



United Women in Faith

Vol. 40 Issue 4

The Growing Edge

**Puget Sound Missional District
United Women in Faith**

Dec 2024

Inside this issue

President's Perspective	1-2
Vice President Message	2-3
Program Resources	3-5
Social Action	5-6
Mission Today	6-7
Nomination	7
Spiritual Growth	7-8
Interfaith Advocacy Day	8
Coupeville	8-9
Edmonds	9-10
Snohomish UWF	10
Stanwood UWF	10
Upcoming Events	10
What about Membership	11
District Job Openings	11
District Team members	11
Conference Calendar	12
Questions and Feedback	12

A President's Perspective

*Jeannine Lish, President
Puget Sound Missional District*



Dear United Women in Faith (UWF) Sisters,

Season's Greetings (Merry Christmas and Happy New Year) to each of you as we wrap up this unusual year, 2024! Think back to what all has happened during this year; what were your highlights, or trying times, and answers to

prayers?

[HIGHLIGHTS]

Highlights for me were participating in two *LDD* (Leadership Development Days), attending the quadrennial West Jurisdiction in Anchorage, AK, being part of UMC Conference Annual meeting in Richland, enjoying Mission u in Yakima, and presiding over our wonderful District Annual Gathering in Marysville; (plus, traveling 7,973 miles in our Ram truck with our 29' Arctic Fox trailer, and 17 month old dog Gretel, including 2442 miles with 21 other RVs along Route 66 from Chicago to Santa Monica, CA.)

Are you a list maker? I try to keep track of what all I'm intending to accomplish, and smile as I check off completed items (if I don't misplace my list!) Some projects have been on my "to do" list for a few years...at least I've not forgotten the intended purposes. I hope I'm not alone in this challenge....

[BEING A LEADER]

Some of the JOYS of being a leader in UWF are the opportunities to get acquainted with marvelous women from all over as we participate in meaningful worship services, learn from knowledgeable leaders, experience how others are struggling or coping with so many different disasters or losses, and actively join in different service projects. We get to share our creativity—sometimes in new ways!

[TRAINING / RESOURCES]

One of the BIG things in both UMC and UWF is the wonderful training we're offered—whether in person, one-on-one, by ZOOM meetings, and online. Resources are out there—we don't need to be shy about asking questions or asking for help.

[STAYING CONNECTED]

We're offered "Continuing Education" type resources; I just re-signed up for the UWF bi-monthly *Faith Talks* hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer. I also value *Voices from the Field* online.

Request *The Sharing Line*, published by our UWF PNW Conference 4 times a year. It's online at pnwumc.org/uwfaith, or send YOUR email address to Jenny Bygland at jbygland@kentmethodist.com for a head's up on upcoming opportunities!

Invite others to request our District's Newsletter, *The Growing Edge*.

I encourage you to order the RESPONSE magazine. I am so impressed by the new format! I even removed the staples and spread out the magazine on a BIG bulletin board for all to see in my church's Fellowship Hall.

Let's all be inviting women to join us. We can welcome others to help re-energize local units that are struggling. If a woman believes in God and that Jesus is his son who came to teach us how to love, and is involved in mission work, we invite her to make a pledge to help support our 90 USA missions, and become a UWF member!

Shalom, and best wishes for a great 2025! I am very hopeful.
Jeannine "Jeannie" Lish
cell: 425 923-8267
PSM District President

Vice President Message

What a year....

It's that time of the year when you take some time to reflect on the past year and start to formulate plans for next year. I've had the honor of attending several events in the name of United Women in Faith this past year. I'm relatively new to the United Women in Faith (UWF) experience. I'm learning.

Locally, I am the president of our UWF unit at Bothell United Methodist Church (UMC). We just had one of our important events of the Christmas season, the Cookie Circuit. The Circuit builds community and puts some needed dollars in our

treasury in support of the missions we proudly support. A bonus, as with all of the events we have, is the fellowship we build with one another! It's so fun! I am thankful for our members that organize this event.

At the District level, I am the vice president of the Puget Sound Missional District (PSM). Our PSM District President, Jeannine Lish was out of town at the time of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference Gathering in October. I took her place attending the Gathering at Spokane Valley UMC. I had a great time! So wonderful to see many familiar faces from the Leadership Training held in Ellensburg at Lazy F in April. Not only am I making some great friends, but also learning a lot

from experiences of others. The fellowship is fantastic!

On Friday of last week, I traveled to Port Townsend Trinity UMC to attend their annual Christmas luncheon. What an experience! I had a beautiful lunch with about 36 other women. After lunch, we sang traditional Christmas songs. We were accompanied by Sarah Heiner on the piano. There were other UWF members playing the guitar, dulcimer and violin. Again, a really fun time. I learned that Port Townsend Trinity UMC is one of the oldest churches in the Pacific Northwest!

During my drive back to Bothell, I got to thinking about how interesting it is to visit other churches and meet so many wonderful people.

Also during this past year, at the invitation of my friend and fellow PSM District officer, Judy Good, I visited Coupeville UMC during the summer. I took my teenage daughter with me. She is still talking about the time we visited the ladies sewing for their Christmas Bazaar and making lunches for teens in need on the most beautiful summer day in July. We made more friends that day.

In early September we held our District Gathering in Marysville. One of the parts I enjoyed was the preliminary visit to Marysville UMC. Meeting with church office staff and looking at the facility was

fun. I felt our Gathering was a real success with more attending than the previous year, a large offering collection in support of the chosen mission of Welcoming Our New Neighbors at Riverton Park UMC in Tukwila and UWF National missions. Again, the fellowship was wonderful!

Through my year of UWF experiences I have learned something very valuable; to show up whenever I can. I encourage all of you to accept some open invitations to join others and their churches, and see what is happening and maybe share stories

~Susan Alderin
Puget Sound Missional District Vice President



Program Resources

Enjoy the Reading Program

I have a lot of suggestions for you this time. Check the local libraries if you don't want to purchase them.

You'll be happy to know that the 2025 Reading Program Choices were made public in November in the November/December Response magazine. Again, the categories are: *Education for*

Mission; Leadership Development; Nurturing the Community; Social Action; and Spiritual Growth. There are many new and exciting books to choose from, most being available at your community libraries. You can find out more about the books by accessing uwfaith.org/read.

Most of you know there are reading plans that count the number of books you've read. If you participated, then you read 1 book from each of the 5 categories and you've completed Plan 1; read 2 books from each category and you've completed Plan 2, and so on. Your unit can report the books read through the year either under a plan or just as

"books read," Enjoy reading and learning about other places, people and conditions in other parts of the world.

My recommendations this month include "The Book Woman's Daughter," by Kim Michele Richardson. You might know Kim's first book, "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek," about the blue-skinned people in Kentucky who lacked library access. Women rode horses throughout that part of Appalachia to take books to residents in remote areas. I loved the first book and its adventures so I hope this sequel will be just as riveting!

Also, "We Are Not Here to Be Bystanders; A Memoir of Love and Resistance," written by Linda Sarsour, looks to be a powerful one by a Palestinian Muslim American feminist. From Brooklyn to Washington D.C., she finds her voice to use it for the good of others in marginalized society.

Another book, "Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation," by Linda Villarosa, contributor to the 1619 Project, and award-winning author explores the disparity in health care and life expectancy in neglected communities in America. It shares the toll it takes on those residents and our country; sobering but worth the read to notice how it makes us all weaker if conditions don't improve.

I hope you will enjoy trying some of these books. Let's get reading.

REMEMBER:

Books can be found at the local library or bookstore and online, like on Amazon. If someone reads at least one book, it can be counted as participation.

READING CERTIFICATES

We are starting a new year and you can be finding books that will give you credit for the certificates. We will hand out certificates in September 2025.

If you read a great book, please feel free to report on it and encourage others to try it.

There are four plans.

Plan 1, five books from each category;
Plan 2 is 10 books,
Plan 3 is 15 books, and
Plan 4 is 20 books.

Your reports will be due in August. Date to be determined. Contact: Helen Smith, helen@geraldsmith.com, or 360-387-5362

If you are interested in finding a book or want to check out the lists, remember books are eligible over the past 5 years. You can find the lists online. If your church buys some books every year, we can share stories. I am sure the books will be found in the church library.



Plan 1: 5 books a year

Read one book from each category and regular reading of "response" magazine.

Plan 2: 10 books a year

Read two books from each category and regular reading of "response" magazine.

Plan 3: 15 books a year

Read two books from each category, plus "5" additional books from any category and regular reading of "response" magazine.

Plan 4: 20 books a year

Read two books from each category, plus “10” additional books from any category and regular reading of “response” magazine.

Reading Program

The Reading Program is a cherished tradition that brings together members to explore, share and discuss books.

There’s something for everyone—the Reading Program is available for:

- Adults, youth, and children
- Enlightening subjects in diverse genres, including:
- Education for Mission
- Leadership Development
- Nurturing for Community
- Social Action
- Spiritual Growth

Response magazine and the Faith Talks **podcast** are part of the Reading Program.

Ask any of us questions if you cannot locate the books you want.

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10846>

Book Sharing

We encourage you to reach out to other churches to find some of the books on the list if you cannot find them at the local library. We realize you do not all have access to electronic versions of the books, so we are still reading real books.

Social Action

I have been off to Africa and helping others.

The Lord is faithful in all his words, and gracious in all his deeds. The Lord upholds all who are falling,

and raises up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. The Lord is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of all who fear him; he also hears their cry, and saves them. The Lord watches over all who love him, . . . Psalm 145:13b-20a.

This past summer and fall, I had the opportunity to



work with the staff at Ripples International in Meru, Kenya, on several projects.

We built a home for a man and his four children whose home was on the verge of collapsing.

Then we traveled to a rural school and assisted the parents of the children in the school to construct 30 standing



mesh gardens, so that Kale could be grown to provide food for the students. Any excess could be sold to purchase maize and beans to go with the Kale providing at least one meal a day for all the

Social Action

Racial Action

All lives matter

students. This meal was an incentive to encourage children to attend school.

Ripples Counselor, Spiritual Director and I traveled to 2 rural schools to train 68 girls on how to use feminine hygiene kits provided by Yakima United Methodist Church and another source. They were excited to receive them.



I also had the opportunity to work with 30-40 children in grades preschool to

8th grade who needed additional help with their phonics skills in order to improve their ability to read English words. One 8th grader was finally able

to master reading after having attended several schools with no success.

Any extra time was filled with providing staff and student devotions, Bible study, help with feeding, bathing and dressing the infants and toddlers in the New Start Center.



Clearly, I was blessed to see God at work in the lives of the people and especially, the children as they improved their reading ability. Let me know if you might be interested in traveling to Meru to share your skills with the students and staff of Ripples.

Judy Jewell
Social Action Coordinator, District Leader

Mission Today

Mission Giving

As United Women in Faith, we are mission purposed and serve women, children and youth in our community, national and internationally from our heart, our service and our resources.

Every dollar from every United Women in Faith group is counted.

FROM THE WEBSITE:

The purpose of Mission Today is to provide a planning tool to energize United Women in Faith to be more involved in mission through prayer, study, action, and outreach.

A Local Organization is a unit or a subgroup such as entire church or circle. Membership includes local unit membership, district membership or on-line membership. (All Access membership)

INSTRUCTIONS: Please circle completed items in each of 5 categories (New option selections in leadership development can count as one requirement in any of the other categories.)

I. Mission Giving

1. The Organization made and met its pledge to mission.
2. The Organization participated in
 - FIVE-STAR (uwfaith.org/give)
 - Pledge to Mission
 - Special Mission Recognition
 - Gift to Mission • Gift in Memory
 - World Thank Offering
3. The Organization supported financially or in-kind local/US Conference missions (school, Meals on Wheels, food pantry, homeless shelters, Mission Central, Children’s Home, etc.)
4. The Organization supported financially or in-kind National Mission Institutions, such as: Neighborhood Center, Red Bird Mission and McCurdy School



Gold Unit: Complete at least 16 of the criteria, 10 of which must be marked with a star.

Silver Unit: complete at least 8 of the criteria, 4 of which must be marked with a star.

There are many things you can do to earn “credits” for Mission today and for many of us, we are just learning about them. Here is a link if you need a reminder. This link is especially for Pacific Northwest conference and has the information on where to send your accomplishments and receive a certificate.

[2024 Mission Today Brochure Fillable.pdf](#)

FROM THE WEBSITE

United Women in Faith: They aim to inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities. The organization advocates for peace, justice, economic inequality, education,

children's rights, human rights, and farm workers' rights. They raise funds for programs and projects related to women, children, and youth in the United States and over 100 countries worldwide

It is a bold promise. We are a making a difference and we are a force to be reconned with, and proud of it.

Nominations

- Who can make calls?
- Who is good at following up on lists?
- Who can work from a script, but still explain the basics of United Women in Faith ?
- Who likes to work on a team, even will buddy up?
- We must have 3-5 people on our Nominations team to find people that will help keep the District fully loaded.

Please contact our District president if you and a friend can join us for this 2-month job,

Spiritual Growth

PROGRAM RESOURCES 2025

The 2025 United Women in Faith Program Resource explores intergenerational conversations and what it looks like to carry our faith forward in an expanding or new context. Compared to the path of water, our faith stories reflect a push and pull, peaks and waterfalls, and stagnant ponds and storms.

The Program Resource features conversations with women—mothers and daughters; sisters; co-workers; friends; and family members in recorded interviews that help capture experiences that have fueled and challenged their faith. You will hear voices from various generations share how their faith has traversed time in different social climates

and the changing world in which we live.

Author Nora Asedillo Cunningham is the Spiritual Growth and Formation Specialist at United Women in Faith National Office. Faye Wilson is active in United Women in Faith and served as a staff member for Global Ministries for more than two decades. Both bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the 2025 programs.

You can also experience this resource in an online platform via United Women in Faith Digital. Join and participate in programs to grow in faith, participate in action, and connect with sisters! Monthly gatherings feature Scripture study, intergenerational voices in the form of video interviews, times of reflection, and creativity.



From the website: We all need a break from our busy life, a time for reflection, a time to listen for God’s guidance. We are so busy doing all the things we are called upon to do, we don’t often take the time to slow down to sit back and think about the things that are really important. Join us to pray, to listen, to study, to

fellowship with United Women in Faith from across the conference, and to spend some quiet time in reflection.

INTERFAITH ADVOCACY DAY

Interfaith Advocacy Day is Thursday, February 20, 2025, in Olympia. The sign-up to attend opens in January. The event includes presentations on important issues in the morning and meetings with district representatives and senators in the afternoon. It is an opportunity to advocate for major priorities and interact with other faiths that share our concerns.

Interfaith Advocacy Day is sponsored by Faith Action Network, a statewide multi-faith partnership promoting advocacy and public action. Sign up to receive regular emails from fanwa.org. Once the legislature opens in January, these will include a summary of action each week and detailed information on major issues.

Contact the District to see if there are carpools going if you are interested in going. Let us know by Feb 10 and we will get people signed up.

Coupeville UMC United Women of Faith

The Coupeville United Methodist Church may be located on an island, yet the ladies of the United Women in Faith (UWF) are not on “island time.”

Our unit has 40 active members who meet year-round working on projects doing the Lord’s work and giving back to the community. Groups are knitting, sewing, cooking, baking, canning, etc., and selling items at our annual Christmas Bazaar with all proceeds going to charity.

We are especially proud of our Social Action Committee of UWF which has taken on food insecurity for Coupeville. They started in 2023 by funding weekend meal bags for 20 students at \$8.00 each for one weekend a month when school is in session.

In 2024 they progressed to preparing soup, sandwiches, and goodies weekly for the Coupeville Open Academy** (COA); a division of the Public School System which provides students with opportunities to complete high school. COA is for all of Island County which includes Camano Island. By working together for those in need, through our Lord, these efforts have brought out church family closer to our community.

Follow-up: Our recent project to provide Christmas gifts for each of the students enrolled in the

Coupeville Open Academy was a great success. We delivered 45 gift bags to school director, Amy Bishop on December 10. Included in each bag was a hat, gloves, socks, a Mod Pizza gift card and sweet treats. Thanks go to all who supported our community outreach project this year. Our support for C.O.A. will continue into the new year.

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COUPEVILLE OPEN ACADEMY

The Coupeville Open Academy offers an alternative learning environment with flexible scheduling and personalized instruction to meet the individual needs of students.

Vision: Prepare every student for their future.

Our Mission: Provide an educational foundation that allows every student to reach their potential.

The Coupeville Open Academy program operates under House Bill 1418, approved by the state of Washington in 2014 as a public school, with a mission of assisting students in achieving a high school diploma through the Coupeville School District.



Students age 16 and older, enrolled in Coupeville Open Academy, choose to achieve educational goals at their own pace and on a highly-flexible school schedule. Although many students exceed expectations, the minimum requirements to remain enrolled include attending school at least two-hours a month and completing one high school course or other indicator of academic progress every three months.

In addition, students participating in this program are supported by a partnership with Coupeville Open Academy, Island County through a student support advocate. Claire Commons provides students assistance and support with personal and emotional needs. She works to coordinate community resources for any student needs. We also have a strong partnership with Work

Source, allowing our students to access employment assistance and paid internships.

Edmonds United Methodist Church United Women of Faith

Fundraising

I was asked to explain on our efforts to fundraise for the funds we use to help charities locally and far away. We have a group of 9 women that work in our church thrift shop on a weekly basis, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10-2pm.

We hosted our annual holiday bazaar the weekend before Thanksgiving this year. It was Friday and Saturday, November 22-23, 10-3pm each day. We sell vendor tables for \$15 each. This is considered cheap, but it lets me advertise a larger event than just my thrift shop and Christmas. I offer a table and chair for \$15 and it is guaranteed funds for our bazaar. This year, I sold 22 tables. The vendors handle their own sales, and we have two cashiers handling all other sales. Yes, we have a credit card machine and we also handle cash sales. Vendors are allowed to stay both days for that \$15.

We also pulled out all our stored Christmas items. We also pull “special” items from our thrift shop (our customers donate wonderful items.) and ask for donations for “silent auction” sales. The bid sheet has a starting bid, and people can increase bids throughout the bazaar, and they do not have to be in attendance at the time of the announced winners. (This is an event that brings in lots of funds.) This year we had 41 silent auction items.

We also have 2 bakery tables, 4 Christmas tables, and the thrift shop is open. The bakery items come

from church members who bake/create items and bring them packaged and priced. This event is a lot of work and it was 3 days of prep and all items were priced. Whenever you consider all the work, and question is it worth it, the answer will always be yes, it makes us more money than we can make in weeks of our thrift shop's normal operation.

Our little thrift shop is its own little machine. We strive to make \$100 every day that we are open, and we are open only 4 hours on any day we are open. Yes, we could use more customers and more volunteers, but we believe in this shop and the way we help charities (both with funds earned and in kind donations) and support children in our church and mission work, including scholarships and mission trips.

Gay Johnson
Edmonds United Women in Faith, President

**Snohomish United Methodist Church
United Women of Faith**

What's going on at Snohomish UWF this time of the year. Our unit meets every first Wednesday of the month at 11:00 in the church library followed by. A potluck and a program.

Recently our local Chief of police visited our unit about scams that are facing us daily and his advice was the scammers are smart and present situations that hit home. Currently is "grandma I am in jail, please send gift card so I can get released." Get phone number from your grandchild so you can contact police to verify.

With Artificial Intelligence (A. I.) the voice of the caller will sound like your grandchild. Anyone who asks for gift cards is probably a scam. One idea is to have a secret code. If caller doesn't know code, call the police. Pat Rudd and son have had a secret code since he was six years old.

The Snohomish Unit is also having an in-house bazaar during the month of December after church

featuring gifts crafts and stuff. We also presented a prayer shawl to a new member during church service. Our meetings are on zoom. If you are interested in checking in with me via email, contact me at scarpat@frontier.com. I can give you zoom link to join our meetings. This is a great way to communicate.

The Gods garden provided fresh vegetables and fruit to both food banks and there was an opportunity to buy items as well. We also sent \$400.00 from our Spring tea to UMCOR for hurricane release.

Merry Christmas!

Pat Rudd
Puget Sound Missional District Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS
*Puget Sound Missional District – Jan 13
District Executive Meeting – via zoom
3:30 – 5:30
*Puget Sound Leadership meeting- March 2025
Location to be determined

HANG IN THERE

- *We know that some groups are small, but big ideas make a real difference.*
- *Sometimes we have to focus on things we can actually accomplish.*
- *We can find new people when we ask, face to face and invite people to a meeting.*
- *Our hearts are focused on helping women and children, and teens.*

**Stanwood United Methodist Church
United Women of Faith**

United Women in Faith in Stanwood is currently not meeting. But, in January, we will meet and decide about our future. We are currently not sure how big our group is and what the future holds. We will report back on membership and officers after our meeting.

Beth Bryant

What are we doing about Membership

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH.

- You do not have to be a United Methodist to be a member
- Invite someone you do not know
- Invite new members to the church to check out your group
- Nurture your current group
- We are mission focused
- We are mission based
- The Reading Program is for all women

JOB: Communication Coordinator and Newsletter Editor needed.

MS Word
Cut and Paste
Organization
Staying in touch with churches
Stay in touch with District Officers
Help with all communication
Sending Newsletter to Conference coordinator

Ask questions
4 newsletters issued a year.

We need help? Can you help?

DISTRICT TEAM OPENINGS

We are looking for

- *creativity
- *teamwork. (bring a friend)
- *willingness/an offer to help
- *volunteer and try out the job and
- *even shadow a current leader

**JOB: Education and Interpretation
Could you be this person?**

Leader holds primary responsibility for interpreting the impact and importance of Mission Giving as an act of faith and commitment.

Leader empowers women to participate in United Women in Faith's mission, as well as engage in raising funds for mission and outreach.

She will understand and interpret United Women in Faith mission projects and concepts of mission, this includes working closely with the finance and program committees. We want members to be well-informed about what happens to their gifts and name ministries that

DISTRICT LEADERS

- *President – Jeannine Lish
- * V. Pres. Susan Alderin
- *Treasurer Karen Gutherie
- * Secretary – Pat Rudd
- *Program Resources – Helen Smith
- *Social Action Judy Jewell
- *Spiritual Growth – Beth Bryant
- *Membership & Outreach – Judy Good
- *Education & Interpretation – open
- *Communications – Gav Johnson

REMEMBER, YOU CAN ATTEND ANYTHING

Pacific Northwest Conference United Women in Faith Calendar		
Date	Event	location
Jan 11	Winter PNW UWF Conference Executive Meeting	Zoom = 1-5pm
Jan 13	Puget Sound Missional District Exec. Meeting	Zoom- 3:30 – 5:30
Feb 10	Soul Care Retreat	Grays River UMC, 3624 HWY 4 W, Grays River WA 98621
Feb 20	Washington Interfaith Advocacy Day	Olympia, WA 9-3pm
Feb	Idaho Legislative Event	
March	Puget Sound Missional District Leadership meeting	To be determined
April 5	Spring Conference UWF Executive Meeting	zoom
April 5 or 26	Seven River Soul Care Event	
June	Pacific Northwest UMC Conference Annual Session	
July	Summer Conference UWF Executive Meeting	
July 24-25	Mission u	Wesley UMC, Yakima, WA
Sept	Crest to Coast Missional District Annual Meeting	To be determined
Sept 20	Inland Missional District Annual Meeting	To be determined
Sept	Puget Sound Missional District Annual Meeting	To be determined
Sept	SeaTac Missional Annual Meeting	To be determined
Sept 20	Seven Rivers Missional District Annual Meeting	Ellensburg UMC, Ellensburg
Oct 17	Fall Conference UWF Executive Meeting	Bothell UMC, Bothell
Oct 17-18	Conference UWF Annual Meeting	Bothell UMC, Bothell
May 15-17, 2026	Assembly	Indianapolis, MN

WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?	
What can we do for you?	Answer Questions
What can you do for the district?	Fill open jobs even if temporary
What can we do to increase membership?	Your answer??
What can we add to the district meeting in March?	Bring in some new ideas
How can we coordinate church activities?	Add to Newsletter, send out messages??
How are we connecting with the community?	Your answer?
Will people come to a meeting?	Your Answer
So we need digital streaming for all meetings?	Your answer
How can our Leadership meeting be better?	Include Lunch, so people can talk to others.
How do we receive feedback from the churches?	Your answer.
How can you contact the District for these questions?	Contact Gay Johnson, Editor, Communication Coordinator: gajedmonds1325@yahoo.com