

AUGUST 2023

VOL.3

# THE BEACON

MS Conference United Women in Faith Publication



## From the Desk of the President

Greetings to One and All!

It's been an unusually hot summer, but a busy one for us just the same. We don't let heat stop us from doing God's purpose for those women, youth, and children in need! Local organizations, Districts, and your Conference Leadership Team have worked diligently across the state, looking to see where God is working-- and joining in!

We are blessed with a wonderful membership of United Women in Faith in Mississippi and an especially dedicated Conference Leadership Team, who work together to plan events to increase our spiritual walk, train, educate, bring awareness to issues, and encourage our fellowship with one another at Mission u, meetings, and luncheons.

We cannot do all that our purpose asks us to do without women of all ages whose desires are to serve. Please be in prayer and be open to The Holy Spirit's nudge to step up and say, "Here I am. Yes, I will", if asked to serve a position on the Local, District, or Conference level. We cannot grow if we all say, "No."

I hope to see you all this coming October 6-7, 2023 at RUST COLLEGE in Holly Springs! (Ephesians 1:16)



In Christ's love, Dale Barnes VDB, Conference President



## Who We Are

## Our Mission

We seek 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.

## Our Vision

We are a powerful, fearless force driven by God's love and united in sisterhood. With a focus on women, children and youth, we act for justice and transform communities.

We face the realities we see in the world, even when they are not the ones we would like to see. However, our goal is not to bear witness simply to harms but also to God's love by acting boldly to change those harms.

## Our Action

Bold action, like faith, takes courage. Our bravery is inspired by God's love and our powerful commitment to improve the lives of women, children and youth. United Women in Faith works for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems that harm women, children and youth—from racial and gender injustice to economic inequality, climate issues and more.

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Open

### Seashore

Open

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*Slate of Officers for 2024*

*Forthcoming Very Soon*

# Mississippi Conference UWF

## Calendar of Events 2023

~~May 20, 2023: World Federation and Uniting Church Women TBA~~

~~June 27-30, 2023: MS UMC Annual Conference, Tupelo, MS~~

~~MS UWF Luncheon: June 27, 2023, Time: 12 PM  
Fee \$25.00~~

~~July 21-22, 2023: Virtual Mission u (See flier)~~

~~August 11-12, 2023 MS UWF Leadership Team Meeting [Hilton Garden Inn Jackson/Madison](#)~~

**October 6-7, 2023**.....MS UWF Annual Meeting: Rust College; Doxey Building - Host District-Senatobia District (Asbury, Byhalia and Maples UWF)

**October 21,2023**.....Hattiesburg District UWF Annual Meeting at Ellisville First United Methodist Church, Ellisville, MS.

**November 4, 2023**.....MS UWF District Officer Training: St. Peter UMC, Meridian District

**April 26-28, 2024**..... Save the Date SEJ Chattanooga, TN.  
Forthcoming information coming soon from our MS UWF



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## Save the Date

October 6-7, 2023

ANNUAL MEETING

of the

*MS Conference United Women in Faith*

*Host District: Senatobia District*

*Rust College, Doxey Building*

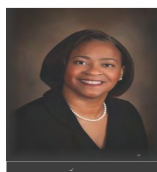
*150 Rust Avenue, Holly Springs, MS*

*"Where Do We Go From Here?"*

*Scripture: He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*



*Friday Evening Worship: Rev. Ricky Haynes, Senatobia District Superintendent*



*Saturday Morning: Bishop Sharma Lewis, Resident Bishop  
of The Mississippi Episcopal area*

**MS UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH ANNUAL MEETING  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Friday and Saturday, October 6-7, 2023  
Rust College-150 Rust Avenue- Holly Springs, MS  
Mail check to Berenda Pendleton, 616 Carson Drive, Byram, MS 39272  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 15, 2023  
Make checks payable to: **MS Conference UWF**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Check as many of the following as applicable:

- Local Officer: Name of Office \_\_\_\_\_
- District Officer: Name of Office: \_\_\_\_\_
- Conference Officer: Name of Office: \_\_\_\_\_
- Past Conference President of UMW, WSCS, or Guild
- Voting Delegate (See Standing Rule A 1, Page 75)

\_\_\_\_ Child Care: How many and what are their ages: \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 per child per day

0-10 Years old: any special needs (allergies to food, insects, etc.) or anything the daycare would need to know about your child/children.

\_\_\_\_ \$30.00 Registration Fee includes lunch (**NO ON-SITE REGISTRATION**)

\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Registration Fee **NO LUNCH** -Friday Registration-4:00 P.M.-6:45 P.M. & Saturday

**Registration-8:15-8:45 A.M. at Rust College - Doxey Building**

**HOTEL INFORMATION**

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**Best Western Plus Desoto - 7904 Craft-Goodman Frontage Rd. Olive Branch, MS 38654  
Code: United Women in Faith (Complimentary Hot Breakfast Included)**

**Room Rates: \$109.00 (Standard King)-\$109.00 (Standard Double Queens)  
Phone #662-932-7110**

**[https://www.bestwestern.com/en\\_US/book/hotel-rooms.25109.html?groupId=H39TY5S](https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.25109.html?groupId=H39TY5S)**

**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
<b>United Methodist Women's National Office -Pledge</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>56,000.00</b>
<b>Conference Leadership</b>		
Directory	\$	3,200.00
Financial Reviews	\$	2,400.00
Committee Meetings	\$	1,000.00
Women's Luncheon	\$	2,200.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 8,800.00</b>
<b>Christian Global Concerns</b>		
Conference Mission u	\$	10,000.00
Mission u and Leader Training Event	\$	1,800.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 11,800.00</b>
<b>Southeastern Jurisdictional</b>		
SEJ Meeting	\$	-
SEJ A&MD Fund	\$	720.00
Assembly	\$	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 720.00</b>
<b>Social Action</b>		
Legislative Event	\$	200.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Spiritual Growth</b>		
Soul Care Retreat	\$	2,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>Membership Nurture &amp; Outreach</b>		
The Beacon	\$	1,500.00
Women's Forum	\$	200.00
Annual Meeting	\$	5,212.00
Special Mission Recognition	\$	320.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 7,232.00</b>
<b>District Work</b>		
District A & MD Fund	\$	1,200.00
District Officer Training	\$	800.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>32,752.00</b>

## Education & Interpretations Mission Boards

As your MS Education & Interpretation Conference Chair, I am asking each district to prepare a Mission Poster to be displayed at Rust College during the MS United Women in Faith Annual Conference on October 6th and 7th.

The poster's theme for 2023 is **“Where Do We Go from Here.”** Labeled tripods will be available for each poster display.

Thank you for your Love and Support,

**Toya Allen, E&I Conference Chair**



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## **Standing Rules Committee**

### **Standing Rule Revision**

#### **Page 75- Addition**

**Number 11: If a member of the leadership team resigns, a letter must be sent to the President, Secretary, and Chair of the Nomination Committee. After a three month period, if no letter has been received and all means of communication have been exhausted the position will be declared vacant by unanimous vote.**

#### **Page 79- Number 5 - ASSEMBLY**

**Addition: ASSEMBLY AND SOUTHEASTERN JURISDICTION**



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# Reading Program

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

[response](#) magazine and the Faith Talks [podcast](#) are part of the Reading Program

<https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/ReadingProgramCatalog2024.pdf><https://uwfaith.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ReadingProgramCatalog2023.pdf>



**The Legacy Endowment Fund** of United Women in Faith is a permanent endowment that supports the work of the organization on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world. The goal of The Legacy Endowment Fund Campaign is \$60 million. Thousands of generous donors have contributed to date, bringing the campaign close to half of this goal.



## WATCH THE LEGACY FUND

### Online

**By phone: 800-278-7771 (8 am – 5 pm EST, Mon- Fri)**

**Text: “GIVE” to 20503**

**By check to:**

**United Women in Faith**

**Attn: Legacy,**

**475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1500 New York, NY 10115**



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# SAVE THE DATE

## April 26-28, 2024

It's not too early to start planning

# "Get Together" Southeastern Jurisdiction 2024

April 26 - 28, 2024  
Chattanooga, Tennessee  
Chattanooga Convention Center

*"A new command I give you; Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."*

John 13:34

Our 2024 event  
"Get Together"  
will be at the  
Chattanooga  
Convention Center  
Chattanooga, TN  
April 26-28, 2024



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SEJ



[www.sejuwf.org](http://www.sejuwf.org)





## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION OPENS SEPTEMBER 2023

Early Registration: \$210 (September thru December 2023)

Late Registration: \$240 (after December 2023)

Additional information and instructions on how to register will

<https://uwfaith.org/?form=SEJ>



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**MS Conference UWF Mission u  
Via Zoom July 21-22 2023**

**LIVING THE KIN-DOM  
EXPLORING THE LORD'S PRAYER AS A  
SPIRITUAL PRACTICE FOR SOCIAL  
TRANSFORMATION**

Living the Kin-dom: Participants will explore the Lord's Prayer as it is recorded in Matthew 6:9-13 and are invited to take a deeper look at the prayer and the role it plays in our faith journey.

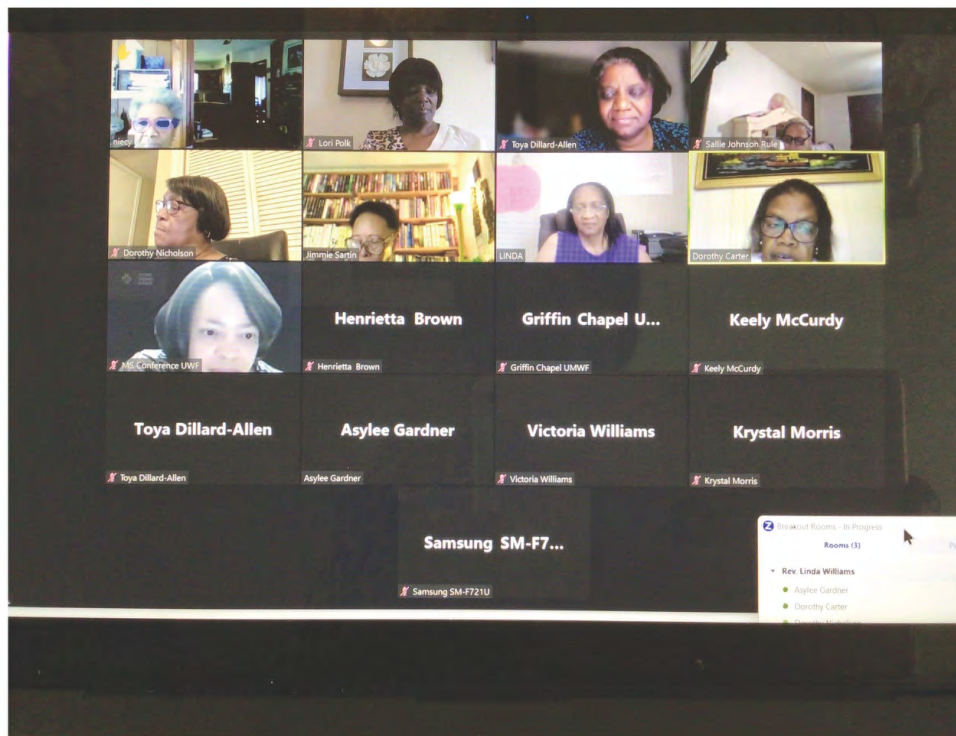
**Study Leaders:  
Rev. Linda Dixon, Rev. Cheryl Farr  
Rev. Linda Williams  
and Photos of partial classes**



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United Women in Faith

**Mississippi United Methodist Church Annual Meeting  
MS UWF Luncheon  
Photos**

**Speaker: Rev. Mattie Gipson**

<https://share.icloud.com/photos/01dloGqGLKYbc1fVDdUmQ6yGQ>

<https://share.icloud.com/photos/0d9yIHCeTpYrXM8f2L3Entuug>



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## District UWF News

### Brookhaven

[http://www.mississippi-umw.org/images/June\\_2023\\_Horizon\\_Publication.pdf](http://www.mississippi-umw.org/images/June_2023_Horizon_Publication.pdf)

### Hattiesburg

**Hattiesburg UWF Annual Meeting- October 21,2023, at Ellisville First United Methodist Church, Ellisville, MS.**

### Starkville

Greetings from the Starkville District,

I am Eve Priester, President of the Starkville District United Women of Faith.

The Starkville District United Women Faith has continued to transform during challenging times in the Starkville District.

We have depended on our Faith in God, and we continue to live and walk by Faith.

GOD has empowered our United Women in Faith Units in the Starkville District to walk through difficult times in our Communities to give a helping hand in our Schools, in our Churches.

We are still supporting significant issues such. as stopping gun violence, healing racism in our Churches and stopping hunger, one person at a time.

As Starkville District United Women in Faith, we have committed ourselves to work together and press towards our goal to help women, youth and our Communities over any tribulations that could weaken our Faith in GOD.

GOD has not only strengthened our local units, but God continues to bring our Starkville District closer together.



**We came together as a Starkville District to offer in person our yearly District Day Apart and Local Officer's Training, which was held at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Starkville, MS.**

**We had six to attend our Mississippi Social Action Event at New Zion United Methodist Church in Crystal Springs Mississippi on March 4, 2023. We were blessed to have an excellent speaker, Deaconess Clara Ester.**

**We had over 35 United Women of Faith to attend this year's Mississippi Annual Conference in Tupelo, Mississippi.**

**We also were blessed in the Starkville District to have over 35 ladies to attend Mission u in July of this year.**

**I thank GOD for helping The Starkville District United Women of Faith to continue to "Stir up The Gifts that GOD has given us."**

**I also thank them for their willingness to continue to support our United Women of Faith Missions as well as supporting Women, Children and Youth in our Communities.**

**We have also planned our Mission u Event 2023 on August 19th at New Bell Zion United Methodist Church in Starkville, Mississippi.**

**Our Starkville District Annual Meeting will be held at Unity United Methodist Church in Weir, MS on October 21, 2023.**

**Our Churches are Blessed and Highly Favored by GOD, for we are already planning to attend The Mississippi Conference Spiritual Growth Event which will be held at Camp Wesley Pines in March 2024.**

**Our Starkville District United Women in Faith, which is a group of Godly women, are trying hard to help our seniors to attend these events as well.**

**We are continuing to place our trust in GOD with our lives because GOD is the reason for our success for over 150 years and we will not give up on GOD.**

**As a United Women of Faith Unit, we stand strong on our faith in GOD, because as a Unit our Faith has made us stronger. As a Unit, we walked by Faith and not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7. This is just one of the Scriptures we have learned to continue to live by daily.**

**Our Starkville District United Women of Faith are still helping distribute food boxes, clothing, 250,000 pounds of sweet potatoes, and we are planning to give 10,000 tons of catfish to help stop hunger and suffering in our local communities again this year.**

**We had several different churches to be distribution centers all over the Starkville District to stop hunger and address the needs of the Community.**

**Our Starkville District United Women in Faith understands that trusting JESUS requires us to follow the unseen into the unknown and stand on the WORD of the ALMIGHTY GOD for guidance in our lives.**

**We are also in the planning stage to offer a Clothing Closet in Middle School and High School for Disadvantaged Students in the Starkville District for free.**

**Thank you for this opportunity to speak before you as GOD's Servant and I pray all of us become the Servants GOD wants us to be and serve in our local churches, communities, and in our homes.**

**Thank you all also for your love, trust, and support in me. I will continue to work hard to serve our Starkville District and to keep hope alive.**

**Eve Vanessa Priester  
Starkville District President**





## Mississippi Conference UMC Annual Meeting Starkville District



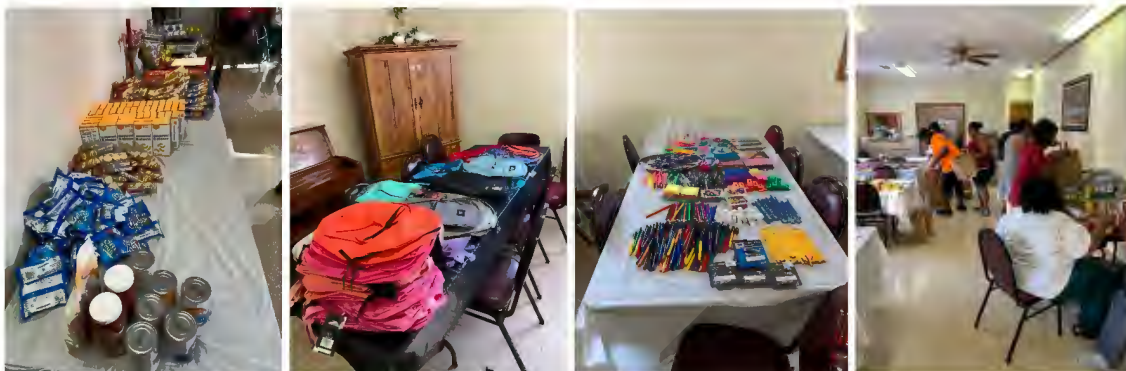
<https://share.icloud.com/photos/007mqhc-ipjX5N3qNojhhTKJQ>  
(Submitted from the Starkville District)

## Starkville District Mini Mission u





## Starkville District Food Pantry and Backpack Event



### Griffin UMC UWF Monthly Meeting



Griffin's monthly meeting's study was Working in Community Towards Liberation. As part of this study, the group Enjoyed participating in the play, "The Woman At The Well."



### Griffin UMC UWF Rainbow Tea



# Buffalo UMC UWF Meeting





Meridian

Meridian District-The Meridian District UWF  
“Miles For Mission Walk”



## Quick Links for UWF websites and MS UWF Conference forms

**National** [www.uwfaith.org](http://www.uwfaith.org)

**Sally Vonner Installation Services, General Secretary and CEO of United Women in Faith**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBWDRaGt7ZY&pp=ygUic2FsbHkgdm9uYmVylHVuaXRlZCB3b21lbiBpbiBmYWl0aA%3D%3D>

<https://uwfaithresources.org/prodDetail.cfm?productID=10396&catid=2209>



<https://www.uwfaith.org/digital>

**Mississippi** [www.mississippi-umw.org](http://www.mississippi-umw.org)

<https://www.mississippi-umw.org/images/2023NecrologyReportForm-1.pdf>

<https://www.mississippi-umw.org/index.php/ms-umw-forms/8-forms/29-arlean-hall-mission-grant-application>

[https://www.mississippi-umw.org/images/Mississippi\\_ConferenceTalent\\_Bank\\_Information\\_Form.pdf](https://www.mississippi-umw.org/images/Mississippi_ConferenceTalent_Bank_Information_Form.pdf) (updated version coming very soon from CNOM)

<https://www.facebook.com/dailyprayerguide/https://uwfaith.org/who-we-are/>



## Charter for Racial Justice in an Interdependent Global Community

### Because we believe:

1. That God is the Creator of all people, and all are God's children in one family;
2. That racism is a rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ;
3. That racism denies the redemption and reconciliation of Jesus Christ;
4. That racism robs all human beings of their wholeness and is used as a justification for social, economic, environmental and political exploitation;
5. 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;
6. 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;
7. 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;
8. 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Increase efforts to recruit people of all races into the membership of The United Methodist Church and provide leadership development opportunities without discrimination.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Support and participate in the worldwide struggle for liberation in church and community.
8. 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.

Sign up for important news and updates in our racial justice newsletter.



To learn more about our racial justice work, we invite you to:

- See a [timeline](#) of important moments in racial justice history.
- Read our [Charter for Racial Justice](#).
- Meet the [Racial Justice Charter Support Team](#).
- Join our [Interrupt the School-to-Prison Pipeline](#) campaign.
- [Visit our e-store](#) for more racial justice resources.

**United Women in Faith first adopted the “Charter of Racial Policies” in 1952. We worked on ratification at multiple levels of the organization and readopted an updated version in 1962. Throughout the years, we lobbied the United Methodist Church to officially adopt the Charter, seeking to bring its commitments to the full body of the church. The Charter was first received by the General Conference in 1964 and first included in the *Book of Resolutions* in 1980. Since then, it has been updated and readopted regularly by delegates to the General Conference. From the 1950s to the present, the Charter has been a core part of our identity**



United  
Women  
in Faith

## **“The Beacon”**

### **Mississippi Conference**

### **United Women in Faith**



Newsletter reports, articles and photos for the  
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