon. They held a Mother’s Day Tea and a November boutique. A highlight of Arroyo Grande was their church’s 140th anniversary in October of 2024.

After the opening prayer and introduction, we visitors shared “Our Favorite Things.” Keeping in touch with our local groups is top on our list! Please use our happy experience as a reminder to invite district officers to your meetings. This is one way to qualify as a Mission Today unit. (p. 24, #16)



# Treasurer

A.S. Hedges



*“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*

*Galatians 6:9*

Take time, meditate and read Galatians 6.

Dear Heavenly Father~Thank You! We give thanks for your true mercy!

May your words provide peace; your wisdom provide guidance and your walk give renewal, especially as we are distracted during these times of festivities. BLESSINGS LORD. AMEN!

Greetings to those of Faith; Shalom!

While we begin thinking of gifts for our friends and family, let us remember those who have lost their friends and family and provide prayer. God has gifted us with an abundance of His world; may we strive to give a portion of our amazing gifts to those in need.

The support you provide to United Women in Faith, helps women, children, and youth ALL around the world. There are national missions, such as Henderson Settlement or Gum Moon; international missions like Université Méthodiste au Katanga-Women’s School or Myrtle Social Welfare Network; and direct missions which local units of United Women in Faith assist. See UWFaith.org for a comprehensive list of where your Pledge to Mission is given.

Ensure your subscription to **response** magazine which shines a spotlight on projects supported by United Women in Faith. Let’s make our final 2025 push to mission and fulfill our commitment to give as God has freely given us!

Has your local unit completed 5-Star Giving? Does your local unit qualify for 60/40 recognition? Local Unit Reminder...Yearly Pledge, 2025

End of Year Reports and Remittances are due **November 30** (p. 19-21). Items postmarked after Friday, **December 5** will apply to 2026.

May your holidays be joyous and full of His spirit!

Stay in the know! Review North District’s “From the Sierras to the Seas,” and California-Pacific’s “Pacific Waves” newsletters. (Subscriptions on p. 28.)

Lord’s Love

Make your checks payable to: North District United Women in Faith.

Mail to: A.S. Hedges,  
607 Foothill Blvd #1549  
Flintridge CA 91012



## Assembly

May 15-17, 2026

Indianapolis, Indiana

Sign up now at

<https://assembly.uwfaith.org/ereg/newreg.php?eventid=821058&>

# Secretary

Ruth Dempsey



HELLO to my Sisters in Christ of the North District.

I am Ruth Dempsey, the new Secretary for the North District. I have lived in Simi Valley for 60 years, and have attended the same church for all those years. I have been active in UMW (now United Women in Faith) for most of 55 years.

As a newly married young woman, I attended a night circle. I even attended School of Christian Mission in San Diego while my parents watched my 3- and 5-year-old children. Over the last 40 years, I have attended many years of Mission u. I call it my weekend for Methodist Women. It's a great time of learning about our United Methodist missions sites around the world, studying Social Issues and growing in our Spiritual life. I always look forward to my UWFaith summer weekend experiences.

Twenty plus years ago, I was on the "Santa Barbara District" team (before the name changed to North District) and I held the

position of Mission, Education and Interpretation. And then again about eight years ago, I was Vice President on the same district team, but now it was called North District.

A few weeks ago I was able to attend secretary training via Zoom provided by UWFaith Conference Secretary. I look forward to serving again and doing the best I can as secretary.

One of my responsibilities is to receive from each local UWFaith Unit (from the secretary) the list of newly elected officers (all the officers even if not newly elected) who are elected in December. PLEASE send that list (form on page 26) to me by **December 15**. I am looking forward to meeting and working with the North District United Women in Faith.

With Christ Love,  
Ruth Dempsey  
1130 Wilson Dr  
Simi Valley, CA 93065  
805-501-5874

Greetings!

# Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Crystal Ward



My name is Crystal Ward, your new Spiritual Growth Coordinator, and I am looking forward to serving in this capacity for the North District United Women in Faith.

My journey with UWFaith began in 2015 when a group of (then UMW) women at my church allowed me to bring my six-month-old grandchild to their meetings, with diaper bag, formula, playpen and all. Otherwise, I would not have been able to attend. When he turned a year old, my grandchild went to daycare, and I began to assume some responsibility within that local unit. Eventually I served as President and did so for several  
Continued on page 7

**Take Action Today!**

Connect. Learn. Take Action.

Join us and find more opportunities  
to advocate for Just Energy for All!



[uwfaith.org/climate-justice](http://uwfaith.org/climate-justice)

years. When our church merged with another one, I was nominated for the role of vice president at my new church and am serving in that capacity today.

It was at the North District's Annual Celebration and Quiet Disciple Recognition this past September that I felt called to serve as the Spiritual Growth Coordinator. I felt it so strongly that I almost stood up and nominated myself for that position during the business portion of the meeting. I learned, though, that the protocol was to speak to the members of the Nominations Committee if I desired to serve in any of the vacant positions. So I prayed that, if God wanted me to do this, one of the members mentioned would be sent to me. That was my "fleece" before God. Within minutes I found Labarbara Madison standing before me; I did not seek her out, but there she was, encouraging me as I explained to her what I felt and how I had prayed. Before lunch was over, she had emailed me a copy of the responsibilities of the Spiritual Growth Coordinator. The list was daunting, but I could not ignore the call. I hope you will pray for me as I start on this journey, doing my best to serve you. "The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16b.

Sincerely, Crystal Ward

## Nominations

Labarbara Madison



Good day my sisters in United Women in Faith (UW Faith). This year I come to you representing a new and unfamiliar job in our organization. I presently am a part of the Committee on Nominations or as it was referred to me, a member of CON. I bid farewell to my role as Social Action Coordinator and hello to CON.

I, at the moment, am a novice in this new role. Service is part of what it means to be a Christian and to actively serve God. As a member of CON, I have agreed to staff the District Leadership Team. This involves the task of learning the various roles, committees and duties in United Women in Faith, and reaching out and find other members who would be suitable and interested in taking on leadership positions. My first duty is to familiarize myself with each office and the duties expected. Secondly to find potential members to fill the position. (See p. 4 Vacant District Positions.)

Hopefully, this will be a pleasant assignment for me and I pray with God's help, I will

successfully complete this new assignment. November is a season of thanksgiving and December is a time of giving. May you be filled with thanksgiving and look at service as something you can do in thanksgiving to God's never-ending goodness. Until next report, I bid you love and Season Greetings. See you soon.

Labarbara Madison  
labarbara.madison@gmail.com

## Communications

Kim Smith



North District UW Faith had a video made of our Annual Celebration on September 20 at Camarillo United Methodist Church. It includes the speaker, Rev. Joel Hortiales, the Quiet Disciple ceremony, and the installation of our new 2025-2026 district leadership team. If you would like to view it, please contact me at [calpacnorthdistrictumw@gmail.com](mailto:calpacnorthdistrictumw@gmail.com) and I will send the video to you by email.

Be sure to look at the United  
Continued on p. 8

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Women in Faith Shop on the UWFaith.org website. Besides items to purchase, you can download many items for free to use in your units. For example, you can download the 2026 Pledge Service, Assembly flyers and the Growth Campaign Toolkit. There is also the newest Remittance form for your treasurer to use.

UWFaith.org has a wealth of information for units!

## Program Resources

Marilynne Wilander



November is the time when each of us as United Women in Faith members are encouraged to reflect on the many blessings that we have received this year. In gratitude for our blessings, we bring our WORLD THANK OFFERING to our November meeting. This annual World Thank Offering that each unit collects and forwards to the local district is one part of our MISSION GIVING for the year.

One of the many things for which I am thankful is the amazing list of inspiring and entertaining books that Emily Jones and her huge team of volunteers read and recommend to us each year.

In December each year our book club selects between 11 and 13 books that we will read and discuss together. Today our Pasadena FUMC United Women in Faith Book Club was lamenting how challenging it is to choose ONLY 12 books for 2026! WHAT A BLESSING TO HAVE SO MANY CHOICES FOR EACH OF OUR FIVE CATEGORIES. Guess what? We realized that if we want to, we can read more books than those chosen. See the 2026 Reading Catalog at: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=13204> or you can get an Excel spreadsheet with the list of eligible 2021-2026 at: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=11998&catid=2175>

**READING COMPLETION REPORTS: THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT COMPLETION FORMS TO YOUR BOOK LEADER IS DECEMBER 10.**

**LEADERS: Please submit the individual reading completion reports (p. 17) AND the Unit District Reading Report Form to me by December 20 (p. 18).**

You can access the list of ALL eligible books from 2020-2025 by clicking on this link: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12860>

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A BOOK CLUB AT YOUR CHURCH, YOU ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT BOOK FORMS DIRECTLY TO ME:** [marilynnewilander@gmail.com](mailto:marilynnewilander@gmail.com)

**INTERESTING FACT:** Each year I discover something new: If you are a PLAN III or PLAN IV reader, after reading two books from each category, you can submit books from ANY category for your additional books.

**PS:** From Michelle Obama's Book, *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times:* How many of you were surprised to read that a major source of irritation between her parents was which way the toilet paper roll was put on the holder? Michelle shared this story with the explanation that sometimes we need to make accommodations over things that really don't matter. After a year of arguing, her mother realized that there were more important concerns to worry about, and went along with her husband's desire to have the toilet paper hung so that you pulled it from UNDER THE ROLL.





Rosalie Niemann, Women's Auxiliary Vice President



Dear Friends and Members of the Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care,

Let us make a joyful noise! What about? Let us make noise about the wonderful healing of body and spirit that takes place at our USC Arcadia Hospital!

As we gather with old and new friends this time of year, let us share how our predecessors founded the historic group of women who, in 1903 in Los Angeles, saw a need to improve women's health care and founded the Methodist Hospital, now named USC Arcadia Hospital. Since then, there have been many changes, but consistent has been our care for the spiritual welfare of the whole patient.

We invite you to join the Women's Auxiliary for Spiritual Care and to look at the hospital's website at [uscarcadiahospital.org](http://uscarcadiahospital.org)

We are grateful to meet regularly face to face (including Zoom) with hospital executives such as President and CEO Ikenna "Ike" Mmeje, who describes why USC Arcadia has become recognized as one of the best hospitals in Southern California. The president of the hospital foundation, Sandra Chen Lau, also makes time to offer reports of the wonderful support of the foundation that makes advanced technology for specialized treatments possible. Our Cal-Pac United Women in Faith President, Jackie Campbell, serves as a director on the Board of Directors.

Whenever we meet, we are sure to stop at the lovely gift shop which is the main source of revenue for the Auxiliary. The volunteers can be young people, but the more demanding tasks need to be done by adults who can devote two to four hours regularly. We need you! This shop funds the support of the Spiritual Care Department as do our membership dues and gifts. Thank you!

Please contact me if you would like more information about this wonderful Auxiliary. New friends are ready to meet you!

Sincerely,

Rosalie Niemann  
[niemann007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:niemann007@sbcglobal.net)



## *Cal-Pac UW Faith Annual Celebration*

"Being Women of Hope and Action"

On October 18, over 100 United Women in Faith gathered at First United Methodist Church of North Hollywood for the California-Pacific Conference 53rd Annual Celebration.

What is the annual business meeting for the Conference United Women in Faith? The 2025-2026 Conference Leadership Team was elected and installed, and its operating budget was adopted including our commitment of \$110,000 to mission giving.

It was also a time to remember and honor many in our lives through the lighting of the Candle of Commitment. Burning for three hours and 13 minutes, this represented \$3,196.08 given  
Continued on p.13

## *New Social Action Brochure Available*

For more than 155 years, United Women in Faith has been committed to advocating for women, children, and youth — those most overlooked and often most impacted by inequity. Our bold foremothers advocated to improve women’s health, raise women’s status in society, organize for fair wages and benefits for workers and families, and adopt the Charter for Racial Justice.

Our UWFaith social action priorities for the next four years are climate justice and ending mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color.

Order the free Social Action Campaigns brochure to learn more and share with others: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12701&catid=2209>

## *Leadership Development*

Leadership Development Days is taking a pause this year. However, this is not a step back. It is a step forward! We are making room for something new that will better support the

faithful, wise, and unstoppable leadership of our members!

In the meantime, you can continue to grow and lead with the United Women in Faith Digital Leadership Toolkit. It’s easy to access from your computer, tablet, or phone, anytime and anywhere. Here you’ll find helpful resources, practical guidance, inspiration, and recordings of past Leadership Development Days to fuel your unstoppable leadership journey

Additional resources can be found on the Officer Resource page at: <https://uwfaith.org/members-and-leaders/officer-toolkit/>. A collection of important links and information relevant to elected officers can be accessed through the United Women in Faith Members and Leadership portal. You will need to create a free account to log in at: <https://uwfaith.org/members-and-leaders/>

Thank you for all the ways you lead and serve. We at UWFaith.org are excited about the future and grateful to walk alongside you.

## *Food Pantries*

Global Ministries has launched emergency food grants to support U.S. churches and food pantries combating hunger.

To address a growing U.S. hunger crisis, the General Board of Global Ministries is making Feeding Our Neighbors food ministry grants available, offering up to \$2,000 in emergency food funding for United Methodist congregations with food ministries, pantries and ministry partners across the United States. United Methodist Churches seeking to participate in the program can learn more here: [https://umcmmission.org/press-release/supporting-u-s-families-and-communities-facing-food-insecurity?utm\\_source=ALL+DATABASE&utm\\_campaign=8392a9d8f6-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2018\\_08\\_09\\_10\\_26\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_7248078e6c-8392a9d8f6-560631089](https://umcmmission.org/press-release/supporting-u-s-families-and-communities-facing-food-insecurity?utm_source=ALL+DATABASE&utm_campaign=8392a9d8f6-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_08_09_10_26_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7248078e6c-8392a9d8f6-560631089)

Applications are open and will be accepted through **Dec. 15, 2025**.

## *Did You Know?*

**Question: What is the correct abbreviation for United Women in Faith?**

The correct abbreviation is **no** abbreviation: United Women in Faith encourages the use of our **full** name in all instances. However, *if space truly is an issue*, the preferred abbreviation is **UWFaith**.

# ***Boldly Live Your Faith***

Connect to something bigger ...seeking to deepen your faith and spiritual awareness? At our heart and in our soul, we are a faith-driven organization filled with opportunities to nurture yourself and enrich your life:

- Faith Talk broadcasts
- Daily Prayer Guide
- Reading Program
- Soul Care Retreats
- Mission u
- Social Action Studies

For more information, see the UWFaith website: <https://uwfaith.org/members-and-leaders/grow/>

## ***Isabella Thoburn Giving Circle***

Dear Sister in Faith,

God has blessed us to be a blessing to others. **Since 1869, United Women in Faith has been powered by acts of love from women just like you.**

Your support has helped us put love in action for women and children on the margins; spiritually grow and nurture women; equip bold leaders; provide love, justice, and service at home and abroad; and carry out important social action and justice work. **Thank you!**

But there is more work to do and more love to share. This year, we've seen the erasure of jobs, history, and benefits that limit access to needed safety nets, particularly impacting women, children, and other vulnerable groups. United Women in Faith will not be discouraged. **We continue to advocate for justice, putting our hope and love in action, aligning with God's call to be light for the vulnerable, just as one of our foremothers, Isabella Thoburn, did when she set sail for India.** Your Mission Giving dollars support this work.

This bold tradition began in 1869, when eight women in Boston, moved by the plight of their sisters in India, acted. In six months, they raised enough money to send Isabella Thoburn and Dr. Clara Swain to India. **Thoburn boldly launched a women's education program that led to South Asia's first Christian college for women.** What began with six students in 1870 is now Isabella Thoburn College, with 3,500 women enrolled today.

As Thoburn said, **"No people can rise higher as a people than the point to which they educate their women."**

We, at United Women in Faith, will carry that vision forward. **Will you help us by becoming part of our new**

**Isabella Thoburn Giving Circle to further support Mission Giving?** With a monthly \$25 gift, you can help ensure the continuity of vital mission efforts around the world.

**Thank you for all you do to put love in action for a better world.** Remember, we are bold, courageous, and determined United Women in Faith. **Together, we will accomplish mighty acts that future generations will recount.** Please visit us online today and join the Isabella Thoburn Giving Circle at [uwfaith.org/isabella](https://uwfaith.org/isabella)

In deepest gratitude,  
Sally Vonner  
General Secretary and CEO  
United Women in Faith

## ***Roles and Responsibilities***

Learn the details about all the roles in UWFaith: <https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=12513&catid=2196>

**The call to ministry knows no bounds; it is anchored in love, justice, and unwavering service.**

— ELLEN DIZON  
ORDER OF DEACONESS & HOME MISSIONER,  
PINOLE, CALIFORNIA, USA

## Write to response

Did you know you could be in **response** magazine? It's easy. Simply type up a few paragraphs about something your United Women in Faith group has done to show love in action. This could be anything from raising money to support a mission or crafting something to comfort a group in need, to encouraging legislators to work toward the positive changes we talk about within our campaigns concerning anti-racism, climate justice, and ending the school-to-prison pipeline. Even your special programs and Soul Care moments are worthy of sharing with our sisterhood! With about 150-500 words, you could spark a movement or just make someone smile.

Every single issue of **response** features a Bright Lights article, lifting up the work that you do to put love into action!

Share your good news, and remember to attach a photo and caption. The higher the photo resolution, the better it will appear printed in **response**. Also, be sure to include your name, title, and United Women in Faith group name. So, be a Bright Light! Email your shining stories and photos to [response@uwfaith.org](mailto:response@uwfaith.org)



Dear Sisters,  
When we plant a seed, we do so in hope, trusting that, with care, it will grow into something beautiful.

Gratitude works the same way. Each act of thanksgiving we offer, each prayer we speak, and each gift we share is a seed planted in faith — a seed that grows into hope and love shared around the world.

Each day, I take time to pause and recognize the blessings in my life — large and small — and to let that gratitude move me to action.

***Through giving, I carry my blessings forward into my community.*** And similarly, thanks to your generosity, you, too, are a gardener of grace, tending to the needs of others through the work of United Women in Faith!

This year, as our faith community celebrates **World Thank Offering**, we are contemplating how giving cultivates hope. Answers are all around us in every small act of kindness — volunteering at a food pantry, donating toys for

children in need during the holidays, or giving of your time and resources.

**However you give, your offering breathes hope into the world. It reminds us that giving is good for the spirit and that hope is the fruit of gratitude.**

**Would you join me in making a gift in recognition of World Thank Offering?** Your gift will plant seeds of hope that will flourish far beyond what we can imagine.

Thank you for standing with your sisters in faith and putting your love in action! Please give today as an act of gratitude and help United Women in Faith sow hope at home and around the world this season and always.

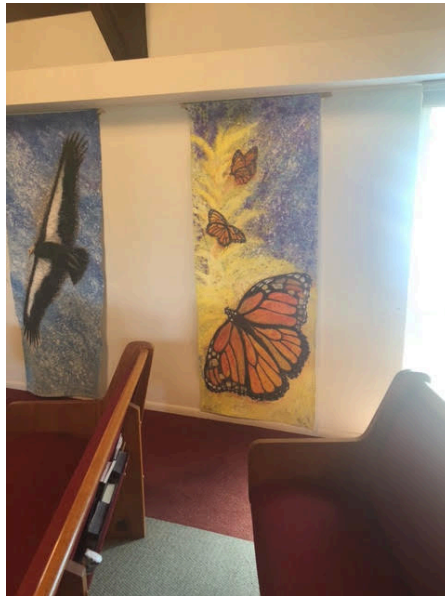
In faith and gratitude,  
Julia Paradine-Rice  
Board Member, National

### ***Free download***

Thank Offering Box (D-I-Y) - English D10466: Download available in Grayscale | Korean | Spanish. You can also order labels to place on any box. (Trilingual)

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10466&catid=2186>





Painting and windows at Trinity Los Osos UMC by Rebecca Ellis, a member of United Women in Faith.

Continued from p. 9  
 toward the Conference Pledge to  
 Mission at \$16.56 per minute..  
 .the per minute cost of operating  
 United Women in Faith  
 nationally.

The Rev. Dr. Krista Givens  
 provided words of hope, women  
 in attendance supported the work  
 of Casa de Vida through the  
 giving of gift cards, and a rousing  
 game of UWFaith Jeopardy  
 revealed how to have competitive  
 fun! Can you list the 25 names of  
 our predecessor organizations?



November 4, 2025  
**For Immediate Release**

*NEW YORK – calls for renewed attention to the climate crisis as it mourns the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa. It released the following statement, which can be attributed Ilka Vega, executive for Economic and Environmental Justice:*

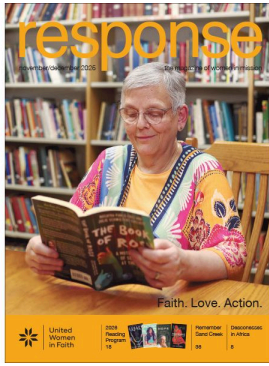
“We are heartbroken to see the devastation wrought by Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica, Haiti, and across the Caribbean. We send our condolences and heartfelt prayers to all those impacted by this tragedy. With over 60 lives known to be lost and many more still missing, the impact of this disaster is unfathomable.

“We are praying with and for our neighbors at Methodist Church in the Caribbean and Americas

(MCCA), part of the North America Area of the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women (WFMUCW), where the region’s president, Dr. Sandra Gadson lives in Jamaica alongside MCCA members. They are our partners in ministry, and we pray for their safety and protection.

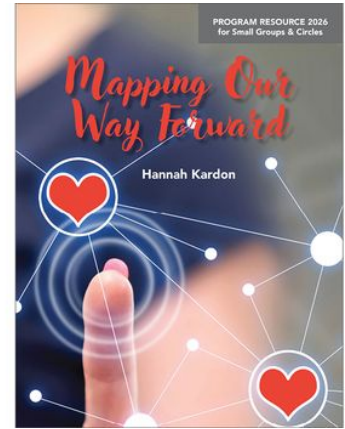
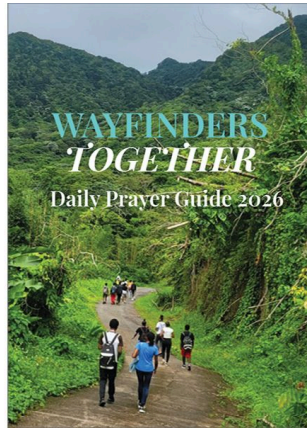
“As these communities mourn and move toward recovery, we urge world leaders to take action so that natural disasters made more destructive by the climate crisis may be diminished. With each passing year, severe weather incidents and disasters are more frequent and severe. We cannot wait. Our leaders must do all they can to address the climate crisis to protect current and future generations. We are asking our members and all others to use the environmental justice resources found on UWFaith.org to join United Women in Faith in action. Those looking to give can support the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

“As people of faith, we mourn with those who mourn, and we hold in our hearts those impacted by this deadly event. We are committed to advocating for community climate resiliency, renewable energy, and just policies that alleviate and remedy the worst effects of climate emergencies.”



**response** is the award-winning, official magazine of United Women in Faith. We explore spiritual growth and living our faith, and report on our local, national and international work.

<https://uwfaith.org/resources/response-magazine/>



20% off through December 2025 when you order the Daily Prayer Guide and the Program Resources 2026 together on UWFaith.org. Print and digital sale. K3225 \$28 on sale.

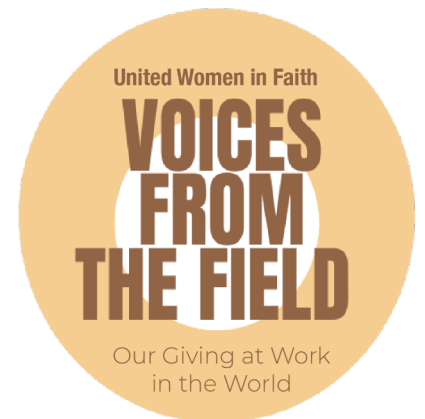


Join us for conversations with United Women in Faith, hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer. “Each month, the podcast explores timely themes and resources, from expert insights on ways to live your faith to inspiring interviews with spiritual leaders.”

Visit the [Calendar of Events](#) for links to programs on December 4 and 18.



Tune in to audio versions of some of the top articles from each issue of **response** magazine, the award-winning official magazine of United Women in Faith. Topics cover everything from spiritual growth and living our faith to reports on local, national and international work. Visit: <https://uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/>



Faith Talks is transitioning to a visual podcast format only, with live webinar experiences only a few times each year beginning January 2026. This new format allows us to focus our time and creativity on producing high-quality, engaging visual podcasts.

Visit [Calendar of Events](#) for a link to the December 2 program.

# Forms Section for Your Unit's Use

## How to use fillable forms:

If you have the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, use the tools to add your information.

Email the form to the address given or print out the completed page and photograph/scan to send it by email.

For print versions, fill out the form, then mail it to the address given.

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## 2026 Newsletter Schedule

The purpose of the newsletter is to inspire and help unit leaders, and to promote United Women in Faith resources such as the website, [UWFaith.org](http://UWFaith.org), response magazine and the 2026 Program Resource book and Daily Prayer Guide.

**March 1    June 1    August 1    December 1**

**Due date for articles is the 10<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.**

[uwfnorthdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:uwfnorthdistrictnewsletter@gmail.com)

Please send your articles in to the above email by the due dates. Please send a Word file, with 12 point Times New Roman, and no formatting to allow for layout and design of the newsletter. Kim Smith, editor



# READING PROGRAM

## PLANS



**Eligible years:** For 2026, books from the 2021-2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026 Reading Program lists are eligible for Reading Program reporting credit, if you have not already read them.

### PLAN I

- 5 books each year.
- 1 book from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

### PLAN II

- 10 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

### PLAN III

- 15 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections from the current reading lists if not included in previous reports.

### PLAN IV

- 20 books each year.
- 2 books from each category.
- PLUS 10 additional books from any category



# REPORT OF COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

(Send completed form to your Secretary of Program Resources or equivalent according to your conference's schedules.)

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>PLAN CHOSEN:</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>IV</b>
--------------	---------------------	----------	-----------	------------	-----------

Plans III and IV: After two books in each category, extra books can be any category.

<b>MISSION EMPHASES</b>	Education for Mission
	Leadership Development
	Nurturing for Community
	Social Action
	Spiritual Growth

<b>CURRENT YEAR:</b>	
----------------------	--

I have completed the required reading for PLAN I. The books I have read are listed on this form.

LOCAL UNIT	_____
North District	_____
DISTRICT	_____
Cal-Pac Conference	_____
PRINT NAME	_____
ADDRESS	_____
CITY, STATE, ZIP	_____
EMAIL	_____

United Women in Faith (UW Faith) California Pacific Conference

District Reading Program Report Form

(To be filled by Local Organization Resources Officer)

Local Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Organization members: \_\_\_\_\_:

Number of Members participating in Reading Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Books read: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members reading **response** Magazine: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members completing Plan I: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members completing Plan II: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members completing Plan III: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members completing Plan IV: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children and Youth readers: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Books read by Children and Youth: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Organization Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PARTICIPANTS:

## **Pledge to Mission: Financial Gifts Change Lives**

United Women in Faith supports programs in the United States and around the world that improves life for women, children and youth and their communities.

United Women in Faith assists nearly 90 organizations across the United States through grants, technical support, and member involvement. National Mission Institutions are community-based organizations and social service agencies that were almost exclusively founded by women in the 19th century to serve marginalized communities and populations across the United States. National Mission Institutions empower women, care for children, support seniors, educate youth, provide housing for domestic violence survivors, and offer residences for special needs children and youth.

United Women in Faith also supports and empowers local women in 39 countries around the globe to be leaders in the church, community, and the world. We provide academic scholarships and support Regional Missionaries—personnel serving in their home regions with church, ecumenical and grassroots partners in educational and empowerment programs for women and youth.

Thank you for your unit's participation in the Pledge to Mission next year!

Please send your form to the North District Treasurer,  
Amber Hedges, 607 Foothill Blvd, #1549, Flintridge, CA 91012 by **December 5**.



### ***United Women in Faith*** ***2026 North District Pledge***



Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Pledge Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

***Local Organization Pledge to Mission***

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
NORTH DISTRICT YEAR END REPORT FOR 2025  
Due to District Treasurer by Sunday, November 30, 2025**

Local Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Members: \_\_\_\_\_ Number must agree with President Report.

2025 Pledge to Mission \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **2026 Pledge to Mission \$** \_\_\_\_\_

\$	1	Mission Giving Sent to District
\$	2	Candle of Commitment
\$	3	Designated Mission Sent to District
\$	4	For Local Missions
\$	5	For Local Unit Administration

***Instructions:***

**Line 1. Mission Giving Funds:** This includes your Pledge to Mission, Special Mission Recognition, Gift to Mission, Gift to Memory, and World Thank Offering. You are recognized as a Five Star Local Organization, if you support all five of the above. You are a 60/40 Organization, if 60% of your funds go to Mission Giving including Candle of Commitment. Designated Mission sent to District, Local Mission and Administration costs all should not total over 40%.

**Line 2. Candle of Commitment:** Funds sent to District or given during Conference Annual Meeting.

**Line 3. Designated Mission Funds to District:** This is the total of Designated Mission Funds remitted on line 6-8 of your remittance forms, except for Candle of Commitment.

**Line 4. Local Missions:** This is the amount that was sent direct to local missions of your option.

**Line 5. Local Unit Administration:** This is the expense of running the organization. This includes travel, postage, the supplies for your officers and all other local expenses.

Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please mail to: A.S. Hedges, 607 Foothill Boulevard, #1549, Flintridge, California 91012***

***Keep in mind, money MUST be received by December 5, 2025 to be considered for 5 Star Award for 2025. Any money received after December 5, 2025 will be logged for 2026.***







UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH  
**COMBINED ATTACHMENTS**  
 FOR LOCAL TREASURERS

Local Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Remittance: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: North Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conference: California- Pacific Period From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_

Local: Submit with Remittance & OR Methodistrict treasurer. May use individual forms instead.

<b>SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION (SMR) ORDERS</b>			
PIN TYPE OR DONATION	HONOREE NAME (IF KNOWN)	GIVEN BY (IF NOT YOUR UNIT)	\$ SMR
Total Special Mission Recognition (enter on Remittance & ORM)			\$

PIN TYPES: \$40 Gold pin, \$60 Sapphire, \$100 Pearl, \$200 Emerald, \$500 Ruby, \$1,000 Diamond, \$2,000 2 Diamonds.  
 Please note whether you are purchasing the Cross Pin or Logo pin.  
 Pins will be sent to Treasurer listed at bottom.

<b>GIFT TO MISSION (GTM) ORDERS</b>			Donate \$5 or more per card on Remittance Form when ordered.		
TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS	TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS
Peace M7078 (10)			Thank You M7079 (10)		
In the Service of Christ M7077 (10)			Encouragement M7071 (10)		
Thinking of You M7080 (10)			Happy Birthday M7076 (10)		
			Christmas M7070 (10)		

Will pick up from district treasurer? YES NO - Please email. If mailed, cards will be sent to treasurer listed at bottom.

<b>GIFT IN MEMORY (GIM) ORDERS</b>			Donate \$5 or more per card on Remittance Form when ordered.		
TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS	TYPE OF CARD	# CARDS	or # PACKS
GIM - In Loving Memory M7068 (5/10)			GIM - Thoughts and Prayers M7069 (5/10)		

Will pick up from district treasurer? YES NO - Please email. If mailed, cards will be sent to treasurer listed at bottom.

<b>DESIGNATED GIFTS DETAILS</b>	\$ Donation
United Women in Faith Project Names Codes (list below):	
Total Additional Designated Gifts (enter on Remittance Form)	\$

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_, Treasurer  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit to: \_\_\_\_\_  
 A.S Hedges  
 607 Foothill Boulevard, #1549, Flintridge, California 91012

(Keep a copy of submitted forms for your financial records.)



United  
Women  
in Faith

*Cal-Pac Conference United Women in Faith*

*2025 Mission Today Criteria*

*Due: December 15, 2025*

To become a Mission Today Local Organization, the Local Organization (LO) must meet EIGHT of the following criteria, including a minimum of FOUR of those marked with an Asterisk (\*).

Return to:

District Mission Education and Interpretation Coordinator's Name: Diane Garner

Address: 4817 Avedon Rd, Moorpark, CA 93021

Email: [rdgrner47@hotmail.com](mailto:rdgrner47@hotmail.com)

*Local Organization Name:* .....

*Contact Person:*.....

*Email/Phone:* .....

C R I T E R I A

- 1. \*Use the Prayer Guide at EACH general meeting of the LO to pray for persons in mission & for our mission work with women, children, & youth.
- 2. \* The LO will lead their members in the United Women in Faith Purpose EACH meeting.
- 3. \* The LO will make and meet its pledge to mission.
- 4. \* The LO will add at least TWO members to its roll.
- 5. \* The LO will have at least TWO members subscribing to response magazine. (Order from the Mission Resource Center)
- 6. \* The LO will use TWO programs from the Program Book each year.
- 7. \* At least ONE member of the LO other than a Conf. or Dist. officer took Mission u Study in person or virtual class.
- 8. The LO will ADD or ENCOURAGE their LO's Young Women's or Youth Circle.
- 9. The LO will ADD or ENCOURAGE their LO's Language Group Circle.
- 10. At least TWO members of the LO other than a Conf. or Dist. Officer attended the District or Conference Annual Celebration, in-person or virtually.
- 11. At least TWO members of the LO attended any Young Women's Event in the Cal-Pac Conference, in person or virtually.

- 12. Members shall write to FIVE persons listed in the Prayer Guide at least once a year.
  
- 13. The LO will BE a Five Star LO, contributing to ALL FIVE channels of Mission Giving.
  
- 14. Each LO, circle, or subgroup will INCLUDE a mission moment where an article from Response magazine will be lifted up as a way to tell the mission story.
  
- 15. Have at least TWO persons from the LO, circle, or subgroup complete one of the Reading Program Plans and report on at least ONE of the books read.
  
- 16. The LO invited a District or Conference officer, other than a member of the LO, to ONE of the LO meetings during the year.

Other Mission Work:

**Cal-Pac Conference United Women in Faith  
CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CRITERIA**



In order for a local organization (LO) to become a member of the Charter for Racial Justice Club, the local organization must:

1. Meet the required activity marked with an Asterisk (\*)
2. Complete at least one activity from each of the three sections
3. Return completed criteria form to your District Social Action Coordinator no later than December 15.

District Social Action Coordinator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Organization Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

- \_\_\_ \* Devote a meeting to studying and discussing the Charter for Racial Justice.  
Supply each member with a copy of the Charter for Racial Justice.

**UNIT PROGRAM (complete at least one)**

- \_\_\_ 1. Hold a group study or present a program on "The History of UWFaith on Racial Issues"
- \_\_\_ 2. Establish a workshop to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contribution of each race to the church and community
- \_\_\_ 3. Share and discuss an article from *response* magazine relating to racism
- \_\_\_ 4. Be creative and develop a Racial Justice learning experience for your Local Organization

**ENRICHMENT (complete at least one)**

- \_\_\_ 1. Hold a small group study of a book on racial justice from the Reading Resource Program and discuss using these three questions: Who is being exploited? Who benefits from the exploitation? What are we going to do about it ?
- \_\_\_ 2. Have at least one member attend a webinar or event on Racial Justice and report back to the Local Organization
- \_\_\_ 3. Study a particular issue relating to the Charter for Racial Justice i.e.: racism, immigration rights, voting rights, racial/ethnic profiling
- \_\_\_ 4. Develop an enrichment activity of your own related to Racial Justice

**ACTION (complete at least one)**

- \_\_\_ 1. Gather and share with Local Organization (or Sunday school class or church members) information on local school system regarding ethnic makeup, suspension rate by ethnicity, graduation rate by ethnicity.
- \_\_\_ 2. Research current legislation on racial issues and present information as a program or in a church newsletter.
- \_\_\_ 3. Research what organizations in your community are working to uncover, challenge and transform racism in local systems and institutions. Discuss how you might be a partner and/or support this work.
- \_\_\_ 4. Develop a Racial Justice action of your own choosing for your local organization or church.

**RESOURCES** The following resources may be obtained at [UWFaith.org](http://UWFaith.org),

- Books from UWFaith Reading Program
- Reading *response* magazine
- Racial Justice Timeline
- History of Racial Justice



Local Organization Roster for United Women of Faith Year: \_\_\_\_\_ District: North

Church Name and Address: \_\_\_\_\_

	Name	Address	Phone (C/H)	Email
President				
Vice President				
Secretary				
Treasurer				
Chair Committee on Nominations				
Spiritual Growth Coord.				
Mission Education & Interp. Coord.				
Social Action Coordinator				
Membership Nurture, Outreach Coord.				
Program Resources Coordinator				
Communication Coordinator				

Use page 2 to add co-officers and nomination committee members and their information.

Send completed form to Diane Garner, 4817 Avedon Road, Moorpark, CA 93021 by January 15, 2025



# United Women in Faith

## Gifts & Graces Inventory Potential Leaders Information Form (to be completed by potential leader)

Type or Print: (Add additional sheets as necessary)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (hm/cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (wk) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member of Local Church: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: 20's \_\_\_ 30's \_\_\_ 40's \_\_\_ 50's \_\_\_ 60's \_\_\_ 70's \_\_\_ 80's \_\_\_

Languages Spoken: \_\_\_\_\_ Racial/Ethnic Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Employed: No \_\_\_ Part Time \_\_\_ Full Time \_\_\_

Professional skills, job experience \_\_\_\_\_

Office(s) held in United Women in Faith:

	<u>Office</u>	<u>Dates of Service</u>
Local	_____	_____
	_____	_____
District	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Conference	_____	_____
	_____	_____
Jurisdiction	_____	_____

Additional experience on the local, district, conference or general church level (other than United Women in Faith), or in the community:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How will your spiritual journey strengthen your commitment to serve on the North District Leadership Team?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Labarbara Madison  
Email: [labarbaramadison@gmail.com](mailto:labarbaramadison@gmail.com)  
840 Neldome St, Altadena CA 91001



United  
Women  
in Faith

## *Newsletter Subscriptions*

*From the Sierras to the Seas* newsletter is for the North District United Women in Faith and is free with an email subscription. Email your name, telephone number, church and district to: calpacnorthdistrictumw@gmail.com

Cost for a mailed subscription is \$15 yearly (4 issues). Make your check payable to North District United Women in Faith and send it to the District Treasurer, A.S. Hedges, #1549, Flintridge, CA 91012. Also send in the form below.

Name: .....

Address: .....

City, State, Zip: .....

*Pacific Waves* is the newsletter for Cal-Pac United Women in Faith and is free with an email subscription. Email your name, telephone number, church, and district to: calpacuwfcommunications@gmail.com

Cost for a mailed subscription is \$15 yearly (4 issues). Make your check payable to Cal-Pac United Women in Faith and send it to the Conference Treasurer, Freda Low, 8437 Village Ln, Rosemead, CA 91770. Also send in the form below.

Name: .....

Address: .....

City, State, Zip: .....