

Message from GNJUMW President Kathy Schulz

July 27, 2020

Dear United Methodist Women and Friends,

Today we find ourselves in a strange new world, coping with two simultaneous crises, COVID-19 and racism. While many fears of infections have come and gone since the last pandemic of 1918, this one has become worldwide and devastating to our very existence! Racial injustices have boiled to the surface, as police brutality is filmed and exposed for the evil that it is, and virus outbreaks lead to 50% more deaths in minority populations. Black Lives Matter has marched through the streets of every city and small towns to point out the need for police reform and the end to the infection of systemic racism in every part of our society for the last 400 years, from education to job discrimination, banking and housing inequities, and wage and medical treatment and access disparities! As the result of these practices, the net wealth accumulation of African American families is 1/10th that of White families.



While we as United Methodist Women cannot change everything that is wrong with the world, we can work on two fronts. First, we need to be politically active in getting out the vote, by mail and in person and we need to be vigilant and resourceful in preventing voter suppression wherever we see it raise its ugly head. Second, we can attack racism through our Committee on The Charter for Racial Justice, co-chaired by Esther Canty-Barnes, JD, UMW President of the Gateway North District and Kathleen Schulz, President of the GNJUMW.

Our GNJUMW Committee on The Charter for Racial Justice has initiated a series of Zoom conversations on Racism called "Understanding What We Don't Understand:"

1. June 18, 2020, with Dr. Lillie Edwards, professor Emerita from Drew University, as the convener of the panel, presented a comprehensive **history of Slavery/Racism in America**.
2. July 25, 2020, a panel with Rev. Vanessa Wilson as facilitator presented discussion of **Healthcare Disparities**.
3. August 15, 2020, a panel facilitated by Rev. Latasha Milton and including Rev. Jessica Brooks, Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois. Pastor, Activist and Writer,
(continued on page 2)

Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>



United
Methodist
Women



Mujeres
Metodistas
Unidas



연합감리교회
여성교회

Message from GNJUMW President
(continued from page 1)

Portia Allen-Kyle, J. D., Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell, Ph. D., and Colandus Francis, Camden NAACP presented the topic **Engaging the Community in Racial Justice**.

4. September 12, 2020, a panel discussion facilitated by Eric Drew, Executive Director of the Next Generation Ministries, GNJUMC will include some of the Next Gen participants: **Hope for a New Generation, 12-2 pm.**

For information on the past conversations or to register for an upcoming session, please contact Carol Bloch, Treasurer and Coordinator of Zoom meetings for the GNJ United Methodist Women at the following email address: carol@theblochfamily.com

This year the Mission offering, *Finding Peace in an Anxious World*, has been recorded and is available online at YouTube. It was offered virtually for the first time in English and in Korean in July 2020. The Hispanic presentation will be presented sometime in August. Rev. Rolando Santiago Fuentes, sanpablocentenario@yahoo.com or Madelaine Garcia, madelainega@yahoo.com can give you more information on the exact date/time.

For the YouTube addresses of the these recorded sessions, contact Carol Bloch, Coordinator of Zoom meetings for the GNJ United Methodist Women at the following email address: carol@theblochfamily.com

It has certainly been a year to remember, and despite the pain and suffering that has occurred, there have been some positive outcomes! We have grown closer through Zoom, and more anxious to see each other again when this is all over! We have grown more spiritual and more dependent on God! We have become more aware of our blessings and our friends and family! And, we have become more compassionate and able to reach out to others in need.

May all the many blessings of our Lord surround you and protect you,

Sincerely,

Kathy Schulz
Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women President

*I alone know plans for you,
plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster,
plans to bring about the future you hope for.*
Jeremiah 29:11

Our Heritage



The United Methodist Women have celebrated their 150th anniversary and still counting.

Where did we come from and where are we going? What are our stories? Check out our Legacy here at: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home>.

Find Us:



GNJ United Methodist Women

<https://www.gnjumw.org>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/111312445695999/>



United Methodist Women

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

<https://www.umwonline.org/home>



<https://www.facebook.com/UMWomen>



<https://twitter.com/UMWomen>



<https://www.pinterest.com/UMWomen/>



[youtube.com/UMWomen](https://www.youtube.com/UMWomen)



<https://www.instagram.com/umwomen/>



<https://www.flickr.com/groups/umwomen>

Be strong and courageous for the Lord is with you wherever you go.

JOSHUA 1:9

September 2020

Inside this issue:

President Message	1-2
Find Us / Inside this issue	3
Social Action in a Time Like This	4
A Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter	5-8
Special Reports	9
Mission u	
NE Jurisdiction	
News	10-13
Black Lives Matter	
Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage	
Moving Forward on Voting Rights	
NJ General Election Deadlines	
Faith Talks	
Hope for a New Generation	
Future Events	
GNJUMW Team & Events	14
GNJUMW Begins Conversations on Race	15-16
GNJUMW Proposed 2021 Slate	17
District News	18
Resources	19-20
Legacy Fund	
For a Time Like This	
Other Related Resources	
Announcements	21
Cover for Newsletter Mailings	Back Page

Social Action in a Time Like This

by Sherri Shumate

"Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice."

- Congressman John Lewis

When I became your new Social Action Coordinator, I couldn't have imagined the issues our world would be tackling now. It seems like every day there's a new challenge, another petition, and a dire reason to contact my representatives again.

First, I hope in all this that you are taking care of yourself! We are the people who are always doing, always giving, always fighting for justice. We also need to be the people who do this work while modeling self-care and balance.

What renews your spirit so that you can keep doing the work of being faith, hope, and love in action? We cannot stay strong for the necessary and long road ahead unless we are prioritizing our own health and renewal needs. It's a tough world right now and we are all facing different stresses and challenges. Please take care of yourselves! When you find yourself feeling overwhelmed and depleted, reach out. Let's keep supporting each other.

Over the next few months as the election approaches, we will continue to be bombarded with false information about health, voting, and the census. Know your rights and vote. Research social media posts to make sure information is accurate BEFORE you share. Don't feed the hate and misinformation circulating! Keep looking for the good in this world; and when it's hard to see it, be that extra piece of kindness we all need right now.

We might not be able to fix every problem, but we can all do something for justice, hope, and healing. Maybe you choose to call one friend who uplifts you each week. Maybe you choose to attend one racial justice event each week. Maybe you choose to spend some time outdoors daily. Maybe you choose to keep being a voice for rights for LGBTQIA communities. Maybe you choose every day to simply find one thing for which you are grateful. Choose one thing you can do, and know it matters. Imagine the world we could create if we all did something, one small something, for healing and justice every day.

Social Action in a time like this requires each one of us. This is everyone's work to do for the sake of us all. Everything is at stake; everyone's life depends on the choices we will make.

"Anchor the eternity of love in your own soul and embed this planet with goodness. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself."

- Congressman John Lewis

Blessings and Peace,
Sherri Shumate
Social Action Coordinator, GNJ UMW

A Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

The struggle to save Black lives is not new. This struggle began when the first African was kidnapped, sold into slavery, and transported through the long and treacherous journey of the Middle Passage to what was deemed as the New World. The world was new to European explorers and settlers, but it was not a new world to the millions of Indigenous people (Native Americans) who called the land home; they had their own diverse identities, cultures, and lifestyles. The conquering of Native people coupled with the proliferation of the forced migration of millions of Africans who were pressed into chattel slavery set the stage for legalized abuse, systemic racism, and structural oppression that is now woven into the fabric of America.

From 1699 until the painful 8 minutes and 46 seconds when George Floyd struggled to breathe with the knee of a police officer on his neck, Black and brown people have struggled to breathe in America. It was the horrific video of the murder of George Floyd that sent a clarion call to people of good will of all races, ethnicities, and social classes to raise their voices and echo the sentiment that Black lives matter. As people in the Wesleyan tradition we continue the trajectory set by John Wesley when he wrote these words to William Wilberforce in 1791: “O be not weary of well-doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of His might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it.” Slavery has been abolished in America, but the badges and indicia of slavery impact every aspect of the lives of Black and brown people through systemic racism, law, policy, and practice.

Black and brown people are continually and structurally confronted with institutions that fail them. In 2020, this has become particularly stark.

- Health: The recent Coronavirus pandemic exposed long-standing health care disparities: “Latino and African-American residents of the United States have been three times as likely to become infected as their white neighbors, according to the new data, which provides detailed characteristics of 640,000 infections detected in nearly 1,000 U.S. counties. And Black and Latino people have been nearly twice as likely to die from the virus as white people, the data shows.”ⁱ More recent reports disclose: “When the virus first swept across the country, it devastated Black communities, killing African Americans at a disproportionately high rate in nearly every jurisdiction that published race data. In recent weeks, Hispanics and Native Americans have made up an increasing proportion of COVID-19 deaths. The disease now accounts for nearly 20 percent of all deaths among those groups, higher than any other race or ethnicity in recent weeks, according to a Post analysis of the CDC data.”ⁱⁱ
- Policing: “Though only 13% of the population, Black persons are 28% of those killed by police and Black persons are imprisoned at a rate of 1,047 persons per 100,000 whereas whites are imprisoned at 275 persons per 100,000.
- Education: Two-thirds of minority students still attend schools that are predominantly minority and which are funded well below those in neighboring suburban districts. Recent analyses of data prepared for school finance cases in Alabama, New Jersey, New York, Louisiana, and Texas have found that on every tangible measure—from qualified teachers to curriculum offerings—schools serving greater numbers of students of color had significantly fewer resources than schools serving mostly white students.”ⁱⁱⁱ A disproportionate number of Black and brown children are incarcerated as a means of school discipline thereby feeding the school-to-prison pipeline.

(continued on page 6)

A Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter (continued)

- Incarceration: Black and brown people, youth and adults, are negatively impacted by every phase of the criminal justice system from being stopped by the police to detainment, arrest, and sentencing including disproportionately being placed in solitary confinement, and “disproportionately serving sentences of life, life without parole, or virtual life.” Moreover, “the juvenile justice system confines Black youth at over 4 times the rate of white youth.”^{iv}
- Immigration: The race-based policies and practices of the U.S. criminal justice system inform the Immigration system. In addition, regarding the separation of families at the borders, “statistics from the Department of Homeland Security demonstrate that at the intersection of immigration and race, immigrants of African descent are more likely to be detained and deported than other immigrants. The increase in detention of immigrants of African descent is, in part, a result of racial profiling.”^v
- Food security: 21.8% of Black Americans are food insecure as compared to 8.8% of white Americans.^{vi}
- Environmental toxicity: Black persons are 1.5 times more exposed than white persons to particulate matter in the air. This particulate matter builds up toxicity in black bodies and that toxicity can pass from mother to child. “Black communities...shoulder a disproportionate burden of the nation’s pollution — from foul water in Flint, Mich., to dangerous chemicals that have poisoned a corridor of Louisiana known as Cancer Alley — which scientists and policymakers have known for decades...African-Americans are 75 percent more likely than other Americans to live in so-called fence-line communities, defined as areas situated near facilities that produce hazardous waste.”^{vii}
- Housing: “Housing values in American cities still break sharply along racial lines, showing the lingering impact of federal ‘redlining’ in the 1930s, which devalued homes in African-American neighborhoods. The practice was outlawed decades ago, but its effects are still evident.”^{viii} Moreover, Black persons make up 40% of the homeless population whereas they are only 13% of the overall population.
- Wage gap: “Since 2000, by any way it’s measured, the wage gap between black and white workers has grown significantly.”^{ix}

These facts are alarming. On every level, the ability for Black and brown persons to have an abundant life is thwarted by institutional racism and injustices centered in race. Moreover, the intersections of gender, class, sexuality, disability, and nationality increase the threat to Black and brown lives. The disparities in race are even reflected in Greater New Jersey. Although the Central Jurisdiction was abolished in 1968, Black and brown clergy and congregations do not reflect the demographics of New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania and New York that comprise Greater New Jersey. Christian people are called to address these societal harms so that we can be the boundary breaking, justice seeking, healers of church and society that Christ is calling us to become.

The United Methodist Church has said many things about its desire to overcome racism in both church and society through its *Discipline* and *Book of Resolutions*. Article V of the Constitution of the UMC states:

The United Methodist Church proclaims the value of each person as a unique child of God and commits itself to the healing and wholeness of all persons. The United Methodist Church recognizes that the sin of racism has been destructive to its unity throughout its history. Racism continues to cause painful division and

(continued on page 7)

A Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter (continued)

marginalization. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate racism, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten the cause of racial justice at all times and in all places.

We, as a Conference, and as local churches and leadership in the GNJAC, have resources that can be leveraged so that we can thrive together as we walk toward a more just future in both the USA and the UMC:

- We have financial resources,
- We have gifted, compassionate people,
- We have a Gospel message whose very beginnings determined that the Jews following Christ would build a community of love and forgiveness together with anyone who had ears to hear.

There was to be “No Jew nor Greek, no slave nor free, no male nor female” – all were to be One in Christ Jesus. This is a profoundly anti-racist vision. Racism has no place in the Christian message. And so, these resources must all begin to work together in a renewed way to overcome this clear historical injury and threat to our message. Our integrity is at stake. These resources must be put to work to transform our structures through a firm and powerful naming of the barriers to full participation by our Black and brown siblings in church and in society, which then educates us all to be anti-racist disciples of a God who wants all persons to know and experience their belovedness, act with love toward one another, and live an abundant life.

Resolution

We resolve and commit to the following:

- To commit personally and corporately to self-examination, self-reflection, and the corresponding actions to eliminate personal behaviors that are based in a socialization in racism.
- To learn about the history of racism and its impact on Black and brown people and to use this information to actively engage in the dismantling of racism.
- To say the names of and tell the stories of Layleen Polanco, Rayshard Brooks, Sandra Bland, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, Trayvon Martin, Sean Bell, Philando Castile, Tanisha Anderson, Atatiana Jefferson, Charleena Lyles, George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Maurice Gordon, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Michael Brown Jr., Tamir Rice, Walter Scott, Tony McDade and countless others whose murders were grounded in racism.
- To engage in both acts of mercy and acts of justice to repair the breach in Black and brown neighborhoods environmentally, nutritionally, and educationally as well as in healthcare and criminal justice.
- To be people that answer the call of Jesus Christ, as enacted by the grace of God, and recorded in the Gospel to work for a world where the spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and psychological dimensions of all people can thrive and every person has the necessary opportunity to fully use their God-given gifts.
- To stand in solidarity to support the *Journey with Hope* plan as a critical tool to be used for the dismantling of racism in GNJ.

(continued on page 8)

A Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter (continued)

We must begin to be a church where anti-racist behavior work is absolutely necessary to the spiritual and Christian disciplines developed in a Christian disciple. It is the opening to the “whoever” (Matthew 11) that is necessary for our building of just and good and loving community where everyone can have life and have it more abundantly.

Sponsors:

The Greater New Jersey Commission on Religion and Race
Rev. Vanessa M. Wilson, JD, MBA, MDiv, STM, Chairperson
Bonnie Harley, Laura Lin, Rev. Kathleen Stone, Lan Wilson

The Greater New Jersey Board of Church and Society
Rev. Dr. Tanya Linn Bennett, PhD, Chairperson

The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women
Kathy Schultz, President, Esther Canty-Barnes, Esq, Committee on the Charter Racial Justice, Chair

Submitted 8/2/20 to be added to the GNJUM Annual Conference Resolutions for the Annual Conference.

ⁱ Richard A. Oppel, Jr., et al., “The Fullest Look Yet at the Racial Inequity of Coronavirus,” July 5, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/07/05/us/coronavirus-latinos-african-americans-cdc-data.html>

ⁱⁱ Reis Thebault and Alyssa Flowers, “Pandemic’s weight falls on Hispanics and Native Americans, as deaths pass 150,000,” July 31, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/07/31/covid-us-death-toll-150k>

ⁱⁱⁱ Linda Darling-Hammond, “Unequal Opportunity: Race and Education,” March 1, 1998, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/unequal-opportunity-race-and-education/>

^{iv} Wendy Sawyer, “Visualizing the racial disparities in mass incarceration,” July 27, 2020, <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/blog/2020/07/27/disparities/#slideshows/slideshow2/2>

^v Karla McKanders, “Immigration and Blackness: What’s Race Got to Do With It?” May 16, 2019, https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/black-to-the-future/immigration-and-blackness/

^{vi} “Environmental Justice Factsheet,” Center for Sustainable Systems, University of Michigan, 2019, Pub. No. CSS17-16, <http://css.umich.edu/factsheets/environmental-justice-factsheet>

^{vii} Linda Villarosa, “Pollution Is Killing Black Americans. This Community Fought Back.” July 28, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/28/magazine/pollution-philadelphia-black-americans.html>

^{viii} J. Brian Charles, “Federal Housing Discrimination Still Hurts Some Values in Black Neighborhoods,” April 30, 2018, <https://www.governing.com/topics/transportation-infrastructure/gov-redlining-race-real-estate-values-lc.html>

^{ix} Elise Gould, “Black-white wage gaps are worse today than in 2000,” February 27, 2020, <https://www.epi.org/blog/black-white-wage-gaps-are-worse-today-than-in-2000/>



Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>

SPECIAL REPORTS

GNJUMW Mission u

United Methodist Women's Mission u (mission-u) are great opportunities to study current issues impacting society, grow spiritually, and be in community with fellow United Methodists working to put faith, hope, and love into action. Hosted throughout the country by United Methodist conferences, these events offer classes on spiritual growth, a geographic study, and an issue study in addition to fellowship and worship.

Two dates were scheduled for our virtual GNJUMW Mission u, "Finding Peace in an Anxious World."



On 7/11/2020, 48 persons attended this session. On 7/18/2020, 69 persons attended and included women, men and clergy from other churches for a total of 117 persons. This was an average for our in-person Georgian Court University attendance. Nine new first members were acknowledged.

The Korean network held a virtual version of Finding Peace in An Anxious World with Rev Kenny K. Yi from Bountiful UMC of Martinsville, NJ. A total of 172 persons attended this virtual session on July 26, 2020.

The Hispanic Network will conduct their virtual Mission u over the next four weekends this summer.

Marilyn Powell
Mission u Assist Dean
August 6, 2020

Northeastern Jurisdiction Report

The year 2020 was strange with many unexpected things happening due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Quadrennial meeting which had been planned for April was canceled.

However, elections for directors and jurisdiction team members along with program advisory group members were held electronically by way of Zoom.

Congratulations are extended to Marilyn Powell who was elected as Chairperson for the Nominating Committee for the North Eastern Jurisdiction (NEJ) team. Since there was no director from Greater New Jersey elected to be director, GNJUMW Yvonne Boutknight was elected to serve as an alternate, thereby providing GNJUMW with representation on the NEJ team. No Program Advisory Group. (PAG) for GNJUMW was elected. The National UMW will select someone to represent GNJ.

It has been my great pleasure to serve and represent GNJUMW on the NEJ team. As a member of the team, I was on the Nominating Committee and Planning Committee. In addition, I was invited to chair the subcommittee to design and direct the program booklet for the quadrennial meeting which was to be held in April.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to represent the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women Conference.

In His Service,
Millie Grev

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:28 ESV

NEWS

Black Lives Matter to God and Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women

(Excerpts from United Methodist Women 6/1/20 Press Release)

United Methodist Women continue to grieve the extrajudicial killings of Black people in America and grieves with the families of those who have been killed.

Work for racial justice does not just come naturally; it is work against resistance, and therefore must be an active discipleship choice we make each day. We are committed to choosing justice. We also realize that there is no easy fix. There exists no single, one-time action that can undo a multigenerational legacy of racist violence.

But we at United Methodist Women commit to engaging in the ongoing work, guided by the promise that God's future is far brighter than the present moment. To that end, we offer **mission giving, witness for justice, and transformative education**. We invite conferences, districts and local units to join this work in the ways that are most appropriate and fitting to their settings, committing to support and work in partnership with local groups that are most effectively doing the work and leading the way. Visit our website for options on how you can help us achieve our mission:



Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage

[Excerpts from www.unitedmethodistwomen.org]

August 1, 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was certified to become part of the U.S. Constitution.

United Methodist Women honors and celebrates the women's suffrage movement and all those who fought for a woman's right to vote. Yet we also acknowledge that women of color did not benefit from this right for years to come. While in 1870 the 15th Amendment did grant African-American men – and only men – the right to vote, Southern states soon adopted a number of laws making it difficult for African-Americans to vote.

It wasn't until the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed under President Lyndon B. Johnson that real efforts were made to overcome the barriers that prevented African-Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic and other citizens of color from exercising their right to vote.

The history of voting rights in the United States, as our **General Conference legislation** says, has been fraught with practices of violence, intimidation, and disenfranchisement of people of color. The board of directors has called United Methodist women to **"take action against racism."**



NEWS

Moving Forward on Voting Rights

Diana Douglas and Phayar ("PR") Minhas were among the speakers at the Church Women United virtual Tea and Conversation "Moving Forward on Voting Rights" on Saturday Aug 15, 2020.

The program celebrated the Centennial of the 19th amendment and the League of Women Voters as well as the importance of voter registration and voter participation in this time of Co-Vid pandemic.

It acknowledged the effort of three generations of NJ women to gain the vote, the continued need for voter education and advocacy, and the expansion of voting rights in NJ in 2020 to include those on probation or parole. Diana and Phayar were each recognized with the Young Church Woman United award.



New Jersey General Election Deadlines

- New Jersey general election voter registration can be done online and the deadline is **Tuesday, October 13, 2020**.
 - To confirm you are registered, visit: <https://www.vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/>.
 - For a voter registration form with instructions, visit: www.nj.gov/state/elections/voter-registration.shtml and select your county name.
The list includes COVID-19 Election Resources.
- General Election voting deadline is **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. **In New Jersey**, by October 5, every voter will be mailed a ballot that they can fill out and mail back. Because of U.S. Postal Service delivery delays, people are advised to send ballots back no later than October 22, 2020.



Faith Talks

A United Methodist Women Podcast, Faith Talks are monthly conversations with United Methodist Women hosted by Jennifer R. Farmer, Spotlight PR. Each conversation explores themes and resources that empower us to put faith, hope, and love into action.

The topic of the August 27, 2020 podcast was **Voter Guides & Voter Suppression**. Visit <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/faithtalks> to register for this podcast, listen to the talk recording later, and/or access recordings of previous talks.



**Join the
United Methodist Women of the Greater NJ Conference
in A Series of Conversations on Race**

Sponsored by:

Greater NJ United Methodist Women &
Committee, Charter for Racial Justice



**Saturday, September 12, 2020, 12:00-2:00 pm
(via Zoom)**

Hope for a New Generation: Youth Voices

**Facilitator: Eric Drew, Director of Next Generation Ministries,
GNJ Conference UMC**

Colette Muteteke: LifeGate Church, Somers Point. High School student, Leadership Camp graduate

Zach Holder: Roselle UMC, Roselle, NJ. Young adult, IGNITE Squad Team leader, local church youth leader in a diverse community

Amirah Kitchen: Ferry Ave UMC, Camden. High school grad, High School Leadership Camp, Joshua Generation participant, and leader in the local church

CENSUS 2020

The census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on census data. The count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. **It is not too late to complete your 2020 Census.**



mv2020census.dov

**Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>**

United Methodist Women of the Greater NJ Conference

Future Events

<https://www.gnjumc.org/racial-justice/>

Save the Date:

Saturday, October 17, 2020

UMW Fall Meeting: Courage to Speak Out Against Racial Injustice

Where do we go from here? What are the next steps?

What is important?

What are some recommendations for getting rid of racial injustice?



Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW)
<http://www.gnjumw.org>

About GNJUMW its Leadership and Events

The United Methodist Women (UMW) purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. March 23, 2019 marked 150 years of UMW service.

The Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUW) embraces the UMW purpose with its mission to help you explore your relationship with God, increase your leadership abilities and skills, and experience the warmth of faith and the strength of our community.

GNJUMW Leadership Team 2020

Executive Board

President: Kathleen Schulz

Vice President: Choong-Hee Lee

Secretary: Patricia Grant

Treasurer: Carol Bloch

Full Leadership Team

Visit GNJUMW website for the full leadership team roster to include Committee Chairs, District Presidents, and contact information at www.gnjumw.org, ABOUT, Leadership Team.

See page 17 for new proposed slate of GNJUMW Officers for 2021-2024 as proposed by the Nominating Committee, Marcia Roebuck, Chair.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| September 25 | Laity Academy, 8am – 4pm
Mission Resource Center
205 Jumping Brook Road
Neptune, NJ 07753 |
| October 16 | GNJUMW Annual Fall Meeting, 9am – 2pm (Viral)
Mission Resource Center
205 Jumping Brook Road
Neptune, NJ 07753 |
| October | Neighborhood Center Gala, 9am – 2pm
Tavistock Country Club
Haddonfield, NJ |
| May 20-22, 2022 | Assembly in 2022
Orlando, Florida |



GNJUMW BEGINS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

After the cruel murder of George Floyd that was vividly captured on video, showing a white police officer kneeling on his neck while handcuffed for 7 minutes and 46 seconds, it became clear that action was needed. This was not the first killing of an unarmed Black man or woman in the U.S. nor will it be the last. We were recently confronted with yet another shooting of an unarmed Black man by a white police officer. Jacob Blake, a 29-year-old Black man from Kenosha, Wisconsin, was shot seven times in the back, while his children watched. He now lays paralyzed and permanently disabled.

The truth is uncomfortable. Indeed, the history of the U.S. is deeply rooted in systematic discrimination and racial injustice aimed at Black and Brown people. As the nation grieved and unrest grew throughout the country, the United Methodist Women committed to take action to ensure that death of George Floyd, and so many countless others, would not be in vain.

We could not remain silent. **BLACK LIVES MATTER!**

As a part of the action plan, the United Methodist Women of Greater NJ and its committee on the Charter for Racial Justice, chaired by Esther Canty-Barnes, Clinical Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law, began a series of “Conversations of Race.” The purposes of the conversations were to educate and share experiences surrounding issues on race; to provide a safe space for sharing regarding the recent murder of George Floyd and other African Americans and the subsequent racial protests; to understand our own biases and other diverse points of views; and to develop strategies for community action and involvement to address issues of historical and systemic racism.



The Conversations on Race are an ongoing commitment to continue to discuss complex and difficult issues on race to a diverse group of people throughout the state of New Jersey. The first program, titled “Understanding What We Don’t Understand,” began with an historical background of Black people in America by Dr. Lillie Edwards, retired Professor of History from Drew University. She was accompanied by guest speakers Dr. Khemani Gibson, and Dr. Hettie V. Williams.

The second Conversation was held on July 25, 2020 and focused on Health Care Disparities. Panelists discussed the various health care and mortality disparities that exist in the Black and Brown communities and their ongoing impact. The facilitator was Rev. Vanessa, J. D., chair of GNJUMC Commission on Religion and Race. Guest speakers for this program included a diverse group, namely, Dr. Janie Canty-Mitchell, Rev. Sheena Marie Cameron, Aaron Wilson Watson, and Rev. Dr.

(continued on page 16)

GNJUMW BEGINS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE (continued)

On August 15, 2020, the third Conversation focused on Engaging the Community in Racial Justice. The Rev. Latasha Milton, Senior Pastor of the Asbury UMC in Atlantic City, was the facilitator. Guest speakers included Rev. Jessica Brooks, Rev. Dr. Willie D. Francois, Portia Allen-Kyle, Esq., Dr. Emahunn Raheem Ali Campbell, and Colandus Francis of the Camden NAACP. They each discussed their involvement in bringing about change in various areas such as wrongful convictions, voting rights, housing rights, over-policing and disproportionate suspension of Black children in schools.

On September 12, 2020, the Conversation will focus on a younger generation and is titled "HOPE FOR A NEW GENERATION." The facilitator will be Eric Drew, Executive Director of Next Generation Ministries.

The recordings will be posted as a part of the UMW's ongoing efforts to engage various communities in these much-needed conversations on race and will be posted on the Greater N.J. United Methodist Women's website at GNJUMW.org.

by Esther Canty-Barnes
Clinical Professor of Law at Rutgers University School of Law
Chair GNJUMW Committee Charter on Racial Justice

Isaiah 58:6

Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?



Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women Proposed Slate For 2021

Co-President

Susan Zahorbenski (2024)
Raritan Valley District

Co-President

Yvonne Bouknight (2024)
Gateway North District

Vice-President

Pat Schutz (2024)
Skylands District

Recording Secretary

Advisor

Pat Grant (2022)
Capital District

Treasurer

Carol Bloch (2022)
Raritan Valley District

Spiritual Enrichment

Barbara Miller (2024)
Skylands District

Membership, Nurture & Outreach Chair

Holly Cyrus (2023)
Cape Atlantic District

Christian Social Actions Advocate

Sherri Shumate (2023)
Raritan Valley District

Program Resources

Drucella King (2021)
Gateway South District

Standing Rules Chair

Grace Rapp
Cape Atlantic District

Communications Committee

Communications Chair

Joyce Pratt (2023)
Cape Atlantic District

Photographer

Lou Hyson (2023)
Cape Atlantic District

Nominations Committee

Nominations Chair (2023)

Leslie Bivins
Gateway North District

Class of 2021

Rosa Williams
Palisades District

Class of 2021

Sandra Carney
Gateway North District

Class of 2022

Carolyn Pendleton
Cape Atlantic District

Class of 2022

Millie Grey
Raritan Valley District

Class of 2022

Mary Bland
Palisades District

Class of 2023

Alice Bennett
Raritan Valley District

Class of 2023

Marilyn Beres
Delaware Bay District

Class of 2024

Cynthia Lydon
Palisades District

GNJUMW District News

Capital District *Lesley Koengetter*

Annual Fall Meeting scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2020 via Zoom. Rev. Gerri Aldajuste, pastor at St. Paul UMC in Willingboro will speak on "No Is Not an Option: Justice for All." Rev. Hector Burgos, District Superintendent will serve Communion and officers will be installed.

Delaware Bay District *Eloise Sulzsmann*

Plans are in progress to hold the Fall meeting via Zoom. Officers will remain the same. For information on how to conduct a Virtual meeting visit:

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/media/PDF/DistanceProgrammingResources.pdf>.

Gateway North *Esther Canty-Barnes*

Annual Meeting and Program scheduled for Saturday, October 10, 2020 from Noon to 2pm via Zoom. Theme is "Systemic Racism: The Impact on Health, Economics and the Justice Systems." Filling the slate of officers is still a challenge.

Northern Shore *Linda Babler*

Fall Prayer Breakfast scheduled for September 19, 2020, 9am to 12 noon at Hamilton UMC in Neptune, NJ. Northern Shore District Annual Dinner will be held October 6, 2020, 5 to 8:30pm at St. Andrew UMC, Toms River.

Raritan Valley *Sue Zahorbenski*

Spring Gathering was cancelled. Fall Meeting scheduled for October 10, 2020 via Zoom. Guest Speaker Sherri Shumate will bring the Conversation on Race and Implicit Bias. Special Mission Recognition recipients will be honored in a PowerPoint display and the "Ingathering" will emphasize giving to the Pledge to Mission.

Skylands *Barbara McShane*

Plans are to hold the 2020 Fall Annual Meeting via Zoom with Dr. Traci West from Drew Theological School as guest speaker.

Special edition of the newsletter was sent to the local units in June and included:

UMW national statement supporting Black Lives Matter (Black Lives Matter to God and Black Lives Matter to United Methodist Women).

Information on the book "So you want to talk about race" by Ijeoma Oluo plus the online study developed for UMW.

All districts have or are researching methods to continue District activities via virtual conferencing.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests,
but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

Resources

Legacy Fund

In 2014, the Board of Directors launched the Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign, setting a goal to raise \$60 million. The Legacy Fund Endowment Campaign is both historic and unprecedented, with the campaign's theme, *Together, we are Building our Legacy*. We are celebrating the legacy of courageous women who founded this mission movement, as well as the legacy that today's members will leave for future generations of United Methodist women to create their legacy to carry the mission of *faith, hope, love in action* forward in the world for years to come.



To date we have raised \$30,812,762. Our goal is \$60,000,000. Will you help! Visit www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/150/home for more information and to contribute!

For A Time Like This

Videoconferencing

A resource if it is not possible to have a face-to-face program.

There are times when gathering in person is not possible, whether it be due to illness, transportation issues or distance. Technology offers wonderful solutions to help us to continue our fellowship even in trying times.

There are several videoconferencing platforms available. Two of the more popular options are described below. An internet connection and a working camera and microphone on your device is necessary to fully participate. These platforms allow you to share your screen, making it possible for everyone to view documents and PowerPoint slides and additional videos together.

Zoom. Zoom (zoom.us) allows anyone with an internet connection (phone, computer, tablet) to join in a videoconference. Zoom has free as well as paid options depending on your meeting needs. This video is a quick overview from Zoom on how to get started: youtu.be/qsy2Ph6kSf8. And here is a video from United Methodist Communications on getting started with Zoom for worship and small groups: youtube.com/watch?v=a2FZD1d_yFQ.

Google Meet. Google Meet is free videoconference software similar to Zoom. All participants need a Google account to participate. This video provides a brief guide to the Google Meet platform: youtu.be/J_ywOjB1c4Q.

For more information and/or the handout on how you can successfully use videoconferencing, visit: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/DistanceProgrammingResources.pdf.

Resources

Other Related Resources

Greater New Jersey United Methodist Women (GNJUMW) Website

<https://www.gnjumw.org>

More Social Justice Resources

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/social-action-member-resources>

NE Jurisdiction News

<https://nejumc.org>

UMW Racial Justice Resources

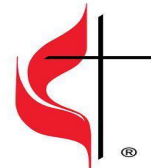
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/news/united-methodist-women-board-affirms-black-lives-matter-to-god>

UMW Social Action Alerts

https://secure3.convio.net/umw/site/SPageNavigator/Social_Action_Alerts.html

God is within her. She will not fail.

Psalm 46:5



**She is clothed in Strength and
Dignity and she Laughs without
fear of the future.**

Proverbs 31:25 NLT

Announcements

New Jersey Voting and Census 2020

Community awareness of nonpartisan options for voter registration, voting, and participating in the Census 2020.

Register to Vote!

As of September 9, 2020, New Jersey residents can now register to vote online. In addition, the N.J. Division of Elections website allows residents to request mail-in ballots and track their mail-in ballots once submitted. Mail-in ballots are already being mailed to all registered voters. Visit the N.J. Division of Elections website: www.state.nj.us/state/elections/index.html for details.

Registration Deadline: October 13, 2020

Vote!

The issue of voting rights in the United States has been contested throughout United States history. Our founders did not address voting rights in the U.S. Constitution or the Bill of Rights. It took several constitutional amendments (15th, 19th and 26th) and the 1986 Uniformed & Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act to address all citizens. The right to vote is the foundation of any democracy; without it, there is tyranny.

Voting Deadline: November 3, 2020

Census 2020

The 2020 Census count is mandated by the Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. It counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories. It's not too late to complete your 2020 Census.

Visit: my2020census.gov for details.



Discover your rights!



In Memory of...

*With heartfelt sympathy and prayers,
GNJMW announces the passing of
June McCullough.*

June was a constant participant at GNJUMW events, presided as President of Southern NJ Conference UMW from 1976-1979, served as Chairperson of Standing Rules in 2018, kept members organized with grace and efficiency, and lived the Wesley motto of "going on to perfection!"

Condolences to family can be sent to:
2139 East Chestnut Avenue – Apt 15
Vineland, NJ 0831



United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

교회와 세계적인 사역.

연합감리교회는 여성이 조직 단위를 그리스도 예수 사람을 통해 전체적으로 포괄되어야 한다. 자성을 여성이 사회 경험과 하나님을 안다는 목적, 확신을 지평하는 개별 차이를, 그리고 차이를 통해 차이의 개념을 확장

우리의 목적은

y de apoyo, y ampliar los conceptos de misión mediante la participación en los ministerios globales de la iglesia.

La unidad organizada de Mujeres Metodistas Unidas es una comunidad de mujeres cuyo PROPÓSITO consiste en conocer a Dios y experimentar libertad en la totalidad de sus vidas mediante Jesucristo; desarrollar un compañerismo creativo

GNJUMW Voices of Purpose



United Methodist Women
FAITH · HOPE · LOVE IN ACTION



Mujeres Metodistas Unidas
FE · ESPERANZA · AMOR EN ACCIÓN



연함감리교회 여성교회
실현하는 믿음 · 사랑 · 희망