

For Immediate Release

March 16, 2020

## **Statement from United Methodist Women re Jurisdiction Events & Mission U**

NEW YORK – In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, United Methodist Women today announced changes for two of its major program events scheduled for April through May 2020.

The organization will seek to reschedule four of its five quadrennial Jurisdiction events where members elect United Methodist Women's Board of Directors and Program Advisory Group members. Also, the organization is exploring online distance learning resources for those registered for its annual national Mission u training events for conference study leaders.

Additional information about these events is forthcoming.

As people of faith, our first commitment is to the health and safety of our members and the women, children and families we serve. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, we cannot, in good conscience, continue regular convenings. This decision aligns with the [guidance](#) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's call for postponement or cancelation of gatherings of more than 50 persons.

The four Jurisdiction events include United Methodist Women's Southcentral Jurisdiction, Western Jurisdiction, Southeast Jurisdiction and the Northeast Jurisdiction. As of now, the Northcentral Jurisdiction event in Sioux Falls from June 26 – 28 will still take place. Additional information is forthcoming regarding the potential new dates and election plans.

For individuals who have registered for a postponed jurisdiction event but cannot attend the new date, we will offer an opportunity to transfer registrations. We are unable to offer refunds. This is consistent with our current cancellation policy.

Please note this situation is fluid. Should federal or state governments issue, advise or strongly recommend that social distancing remain in place for longer than expected, we will govern ourselves accordingly. We will notify registrants as soon as possible if a change of plans occur.

It goes without saying that this is a situation none of us could have anticipated or imagined. The rapid spread of the COVID-19 has rightly inspired pause and fear. There is legitimate concern for our families, vulnerable community members, persons suffering from the illness, and the children and older people entrusted to our care. While we endure a season of behavior modification, we must hold fast to our faith, our calling and our mission to put faith, hope and love into action. Even as we look to the government for guidance, we want the broader community to look to us, and see in us, a beacon of light in these uncertain times. We will remain prayerful, vigilant and hopeful.

Should you have questions in reference to the jurisdiction events, please direct them to [jurisdictions2020@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:jurisdictions2020@unitedmethodistwomen.org). Questions about Mission u's can be directed to [mission.u@unitedmethodistwomen.org](mailto:mission.u@unitedmethodistwomen.org).