



United
Women
in Faith

Frequently Asked Questions on United Women in Faith

Why take a new operating name?

The name United Methodist Women was adopted in 1972, signaling a change not only in the life of the church but in the lives of women and how they could organize for mission.

It is time to adopt a name that reflects how women are living and engaging their faith today, as well as changes in life of the church.

Our new name is part of an overall move to refresh our organization that includes a new look, new feel and new and improved programs. We will be able to better nurture our current members while welcoming into our sisterhood new women who want to put their love in action. The new operating name is also welcoming to women whose local churches may choose to align with another denomination or who are already members of other denominations.

Are we still a part of The United Methodist Church?

Yes! We are still the only official women's organization of The United Methodist Church and our corporate name will remain United Methodist Women.

How will these changes impact the Deaconess/Home Missioner community?

All of our traditional structures, supportive services and responsibilities concerning the Deaconess/Home Missioner community will remain intact. These are detailed in *The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline*. We will continue to use the name United Methodist Women in matters concerning the Deaconess/Home Missioner community, as we will with other denominational business, including General Conference.

How were these decisions made?

As part of our strategic planning guided by the Board of Directors and the Program Advisory Group (PAG), we have conducted an enormous amount of research over the past five years. The new name, programs and program innovations are fruits of that research along with prayerful efforts to discern the times for our organization. The member-elected United Methodist Women Board of Directors, along with input from the PAG, has guided the organization throughout this process.

We've conducted surveys, focus groups and interviews with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other denominations and Christian traditions. The changes and programs are data informed and tested to address the needs and life stages of current and future members.

United Women in Faith has a mission statement. What about our Purpose?

The Purpose for the local church remains the Purpose as it appears in *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016* (§256.5.3). The core of our work remains the same: changing the world through faith, hope and love in action. The United Women in Faith mission statement—written by board executive committee members, PAG representatives and assigned staff—is a refreshed expression our core principles.



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Can women remain members, stay connected and join another local unit if their church leaves The United Methodist Church?

Yes. United Methodist Church membership has never been required for United Methodist Women membership. Bylaws changes allow for women to be involved and leaders in our organization even if they become affiliated with another denomination. Our new name captures this inclusivity.

What other changes are underway?

The new tools and programs that will rollout throughout 2022 include:

- **A new, easier to navigate website.** The new website will have a homepage designed to pique the interest of women new to our organization and start them on a journey to membership. The homepage will also include a special portal where members can log in to access resources specially designed for them.
- **Templates for Soul Care retreats.** A pilot member recruitment program will be debuted through which current members invite nonmember friends to themed retreats specially designed to nurture our bodies, minds and souls.
- **Innovations to Mission u.** Beginning in 2022, Mission u will be introducing new curricula each year—one for children, one for youth and one for adults—all focused on a shared biblical theme that incorporates spiritual growth, contemporary issues and how these show up in various geographic areas. The new Mission u curricula will be more accessible and adaptable for use in small groups, local churches, vacation Bible schools, retreats and other settings. Through these vibrant, relevant, justice-oriented and biblically centered curricula, Mission u will continue its commitment to learning together for the transformation of the world and expand its impact.
- **A new national membership option.** This option will enable women to join our sisterhood via our new website. They will learn about and be able to participate in programs and events online or in person. Of course, on-line options and resources will also be available to existing members who already participate in circles and units.
- **More targeted giving options.** Members and nonmembers alike want more options to target their financial gifts to specific programs areas such as Spiritual Growth, National Mission Institutions or international work.
- **New tools for conference and district treasurers.** New tools, like Vanco Faith, will be available to enable treasurers to manage, collect and distribute conference and district finances electronically.
- **Innovations in the Leadership Development Days programs.**
- **New and improved resources.**
 - Mighty Networks, an exciting new online platform where members can connect, and engage new resources like the Program Resource and Mission u curricula.
 - The Daily Prayer Guide, an updated replacement of the Prayer Calendar, which offers opportunities for daily devotion and connection.