

# 2021

## ANNUAL REPORT

**MWEG**

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MORMON WOMEN FOR ETHICAL GOVERNMENT  
*Women of faith building a more peaceful, just, and ethical world.*

FAITHFUL

NONPARTISAN

PEACEFUL

PROACTIVE

## **OUR MISSION**

To inspire women of faith to be ambassadors of peace who transcend partisanship and courageously advocate for ethical government.



# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD & CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

This year our annual report is a celebration of the **small acts** offered by thousands of MWEG members, friends, volunteers, interns, leaders, collaborators, and donors. Collectively, their efforts made a **big impact** on our work last year, and we made significant progress in achieving the objectives laid out in our 2021 strategic plan.

Throughout this report we have woven examples of that progress, most notably the positive results from focusing our advocacy into five clear and distinct areas. This focus allowed us to mount complex advocacy campaigns at local, state, and federal levels and to expand our “advocacy toolbox” to include even more private meetings with policymakers that complement calls to action and member opinion pieces. These relationships we are building with elected officials will continue to play a role in our ability to be persuasive and effective advocates in the future.

But there were many other small gains. As you read about them on these pages, we invite you to see yourself as a collaborator in this work. Our small acts matter, and, when combined, our efforts can have a big impact. Together, as members of MWEG, we are building communities that can hold together in spite of ideological and political tensions. Each of your small acts means something, and we are grateful for your support.

**Lori Hickman**  
*Chair of the Board*

**Emma Petty Addams**  
*Co-Executive Director*

**Jennifer Walker Thomas**  
*Co-Executive Director*

# 2021 AT A GLANCE



**555,000+**

REACHED ON SOCIAL MEDIA DURING 3 TARGETED ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS



**15,000+**

VOLUNTEER HOURS DONATED



**14,000+**

LETTERS DELIVERED TO MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

# 2021 ADVOCACY AREAS



UPDATING THE  
**ELECTORAL  
COUNT ACT**



PROTECTING  
DEMOCRACY



Utah Educational  
Equity Coalition



Let's Talk About the  
**Violence  
Against  
Women Act**  
(VAWA)

Content warnings: Generalized discussions of assault, abuse, domestic violence, violence, death, and racism.

# 2021 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

**be the change.**

MORMON WOMEN FOR ETHICAL GOVERNMENT  
2021 VIRTUAL SPRING CONFERENCE // MARCH 26-27



PRACTICAL  
PEACEMAKING

Media Literacy Monday

5 Ways to

Increase  
News Media  
Literacy

@mormonweg

# — FULFILLING OUR OBJECTIVES

## ENCIRCLE

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Build the "beloved community,"  
guided by our six Principles  
of Peacemaking.

*Held 11 "Practical Peacemaking"  
coaching sessions to train our  
members in the philosophies and  
practices of conflict resolution.*

## EDUCATE

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Develop a more informed and  
discerning citizenry.

*Introduced weekly GROW (Gather.  
Recharge. Organize. Work.) meetings  
to provide insight and information  
about timely topics for our members.*

# — FULFILLING OUR OBJECTIVES

## EMPOWER

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Help women claim their moral authority and prepare them to act upon it for the benefit of all.

*MWEG members, volunteers, and leaders published 70+ opinion pieces in outlets around the country.*

## ENGAGE

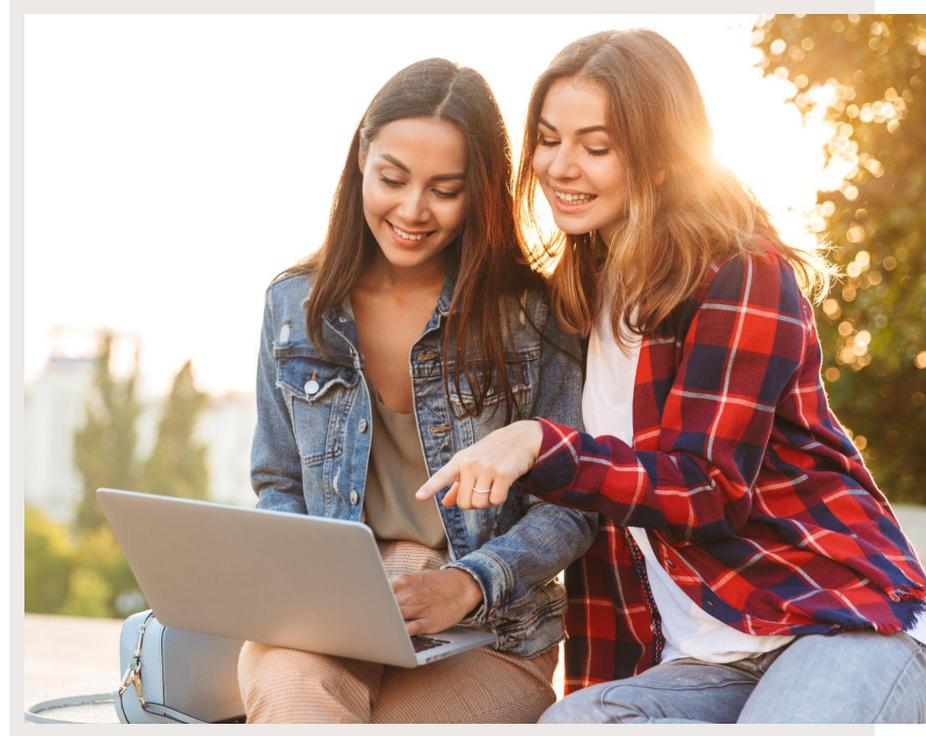
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Act collectively and individually to promote ethical government, oppose injustice, and proactively make peace.

*Members attended 100+ meetings with local, state, and federal representatives regarding MWEG advocacy areas and legislative priorities.*

# OUR MEMBERSHIP

In 2021, our members showed by their words and actions what it means to be “**principled citizens.**” They sharpened their media literacy and peacemaking skills, sharing what they learned with their friends and family along the way. Leveraging their diverse political ideologies and life experiences, they came together to advocate for important issues.



**By taking principled stances on issues, MWEG members are able to speak persuasively with elected officials regardless of their political party.**

# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



## Robin Troxell

MWEG has been an anchor for me many times throughout the years, including in my service as a member of my city council. I deeply appreciate all the work, peacemaking, information, and time put into making the organization run so well.



## Jessica Mitchell

I am grateful to be a part of a community of like-minded women, not necessarily who hold the same political views, but who approach issues and current events in a truth-seeking manner.

# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



**Maria Evans**

I learn so much from the women of MWEG. There is a comfort in associating with both **like-minded and differently minded** experience-expanding women. MWEG actively encourages and teaches peaceful engagement. The organization has truly inspired me to think and approach my friends and family in a more Christlike way.



**Marne Isakson**

I feel compelled to do something in this terrible political climate to make a difference. MWEG keeps me aware of issues, helps me write letters, and feels like a community of Saints who are thoughtful, dedicated, intelligent, and are the kind of women with whom I like to associate.

# CHAPTER HIGHLIGHT

## ARIZONA CHAPTER



In 2021, our Arizona chapter demonstrated our ability to be an effective force in state politics. Early in the year, chapter leadership attended and helped plan virtual refugee advocacy days. Soon after that, members helped to defeat several bills that would have prevented the Arizona Corporations Commission from regulating utility emissions. They also broke into the notoriously difficult op-ed market, publishing five pieces in Arizona outlets. When legislation was introduced to restrict voting in the state, members worked together with other organizations to hold off the worst of the bills. As COVID cases dropped in the fall, they held a backyard gathering in Gilbert, bringing members together to get to know each other and prepare for the 2022 legislative session.

# ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT

## CARING FOR CREATION

Our environment and sustainability advocacy teams in Nevada, Arizona, and Utah moved the needle on a number of important issues in 2021, such as land conservation and responsible energy policy. During the legislative session in Nevada, we successfully advocated for legislation that comprehensively updates the energy grid and improves transportation emissions standards. Additionally, our Nevada Chapter got involved in the America the Beautiful Initiative and supported land conservation at the local and state levels. Arizona MWEG members developed a working relationship with the Arizona Corporation Commission and supported policies for a just and equitable transition to clean energy. Our Utah chapter had productive conversations with the offices of Utah's federal delegation.

In 2021, our leaders and members published at least seven op-eds on environmental issues, including water use, clean energy, and finding bipartisan solutions to climate change. We also worked in alliance with several key environmental organizations to amplify messaging about the importance of environmental stewardship. Finally, our [Caring for Creation video](#) featured a number of faithful voices speaking on our connection to nature and the need to care for it. This video was viewed more than 400,000 times.

# — OUR VOLUNTEERS

In 2021, we created a new leadership position to support our large network of volunteers. As our first director of volunteers, Jillaire McMillan has worked to streamline and improve the volunteer experience for the 100+ women who play a crucial role in supporting our leadership team. MWEG volunteers further our mission as they create content, manage teams, and organize processes.



**In 2021, our volunteers donated more than 15,000 hours of their time to MWEG!**

# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



**Liz Rivera**

MWEG has offered a place for me to go with my fears and frustrations. The sisters of MWEG help me to organize my thoughts and feelings from chaos to coherence, from contention to productive conflict, and from polarization to active peacemaking. Immigration has always been a priority of my heart. Volunteering with MWEG on the Shoulder to Shoulder committee has allowed me to associate more closely with my fellow sisters as we work together to advocate for displaced people — particularly those who are seeking refuge in the U.S. I have learned so much more than facts — I have learned (and still am!) how to incorporate facts with MWEG's principles to advocate in a way that recognizes our shared humanity — including those with whom I may disagree.

# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



**Laura van der Horst**

Volunteering has been a great experience for me. When I volunteered, I didn't think I had anything of value to contribute. However, I am able to do something that helps the organization run just a little bit smoother, which helps others do their jobs a little bit better, which helps MWEG accomplish its mission. No matter what you feel you bring to the table, there is always something you can do.



**Stacie Smith**

Volunteering with MWEG has allowed me to jump right in rather than waiting for the right moment, cause, or when I "know enough." It allows me to learn from others as we work through issues together with layers of scaffolding and support.

# VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS



## Kira Ludwig

Everybody is busy. The great thing about MWEG volunteering is that time commitments can be minimal and can often be completed on your schedule. The best part for me is that the work I do is rewarding and has given me valuable relationships with a delightful team of women.

MWEG has given me so much more confidence. In the past, I often convinced myself that in one way or another, I wasn't qualified to speak up or take action. MWEG has helped me distinguish the ways in which I am already qualified or how I can become qualified with the often unnecessary or imagined requirements I put on myself.

# OUR INTERNS

We brought in more MWEG interns in 2021, and we are hooked! From marketing to social media to administration, our first batch of interns added so much to the MWEG experience that we are expanding the program in 2022. Having college-age women involved in making decisions and shaping our programs gives MWEG a boost in countless ways.



**Our interns raved about their experience working with the leadership team, so we will call this a win-win!**

# — INTERN HIGHLIGHTS



## Myra Beecher

I joined MWEG because of the loving environment it provides for those who don't know much about politics and social justice. I have always thought of politics as something negative and divisive. But through MWEG I have found that without those things we cannot make changes in our communities and states. We need to share our voice and stand for the things we know are right.



## Hannah Adams

MWEG has shown me a path for women to become impactful political activists. Belonging to an intergenerational community of faithful women with shared values has become an integral part of my identity as an engaged and unafraid advocate for change. In this space I feel supported, empowered, and capable. As a young woman, the role of this organization in my life is incomparable and irreplaceable.

# OUR LEADERSHIP

MWEG's team of more than 20 leaders are responsible for the day-to-day operations of our organization, including managing all volunteers. By the end of 2021, we were able to offer some compensation to a greater number of MWEG leaders, as well as plan customized leader training and enrichment programs to be implemented in 2022. On the following pages, we are highlighting three MWEG leaders who played crucial roles in implementing key aspects of our strategic plan in 2021.



# LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



## Jillaire McMillan

I've been an MWEG volunteer and leader in multiple positions for more than five years. This uniquely prepared me to become the organization's first director of volunteers in 2021. Much of my initial work focused on creating and improving processes for onboarding and training volunteers. I also support other leaders in their efforts to recruit and supervise volunteers. More recently, I've been studying volunteer management best practices and sharing my research with other leaders. I've come to realize that the professional skills I'm learning and teaching are just another way that MWEG empowers women. Our MWEG work is better because of our volunteers, but I also know these women will take these skills into their jobs, families, churches, and communities. Being the director of volunteers is not a position that's visible to the public, or even to a majority of our members, but it's one that is essential to the success of our work and to creating successful women.

# LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



## Tiffany Tertipes

While being a member of this organization for the past five years has been an enriching endeavor all by itself, being given the opportunity to use my professional experience as a graphic designer to serve as the MWEG creative director has been an absolute dream. In response to our rapidly growing membership and the increasing reach of our advocacy efforts, MWEG needed a cohesive branding update last year to communicate our vision with intention and confidence. Working together with our communications team and receiving input from MWEG members to help mold our new visual presence helped us shape our new image into one that matches both the power and the integrity of our messaging. It has been an invaluable experience for me to see up close how my specialized not-political-in-any-way skill can be beneficial to MWEG and to women everywhere who are positively influenced and supported by our messaging.

# LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS



## Shauna Fisher

Over the past five years of volunteering and working with MWEG, I have seen women take an idea and shape it into a powerful force for good and build structures that can sustain the organization and its community. We provide a unique space for women from diverse personal and professional backgrounds to come together. Here women willingly place personal pride aside in order to bring about a more ethical and just world for our country, communities, and families. MWEG leaders, volunteers, and members are not afraid of this work and continually rise to the challenge. As a trusted organization where the voices of women are valued, sustained, and powerfully put forward, leaders, volunteers, and members have a desire to prioritize the work while being afforded the flexibility to tend to their many diverse roles.

# — OUR 2021 DONORS

MWEG's donor base of more than 1,000 generous individuals and organizations provides us with the ongoing and one-time income needed to support numerous educational and advocacy projects.

585 sustaining members contribute income that is essential and predictable. This income is augmented by special fundraising efforts such as Giving Tuesday.



## **MWEG**

\$161,611 in total revenue  
750+ donors

## **MWEG Foundation**

\$186,988 in total revenue  
500+ donors

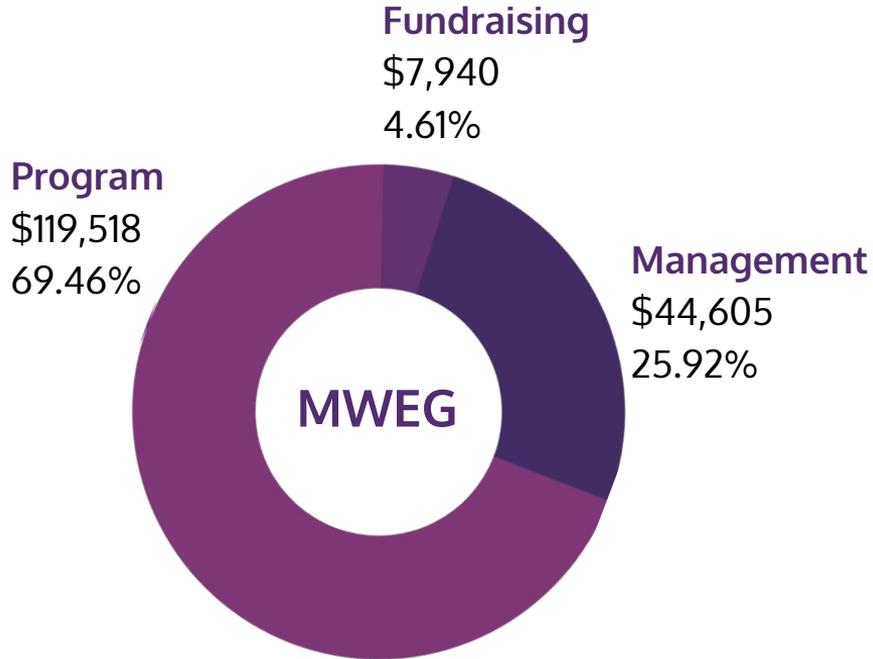
# DONOR TESTIMONIAL



## Jessica Osborn

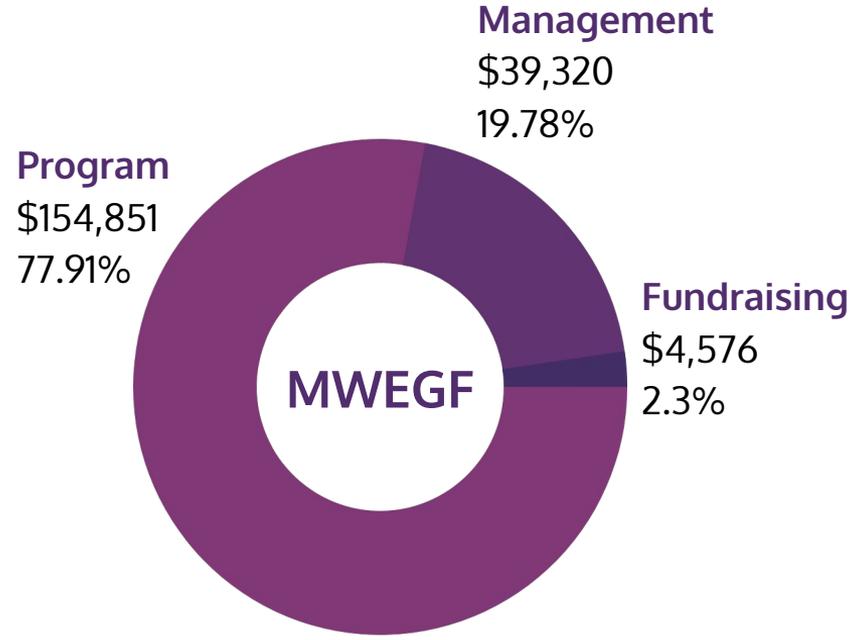
From the very beginning of MWEG's creation, I knew this was an organization that had a lot to offer me. I did not yet know anything about political involvement and needed a trusted source to turn to. MWEG became my teacher, specifically showing me how to become thoughtfully educated about social and political issues of importance to me, and then how to advocate within my community through peaceful discourse and action. I look forward to learning from them for years to come!

# 2021 FINANCIALS



**Total Revenue**  
\$161,611

**Total Expenses**  
\$172,063



**Total Revenue**  
\$186,988

**Total Expenses**  
\$198,747

# OPERATIONAL LEADERSHIP

**Emma Petty Addams** | Co-Executive Director, NE

**Jennifer Walker Thomas** | Co-Executive Director, MA

**Rachel Albertsen** | Director of Special Projects, AZ

**Danica Baird** | Director of Proactive Root, UT

**Cristie Carter Bake** | Engage Manager (Environment & Sustainability), UT

**Christie Black** | Business Manager, AZ

**Merinda Cutler** | Engage Manager (Immigration), UT

**Wendy Dennehy** | Director of Engage Limb, UT

**Ashley Dickson** | Chief Editor, MA

**Catherine Eslinger** | Director of Empower Limb, UT

**Sauna Fisher** | Director of Operations, NH

**Meredith Gardner** | Director of Media Literacy, TX

**Heather Goodman** | Facebook Co-Lead Moderator, VA

**Abby Greenwald** | Chapters Director, NM

**Molly Cannon Hadfield** | Facebook Co-Lead Moderator, UT

**Kristine Haglund** | Director of Faithful Root, MO

**Lisa Rampton Halverson** | Director of Engage Communications, UT

**Jillaire McMillan** | Director of Volunteers, CO

**Charlotte Mountain** | Director of DEI, NY

**Kimberly Powell** | Chapters Director, UT

**Rachel Fisher Scholes** | Director of Encircle Limb, AZ

**Megan Seawright** | Director of Communications, UT

**Emily de Schweinitz Taylor** | Director of Peaceful Root, UT

**Tiffany Tertipes** | Creative Director, WA

**Megan Rawlins Woods** | Director of Nonpartisan Root, UT

**Erin Young** | Assistant Director of Engage Limb, IA

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Lori Hickman** | Chair, ID

**Jill Piacitelli** | Member, UT

**Denise Furlough Grayson** | Vice Chair, TX

**Karen Hall** | Member, SC

**Stefanie Condie** | Secretary, UT

**Rachel Esplin Odell** | Member, DC

**Patrice Mano** | Treasurer, CA

**Shauna Summers** | Member, NY

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*MWEG is composed of Mormon Women for Ethical Government, a 501(c)(4), and Mormon Women for Ethical Government Foundation, a 501(c)(3). This report details the cumulative work of both arms of the organization.*