



PWJMT DECEMBER 2020 CHURCH UPDATE

ADVOCACY

Two bipartisan packets of bills on justice reform for criminal legal system changes are in the Michigan legislative process. The link, <https://www.smartjusticemi.org/>, gives a summary of the main reforms contained in these bills:

- Mass Incarceration
- Sentencing Reform
- Prosecutorial Reform

Both packages are waiting for the House Judiciary Committee to hear them.

- One package is waiting for the Judiciary Committee to call “concurrence” on the bills, which just means they agree to the changes made in the other chamber, and then that package would go to the governor for signing into law.
- The other package needs an entire hearing in Judiciary Committee, then it needs house floor vote, then it would go to the governor for signature.
- The package that only needs concurrence has a pretty good shot at making it all the way through, but since the other package still needs a couple more steps it is going to be competing with everything else happening in the Lame Duck legislature session.

Consider contacting your Michigan legislators and letting them know you are interested in smart justice reform. Anna M. Dituri <adituri@aclumich.org> is available to answer questions and has information on appropriate timely advocacy actions.

NWD PWJMT’S STRUCTURE INCLUDES SUBGROUPS WORKING ON TOPICAL ISSUES

The topical groups will be involved in advocacy, education and actions. These topical groups create a place for gathering, learning with and from each other, and acting together on the specific topics and types of action. The PWJMT composed the following guidelines for each topical leader and group.

The PWJMT going forward believes that advocacy, education and actions to change government, institutions, and systems are important. We are committed to supporting the needs of the leaders and members in each of the topical groups that form, to the best of our ability.

Guidelines: Each Leader and Group will:

- Design their own path. Determine the types of advocacy they will plan and carry out.
- Establish and maintain their own group’s communication and connections.
Help is available from the PWJMT and the PWJ Coordinator. This help includes setting up Zoom meeting possibilities. PWJMT has a Zoom platform available.
- Research their topic, including United Methodist resources, legislation research, possible collaborations.
- Those members interested in advocacy with decision-makers will plan, practice and participate in virtual and/or face-to-face meetings with elected officials or other decision-makers as their topic dictates.
- Inform the PWJMT about their needs and progress on or before the second Thursday of each month.

PWJMT Antiracist Advocacy Group led by Rev. Zephia

Rev. Zephia continues to be in email contact with the interested antiracist education advocacy and actions. Rev. Zephia met with those interested on November 19, 2020. They encouraged each other with narratives of actions taken and education obtained. A subgroup is planning a meeting with elected officials.

More advocacy is needed on this important issue. Those interested in being part of this group, please contact Rev. Zephia, phone 586.441.2274 or randie.clawson@gmail.com.

PWJMT Ending Endless Wars and Militarism ADVOCACY GROUP

(Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is supporting this End Endless Wars and Militarism (EEWM) group with resources. Their initial meeting was December 16. If you are interested in this topic contact randie.clawson@gmail.com.

EDUCATION

SAVE THE DATE: January 26.2021

St Francis Justice and Peace Commission announces the next in their antiracist series.

Added information and connection details will be PWJMT's January Church Update.

The United Methodist General Board of Church and Society Releases a Resources for Youth

The curriculum is designed to help students actively engage the intersection of faith and justice and explore why our faith compels us toward justice. It is available to download today for free.

Connecting Faith and Justice - Youth Lectionary B Curriculum

<https://www.umcjustice.org/articles/preview/6798f1bc-d427-4ebc-a213-70430be466d9?emci=9d078394-f837-eb11-9fb4-00155d43b2cd&emdi=f3840eb7-503a-eb11-9fb4-00155d43b2cd&ceid>

ACTIONS SUGGESTED

The PWJMT cannot do all the research ourselves, but we choose to work with collaborative partners who are working for justice in NWD.

Rev. Deb Hanson from one of our collaboration partners, MI Interfaith Power and Light, sent us the information below. It is a possible action on an important issue.

Access to Drinking Water & Sanitation

She is asking us to voice our support for new legislation, Senate Bill 241. She indicates this bill will,

ensure that all Michigan families have access to running water and clean sanitation during the pandemic, something I have always taken for granted. Today 317,000 households and 800,000 people are behind on paying their water bills and at risk for having their water turned off. Can you imagine going a day without water?

These are families across the state from southeast Michigan to the UP where 24 water systems have reported a combined 4,581 households at risk for shut-off. These are families who live in rural areas like ours, in the suburbs, and in our cities.

This link will let you send a message of support to our state legislators.

https://act.nrdc.org/letter/5355-af-mi-water-shutoff-201021?source=EMOMIWPETAF&tkd=3412795&utm_source=alert&utm_medium=logo&utm_campaign=email&t=15&ak_proof=1&akid=.3412795.bmtK_u&ga=2.25781945.54812046.1606319351-194710213.1606319351

PWJMT IS INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF A SHORT VIDEO

As we are considering injustice past and present, we are focusing on the Native American issues in our examples in the short video we are preparing.

Below are background viewing suggestions:

- Youth Video from Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, Native American Youth Example <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmTAxg7j2eM> *"Know My Truth"*
- Story of a Native American, Scott Schwander, from Traverse City. He tells of the harm and trauma experienced in a boarding school in Harbor Springs. The video chronicles the actions of his restoration. This video was suggestion by Pastor Wava Hofmann of Northport Indian UMC: <https://vimeo.com/292371347/ee46a11e1e>

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