



## FEBRUARY CHURCH UPDATE

### UM CHURCH AND SOCIETY: THE POLITICAL COMMUNITY

“As United Methodists, we acknowledge that love requires responsible political action and engagement aimed at the betterment of society and the promotion of the common good.”

– Preface, the Political Community



The new Social Principles is a teachable document for the whole church. Learn more about how you can use the Social Principles, preface and preamble in your pulpits, Sunday school classes, and in advocacy.

A United Methodist experience | A resource for mission and ministry

<https://www.umcsocialprinciples2020.org/resources?emci=cbd8f63b-7431-ea11-a1cc-2818784d084f&emdi=f9b21420-b24d-ea11-a94c-00155d039e74&ceid=2701421>

### JFON JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS

Below is an invitation from JFON. Members of the PWJMT hope to see everyone involved in churches' mission outreach and justice at this important training.

Please join Justice For Our Neighbors Traverse City's Advocacy Committee for their advocacy training. The training will take place at Central United Methodist Church, 222 Cass St., Traverse City 9:00 am-noon on Saturday, April 18. There is no cost to attend, but please use the following link to register so we can plan for the right number of attendees. <https://form.jotform.com/200474754715053>

### Rewriting the Death Star: The Power of Public Narratives

As advocates, we are often confronted with language and assumptions that reinforce trauma and injustice; we can also unintentionally find ourselves reinforcing the very messages we seek to challenge or debunk. Our conversation, grounded in the work of Grassroots Policy Project, will explore the larger cultural context in which these messages are located and name a dominant narrative that is insidious, intentional- and changeable! More specifically, we will:

- Explore cultural values, beliefs, and assumptions that inform our understanding of the world
- Deepen our understanding of public narratives as an arena of power that shapes what we see as possible

- Make connections between worldview, the stories we learn & tell, and barriers to change
- Practice identifying, naming, and challenging the dominant narratives of immigration
- Begin crafting alternative narratives that could inform future messaging and frames for JFON's Advocacy Committee

## **BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ADVOCATE**

Watch for the **Become an Effective Advocate Training** in the materials for the Michigan Conference, <https://2020.michiganumc.org/>. Online registration starts Monday, March 9. It will be offered as a Pre-Conference Training on Wednesday, May 27 from 6 to 9 pm at the Grand Traverse Resort.

The training will address issues that are personal to each of us. It could be climate change, water quality, immigration, incarceration, children in cages, children removed from their parents or other concerns of your community. We have no lack of issues that need Peace and Justice attention.

Our training will highlight improved SKILLS needed to advocate for issues that are important, personal and need attention. Skills like -

- identifying your personal story of why your issue is important to you,
- working through and with the media and
- effective ways to work with decision-makers from committees, city or county commissions to state and national legislators.

Participants will be prepared to become effective advocates for issues important for our children, families, communities and our quality of life.

We hope to see your church delegates and members at the training. You may register for the conference or just for this training. Flyer is attached.

## **SUNDAYS APRIL 26, 2020 NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES DAY**

Save the date to celebrate Native American Ministries Day. This day reminds United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. The special offering taken on this day supports Native American outreach within annual conferences and across the United States. It also provides seminary scholarships for Native Americans. More information and helpful links are available at: <http://www.umcgiving.org/question-articles/native-american-ministries-sunday-faq>

## **SAVE THE DATE FOR THE KEEP MAKING PEACE EVENT**



Saturday, April 4, 2020, 9 AM-3:30 PM EDT. **This year's event features John Pavlovitz, Robyn Henderson-Espinoza and Bishop David Bard.** It is again hosted by the Wesley Foundation of Michigan State University at University UMC 1120 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48823-5201.

Registration is through Tickets by [Eventbrite](#). They are \$30 for individual and \$75 for a carload of three or more.

## **UMCOR SUNDAY**

UMCOR Sunday on March 22 provides opportunity for United Methodists to be part of God's blessings to our brothers and sisters around the world. Resources are available for you at [www.umcgiving.org/pastors/resources](http://www.umcgiving.org/pastors/resources) and [www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit](http://www.umcgiving.org/resource-articles/umcor-sunday-pastor-and-leaders-kit).

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