



# Northern Waters District

Michigan Conference

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**JANUARY 2020 UPDATE**

**NWD PEACE WITH JUSTICE MINISTRY TEAM (PWJMT)**

**UNDERSTANDING THE UNITED METHODIST SOCIAL PRINCIPLES**

The NWD PWJMT continues to learn. We want our actions enhanced by understanding. We are reviewing the pending revised Social Principles being considered at the 2020 General Conference. Using the following link as background material, we are reviewing portions during our meetings January through March, <https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions>. To obtain your copy, please follow the link in this article.

This article states,

*The Social Principles urge us not only to make a difference in the world and to live differently in the world but also and as urgently to build a different kind of world than the one we have now.*

The NWD PWJMT is pursuing these goals through advocacy for long term changes.

**PWJMT PURSUES JUSTICE THROUGH VALUE-BASED ADVOCACY TRAINING**

**SAVE THE DATE: May 27, 2020. Advocacy Training Pre-Conference event at Grand Traverse Resort**

NWD PWJMT Creating Education & Action Opportunities for All.

Pam Boyce, as Coordinator of Recruiters will be training and guiding our PWJMT representatives to each of your churches/hubs. Below is her the initial information about the training for recruiters.

The Peace with Justice Ministry Team is facilitating a pre-conference offering prior to the 2020 Michigan Conference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 from 6 pm - 9 pm at the Grand Traverse Resort. The training is Become an Effective Advocate for Peace with Justice and the trainer is from the Friends Committee on National Legislation from Washington D.C.

The focus of the training will be skill development on building on-going relationships with local decision-makers, the media and state and federal members of Congress concerning Peace with Justice issues. The secondary goal is to develop a trained group of advocates and to foster the development of a local network of advocates throughout the Northern Waters District and the state. There is interest from other churches and advocacy groups to attend the training and it is open to all groups interested in values-driven grassroots action.

Members of the Peace with Justice team and other recruiters for the conference will be receiving a packet of materials to help inform people in their church and community about the conference. The packet will include a one-page flyer promoting the pre-conference, tips on how to recruit and details of the conference. This packet will be received by them the week of January 20.

## **COLLABORATIONS BOOST ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MIPL), <https://www.miipl.org/>, is our previously recommended collaboration partner for churches in our NWD. Fred Elmore is our PWJMT's contact with this group. Ongoing we will be informed of their education options, advocacy efforts and pending direct actions. Fred reports MIPL is currently involved with advocacy on three main issues:

- Electrical rate changes by DTE which discourage the installation of solar.
- Clean air standards - Trying to get Ford to stick with promises made rather than rolling back on that commitment.
- Issues related to Line 5.

These advocacy issues are examples of justice actions for the common good!

## **ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION IN THE UM SPECIAL SUNDAYS**

Please mark your calendars for the next Special Sunday, UMCOR Sunday, March 22, 2020.

*UMCOR lives out signs of Christ's extravagant grace in the world by prayerfully working with communities that are overwhelmed by natural or man-made disasters. UMCOR builds on the strengths of what is already available in a community and actively involves the people affected in recovery efforts. One of the wonderful aspects of The United Methodist Church is that we can do so much more together than we ever could do on our own - and through our connection UMCOR has been doing this for 80 years. Donations to UMCOR Sunday support the overhead costs, salaries, and other expenses of UMCOR; so that when you give to a disaster or other dedicated fund through UMCOR, 100% of your gift goes to what you gave it for!*

Resources for promoting UMCOR Sunday may be found at the following links,

[www.umciving.org/pastors/resources](http://www.umciving.org/pastors/resources) and [www.umciving.org/resource-articles/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit](http://www.umciving.org/resource-articles/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit).



PWJMT member Randie Clawson is currently serving for 3 months as a GBGM Mission Volunteer at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC's Inn America Shelter, Tucson, AZ.

UMCOR is providing hygiene packets for each asylum seeker at the shelter.

Randie indicates, "It is a blessing to be part of the distribution of these needed items."

## **ANNUAL KEEP MAKING PEACE EVENT IN LANSING.**

Please save the date for the 2020 Keep Making Peace Date, Saturday April 4, 2020 in Lansing. More details when available.

## **NWDPWJMT IS STRUCTURED FOR ACTIONS AND EDUCATION**

Various team members have dedicated themselves to representing the team to specific hubs/churches. We want to get information out and are very interested in receiving information from each church so we can better plan useful actions and education. We would like to have more participants from each church/hub. Please let us know if you would like to be a part of justice actions. Email contact information to:

[randie.clawson@gmail.com](mailto:randie.clawson@gmail.com)

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Northern Waters District

Peace with Justice Coordinator

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