



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
2021-2022
READING PROGRAM
PROGRAMA DE LECTURA
독서 프로그램

Updated February 2021

Answers to Your Questions about the Reading Program 2021-2022

Reading Program participants have contacted us asking for some clarifications about how a two-year Reading Program plan will work. Since many of you have raised the same questions and concerns, we've decided to share our answers with the entire membership at once in the following update letter from Operations Officer Andris Salter.

Dear Members,

This is an unusual year, as we find ourselves living through a pandemic of a virus that has impacted millions of people; many have lost jobs, family members, friends, homes. We are working remotely, worshiping online; we've postponed or canceled many events. Annual Meetings and Conferences are virtual. General and Jurisdictional Conferences have been delayed.

United Methodist Women has developed new ways to continue the work remotely while COVID-19 keeps all of us social-distanced and so many quarantined. Delayed elections meant naming committees were delayed, including the Assembly, Editorial and Reading Program Committees. With the National Office closed, potential Reading Program books could not be sent to evaluators in the usual manner. We determined that enlarging the 2021 list and combining the 2021 and 2022 Reading Lists would be a better way to handle the situation for now.

The 2020 Reading Program Committee selected new offerings to encourage more reading during these challenging times. We realize this is a lot of change, but changes are needed to continue the work remotely.

During the COVID-19 outbreak, more persons have participated in the Reading Program, many books have been recommended, and we are determining ways to involve evaluators differently. Publishers have also suggested books and ways to help send books to evaluators.

Many of you have asked how a two-year Reading Program plan will work. This is new for us as well so I would like to offer the following recommendations. But I also encourage you to be creative in your work: Think of new ways to enjoy the books, such as Zoom book clubs or by sharing book reports. Invite book authors to join you for discussions time, programs, etc.

- A. **Reading Book List:** The reading forms should be sent to your Conference or District Secretary of Program Resources, in alignment with their schedule.
- B. **Participation:** Anyone can participate in the Reading Program and all can receive a certificate for participating. See unitedmethodistwomen.org/download-resources/reading-program-2021-reporting-form.
- C. **Recognitions:** Be creative in recognizing persons who are not UMW/UM.

D. Another list of books will be shared by April 2021 to serve as an addition to the books featured here in the 2021–2022 catalog.

1. Award certificates as you would yearly recognitions. Or you can add another award for books read in 2021 and 2022.
2. Mix it up by recognizing books in 2021 and the FaithTalks podcasts, movies and books in 2022. Think of other creative ways to promote the Reading Program—and share what works by posting about it on your personal social media accounts and tagging UMW's.
3. For 2021–2022, participants can read books from the 2015 through the 2022 reading lists

E. Faith Talks: FaithTalk podcasts can now be counted in the category of Spiritual Growth. You must participate or listen to two FaithTalks podcasts. If you participate/listen to three, it will be counted as a Bonus Book in the Spiritual Growth category.

F. Movies: Watching these movies and documentaries will also count toward the Reading Program:

1. *Just Mercy*
2. *The Hate U Give*
3. *Pushout*

G. Children and youth books can be found within each of the categories.

H. Bonus books: These count as two books in different categories.

I. The Mission studies also count as Bonus Books.

We hope this information answers your most pressing questions about the Reading Program in this unique time. Most of the information provided here can also be found on the Reading Program website, but this update addresses some additional concerns that have been called to our attention.

God Bless.



Andris Salter
Operations Officer
United Methodist Women



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OVERVIEW

The Reading Program is a cherished United Methodist Women tradition that brings together members in mission as they explore, share and discuss the written word.

To participate, select one of the four plans on page 7—and start reading! From captivating mysteries and heartfelt biographies to urgent messages about issues like immigration, racism and mental healthcare, there’s something for everyone.

Reading Program books are divided into one of five categories: **Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth**. Books are available for people of all ages and reading levels. Books that are suitable for children or youth will be listed among the five categories; look for “Suitable for children” or “Suitable for youth” following book descriptions. As you read, track your progress using the reporting form on page 24. When you complete a plan, you will be recognized with a Certificate of Recognition, available on page 26.

Earning your Certificate of Recognition is just one way to show what you’ve gained from the Reading Program. The Reading Program is not meant to be completed alone, even when social distancing. As you read, consider taking one or more of the following actions:

Take Action

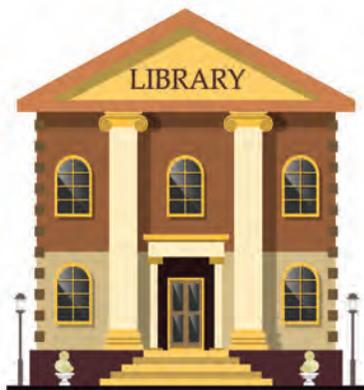
- **Promote the Reading Program.** Share the program with United Methodist Women members and members of the community on listservs, online message boards or on social media. Help people obtain books and distribute this guide.
- **Connect with Local and District groups.** Start a virtual book club over Zoom, Google Hangouts, or another videoconferencing platform. Download books and present book reviews at virtual meetings, share a spreadsheet tracking progress (through Google Docs, for example), and post information in online groups.
- **Pray.** Books often raise concerns about people, countries and issues. Bring these concerns to God during your prayer time.
- **Advocate for tangible change.** Many Reading Program books address important social issues. And many address racism. Take action with United Methodist Women’s anti-racist guide: unitedmethodistwomen.org/antiracistresource
- If you’re not able to engage in protest and other in-person activities, organize a remote task force to discuss ways to impact your community virtually.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION



Where to Find Books

As in the previous year, United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books exclusively through third parties—libraries, local bookstores and online. Even when libraries are closed and physical books are hard to come by, most of the books listed here can be found electronically. You can read them on a laptop, tablet, e-reader or other device. While Amazon’s more popular than ever, please consider supporting small, local bookstores if they’re open, as these businesses rely on community support now more than ever.



If you do order books through Amazon, please remember to visit smile.amazon.com, Amazon’s charitable giving page, and select “United Methodist Women” as your charitable organization. For all eligible purchases made on smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% to United Methodist Women.



Bonus Books

As always, Bonus Books count as two books. For 2021–2022, a few of the Bonus Books are also current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. Jump to the “Bonus Books” section on page 22 or, for more information, visit: unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies.



Children and Youth Books

This Reading Program includes books for readers of all ages. Look for the line “*Suitable for children*” or “*Suitable for youth*” when selecting books to read. You’ll find it underneath the book’s description.

Reporting Form

After you select a Reading Program plan, easily track your progress using the Reading Program reporting form found in the back of this guide (page 24). You will have two years to complete the reporting form this year instead of one. Send the completed form to your conference's secretary of program resources (or equivalent) to receive a signed Certificate of Recognition.



Certificate of Recognition

Your Certificate of Recognition is also conveniently located at the back of this guide. Once you submit your reporting form, the certificate is ready to be signed and dated by your conference's secretary of program resources (or equivalent) and president.



God bless you as you pray, study, act and organize in Christ's name.

READING PROGRAM PLANS

Choose and follow one of the four plans. When you have read the required number of books and magazine issues, report your completion to your local member in charge of program resources. Titles read from the 2017 list will be credited through December 31, 2022.

PLAN I: 5 books a year

- One book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2017 to the 2021–2022 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN II: 10 books a year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Selections can be from the 2017 to the 2021–2022 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN III: 15 books a year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus 5 additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2017 to the 2021–2022 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

PLAN IV: 20 books a year

- Two books from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.
- Plus 10 additional books from any category.
- Selections can be from the 2017 to the 2021–2022 reading lists if not included in previous reports (including children and youth titles).
- Regular reading of **response** magazine.

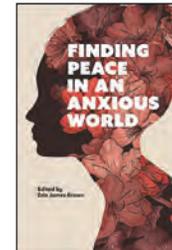
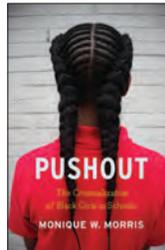




BONUS BOOKS

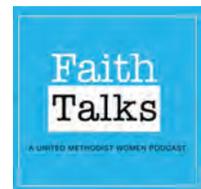
As always, Bonus Books count as two books. For 2021–2022, a few of the Bonus Books are also current mission studies, providing even more of an incentive to select these books as part of your Reading Program plan. Jump to the “Bonus Books” section on page 22 or visit unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-studies for more information.

- *Rise!: From Caged Bird to Poet of the People, Maya Angelou* by Bethany Hegedus counts as two books in the category Leadership Development.
- *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique W. Morris (as well as the Leader’s Guide by Vanessa M. Wilson) counts as two books in the category Social Action.
- *Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission* by Ellen Blue counts as two books in the category Nurturing for Community.
- *Finding Peace in an Anxious World* edited by Erin James-Brown counts as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.
- Listen to three *Faith Talks* podcasts (see details below) and the trio will count as two books in the category Spiritual Growth.

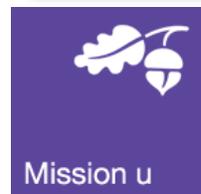


FAITH TALKS: A PODCAST JUST FOR YOU...

Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope and love into action. Check out interviews with United Methodist Women mission studies’ authors and more at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks



Mission studies are United Methodist Women curricula for Mission u, a transformative learning program offered around the country; to learn more, go to unitedmethodistwomen.org/mission-u. To purchase mission studies, go to: umwmissionresources.org



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN PURPOSE

“United Methodist Women shall 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.”