The Executive Team of the Alaska United Methodist Women is receiving applications for two Study Leaders to teach at Mission u Events throughout the Alaska Conference of the United Methodist Church. The time frame for teaching is mid-summer through the end of 2018.

Those responding to this call will become “certified” and are expected to teach at a minimum of three or maximum of four Mission u Events held regionally throughout the Alaska United Methodist Conference. Certified leaders do not have to be a member of the United Methodist Church.

As leaders in Christian Mission u Education framework, it is important that we are informed and challenged by the insights of others in fields that enhance our study leading beyond the “content” of the subject we teach. The certification process for study leaders includes attendance and full participation in all aspects of the three day Mission u Leader Training and reading from a reading list compiled to assist you in knowing the field of study and in making selections to enhance your background.

The studies that we are recruiting teaching leaders for are:

- ISSUE STUDY: What About Our Money? A Faith Response
- SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY: Seeking Health and Wholeness

A summary of each study is attached.

The Study Leaders selected will attend the Mission u Leader Training dates and location will be send to selected study leaders (usually early weekend in June).

Selected study leaders and the Dean will attend the same event if possible.

Expenses to attend the training and to teach at our conference Mission u Events will be paid by the Alaska United Methodist Conference UMW. Continuing education credits are available. The Dean and the Mission u planning team will work closely with the certified leaders to schedule events at convenient times.

If you are interested in being considered to teach a study, please complete the attached Call for Study Leader Form and return to:

Jennifer Miller, Dean of Mission Education
alaskan_miller_girl@yahoo.com
8124 East 2nd Ave, Anchorage, AK 99504
907-338-1434 or 907-351-0274

The deadline for submittals is November 15, 2017.
All applicants will be notified by December 1, 2017.
What About Our Money? A Faith Response explores how we relate to money within the context of our faith. Through this connection between our faith and our money, readers discover how to live closer to God and God’s people, even in our North American culture that is so deeply defined by money. She explores the biblical foundation of abundance (sufficiency), which stands in opposition to the scarcity narrative our culture tells us from the time we are very young.

The text’s seven chapters start with providing a biblical foundation for the discussion to come. Taylor then explores the systems in which we make our financial decisions, our modern-day understanding of what is available to us, and how we use/consume our resources in Chapters 2–4. Chapters 5–7 help readers take steps to implement this knowledge in their lives by looking at what belongs to God, how we can plan for the future as people of faith, and to make the connection between our faith and finances.

The focus of this study is both personal and communal. Readers will explore their own relationship with money, the money choices available to us, and how we individually and collectively respond in light of our faith. The text takes into account that we are all in different places, in different financial circumstances, health, family structure, race, age, and stage of life, and each of us has our own values and capacities.

Taylor recognizes that any discussion of money must be set within the context of culture and economic systems. Inequities and oppression based on such factors as race, sex, religion, socio-economic class, and geography are evident throughout the Bible. Today, they continue to powerfully shape people’s relationship to money, to God, and to God’s people.

In any—and every—cross-section of demographics and circumstance, it is spiritually vital to ask, from the grounding of our faith, “What about our money?” Regardless of our circumstance, our relationship to money shapes our relationship with God and God’s people.

Susan K. Taylor has invested much of her life exploring the intersections of faith and money. Taylor weaves money and faith together in her own life, as a mother of two (now young adults); a partner in Just Money Advisors, a financial planning and investment management company that specializes in socially responsible and community investment strategies; regular writer on money and spirituality; vice-president of Faith and Money Network’s board of directors; treasurer for Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, which mobilizes a religious response to global warming; and an active member in her Louisville, Kentucky, church.
The 2018 Spiritual Growth Study, *Seeking Health and Wholeness* is the second in a two-part series about covenantal living. Part 1, *Living as a Covenant Community* by Evy McDonald explores the scriptural definitions of covenant in order to bridge these definitions with their application and their implications for the modern church. Part 2, *Seeking Health and Wholeness* is designed to build on this work it explores the ways God has called us to live in covenantal relationship with all of creation and challenges readers to work toward stronger and healthier relationships with creation, their communities, themselves, and God.

Chapter 1 begins the text with the theological and biblical foundation for our covenantal relationship with creation and moves forward into our community, our relationships, and our very selves. Each chapter explores both our personal and corporate responsibilities to those around us and addresses current issues, such as climate change, social responsibility, and justice concerns.

Chapter 2 examines our relationship with creation, Stonecypher examines the sacred community, our relationship with others, and what the Bible and other theological voices say we ought to do in order to live faithfully. This includes topics such as the importance of worship, acts of justice and mercy, the work of being in solidarity with others, and the social responsibility of seeking happiness.

Chapter 3 discusses our relationships with ourselves and how we are indeed sacred. Stonecypher encourages her readers to consider the biblical command to love ourselves and to explore vocation, identity, play, happiness, and the fall, among other topics. The final chapters explore the more practical side of covenantal living and work toward helping the reader to develop a covenantal living plan, or rule of life.

Stonecypher is a United Methodist deacon in ministry with God’s creation seeking to bring wholeness and dignity to people, plants, animals, and the land, which others deem unworthy of care. She is the Abbess and a founding member of the Wesleyan Order of Saint Francis, a religious order called to live faithfully in solidarity with the marginalized, voiceless, and undervalued members of God’s creation through the lens of Wesleyan and Franciscan theology. Committed to ministry rooted in her place, Jessica lives in her hometown of Zanesville, Ohio, where she serves as the urban agriculture specialist at Muskingum Soil and Water Conservation District and the farm manager of marketing and administration at her family’s cattle farm.

**Leader Guide:** Ellen Lipsey, Faye Wilson
Please complete and return to:  Dean of Mission Education, Jennifer Miller, email address: Alaskan_miller_girl@yahoo.com . You may attach a circum vitae. The preferred proposal format is a Word file attached to an email. If necessary, your form may be mailed to: Jennifer Miller, 8124 East 2nd Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99504. Deadline: November 15

If you have any questions, please contact: Jennifer Miller, email address: Alaskan_miller_girl@yahoo.com or by phone (907)338-1434 and (907)351-0274.

Name:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Home Phone: Cell Phone:
Email:
Home Church:

Please fully answer the following. Use additional space if needed.

Study of Interest:

Are you able to attend Mission u Leaders Training in the Spring/Summer of 2018?

Are you able to itinerate throughout Alaska to facilitate the learning experience for others?

Why are you interested in leading this study?

What experience do you have in leading or teaching a class?

What specific qualifications do you have that relate to this topic?