



The Welcoming Community Network

WCNnewsletter

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Peace and Justice

by Gail Biller,
Santa Ana, CA

*“And this is God's peace, a peace so wonderful the human mind cannot fully understand it. This peace can be present reality for the person who gently and kindly lives life by letting God take care of anxieties. Prayer is the lifeline to peace.” –
Philippians 4:4-7*

This is from a letter that Paul wrote to the Philippians.

Peace and Justice is easy to talk about. But sometimes it isn't as easy as you think to put in practice.

The Gateway to Peace Museum in St. Louis Missouri seeks to enrich the lives of children. Recently the Community of Christ gave them a grant to continue their work. They set four areas of focus. I think we could benefit by doing these as well. They are:

- PEACE FOR ME (self-esteem and emotional skills)
- PEACE FOR US (cooperation and communication)
- PEACE FOR EVERYONE (tolerance and diversity)
- PEACE FOR THE PLANET (environmental stewardship)

(Herald, October 2011)

What area of peace speaks to you? What are you doing to find peace in your life?

Take time to sit in a quiet place and explore in your self what peace means to you.



An anonymous Franciscan from the 19th Century wrote a beautiful poem that speaks to us even today.

*“Lord make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

I sometimes wonder why Justice seems such a reach for us. If we obeyed the great commandment, “love God and your neighbor as yourself” we would have a different world. Our journey would be characterized by Micah’s great requirement “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to humbly walk with your God” (Micah 6:8)

We have about a year ahead of us to really work on our peace and justice skills. That is when the U.S. Conference will be held. Until then, we might all ponder on the following questions.

1. Have you ever been treated unfairly? Could an advocate be of help to you?
2. When you hear of the injustices that happen in our world, where does it fit into your thoughts and life?
3. Have you volunteered some of your time to causes in your community that serve the poor, oppressed and needy?
4. Have you studied the new material "Signal Communities? How can that help in the US Conference?
5. Are you going to be able to talk and listen to people who have different views?

In Psalm 37, it says "Commit your life to God and justice will dawn for you. Your integrity will shine like the noonday sun.

Prayers for the United Methodist Church General Conference



Please join us in holding The United Methodist Church in prayer as they discuss and vote on welcoming LGBT persons and their families into full membership and ministry in the Church. The General Conference meets in Tampa, Florida from April 24 to May 4, 2012.

"I absolutely believe that change is possible in the United Methodist Church. After policy change for Lutherans, then Presbyterians, my thought and prayer has been and is "Methodists are next!" I am praying that the United Methodist Church will reflect God's heart in Tampa during their General Conference," Michael Adee, Executive Director & Field Organizer.

"We call upon all More Light Presbyterians and others who believe that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is good news for all persons including God's LGBT children and their families to hold the United Methodist Church in your prayers during their General Conference," Rev. Heidi Peterson, Co-Moderator.

Follow the progress of the UMC General Conference using the links below:

- [LGBT Inclusion in the United Methodist Church: Is 2012 the Year?](#) – GLAAD article
- [Love Your Neighbor](#), official site for the pro-LGBT Common Witness Coalition
- [General Conference 2012](#), official site for The United Methodist Church
- [Legislation Tracking](#), all legislative decisions are updated here. Search by KEYWORD "Homosexuality" to read LGBT legislation.
- [Twitter.com](#), RMN Twitter Handle: @rmnetwork, Coalition Hashtag: #gc12love, Church hashtag: #gc2012

Upcoming Events

Building an Inclusive Church Training Opportunities

- May 3–5 – Lancaster, PA
- [More trainings coming in 2012!](#)

[More information on the trainings listed above.](#)

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