



## NWD PWJMT March Church Update

### THE COURAGE TO CHOOSE ACTIONS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

Limiting our social exposure, with all its circumstantial realities, is inspiring when we remember we are acting for the common good. Our Holy Spirit empowerment guides us to show in word and deed how much God loves each and every person. We are all pilgrims; none of us worldwide have walked through times like these.

God's love, WHAT AN ADVENTURE; receiving and giving love. Hallelujah!

### MAY ADVOCACY TRAINING

*Become an Effective Advocate for Peace and Justice Training*, is offered as a Pre-Conference event to the Michigan UMC Conference at the Grand Traverse Resort on May 27, 2020 from 6 - 9 p.m.

Let's all inform others within our social networks, encouraging attendance at this advocacy training.

As of the writing of this newsletter, the Michigan Conference is still being held. Recruiting attendees still goes forward.

PWJMT members are busy with recruiting people in their hubs to attend the advocacy training. Team member, Pam Boyce has sent out information and "how to" directions on needed steps from PWJMT Hub Recruiters. This is our opportunity to get to know members in our hub churches. The PWJMT members working to recruit attendees in their hubs are Beth Pelkey, Fred Elmore, Wendy Warren, Barbara Cantley, Laurie McKinven-Copus, Betty Simon and Pam Moyer. Jeanette Hayes is recruiting participation from the Native American Communities.

#### Registration Options

- The online option remains the same as on the attached flyer. This will be used primarily by those attending both the training and the conference. If you registered for the entire conference but forgot to register for the training, contact the Registrar, Sarah Vollmer ([svollmer@michiganumc.org](mailto:svollmer@michiganumc.org)). She can add this into your registration.
- Pam Boyce has opened an additional registration option that will streamline the registration process for community and non-profit people who are attending just the advocacy training. Contact the email address noted on the attached flyer, [pam.boyce@me.com](mailto:pam.boyce@me.com). Inform Pam of your desire to attend. She will complete your registration process. Pam will send you a confirmation email to let you know you are registered.

We are looking forward to the May training and learning new ideas and skills.

Pam is available to answer any questions you may have at [pam.boyce@me.com](mailto:pam.boyce@me.com) or 517-290-7778

## **COLLABORATIONS BOOST ADVOCACY EFFORTS**

Collaborations, churches working together with community members and those suffering injustice on issues of mutual concern is part of our path to justice. We are creating education opportunities, actions that further justice and advocacy for the common good in our district.

### **JUSTICE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS (JFON) An Opportunity to Collaborate**

Please join Justice For Our Neighbors Traverse City's Advocacy Committee for this informative training. The training is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 9:00AM-noon, at Central United Methodist Church, 222 Cass St., Traverse City. 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, but nonetheless 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!*

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

The annual Keep Making Peace event has been postponed due to the Coronavirus.

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

Reminder going out in the March update. 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.umcsgiving.org/question-articles/native-american-ministries-Sunday-faq>

THE SOCIAL COMMUNITY

Preface

The Nurturing Community

The Family

Single People

Human Sexuality

Marriage

Child Marriage, Polygamy, Divorce

Other Social Issues

Substance Abuse Alcohol & Tobacco

Bullying and other forms of Violence

Colonialism, Neocolonialism and their consequences

Death with Dignity: faithful care of Dying

People, Euthanasia and Suicide

Gambling

Gender Equality and Diversity

Media & Communication Technologies

Medical Experimentation and Research

Organ Donations and Transplantation

Reproductive Health and Abortion

Racism, Ethnocentrism and Tribalism

Sexual Harassment, Abuse and Assault

**NWD PWJMT IS REVIEWING OUR UM 2020 REVISED SOCIAL PRINCIPLES**

Our learning empowers us as we review our social principles and apply them to our actions. If you still need a copy, a link to download is in this article,

<https://www.umcjustice.org/who-we-are/social-principles-and-resolutions>.

Our pre-study of *The Social Principles* for our March meeting, “The Social Community,” has given us an overview of the United Methodist stance on social issues.

Team members discussed and emphasized our need to hear from churches in order to know the issues you identify as needing justice advocacy. It is important that our efforts in advocacy include those who suffer injustice.

Developing relationships and listening to the felt needs of those suffering injustices is an important first step. and ongoing justice steps in advocacy for long term change.

As we listen to news, we realize many of these social principles that we as United Methodist stand for are being

violated. God’s “Love your neighbor” doesn’t seem part of the social plan for many. Newspapers are reporting that Chinese Americans are being abused, both verbally and physically. Bigots are blaming them for the virus. The Chinese Americans are terrified about what could be coming next.

We must speak up for justice if we see any hateful actions.

The words of an old-time hymn, *God of Grace and God of Glory*, come to mind. It is by Author: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1930).

All five verses are worth our review, but verse two is especially needed in our stance in relation to The Social Community.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us, scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!

From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to love and praise.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

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