

THE BEACON

February 2024

Volume 2 - Issue 1



United
Women
in Faith

Our Mission

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

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Letter from our President:

MISSISSIPPI UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH CONFERENCE PRESIDENT GREETINGS

"A New Command I give you, Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another"
John 13:34.

Greetings!!

It is with great JOY and LOVE from my HEART to be nominated and elected to SERVE as your 2024 Mississippi United Women in Faith (UWF) Conference President. I look forward in reaching out and visiting with YOU in our seven Districts, along with members of our Mississippi UWF Conference Leadership Team. Much Love and much Prayer is asked and needed from whomever will have the opportunity to read our first Beacon for the year, that we as Mississippi United Women in Faith will be putting forth an effort to conquer all the changes (realignment) that has been made by our Mississippi Annual Conference in our seven Districts. With God's help, and our patience, we can move mountains. Our Mississippi UWF Conference theme for this year is "Love one Another". With God's Love, and your Love for one another we can take a stand and move forward in Jesus Name.

We have great events and programs already planned for this year that I am looking forward to, and hopefully you will be looking forward too also. As you continue to read this February Beacon you will notice we have started this year off with a Book Study, and with great attendance by Zoom. Please notice and read our UWF 2024 Calendar in this Beacon, mark, and plan to attend the different events or programs. As I close, our UWF Mission is devoted to uplifting women, children, and youth. Please continue to PRAY!!
Much Love,

Kathleen Smith
Mississippi UWF Conference President



Calendar Dates for 2024



UWF 2024 Calendar of Events:

2024 Mission u Committee Meeting February 3, 2024 – 10:00 A.M. (Virtual)

Soul Care Retreat (Spiritual Growth) March 1-2, 2024, Camp Wesley Pines, Gallman, MS

2024 Southeastern Jurisdictions Chattanooga, TN April 19-21, 2024
Registration [QR Code](#) or
[click under this link](#)



World Federation and Uniting Church Women Date TBA

Mississippi Annual Conference & UWF Luncheon June 20-22, 2024, Millsaps College, Jackson

UWF Mission u, July 19-20, 2024 TBA

UWF Leadership Team Meeting, August 2-3, 2024

UWF Annual Meeting, October 4-5, 2024, District Officers' Training, November 2, 2024

President

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Open

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Scarritt Bennett Center

Nashville, TN

Board of Directors/ MS Conference UWF Parliamentary

Advsior

Patricia Battle
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**SEJ Charter of Racial Justice Committee
Representative**

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Treasurer Report

I am a resident of Byram, MS and a proud member of Middlebrook United Methodist Church located in District 4. I'm a charter member of our United Women in Faith group and have served as treasurer, secretary, and vice president. I have also served on the District Leadership team as the secretary and president. I'm happy to start my fourth year as our conference treasurer. I have a great team of ladies serving as District Treasurers and I have no doubt that we will have a great year. If you have questions about anything finance related please do not hesitate to give me a call at 601-259-2013.

Berenda Pendleton
Conference Treasurer



Treasurer's
Report



**MISSISSIPPI UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
2024 BUDGET**

Total Pledge to Mission from District's		\$ 80,000.00
A & MD Fund 30% from \$80,000.00		\$ 24,000.00
United Methodist Women's National Office -Pledge		\$ 56,000.00
Conference Leadership		
Directory	\$ 3,200.00	
Financial Reviews	\$ 2,400.00	
Committee Meetings	\$ 1,000.00	
Women's Luncheon	\$ 2,200.00	
Total		\$ 8,800.00
Christian Global Concerns		
Conference Mission u	\$ 10,000.00	
Mission u and Leader Training Event	\$ 1,800.00	
Total		\$ 11,800.00
Southeastern Jurisdictional		
SEJ Meeting	\$ 11,000.00	
SEJ A&MD Fund	\$ 720.00	
Assembly	\$ -	
Total		\$ 11,720.00
Social Action		
Legislative Event	\$ 200.00	
Total		\$ 200.00
Spiritual Growth		
Soul Care Retreat	\$ 2,000.00	
Total		\$ 2,000.00
Membership Nurture & Outreach		
The Beacon	\$ 1,500.00	
Women's Forum	\$ 200.00	
Annual Meeting	\$ 5,212.00	
Special Mission Recognition	\$ 320.00	
Total		\$ 7,232.00
District Work		
District A & MD Fund	\$ 1,200.00	
District Officer Training	\$ 800.00	
Total		\$ 2,000.00
Total		\$ 43,752.00

Spiritual Growth

To: The UWF Leadership Team for the MS Conference:

It is an absolute blessing to serve as the Spiritual Growth Leader/Coordinator for the UWF. My own spiritual growth has been enriched since I began this role. I am grateful for the opportunity and thank you all for your support.

As Spiritual Growth Leaders, we seek to nurture an individual's faith through various means, including worship, education, fellowship, service, and justice. One of our key events is the Soul Care Retreat, previously known as the Spiritual Growth Retreat, which we plan every two years.

I invite the Miss Conference Leadership Team, along with other women, to attend the upcoming Soul Care Retreat on March 1-2, 2024 at Camp Wesley Pines in Gallman, Mississippi. The theme of the retreat is "Love One Another" based on John 13:34.

We are excited to see all of you there.

May God continue to bless you.
Sincerely,

Mary Hampton-Wise
Spiritual Growth Leader/Coordinator



MS Conference United Women in Faith Soul Care Retreat

Theme: "Love One Another"

Leader: Rev. Kitsy Marie Dixon

March 01-02, 2024

Friday and Saturday (in person)

Camp Wesley Pines

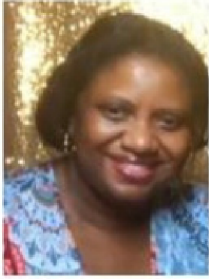
Gallman, MS

- **Sisterhood:** Our new retreat model allows authentic, spiritual, safe-space connections with other women.
- **Relevance:** Insightful speakers and inspiring doers offering new, relatable content connected to faith, social justice, sisterhood and more.
- **Growth:** Unique and meaningful experiences to stretch your thinking and increase your awareness of the Divine's presence in your life.
- **Women-led:** Exciting new spaces for women, made by women

Remember there is no on site reservation and no paper forms. Contact Dorothy Carter (662-305-5641), your district secretary or district communications coordinator, if assistance is needed. Lori Polk (662-315-7142) will help, also.

The link is 

[Registration Form-Soul Care Retreat 2024](#)



MS Conference UWF Education & Interpretation Chair

Greetings United Women in Faith. Please allow me the opportunity to introduce myself, tell you a little bit about who I am, and give you some of the responsibilities of my position. I am Toya Dillard-Allen the Mississippi Conference United Women in Faith Education and Interpretation Chair. I am also the mother of two beautiful daughters Jamie and Miriam. I am a member of the Jackson Alumni Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. I am a graduate of Alcorn State University where I received my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education. I also received a Master's degree in special education from Jackson State University. Currently, I teach Special Education in the Jackson Public School District. I am a member of Anderson UMC in Jackson MS where I have served in many positions on my local unit including Vice President, Membership Nurture and Outreach, and Education and Interpretation. Currently, I am the Secretary of Program and Resources for my local unit. On the district level, I have served as Secretary. On the conference level, I served a full term in the position of Social Action Chair before I was nominated to my current position of E&I. As the E&I chair it is my responsibility to recognize units that complete their requirements for Mission Study, recognize units that complete 15 of the 18 criteria of Local Mission Today Organization Reports, and provide District leadership training. I am also responsible for collecting information to be presented in the yearly Candle Burning Mission Book. It is my joy and honor to serve as your E&I Chair.

Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community

Because we believe:

That God is the Creator of all people, and all are God's children in one family;

That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;

That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;

That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental and political exploitation;

That we must declare before God and before one another that we have sinned against our sister and brothers of other races in thought, in word and in deed;

That in our common humanity in creation, all women and men are made in God's image, and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God;

That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured;

That our struggle for justice must be based on new attitudes, new understandings and new relationships, and must be reflected in the laws, policies, structures and practices of both church and state;

We commit ourselves as individuals and as a community to follow Jesus Christ in word and in deed, and to struggle for the rights and the self-determination of every person and group of persons.

Therefore,

as United Methodists in every place across the land, we will unite our efforts within the church to take the following actions:

Eliminate all forms of institutional racism in the total ministry of the church, giving special attention to those institutions that we support, beginning with their employment policies, purchasing practices, environmental policies and availability of services and facilities.

Create opportunities in local churches to deal honestly with the existing racist attitudes and social distance between members, deepening the Christian commitment to be the church where all racial groups and economic classes come together.

Increase efforts to recruit people of all races into the membership of The United Methodist Church and provide leadership development opportunities without discrimination.

Establish workshops and seminars in local churches to study, understand and appreciate the historical and cultural contributions of each race to the church and community.

Raise local churches' awareness of the continuing needs for equal education, housing, employment, medical care and environmental justice for all members of the community, and to create opportunities to work for these things across racial lines.

Work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people such as through support of the ratification of United Nations covenants on human rights.

Support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community.

Facilitate nomination and election processes that include all racial groups by employing a system that prioritizes leadership opportunities of people from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the ongoing legacy of racial injustice, and use measures to align our vision for racial justice with actions that accelerate racial equality.





Social Action Priorities

Every four years we identify specific focus priorities for our advocacy in addition to our ongoing work for gender and racial justice and for oppressed and dispossessed communities, with special attention to the needs of women, children, and youth. The two social action priorities through 2028 are climate justice and ending mass incarceration and criminalization of communities of color.

Our Just Energy 4 All campaign advances our climate justice priority by mobilizing members and communities to take action to support 100% clean, renewable energy and a just energy transition.

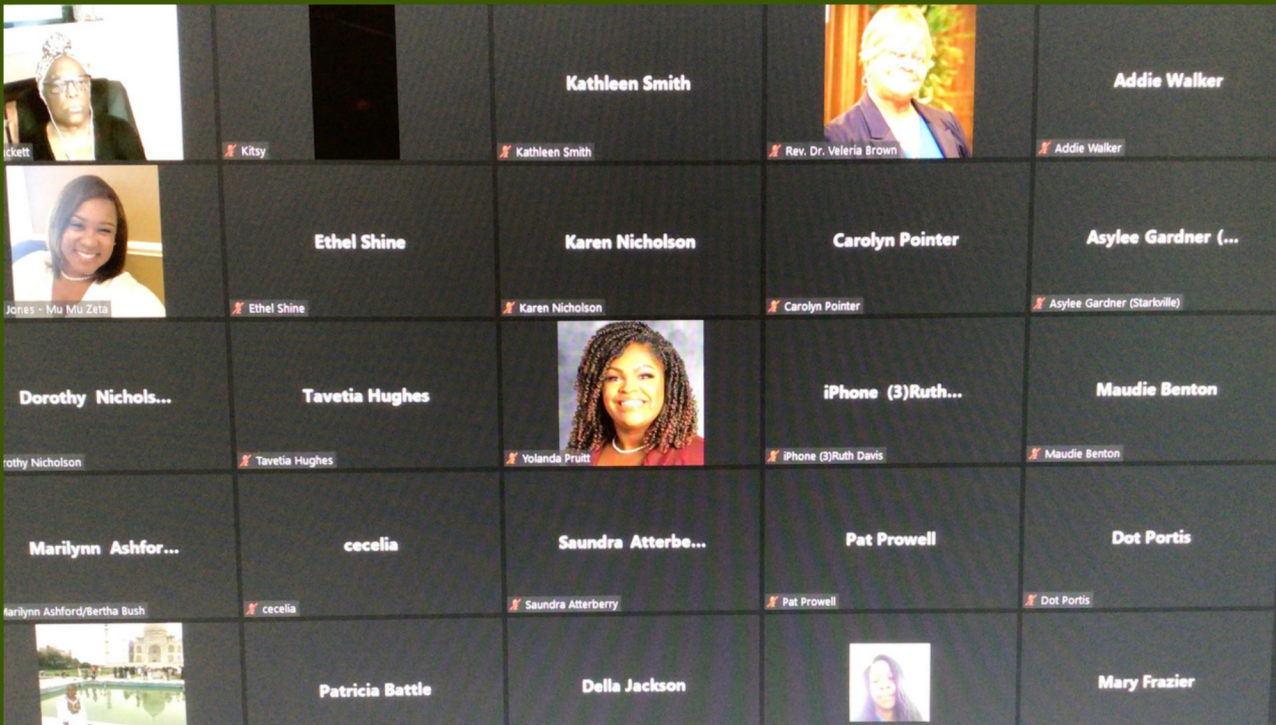
The interrupting the school-to-prison pipeline campaign is an expression of our commitment to end mass incarceration and the criminalization of communities of color. Three commitments of the campaign are:

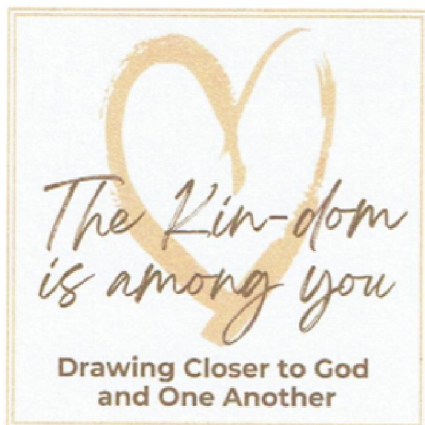
- Removing school-based police (also called school resource officers) from schools and replacing them with healthier alternative supports.
- Reducing racial disparities in school discipline.
- Ending corporal punishment in schools.

<https://uwfaith.org/stories-of-sisterhood/2024/united-women-in-faith-racial-climate-justice-campaigns/>



United Women in Faith
 Because We Believe! MS UWF Conference
VIRTUAL BOOK STUDY via Zoom
 White Fragility by Dr. Robin DiAngelo





Mission u 2024



United
Women
in Faith

MISSION U 2024, offers an exciting curriculum on the theme for adults –

Welcome Home by Neomi Fletcher

The adult curriculum uses the image of home to explore how living in close proximity to the kin-dom is like making a home with God. Participants are invited to develop practices for building healthy, welcoming communities as a result of being anchored in the abiding love of God.

JOIN US! On July 19-20, 2024, for an in-person Mission u, as we explore what it means to draw closer to God and one another.

Location will be in the District 3 area (Meridian/Hattiesburg).

Information of the exact location within District 3 will be coming soon.

Mission u resources can be ordered at uwfaithresources.org.

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodlist.cfm?catID=2176&sortBy=newest>

MISSION U 2024 COMMITTEE

Dean	Mary Simpson
Assistant Dean	Gabrielle Barnes
Registrar	Jennette Moore
Secretary	Gwen Coffey
Business Manager	Berenda Pendleton

Come learn together for the transformation of the world!

MS Conference United Women in Faith

For more information contact:

Mary Simpson, Legacy Fund Liaison

601-880-3127



Faithfully Forward

uwfaith.org/dayofgiving



United
Women
in Faith



Save the Date: March 23, 2024

Faithfully Forward Join United Women in Faith as we step faithfully forward, uniting hearts and hands to create a brighter, more compassionate tomorrow for women, children, and youth. Give to The Legacy Endowment Fund on the Day of Giving, March 23.

WAYS TO GIVE

- Online at: uwfaith.org/dayofgiving
- By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am – 5 pm EST, Mon. – Fri.)
- Text: "FUTURE" to 20503
- By check to:

United Women in Faith, Attn: Legacy
777 United Nations Plaza, 11th Floor
Church Center for the United Nations
New York, NY 10017

Write "Day of Giving" in the memo section.



Together we are building our Legacy!



United
Women
in Faith

The Legacy Endowment Fund is a permanent investment that supports the work and the future of United Women in Faith.



Building stronger communities since 1924, Moore Community House helps its surrounding community flourish by creating economic security for women through affordable child care like its Early Head Start program, and job training for work that pays a living wage like the women in construction classes.

Moore Community House Administration, please call 228-436-6601

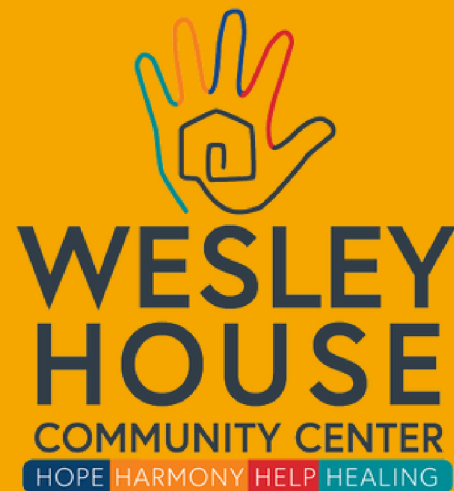
Carol Burnett, Executive Director



The Bethlehem Center is a National Mission Institution related to The United Methodist Church. A non-profit agency located in Jackson, Mississippi, the center serves low-income families and individuals through affordable quality childcare, a free income tax assistance program, a counseling center and various community development initiatives. The Bethlehem Center's mission is to provide academic, health and community programs within a spiritual context. The vision is to be an environment through which God transforms all who participate in our programs, enabling them to become who God calls them to be.

(601) 355-0224

bethlehemjackson@comcast.net



Wesley House Community Center, Inc. is a non-profit organization that began in 1904 when Mrs. Elizabeth Cochran, Mrs. J.R. Whittaker and some ladies of the Central Methodist Church in Meridian, Mississippi felt a calling to "...minister to the least of these..." These Methodist women sought to bring families in a cotton-mill community on the Eastern boundary of Meridian, into the sphere of Christianity. Today, Wesley House is a National Missions Institute and is in a covenant relationship with the United Methodist Women. It is also a recognized mission of the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church. Wesley House is an agency of The United Way of East Mississippi. Wesley House is also a member of the National Children's Alliance, Children's Advocacy Centers of Mississippi, and the Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault. We provide a hand-up approach of assistance to our clients through four separate and distinct mission areas:

East Mississippi Child Advocacy Center
East Mississippi Sexual Assault Crisis Center
Educational Services

Christian Relief

(601) 485-4736

info@wesleyhousemeridian.org



Reading Program

The Reading Program of United Women in Faith brings members together to read, share and discuss books in a variety of genres for all ages.

United Women in Faith

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

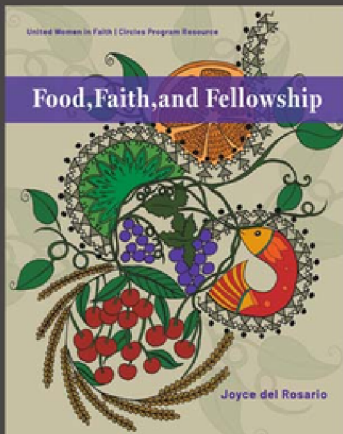
Leadership Development

Nurturing for Community

Social Action

Spiritual Growth

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
DIGITAL BUNDLE
Available now! 20% off





Home of the Bearcats

A United Methodist Church
Related Institution

WE ARE

- A HISTORICALLY BLACK, LIBERAL
ARTS COLLEGE FOUNDED IN 1866 AT
ASBURY METHODIST CHURCH WITH
SUPPORT FROM THE FREEDMEN'S AID
SOCIETY AND AFFILIATED WITH THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

-A STUDENT-CENTERED COLLEGE
WHERE EVERYONE IS COMMITTED TO
THE SUCCESS OF ALL STUDENTS.

- A COLLEGE THAT RECOGNIZES THE
THREEFOLD FUNCTIONS OF
EDUCATION AS TEACHING, AND
LEARNING, RESEARCH, AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE, WITH ITS
PRIMARY MISSION AS TEACHING.

- A COLLEGE WITH DYNAMIC AND
EXCELLENT ASSOCIATE AND
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS
DESIGNED TO SUPPORT THE
CULTURAL, MORAL, AND SPIRITUAL
DEVELOPMENT OF OUR STUDENTS.

- A COLLEGE GROUNDED IN ITS
LEGACY AND COMMITMENT TO
SOCIAL JUSTICE

150 Rust Ave, Holly Springs, MS
38635

662-252-8000



For nearly 100 years Gulfside has advocated and provided opportunities for underserved, excluded, and discriminated against people and communities. Today, we continue to engage in the ministry of advocacy by: inspiring people, churches, and organizations to positively impact underserved communities training the next generation of multicultural advocates

Partnerships

Mississippi Conference of the United
Methodist Church

Southeast Jurisdiction of the United
Methodist Church

General Board of Global Ministries of the
United Methodist Church

Gammon Theological Seminary

Cheryl Thompson, President/CEO
Main Building, 301 Herlihy St Office,
Waveland, MS 39576



Mississippi United Methodist Choctaw Mission

A caring ministry working with the Choctaw people to enrich the lives of children, young people and families

Historical Pillars – Community Outreach,
Spiritual Enrichment and Leadership

Development Programs: Eagle's Nest –

Community Pantry – Dreamcatchers – Saturday
Cafe' – Volunteer Ministry

Eagle's Nest – Children and Family Program to help families with economic hardships to provide diapers, feminine hygiene products, athlete shoes, socks, undergarments, hygiene kits for children and other needed essentials.

Each year we have three festivals during the spring, back to school and fall. Easter and Christmas are special for children, youth and families – Easter Bags and Christmas toys and gifts.

Global Ministries Contact

Patricia Battle, Director

choctawummission@gmail.com

[\(601\)273-3734](tel:(601)273-3734)

A Mission of Hope

Through Jesus Christ, Methodist Children's Homes brings hope and healing to hurting children in Mississippi.

Methodist Children's Homes seeks to bring restoration to children and youth who have been neglected or abused. By the end of their time with us, we hope to see that they find reconciliation with their biological families, love within an adoptive family or success as a productive, independent individual.

A Lasting Legacy

Methodist Children's Homes has been providing care and love for children and families in Mississippi since 1896. Originally an orphanage, MCH has cared for more than 11,000 children for over a century. We have grown from our original location in Water Valley to multiple homes across the state, and our primary campus is now in Jackson. The legacy of Methodist Children's Homes has always been that of Christ-centered, generous love – something that will never change.

Methodist Children's Homes
United Methodist Ministry with Children
and Families
805 North Flag Chapel Road
Jackson, MS 39209



Love in Action

The mission of United Women in Faith is to connect and nurture women so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

 United Women in Faith

Frances Perry Scholarship

Website for the United Women in Faith in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church

 Mississippi United Women in Faith /

https://mississippi-uwf.org/images/Updated_Arlean_Hall_Mission_Grant_Application_2024_.pdf



www.sejumw.org

What does it mean to answer the call to "love one another" (John 13:34) in 2024? Come GET TOGETHER to explore the possibilities through

 sejumw.org /

<https://mississippi-uwf.org/images/nicepage-images/2022UNITEDWOMENinFAITHInformationComprehensiveMembership.pdf>

Home

Website for the United Women in Faith in the Mississippi Conference of the United Methodist Church

 Mississippi United Women in Faith /

DON'T MISS IT

LAST DATE TO REGISTER

MARCH 19, 2024



EVENT:

Let's Get Together for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Quadrennial meeting! Have you registered yet? If not, you still have time. **Deadline is March 19th.**

Go to:

WWW.SEJUWF.ORG