



United Methodist Women of North Central Jurisdiction

2020 "Calling u" Event

Board of Director nominees

Nominees are listed in alphabetical order:

Ruby Anderson – Michigan Judy Huynh – Michigan

Dawn Armstrong – Dakotas Sandy Marek – East Ohio

Lynn Calvert – Iowa Camille McCaskill – Illinois Great Rivers

Janice Deal – West Ohio Sandy Meyer – Minnesota

Muriel Gross – Wisconsin Julie Miehe – Wisconsin

Kim Harris – Minnesota Rita Smith – Northern Illinois

Krishna Heyward – Indiana Marilyn Steenwyk – Northern Illinois

Roxie Hutsell – West Ohio LaDonna Weber – Indiana

RUBY ANDERSON

Ruby Anderson was born in Detroit, MI but raised in Tupelo, Mississippi and Gary, Indiana. She currently resides in Southfield, MI and is a member of Scott Memorial UMC in Detroit since 1981. She has served at Scott UMC as the UMWomen's President, Vice-President and Sec. of Program Resources. She is active in her church as lay leader and is the district lay leader, and a Lay Servant for over 30 years.

Ms. Anderson was a volunteer-in-mission to Liberia, Africa in 2007 which opened her eyes to greater service and greater needs of the world at home and abroad. In 2009 she served as a Volunteer/ Det. Annual Conference Mission Ambassador to Sudan, Africa, at a very



troubled time in Sudan. She has served in missions to Haiti, Northern Ireland and Malawi, Africa, and made cultural explorations to Japan with students, Sao Paulo, Brazil; Australia; Spain and other countries of Europe; Israel –The Holy Land; India, and serves in many cities and states of the United States of America.

Ruby is currently an elected Director of the United Methodist Women national office, and has served on the North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) UMW Leadership team, a regional UMW representative, and UMW Conference officer. She has served as a director on the Board of Global Ministry and is currently a national director on the United Methodist Development Fund (UMDF), the loan agency to churches across the U.S., past President of Church Women United Detroit Unit. Ruby is also, the lst Reserve lay delegate to the 2020 General Conference and 1st elected lay delegate to the North Central Jurisdiction 2020.

Before Ruby dedicated her life to fulltime service in the church, she was a social studies teacher. She retired from the Southfield Public Schools. Prior to teaching, she was a realtor with Real Estate One, and a district manager for Avon Products, Inc. in the Detroit area.

Her education includes a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, Lincoln University of Missouri; Masters in Elementary Education - Indiana University, an Education Administrative Certification from Wayne State University, and a licensed real estate broker for the state of Michigan.

Ruby has two sons, a daughter –in-law, 2 granddaughters, 3 step grandsons, and a joy filled 96 year old mom, of whom she is care giver. She enjoys walking and exercise daily/365, being a servant leader; being with friends, and family, and traveling for mission and learning.



Dawn Armstrong
5202 S. Woodsedge Dr.
Sioux Falls, SD 57108

donanddawn@sio.midco.net

Cell: 605-988-7023

I have been a member of United Methodist Women since 1973. In that time, I have served on all levels—local, district, conference, jurisdiction, and on the Program Advisory Group (assigned to the Legacy Fund Steering Committee). Each level has had its own challenges and joys.

United Methodist Women have trained me, and given me leadership skills I never thought I would or could possess. It has also given me a view of the world and an understanding of our obligations as Christian Women to advocate for those who are powerless to act for themselves. It has been an exciting time to be a woman in today's world. I look forward to serving another quadrennium on either PAG or the Board of Directors if I am elected again. I would like to continue to serve on the Legacy Fund which has become my passion. I find it exciting to be a part of the future today by establishing a fund that will support the organization in the future.

I have been married for 50 years to the love of my life, Donald. Together we have two sons, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. I also serve my church as a Parish Nurse where my primary duties are to call on our members who are not able to be out and about due to age or ill health. During the corona virus epidemic, I switched from face to face visits to phone calls and a letter sent out every two weeks. In my spare time, I crochet prayer shawls. The group at my church has given out hundreds of shawls and I am pleased to be a part of that ministry.

Lynn Calvert, Iowa Conference

I am serving my last year as Iowa Conference United Methodist Women President after having served in several offices locally and in my District. I also serve as Dean of the School for Lay Ministry and in various capacities for Church Women United. I am currently a member of the Iowa Conference Care Team. Lay ministry in all of its formations is a passion of mine.

I have four children and they all have awesome partners, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I am a retired Registered Nurse.

https://youtu.be/XDCgbLjBFWU



Janice A. Deal

Janice graduated from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She worked as a hospital nurse in Ohio and Virginia. In 1984, she started a home-based business in Virginia that provided word-processing services. After receiving certificates in editing and publishing and being certified as an Editor in the Life Sciences, she transitioned to freelance editing and provided substantive editing and copyediting for books and journal research and review articles. Subject areas included nutrition, cancer, women's health, pharmacy, and addiction medicine. She managed projects and developed and presented several workshops about editing practices for adult education classes, a publishing company, and the American Medical Writers Association.



In 2006, Janice and her husband returned to Ohio and settled outside Zanesville. She found that locations in the county were limited for dependable high-speed Internet access necessary to continue her business. Digital disparity throughout Appalachia and rural America that limits access to health care, education, and business opportunities remains her concern. Being sensitive to energy use, the environment, and handicap accessibility, Janice and her husband researched energy efficiency and universal design. They designed and built their new home with added insulation, geothermal and radiant floor heating, and multiple handicapped accessible features that enabled her to provide live-in care for her parents.

As a young adult, Janice became interested in and joined Uninted Methodist Women in Virginia where she was active at the local level as circle leader, vice-president, and president. After returning to Ohio, she started attending United Methodist Women events at Central Trinity and became a member there. She was soon asked to join the Foothills Distrist leadership team as communications coordinator and worked to update the District Standing Rules before she became district president. For the West Ohio Conference, she served as secretary and the chair of the Conference Standing Rules Committee. At present, she is a member of the Foothills District Committee on Nominations and president of Central Trinity United Methodist Women. She helped start the prayer shawl ministry at Central Trinity, serves on the Administrative Council and the Missions Committee, and plays in the handbell choir. She has attended one LDD event and the past three Assemblies and given presentations and written newsletter articles about workshops she attended. In addition, she serves on the Real Estate Committee of the West Ohio Conference Board of Trustees. Janice considers participating in Mission u and the Reading Program to be her favorite activities of United Methodist Women. She has received five Special Mission Recognition pins and certificates. https://youtu.be/wCocsl3trTY

Muriel O Smith Gross

I am a seasoned senior who is the mother of two, a grandmother, a lover of reading, music and travel. I believe that girls should be taught and educated so that they can be more productive women who can produce a healthier and more educated society. I believe that all of us has some innate good and that God directs our paths – when we let Him.

I have been a part of the UMC for more than fifty years. My work now is mostly with the UMW and it is very fulfilling. Working with women is inspiring, enervating and keeps me on my toes. Each of us has a part to play and I try to play my part.

2856 N. Sherman Blvd.

Milwaukee, WI 53210

Cell Phone: 414-213-6066

Email: imgrossey@gmail.com

No photo available

https://youtu.be/mGBqFOVwOcI



Kim Harris (Deaconess-Home Missioner)

I am a member of the United Methodist Church of Anoka (UMCA). At UMCA I have been involved in many ministries of the church including youth activities, choir, and Sunday-school classes and leadership of the Local UMW Unit. I am currently The Family Promise Coordinator at UMCA. Family Promise is a ministry that provides families that are experiencing homelessness food, shelter, and hospitality for 90 days. UMCA host the families three weeks out of the year. Our church has been part of the multi denominational ministry for the past 10 years.

I have been on the District UMW Leadership Team and on the MN Conference UMW Leadership Team. I have been Technology Coordinator, Program Coordinator and Communications Coordinator.

With the love a support of the Local, District and Conference UMW, I learned about and became a member of the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner. I was consecrated into the Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner on May 16, 2016. This Order is a lifetime commitment to Love Justice and Service. My current ministries are teaching at Kids & Co Child Care, serving at United Methodist Church of Anoka in ministries of the church and serving as the Minnesota Conference United Methodist Women Communication Coordinator.

https://youtu.be/GzDNogD2_uQ

Krishna Heyward



Krishna Heyward has been a member of United Methodist Women for over 18 years after joining University United Methodist Church. Growing up Missionary Baptist, she tagged along with her mother and grandmother to women auxiliary meetings where the focus was fellowship, service and mission. Joining United Methodist Women was a natural fit for Krishna. During her membership, Krishna has served in positions on the local, district and conference level. Her love and focus have always been creative supportive fellowship especially with young women. As president of her local unit (2015-2019), University UMC-Indianapolis, she established a Limitless and Limitless 2.0

unit. The Limitless unit is for young women from 19 to 40 years of age and Limitless 2.0 is for young ladies 7 to 18 years of age.

Krishna has spent majority of her professional career in service to women and children. During her 19 years tenure in Indiana State government, her responsibility continuously increased until she became the controller of the Department of Child Service, Department of Family Resources and Office of Early Childhood and Out of School Learning for the State of Indiana. During her tenure, Krishna always consulted UMW resources when making decisions and recommendations for the establishment and application of new and existing policies and procedures in carrying for the welfare of children and families across Indiana. She also served as advocate and mentor for many individuals especially women of color during her tenure. In Krishna's current position as Director of Finance for At-Your-School, Inc., a before and after school program servicing the central Indianapolis area, she continues to serve at risk families. Being the majority of the children serviced in the program are receiving free and reduced lunch, Krishna was drawn to this program to help interrupt the school to prison pipeline.

Krishna has been married to the love of her life, Joseph II for almost 19 years. She is also the proud soccer mom to Trey, proud tennis mom to Joshua and proud bark mom to JJ. In addition to UMW membership, Krishna serves as the mentor for both the Limitless and Limitless 2.0 mission groups. At University UMC, she serves as director of Daughters of Imani young ladies mentoring program and is part of the nursery ministry and food pantry ministry.

https://youtu.be/Po6tslbUzcl

Roxie Hutsell

Roxie Hutsell has served on the United Methodist Women's Jurisdiction Core Planning Committee; she has served on the West Ohio United Methodist Women's Conference Team as Secretary of Financial Interpretation, Social Action and Nominations Committee.

Roxie served as Secretary of Social Action, Communications and as President on the Ohio River Valley District Team. She has served Gaines United Methodist Women on the local level as Social Action, Subgroup chairperson and as President.

Roxie has served Mission u in various positions including Dean.

https://youtu.be/MuvErvIBajQ

JUDY HUYNH (2020)

Judy Huynh grew up on a dairy farm near Lyons, Michigan, and graduated from Michigan State University with a B.S in Dairy Science (1968), and an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction (1990). She married Han Huynh in Wellington, N.Z. in 1968; they lived in Saigon, Vietnam until 1975. She is a retired middle school teacher and is a member of the LeValley United Methodist Church. She and Han have three grown sons; Khoi (Karla) in California, Eric in Vietnam, and Jason (Connie) in Washington, and one granddaughter. Octavia.

https://youtu.be/Xdn0GHSwmD8



Sandra Marek

Sandy lives in Berea, with her husband of 49 years Tom. They have 5 children, 11 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Sandy was born in Cumberland, Maryland and came to Berea in 1969. Tom and Sandy attend Berea United Methodist Church.

Sandy is Lay Leader at UMCB. She participates in Stephan ministries, UMW unit, on Mission committee of the Church, engaged in the "Messy Church" ministry. Not to let our DS off the hook, Sandy serves on the Finance Committee of the District. She has had "Rule of Christ" training and has spoken at churches on the subject.

Sandy's first encounter with Lay Servant training was 2002, at First

Church. The Lay speaking ministries, as it was called, was the Basic course with Rev. Pride Bass as the facilitator. From 2002 till the present time, Sandy has attended all Lay Servant training, as it was to become called. Not wanting to preach, this 2002 basic course had everything from Preaching, Witnessing, Teaching, Leadership, Story Telling and how to proclaim the Gospel through service.

Her travels since 2002 have taken her to Tupper Springs, Ohio, to be a volunteer, at the United Methodist Church community around the area, fixing fences, building ramps and repairs to the Church. On to Mississippi after Katrina in 2011 to be of service in that flooded area with habitat for humanity and in 2013 going to Honduras with VIM. Working with the Cleveland habitat for 2 years with the Apostle Build refurbishing houses in Cleveland communities.

In 2006 helped Ann George establish the Parma Height Food pantry. Needing a newer car, she convinced her husband to buy a truck. Working with Ann for 6 years at the pantry, picking up food for the pantry from the Cleveland Food Bank was awesome. I have stories about dead man's curve. Also became a Benefit counselor for the food pantry through the food bank to help people around our food pantry, doing simple tax forms, for free and looking for resources around the area for those with specific needs. Doing the Produce food truck from the CFB in warm weather in the Parma Heights City hall parking lot. It was an honor to work with Mr. Sherrod Brown and many others the first year to get the agriculture bill passed.

United Methodist Women has been a wonderful journey. Spiritual growth coordinator for the Conference UMW, President of UMW Conference. Working with UMW conference opened many opportunity to go to Jurisdiction, training in many states and networking with women from all over the globe. Now as Vice president of the North Coast district UMW allows me to share the opportunities of being a United Methodist Woman.

My spiritual gift assessment was service. I took it 3 times and each time, the test result was always the same, hospitality, service. I love being a lay servant because I love people getting to know their stories. Being an only child I have accumulated a vast family of sisters and brothers in this journey call Lay Servant. Being a lay servant opens the door to many relationships to different cultures, races and ethnic groups. I believe being a lay servant you can encourage, empower, nurture and are open to all who are "so called" the "least of these". The Lord has sent Lay servants to be his representatives here on earth, as he sent the disciples to go out and serve.

https://youtu.be/XRKHbNhCStU



Camille McCaskill, North Central Jurisdiction

Contact Information: Camille McCaskill, Email: cmccask@att.net, 618-236-1066 (Home), 618-530-5527 (Cell)

Involvement in United Methodist Women Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC):

Conference - Current president; Past Vice-President; Past Program Resources Coordinator

District - Past Vice-President; Past Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Local Unit - Past President; Current Spiritual Growth Coordinator

Involvement with United Methodist Women National Mission Institutions: Board of Directors and Executive Committee Cunningham Children's Home; Vice-President Board of Directors and Executive Committee Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House

Involvement North Central Jurisdiction: President Illinois Great Rivers Conference United Methodist Women; Delegate 2016; 2020

Other United Methodist Women Involvement: Attended Leadership Development Days in St. Louis, Missouri and Tempe, Arizona; Attended Assemblies in California; Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis, Missouri; and Louisville, Kentucky

Involvement in Illinois Great Rivers Conference (IGRC) United Methodist Church:
IGR Annual Conference – Delegate; Facilitator, A Way Forward session; UMW address
Conference - Member of Connectional Table; Sessions Committee; Board of Global Ministries;
Accessibility Ministries; Lay Ministries; Delegate to Annual Conference; Delegate nominee for General Conference; Conference president United Methodist Women

District - 2020 Nominee from Mississippi River District for IGRC Episcopacy Committee **Local church, Trinity UMC** - Member of Church Council; Staff Parish Relations Committee; Certified Lay Speaker; Certified Lay Servant; Facilitator of Weekly Small Study Group reading books on the United Methodist Women's Reading List; Serves as worship leader/liturgist

Involvement in the community – Vice Chairman, Governance Group of Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Head Start/ Early Head Start Grants; Member and past vice-president, financial officer and secretary of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, East St. Louis Chapter, an international service organization; Charter member, past recording secretary, correspondence secretary, financial officer and current chaplain of Top Ladies of Distinction (TLOD) East St. Louis Chapter, a national service organization; Chairman of TLOD's Chapter weekly COVID-19 telephone Prayer Call



Sandy Meyer

Sandy Meyer lives in Chanhassen, Minnesota with her husband Steve and is a member of Discovery UMC. She is retired after a twentyyear career as Director of Operations for Caryn International, a model coaching and on-camera acting training center.

She has served in numerous UMW leadership roles for many years and is currently Minnesota Conference President. She is also active in Church Women United and currently serves as the state President, as well as on the National Celebrations Committee.

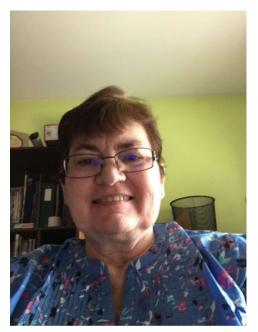
Sandy is a "life" Girl Scout and has held many volunteer positions over the years. She currently has a W.A.G.G.G.S. "Trunk Show" with which she shares Girl Scout traditions and information about the four World Centers and The World Association of Girl Scouts and Girls Guides with Girl Scouts of all ages. She is a 2008 recipient of the Girl Scout Thanks Badge, the highest honor bestowed on volunteers. In 2017 she received the "Forever Green" Award, the highest honor bestowed on alumni Girl Scouts.

For forty-five years Sandy has chaired her high school reunion committee and planned nine reunions. She also serves as the surviving twin representative for International Twin Association and supports other "twinless" through Twinless Twins Support Group International. For thirty-five years she has loved to entertain children of all ages as a clown/magician. It is a big joy in her life to share the good news that God loves us.

https://youtu.be/uXwts64BugY

Julie Miehe

I was born and raised a United Methodist. I grew up on a dairy farm and made money for school milking cows. After high school I entered nursing school and have worked as a registered nurse since. My first glimpses of UMW was working with my mother and women of our church during fund raisers for our pledge. When I had my first child one of the circles gave me a baby shower and was given a gift in mission along with the usual baby gifts. I have been a part of United Methodist Women ever since. I have served as Conference, Secretary of Program Resources and Chair of Nominations and on the committee as well. I also assisted in organizing, hiring staff, finding a place and fund raising for our own conference mission project--The Hmong House of Good News I also served as District President and Secretary of Program Resources. I have also served as Dean, Assistant Dean and registrar, and study leader for Mission u as well as serving on the nominations committee for North Central Jurisdiction. I have also held nearly every office on the local level but currently am not. I also have numerous jobs on the conference, district and local levels of the church leadership teams. I am currently a certified advance lay servant. I have had the opportunity to work with others on global, local and national volunteer in mission trips. Working with a very wide variety of folks has helped me realize my little girl dream of being a missionary overseas which never came to fruition due to some chronic illnesses that started early in my life. I have had the opportunity to attend and be a part of the church and UMW from the very small rural two-point charge church, suburban and city church. Through it all I have seen God work in many different ways. My mantra for a long time has been to be the feet, hands and love of Jesus Christ to make a difference in at least one life and be a part of the transformation of the world. UMW gives me the support to do that. When not doing the many church activities including playing bells, singing, preaching and leading studies I like to read, knit, sew and any other craft that I can accomplish. I also like to travel and learn more about the people & community and what is happening there today because of their heritage.



1316 Silver Springs St. Wausau, WI 54401

Cell Phone: 715-348-5778 Email: Julie.miehe9@gmail.com

https://youtu.be/z59dpKzAUhM

Rita L. Smith

Biography for UMW 2020

Rita is the current North Central Jurisdiction President. Her commitment to missions through the UMW sisterhood, includes serving as a past local unit president, authored a resource pamphlet, *Phase III Campaign for Children on Public Education*, District and Conference Social Action Coordinator, Board Member of the Marcy-Newberry Association, participant in the Racial Justice Consultation programs, Assembly 2010 and 2018 presenter, Mission u Study Leader, Mission u Assistant Dean, and Human Trafficking Task Force member. She is also a former president of the Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Women.

Serving from the heart as a past Lay Leader from Resurrection United Methodist Church (the former Gammon UMC) current Lay Member to Annual Conference. Chicago Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc. Chairman, Certified Lay Servant, Older Adult Ministries Chairman and has served as a member of the Nominations. Safe Sanctuary, Higher Education and Discipline Bible Outreach Ministries committees. Her commitment to servant hood is shown through her election as a delegate to the 2012, 2016 and 2020 General/Jurisdictional Conferences, member of the UMC North Central Jurisdictional Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Midwest Regional Chaplains Council, past Chicago Alumnae Chapter Chaplain, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women Illinois State Chairman, and Nominating Committee member of Illinois Church Women United. Currently she serves on Resurrection UMC Staff Pastor-Parish Relations Committee, and is the Acolyte Coordinator. Her passion for speaking for the voiceless is exemplified by her previous position on the D'Estee Board of Directors and her current position on the Midwest Board of Directors of the Selah Freedom Foundation, and vice president of the Chicago Park District Lafollette Park Advisory Council.

Rita was born and raised in New York City. She was an active child and youth member at St. Mark's UMC in Harlem. She holds degrees from Tuskegee University and the University of Illinois at Champaign. A wife to Charles for 48 years, mother to Tamara (Duane) Brady and recently deceased son Anthony, grandmother to Imani, Ethan and Brady Jr. and retired Chicago Public School administrator, educator and coach. She continues to serve from the heart on a multitude of levels. As an educator, she received an Oppenhemier Counselors Award and a Congressman Danny K. Davis Administrator Award. She has also served as a Parent Teachers Association (PTA) president and district director.

One of Rita's favorite scriptures comes from Matthew 5:14-16. You are the light of the world... In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven.

https://youtu.be/Mr2tacTE4JY

MARILYN A STEENWYK

Northern Illinois Conference nominee for Board of Directors of United Methodist Women

Marilyn has been active in United Methodist Women for 40 years in three Northern Illinois Conference churches. Her United Methodist Women legacy stems from both grandmothers, one active in Women's Society of World Service (EUB Church) and the other in Women's Society of Christian Service (Methodist Church). This legacy continued with her mother, Janet K Gantzert, who served UMW on all levels, primarily as treasurer, for more than fifty years. Janet's work with UMW culminated with her becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the former Women's Division. 1984-1992.



Marilyn has held leadership roles on two districts as Secretary of Program Resources, Mission Coordinator for Social Action, and Chair of Nominations (late 1980s-1990s and in 2019), Conference Treasurer (2003-2006), Conference Historian (2007-2010), NIC UMW's Legacy Liaison (Aug. 2014-present), Mission u Assistant Registrar (2015-19), and a second appointed term as Historian (2019-current).

Her attendance at Mission u for both winter and summer sessions is a calendar fixture for Marilyn, including numerous stints as piano accompanist. She is often seated at the piano for UMW district and conference meetings.

In March 2020, Marilyn completed twelve years of voluntary service as a director and vice president of UMCMG, Inc., a community-based nonprofit organized for charitable, religious, and educational purposes. She is a member and secretary of the Northern Illinois Conference Commission on Archives and History and a volunteer researcher in the stored archives.

Marilyn spent her formative years on her family's corn and soybean farm, a centennial farm in north-central Illinois. She always participated in the life of the church especially in the area of music. Through the years her work in the church extended beyond her musical talent to the Finance, Mission, Nominations, Stewardship, Staff Parish and Youth Council Committees.

After graduating in 1974 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a BS degree in Finance, Marilyn was employed by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago for 28 years. She retired in 2015 and became part of a team of caretakers of Mom until her passing in 2018.

In mid-2018, Marilyn and her husband of 42 years, Louis, relocated from Evergreen Park, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, to Sandwich, Illinois, where they relish small town life from their home which borders an active farm field. They share family life with two adult sons and their wives, and enjoy being "Oma/Opa" to three granddaughters in Wisconsin and three grand-cats in Kansas.

https://youtu.be/WASY2pipMxM

La Donna Riddle Weber was born, raised, and educated in Indiana. Then she married into the Methodist itinerant ministry and has moved house twenty-one times in 40 years. In between the moves she earned a Masters in Library Science and has been a professional librarian for the last 30+ years. Wearing her UMW hat she has been a local unit officer, a district officer, assistant dean and dean of the Mission u, and a conference officer (Secretary of Program Resources and Mission Coordinator for Social Action.) She was a study leader for the Mission u studies on The Church in Europe, Public Education, and Native Americans. In 2016 she co-lead the spiritual growth study on The Bible and Human Sexuality ... with her husband. (And they are still married!) She is the mother of two young adult children.



https://youtu.be/uzHSR9DkapA