

**Organizing a
United Methodist
Women's
Public Witness for
Immigrant Rights
on
May 1, 2010**

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United Methodist Women's Purpose

The organized unit of 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.

ABOUT A PUBLIC WITNESS

Introduction

On May 1, 2010, thousands of United Methodist Women members all across the United States will take public action to speak out for immigrant rights. This is part of our efforts to fulfill the Charter for Racial Justice and a result of our long history of commitment to racial justice. Women in local communities will join thousands of United Methodist Women gathered at Assembly 2010 in St. Louis, Mo., in a visible sign of our commitment to justice for all God's children, including immigrants.

This is an invitation and guide for you to organize a public event in your community. Consider making a public action at your church, within your district or conference. This toolkit will give you step-by-step instruction to help you plan the action and connect with women across the country who are also participating in the nationwide event.

“Countless United Methodist Women members have made history over the years by acting individually and collectively for mission to enhance the lives of women, youth and children. And now we are the ones to make history, the ones who will be remembered as those who stepped up boldly at a critical moment to be witnesses to God's love in the world. On May 1 we will again make history as United Methodist Women. We will continue in a tradition of foremothers determined to attempt big things for God.” —Harriett Jane Olson, Deputy General Secretary, Women's Division

What is a Public Witness?

A public witness is a public action calls attention to the need for justice, makes your commitment to a specific concern public and calls others to action. In this case, the issue is immigrant rights. A public witness does not need not be a large event. For example, a single United Methodist Women member in the Desert Southwest Conference stood in a public place with a sign and a handout to make people aware of the impact of an immigrant raid in Postville, Iowa. Many passersby stopped for questions, conversation and opportunities for education. You can be creative! The following are some basic elements for any public witness:

- Your action is public. It is not a regular program or unit meeting.
- Your action is a witness to your faith as the basis for your public witness.
- Witness organizers seek media coverage through church and secular press.
- Your action enables the public to learn something about the issue and calls them to join you in taking action for immigrant rights.

What if I've never done anything like this before?

Doing something new, and taking a public stance, can feel like a big step! You will be joining generations of United Methodist Women members who taken a public stand on many issues for women, youth and children in the past. Women have organized many public witnesses on issues ranging from segregated schools to the right to health care for all. You will be accompanied by thousands of United Methodist Women members on May 1, 2010. And you walk with the Spirit that gives us power to “attempt big things for God.”

There's no need to organize a big event. This should not be an overwhelming task. One or two people can make an impact. A small vigil outside your church followed up by a news note to the local paper can show how United Methodist Women members feel about the issue. Begin with an action that seems like a good fit for your community and unit.

Why are United Methodist Women members taking action for immigrant rights?

Hebrews 13:1-3 tells us, “Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them...”

The Book Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2008 states, “to refuse to welcome migrants to this country and to stand by in silence while families are separated, individual freedoms are ignored, and the immigrant community in the United States is demonized...is complicity to sin” (Resolution No. 3281, “Welcoming the Migrant to the United States”).

Through our Immigrant and Civil Rights Initiative, United Methodist Women has been praying, studying and taking action for immigrant rights since 2006. These actions have included vigils at state capitols and detention centers; material aid for families divided by detention; and advocacy for just immigration reform.

On May 1, 2010, United Methodist Women members will again take a visible stand to challenge current detention and deportation policies. Women will support family unity, rights for migrant workers, and call for an end to racial profiling and violence against migrant women. Members will continue to call for just immigration reform.

Why is United Methodist Women involved in social justice?

United Methodist Women members are all about mission. Mission is mutual—an experience that is shared together in communities. As women of action, United Methodist women members are women who walk the walk and not just talk the talk.

That tradition of action is firmly rooted in United Methodist Women's Purpose. United Methodist Women members hold in common "expanding concepts of mission" through service and action for justice. Women volunteer in their local communities and around the world as nurses, cooks, after-school tutors, ESL teachers, advocates for justice and peace, and much more.

A challenge to linking service and action, is confronting unjust "principalities and powers" that make much of your service work necessary. You are the hands and feet that seek to build God's reign of justice.

ABOUT THE MAY 1, 2010 PUBLIC WITNESS AND HOW YOU CAN JOIN AT THE UMW ASSEMBLY IN ST. LOUIS or AT HOME

May 1, 2010 march and vigil “Act for Immigrant . . . Civil . . . Human Rights!”

In 1978, United Methodist Women members processed from the Assembly Hall in Louisville, Ky., and moved into the streets to sign the Charter for Racial Justice.

On May 1, 2010, United Methodist Women members will process out of another assembly hall to again challenge another critical racial justice issue: the marginalization, demonization and criminalization of immigrants in our midst. Following a time of worship, remembering and looking forward, Assembly participants will process out of the Dome in St. Louis.

Some will go to the Experience Hall for a time of prayer and witness for immigrant rights. Others will go into the streets where community groups from St. Louis will join them. They will march to Kiener Plaza near the Arch and participate in a faith-based public vigil for immigrant rights. Bishop Minerva Carcaño of the Desert Southwest Conference, chair of the United Methodist Task Force on Immigration and author of the 2008 mission study *“I Believe in Jesus,”* will lead the May 1 public witness. Both events will involve the presence of United Methodist leaders, bishops and musicians.

You can also participate in this event on May 1 in your home communities. Together, you will weave a national tapestry of action that says: “We are about God’s love in action. We welcome sisters and brothers from around the world. National status does not define us—we are all children of God.”

Public witness in your communities

United Methodist Women members are invited to plan parallel actions across the United States. These events might include a silent vigil at your church; a rally at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) detention center in your area; a vigil at city hall; hosting an educational event or film screening open to the public or other ideas that units and circles may generate.

Tell us about it!

Please share your local plans with United Methodist Women so we know how many actions are happening that day. Contact Cindy Johnson, Women’s Division’s Kyung Za Yim Intern (cjohnson@gbgm-umc.org; 956-459-4006) regarding your plans.

What immigrant rights issues is United Methodist Women addressing?

The message for May 1, 2010 public witness: *We gather today as people of faith to stand in solidarity with migrants in the U.S., with these and other workers affected by unfair wages and racial profiling, who seek livelihoods and justice in a land of plenty. The Bible calls us to go beyond assisting “outsiders” to embracing sisters and brothers from around the globe, and to actions that lead to the equitable sharing of resources and decision-making. Today, United Methodist Women members and our partners stand up for immigrant, civil and human rights.*

In keeping with the racial justice focus of the United Methodist Women’s Immigrant/Civil Rights Initiative, the action is a stand in solidarity with immigrant communities. On May 1 United Methodist Women is issuing a call for:

- Just policies at the local, state and national levels
- An end to harsh enforcement practices and racial profiling
- Worker’s rights
- An end to violence against migrant women
- Acknowledgement of continuing civil rights struggles of African Americans, Native Americans, Latinos and other US-born communities of color

The May 1 public action is addressing four primary concerns:

1. **Migrant workers rights:** particularly the rights of farm workers and women workers. 80% of all farm workers are immigrants. They are paid 5 to 6 cents for every grocery dollar we spend.¹ Migrant women workers in the US are often caregivers, sweatshop workers, or home-based piecework workers who are underpaid and may lack basic benefits or decent working conditions.
2. **Violence against migrant women:** This occurs in the widespread rape of women crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, abuse in detention and abuse by employers. According to the UN, up to 70 percent of women crossing the U.S.-Mexico border without husbands or families are abused—often by the coyotes they pay to assist them and by the border patrol agents.²

¹ "National Agricultural Workers Survey (NAWS)," a national survey conducted by the Department of Labor that collects data about paid farmworkers (Samardick, Gabbard, & Lewis, 2000), quoted in: What Federal Statistics Reveal about Migrant Farmworkers: A Summary for Education. ERIC Digest, by Huang, Gary G.

² "Price of Admission: Along the border, sexual assault has become routine," Tim Vanderpool, Tucson Weekly, June 5, 2008, <http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tucson/price-of-admission/Content?oid=1091501> Also, <http://www.nowpublic.com/world/rape-trees-frame-arizona-mexico-border-grim-reminders-o>

3. **Racial profiling:** This is a concern that affects migrant communities and communities of color in the U.S. As local police have been enlisted as immigration agents, racial profiling has increased in many communities. In 2008, almost 45,000 immigrants were turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement by local and state law enforcement officers—many as a result of racial profiling.³
4. **Family unity:** Current U.S. detention and deportation policies divide families. Migrants with past felony convictions—even those who served their time and decades later are upstanding citizens, are by law condemned to immediate deportation. In a 10-year period 100,000 immigrant parents of U.S. citizen children were deported.⁴ 380,000 people were detained in 2008, alone.⁵

³ ICE Program Under Fire, by Jessica Weisberg, The Nation, October 14, 2009, www.thenation.com/doc/20091026/weisberg

⁴ “100,000 Parents of Citizens Were Deported over 10 Years,” Michael Falcone, New York Times, February 13, 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/02/14/us/14immig.html>

⁵ ICE Program Under Fire, by Jessica Weisberg, The Nation, October 14, 2009, www.thenation.com/doc/20091026/weisberg

HOW TO ORGANIZE A PUBLIC WITNESS IN YOUR OWN COMMUNITY

Getting Ready to Take Action—Study, Debate, Learn

Schedule time for your unit or a larger group of United Methodist Women to go through the program “Immigration: Love as God Has Loved,” in the United Methodist Women’s 2010 Program Book (page 23). This is a resource for worship and reflection on these issues.

Immigration is a hard issue to tackle, it lacks clear public consensus and it is important to take time to explore the biblical, theological and ethical reasons United Methodist Women is engaged in this work.

United Methodist Women advocates for **just immigration reform** that will “affirm the worth, dignity and inherent value and rights of migrants,” and include:

- A pathway to legalization for all undocumented migrants
- Clearing the backlogs and reunifying families separated by migration or detention
- Protection of all migrant workers
- Elimination of indefinite detention and the expanding prison population
- Due process and adequate legal representation for migrants regardless of status
- An end to local law enforcement engagement in immigration enforcement.

(From United Methodist Book of Resolutions, #3281, “Welcoming the Migrant to the US.”)

Choosing a Public Witness: What Should We Do?

There are many different possibilities for a public witness. You might want to pursue some of the ideas listed below. Please do not limit yourself to this list. Use your creativity and knowledge of your unit and community to determine the best public action.

1. **A silent vigil in front of your church.** Hold individual signs and post a large banner on the church or lawn. Have flyers to distribute that briefly state what you are standing for and why.
2. **A rally or vigil at city hall** or another central place in your community.
3. **A rally or vigil at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) detention center** in your area. These are often in city jails. [see resource section below to access a map of detention centers.]

4. **An action in partnership with a National Mission Institution.** Use the resource list in this toolkit to find out if there is a National Mission institution in your area. Contact them to find out if they serve immigrants and if they might be interested in partnering with you in organizing a public witness for immigrant rights. Create a joint team to plan the witness.
5. **An educational event or film** screening at your church that is open to the public. You might want to invite representatives of local immigrant communities and immigrant rights organizations to share their insights and experiences in a public forum.
6. **A public puppet show, with giant puppets that tell immigrant stories and call for immigrant rights.** This will be part of the public witness at Assembly!
7. **Street theater in a central plaza,** to depict immigrant stories, realities of detention and deportation, or other concerns. Have flyers on hand to explain who you are and what you are calling for.
8. **A sing-along in a public place.** Take familiar songs and write your own lyrics, to raise concerns about immigrant rights. Write up the lyrics as a hand out and invite people to be part of the sing-along. See resource section below for an example by the “Raging Grannies.” **Add additional ideas to the UMW online immigration community!** Join www.umwonline.org to share and learn more about this community.

Consider the Public Witness as a Growth Opportunity

Involve all of the officers of your unit (local, district or conference) in planning the public witness. This is an opportunity to deepen your faith, reach out to new members, practice supportive community and engage in action for justice. Keep reading for ideas of how to involve everyone in your public witness.

President, Vice President, Treasurer: How might you take the lead in initiating a public witness and working with other officers to plan and encourage participation? How does this connect to unit priorities, and how might you build on it to strengthen ongoing efforts?

Membership: How can planning and involvement in a public witness for immigrant rights involve young women? Women from other congregations and communities? How might it become a membership recruitment and

leadership development opportunity? How will you follow-up after the event with any new women who participated?

Spiritual Growth: Spiritual Growth coordinators and Social Action coordinators can work together to plan the program on immigration using the Program Book. How do the Bible and our theology inform us on issue of immigration? How do our efforts to grapple with this issue deepen our biblical understanding and faith? How can the Spiritual Growth coordinator be involved and involve others in planning hymns, litanies, scripture readings and other contributions to a public vigil for immigrant rights?

Social Action: Draw on educational and advocacy resources from United Methodist Women and partners to help the group understand the issues and identify a priority focus for the public witness. Help to create a handout describing your concerns and what you are advocating for. Assist in making this part of a long-term strategy for putting faith into action.

Communications: How can you help organize women to cover the event through written words, photos and video (such as flip cameras)? How can you use social media such as Twitter, Facebook and YouTube to publicize the event before and after? How can you use this as an opportunity to build relationships with reporters and media outlets in your community?

Education & Interpretation: Help women to be aware of United Methodist Women's resources on immigration. There are several excellent books in the Reading Program on the subject. There is a program in the 2010 Program Book. There is also excellent coverage in *Response* magazine. See the December 2009 issue on Borders. Do some digging and spread the word!

Language Coordinators: How can you help involve women from diverse language groups to participate? Can they bring signs, songs in their language to add to the event? Are there immigrants within your units who might be willing to share their stories at a public witness?

Step-by-Step Planning for Your Public Witness on May 1, 2010

1. **Hold a Bible study and discussion** on immigration concerns. Use the program "Immigration: Love as God Has Loved," [See details in the Resource section.]
2. **Meet as a team** to discuss ideas for the public witness. This could be your unit's mission team, or a team of those most excited about planning such an event. This might be a great moment to involve newcomers in a leadership role.

3. **Use the event to build United Methodist Women.** Consider how the event can strengthen the goals of your unit. How might it enhance membership? Spiritual growth? Leadership development? Social Action? Mission Giving? Work as a team to build these goals into your event.
4. **Identify your objectives.** Which issue do you want to focus on? What kind of public witness can best help you to do this? How would the site of the witness help to draw attention to your issue? (For example, a vigil at a detention center to lift up family unity concerns).
5. **Do your homework.** How can you find out more about the issue? Who can you talk with in your community to learn about local concerns?
6. **Enlist allies!** Consider planning an event with UMC conference leaders and organizations, ecumenical partners, people from migrant communities in your area, and with local immigrant rights groups. [See appendix 3 for specific ideas.]
7. **Be culturally sensitive.** As you work with diverse community and immigrant groups, be sensitive to other cultures and to power dynamics. Consider that there is more than one way to plan and accomplish objectives. Be sensitive to power dynamics. Be careful not to make assumptions or to patronize. See Appendix 10 for a checklist: “As I Face A Different Culture.”
8. **Get a permit** for your event. If the event is on a private space such as your church property, go through the appropriate channels to get permission. If the event is in a public space, you will need to contact the parks department and the police department to get a formal permit. There is often a small fee. Be sure and find out about any requirements regarding sound systems, signs and banners, garbage disposal, etc.
9. **Create a budget.** Your public witness need not be expensive, but do consider any potential costs. It could be as little as purchasing some poster board for handmade signs, or it could involve a public permit, banners, buttons, t-shirts and signs—it’s up to you. If you work with other groups (conference, ecumenical, community groups) you can share costs.
10. **Spread the word!** You have the date (May 1, 2010). Once you have the place (and permit), the type of action, and the cosponsors, create a flyer and get the word out! Send it out through United

Methodist Women and United Methodist conference e-mail lists and blogs.

11. **Create a task list and a timeline** (see sample in Appendix 1) so you know everything will be ready by May 1.
12. **Plan the program.** You may be planning a silent vigil. If so, what will the signs say? How might you dress dramatically to call attention (such as women in the peace organization “Women in Black” <www.womeninblack.org>)? If you are planning a vigil or rally, who will speak? Who are some faith and community leaders you would like to help lead the event? How about musicians? How can you weave in prayer, songs and testimonies to raise your concerns? [See two sample vigil programs below that have been created by United Methodist Women in Appendix 5.] If you are doing a song-fest, enlist creative people to write alternate lyrics based on your research of the issue. If you are doing drama or puppetry, get your presentation together.
13. **Get supplies:** Print a large banner at a copy shop, or make it at a meeting. Ask women make signs in multiple languages. Gather what you need for props or outfits. (See helpful ideas the Resources section.)
14. **Get a sound system:** If this is a silent vigil or drama, this is not a concern. Otherwise, you need to be heard. A sound system can be as simple as an electric megaphone, or more complex, depending on the size of the crowd you expect. Don’t forget to find out if you need a sound permit. Often sound systems can be borrowed from a church or community organization, or rented for the day.
15. **Prepare a handout.** Prepare a one-page handout that describes the problem you are addressing, include a personal story if possible, and state what you are advocating for. Say who you are (United Methodist Women) and how to contact you for more information. Make multiple copies (perhaps on bright paper) to distribute at your event. Consider including concrete action steps that people can take such as: write to your congresspersons to call for just immigration reform in 2010.
16. **Enlist volunteers:** Make a list of every kind of help you will need in planning (outreach, supplies, creative juices....) and on the day of the event. This may include people to distribute flyers, hold signs, give out buttons, address the media, lead music, security volunteers (peacekeepers), people to explain what’s happening to passers-by,

etc. Once you have your list, reach out to United Methodist Women members and others to enlist all of your volunteers.

17. **Develop a media plan.** [See below for specific steps.]
18. **Begin the May 1st event with prayer!** Have a powerful, inspiring, fun time!
19. **Keep communicating after the May 1 event.** Have your designated communications person send a brief write up, photos (via web sites like Picasa or Flickr) and video footage (best via YouTube) to Leigh Rogers, lrogers@gbgm-umc.org, preferably by May 15.
20. **Evaluate! Use the attached evaluation form** to evaluate the event, your planning process, and your impact. Please send a copy of the form to Carol Barton, cbarton@gbgm-umc.org; fax (212) 870-3736; 777 UN Plaza, 11th floor, New York, NY 10017.
21. **Consider the next steps.** United Methodist Women's commitment to immigrant rights and racial justice is not a one-time event. As a unit, consider how this might be the start of ongoing education and action for immigrant rights. Contact Carol Barton cbarton@gbgm-umc.org in the Women's Division Community Action office for additional ideas. Explore ongoing collaboration with conference, ecumenical or community groups. Don't stop here!

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

One goal of your public witness is to send a message locally and nationally (through multiple actions on the same day across the U.S.) that United Methodist Women members want to see a change in current immigration policies and we are going to speak out about it. Here are some important steps:

- Send a media alert prior to the event.
- Use all United Methodist communications avenues.
- Work the phones to get secular press to cover the event.
- Consider having simple press packets that include: information about United Methodist Women, the program, speaker bios, a one page handout on the issue, a news release, and contact information for follow-up.
- Assign someone to work with the media. That person will give out press packets, keep a list of all reporters who come and their contact information for follow-up, talk with the media and arrange interviews with spokespeople and speakers.
- Designate who will “tell your story” to the media in advance. If possible, have someone who can give personal testimony regarding an immigrant experience. Use your handout as a guide to the key points you want to make.

For help planning a media strategy, you can go to:

<http://www.causecommunications.com/diy/getnewscoverage.html>

For a full tutorial on news releases from the SPIN Project check out

<http://spinproject.org/article.php?id=115>

Here's who to contact for news coverage:

- Local newspapers (target the religion/community news editor, if there is one)
- Annual Conference Newsletter/Newspaper/Magazine
- Annual Conference Website editor
- Local radio and television stations
- United Methodist News Service: e-mail Linda Bloom at lbloom@umcom.org
- United Methodist Women Communications Department: e-mail Leigh Rogers at lrogers@gbgm-umc.org or call 212-870-3755

Follow-up with a telephone call to anyone you know personally at a given media outlet. This is a great way to introduce United Methodist Women to an editor.

Arrange for a photographer to be at the event to capture photographs that can be used in future news articles or other publicity purposes. Look for a volunteer photographer among United Methodist Women members and friends. If anyone is handy with video, take short clips and post to www.YouTube.com. This can be shared with members and posted to Websites. Also ask the annual conference if someone is available to cover/photograph the event for you. Be sure to:

- Take photographs of women in action.
- Show the community and surroundings of the mission project to give context to you work.
- Don't be afraid to pose photos if you need to.
- Always ask community members for permission before being photographed.

Interview women at the public witness about their experiences and write an article for your United Methodist Women conference or district newsletter and Website. You can also volunteer to write an article for your annual conference newsletter. When you send a press release to the annual conference, offer this as an option.

Websites and Social Media

The Internet is another place to share your event with the public. Advertise this public witness on your United Methodist Women conference or district Website. Also, talk with the annual conference Website editor or administrator about posting information about the event on the conference's calendar page or other locations on the site.

You can use social media sites like Facebook and Twitter to publicize your public witness. Create an event on Facebook and invite people to attend. Encourage excitement and participation by giving regular status updates as the plans come together. Rally volunteers through the site. Ask someone to "tweet" from the event as it is happening. Remember to give an update about the event's success afterwards, too.

RESOURCES

Books

Concepts of Mission by Glory Dharmaraj, available in English (2820-2005-01/\$7.50) and Spanish (2992-1999-01/\$1) from the Mission Resource Center: www.missionresourcecenter.org

Social Principles of The United Methodist Church 2009-2012 available from the Mission Resource Center: www.missionresourcecenter.org

Internet

United Methodist Women links:

www.umwmission.org, United Methodist Women's Website, offers resources such as Bible studies and reflections, educational tools, Action Alerts, news, member-focused Bright Lights and more.

The immigration page of the United Methodist Women website has helpful resources, including Bible studies. <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/work/social-action/immigration/>

The United Methodist Women immigration online community has a wealth of current information and resources. It is a place you can share ideas and seek information and advice from others. [umwonline.org] Click on "Welcome Community" to learn how to navigate the online community. Then explore the Immigration community.

"Why Should I Get Involved in Social Issues?" by Esther Madriz, updated by Susie Johnson: www.umwmission.org

"Made in LA Study Guide" A guide created by the United Methodist Task Force on Immigration helps congregations plan a viewing of the award-winning film, Made in LA. Guide includes two 2008 General Conference resolutions on Immigration with study questions: "Welcoming the Sojourner to the US" and "Global Migration: A Quest for Justice" as well as action suggestions. Download the guide from: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/news/news-1/index.cfm?i=31984>

"How to Contact Your Members of Congress," "How to influence Your State Legislator, "How to Visit Members of Congress," available online at: www.umwmission.org, click to "Our Work," then "Social Action," then "Washington D.C. Advocacy"

Other helpful websites:

Church Women United: www.churchwomen.org

Center for New Community: www.newcomm.org

Detention Watch Network: www.detentionwatchnetwork.org -- You can find out if there is a detention center near you by going to the detention watch network map at this site.

Interfaith Worker Justice: www.iwj.org

National Council of Churches list of local affiliations:
www.nccusa.org/ecmin/councils-links.html

National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights: www.nnirr.org

Raging Grannies (adapt familiar songs with new lyrics for justice]
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raging_Grannies

Supplies

T-Shirts: A United Methodist Women logo in multiple languages and information for creating an iron-on T-shirt is available on the web at:
<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/resources/united-methodist-women-t-shirt/?search=t-shirts>

Buttons: A limited number of immigrant rights buttons and signs are available from the Women's Division. Contact Sophony Lamour at:
slamour@gbqm-umc.org; 212-682-3633.
Noisemakers:

Noisemakers: You may have fun adding some noisemakers! These can be ordered from Oriental Trading Company, www.orientaltrading.com ["cymbals with handles", #IN-16/690, \$5.99 per dozen.]

United Methodist Women's Resources

Response magazine has numerous articles on immigrants and immigrant rights. Call 877-881-2385 for a subscription or subscribe online at www.umwmission.org. Use it as a program and action-planning tool!

United Methodist Women's 2010 Program Book, *Let's Get Together*, features programs that provide worship, Bible study, education and action ideas on several areas of concern. See p. 23 for the program on

Immigration. Available from the Mission Resource Center in English (#M3069/\$7), Spanish (#M3083/\$7) and Korean (#M3084/\$7)

List of National Mission Institutions: www.umwmission.org or the back of United List of National Mission Institutions: www.umwmission.org or the back of United Methodist Women's *Prayer Calendar*, available from the Mission Resource Center at www.umwmission.org



APPENDIX 1:

May 1, 2010

What a privilege to be able to greet the faithful people gathered for this important event! Today, United Methodist Women are gathered in St. Louis at our national Assembly 2010 and in public witness events across the country to affirm our concern for immigrants, particularly women, children and families. Thank you for your visible witness to the call of Christ to care for all the people in our midst.

When the combined force of a powerful nation and powerful commercial interests trample on human rights of the people without power, people of faith must stand up and speak out.

Today, you stand just where our churches must stand: against oppression, for the love of God and neighbor, and with those who cannot stand up for themselves.

- Today, United Methodist Women follow the example of UMW sisters who, in 1978, processed from the Assembly Hall in Louisville, Ky., and moved into the streets to sign the Charter for Racial Justice.
- Today, immigrant rights is one of the critical racial justice issues of our times, and we again take a stand.
- We are standing for migrant workers rights, particularly farm workers and migrant women workers. 80% of all farm workers are immigrants, who are paid 5 to 6 cents for every grocery dollar we spend.
- We are standing to challenge violence against migrant women. This occurs in the widespread rape of women crossing the U.S. – Mexico border, abuse in detention and abuse by employers.
- We are challenging racial profiling by police empowered as immigration enforcement agents. In 2008, almost 45,000 immigrants were turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement by local and state law enforcement officers – many as a result of racial profiling.
- We are standing for family unity. Current U.S. detention and deportation policies divide families. In a 10-year period 100,000 immigrant parents of U.S. citizen children were deported.

Countless United Methodist Women members and our allies have made history over the years by acting individually and collectively for mission to enhance the lives of women, youth and children. And now we are the ones to make history, the ones who will be remembered as those who stepped up boldly at a critical moment to be witnesses to God's love in the world. We continue in a tradition of foremothers determined to attempt big things for God. Thank you for representing the love of God this day. God bless you.

Faithfully,

Harriett Jane Olson
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Women's Division/United Methodist Women
General Board of Global Ministries
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475 Riverside Drive, Room 1504, New York, NY 10115

Phone: 212-870-3752 ■ Fax: 212-870-3736 ■ Email: HOlson@gbgm-umc.org

APPENDIX 2: EVENT PLANNING CHECKLIST

Once you have defined your target audience, objectives, and framing, begin planning the event:

Preliminary planning - at least 6 weeks prior

- Determine the venue and get a permit
- Recruit local organizational partners to broaden your reach and help identify roles for each one
- Contact Cindy Johnson, UMW's Kyung Za Yim Intern for Immigrant Rights to let the Women's Division know your plans. Cindy is available as a resource for you as you make your plans. You can reach her at: cjohnson@gbgm-umc.org; 956-459-4006.

Logistical planning- 3-4 weeks prior

- Create a flyer to publicize your event
- Confirm that you have the right equipment for the event, poster, etc.
- Draft agenda and vet with partners.

Logistical planning - 2 weeks prior

- Create an e-mail blast to publicize your event electronically. (We suggest sending one announcement 2 weeks prior and another several days prior.)
- Contact community calendars about your event.

Media outreach - 10 days prior

- Send out press releases to media outlets.
- Make calls to local television and radio programs.

Final planning - several days prior

- Important: check that everything is in place.
- Send second round of e-mail blasts.
- Follow up with press who expressed an interest in covering the story.
- Finalize agenda.
- Make copies of handouts, including literature from your organization, fact sheets, etc.

At the event itself

- Coordinate Volunteers. Have one person greet and organize speakers/musicians. Have media liaison on site.
- Have a timekeeper so that panelist/speakers remain within their assigned speaking time.
- If possible, announce a call to action or have materials available for attendees to follow up.

- ❑ Encourage participants to spread the word.

After the event:

- ❑ Have your designated communications person and helpers send a brief write up, photos (via web sites like Picasa or Flickr) and video footage (best via YouTube) to Leigh Rogers, lrogers@gbgm-umc.org, preferably by May 15, 2010.

(Adapted From “Made in LA Study Guide,” created by the Made in LA team, www.madeinla.com/host. Study Guide can be found at: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/work/immigrationrefugees/>)

APPENDIX 3: SETTING GOALS

Set goals to meet the priorities of your local unit. You may also want to consider current priorities of your local church, district and conference UMW, and your UMC conference. At the national level, United Methodist Women is engaged in an initiative on Immigrant and Civil Rights. You can get more information about the initiative from the UMW website and online community, the Program Book, and from your Social Action coordinators, as well as from the Women's Division (Cindy Johnson, cjohnson@gbgm-umc.org and Carol Barton, cbarton@gbgm-umc.org). See the Resource section for details. Goals should combine both the issue you want to address (a particular aspect of immigration concerns) as well as organizational goals such as membership outreach and spiritual growth. Here are some ideas:

1. Social Action Goals

- Raise awareness of immigration issues.
- Highlight a specific immigration concern, such as family unity, racial profiling, detention and deportation, and call for action on the issue by addressing local or public officials.
- Heighten visibility and spotlight the importance of immigration issues.
- Build bridges between immigrants and community members. Educate your community.
- Establish coalitions with other organizations and inspire the development of new programs that address the immigration issues.
- Engage general audiences around how to be more conscious about immigration issues.
- Prompt local decision-makers and business leaders to consider how addressing the needs of immigrant.

2. Organizational Goals

- Raise visibility for United Methodist Women in your community and conference
- Membership outreach
- Leadership development
- Working effectively as a team and linking UMW organizational priorities (spiritual growth, membership, leadership development, social action, mission giving)

Adapted from the "Made in LA Study Guide" [<http://new.gbgm-umc.org/work/immigrationrefugees/>]

APPENDIX 4: WORKING WITH ALLIES

As you plan the public witness, reach out to partners within The United Methodist Church, ecumenical groups, migrant and community groups. The following are some groups you might want to consider:

- Contact the conference and district United Methodist Women and get suggestions and support from them.
- Contact your conference office. Some conferences have immigration teams that may want to work with you in planning a conference-wide event. There may be conference staff— church and society, program or communications—who can work with you and give you ideas. See how you might engage your bishop and district superintendents in a public witness.
- Reach out to other United Methodist conference groups such as Church & Society, Justice for Our Neighbors, Hispanic Ministries, Korean Ministries, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Commission on Religion Race, and racial/ethnic caucuses.
- Reach out ecumenically! Contact Church Women United and your local Council of Churches to see if they will join you. Immigrant Rights is a current Church Women United priority. You may want to plan a joint event.
- Contact immigrant rights organizations and immigrant community centers in your area to explore collaboration. Rather than telling them what you plan to do, begin by exploring their concerns and see how you might shape your plans to address those concerns.
- Reach out to high schools and colleges.
- See if your municipality has an office for immigrant services or a human rights commission that might be interested in your event.

APPENDIX 5: SAMPLE VIGIL PROGRAMS

1. Generic Program [45 min. – 1 hour]

Gathering – Poster-making as people arrive (have list of slogans available);
Singing

Hymn

Opening Prayer – [Bishop or conference leader]

Master of Ceremonies: Introduction, context—who we are, why we are here, why now? Overall context, Specific Demands.

Speaker: Biblical Basis for our stance; Reference United Methodist policy (or other if ecumenical/ interfaith]

Speaker: Personal testimony (for example, on family divided by detention policy)

Speaker: Read greetings from Harriett Jane Olson, Deputy General Secretary, Women's Division/GBGM

Speaker: Personal testimony (if you do not have someone to do this, people can read brief testimonies of others.)

Speakers: How the UMW (UMC, ecumenical and community partners...) are responding to these concerns. What we are asking the public to do as well. [Perhaps one faith leader and one community leader.]

Litany for the Sojourner (or alternate litany_

MC: Closing Remarks, closing prayer

Hymn: "We Are Called to Act for Justice"

2. Vigil at the Willacy County Detention Center, Raymondville, Texas, January 2010

This march and vigil was organized by United Methodist Women of Rio Grande and Southwest Texas Conferences in collaboration with other United Methodists, Pax Christi and several community groups. This is an example of conference, ecumenical and community collaboration. The group was enriched by the presence of seminarians from New York and Ohio. For coverage of the vigil, see: <http://new.gbgm-umc.org/umw/news/news/index.cfm?i=31805>

3:30-4:00 Music by musician Pablo Peregrina, author of "Travelling Soles" CD. Available from the artist, Guitarra@Pablo Pablito.com

4:00-Prayer by District Superintendent, the Rev. Francisco Campos

4:05- Thanks and Introduction of groups, Cindy Johnson, UMW Yim Intern for Immigrant Rights, Deaconess

4:10-Reasons for Vigil, the Rev. Lorenza Smith

4:15-Litany Found in UMW program book page 24, led by Sonia Cruz, United Methodist Women

4:20-2 short talks from groups about immigration (Pax Christi and Southwest Workers Union)

4:30 -Short walk with Music (Pablo Peregrina)

4:40-Statement from Inelda Gonzalez, UMW President, read by Kathy Currier, United Methodist Pastor for the West Ohio Conference and student at Methodist Theological Seminary

4:45-Statement from Harriet Jane Olson, Deputy General Secretary, Women's Division, read by Mrs. Roma, United Methodist Women

4:50-Statement from Bishop Jim Dorff, SW Texas and Rio Grande areas of the United Methodist Church, read by 16-year-old United Methodist, Derek Smith

4:55-Music (Pablo Peregrina, songs about Immigration)

5:00-Message, Dr. Daisy Machado, professor of Church History at Union Theological Seminary, New York

5:15-Prayer

5:20-Music and Walk back

3. Vigil at the Varick Street Detention Center, New York, NY, December 2008

United Methodist Women and Church & Society of the New York Annual Conference organized this vigil with several United Methodist groups and caucuses in the New York conference. Local immigrant rights groups were also invited to participate. Participants read stories of migrant women, taken from the report of the National Network for

Immigrant and Refugee Rights: “Over-raided, Under Siege: US Immigration Laws and Enforcement Destroy the Rights of Immigrants.”
[See resource section.]

Vigil Program

Gathering – Poster-making as people arrive (have list of slogans available)
Singing

Opening Prayer – Bishop Jeremiah Park, New York area of the United Methodist Church

The Rev. Jeffry Wells, Church & Society: Introduction, context—who we are, why we are here, why now? Overall context, Specific Demands. Need for immediate end to raids, detentions, deportations, in context of call for broader just immigration reform. Introduce Bishop Park

Bishop Jeremiah Park: Biblical Basis for our stance; Reference United Methodist policy (New United Methodist Resolution)

Zamzam Quraishy, Hicksville United Methodist Church personal story—Originally from India. He spent four days in detention. Justice for Our Neighbors worked with her to get political asylum.

Harriett Jane Olson, Deputy General Secretary, Women’s Division/GBGM: particular concerns of women, youth and children; United Methodist Women’s engagement with immigrant rights historically (Alma Matthews) and today

Ohyeon Lee, president, Korean United Methodist Women Network of New York Annual Conference – personal story

The Rev. In Koo Chung, pastor of the United Methodist Church in Patchogue, NY -- will speak to the recent murder of Marcello Lucero in Patchogue, social and political environment that demonizes immigrants.

The Rev. Hector LaPorta, Hispanic Council –relate personal story of an immigrant in ICE system* (NNIRR report)

Chung Wha Hong, Executive Director, NY Immigration Coalition (realities of detention system)

Rev. Dr. Ron Tompkins, senior pastor of Jackson Heights Community UMC, Representative of NY Conference Commission on Religion and Race--relate personal story of an immigrant in ICE system* (NNIRR Report)

The Rev. Constance Pak, Vice Chair, Korean Caucus -- relate personal story of an immigrant in ICE system* (NNIRR Report)

Kevin Nelson, Chair, Methodist Federation for Social Action NY chapter -- relate personal story of an immigrant in ICE system* (NNIRR Report)

Representative, Rural and Migrant Network -- relate personal story of an immigrant in ICE system* (NNIRR Report)

Bobby Kahn, Coney Island Project (South Asian community) with family of a detainee in Varick Street Detention Center

Litany for the Sojourner: Beverly Risi, past UMW Conference President
Sung-ok Lee, Assistant General Secretary, Christian Social Action,
Women's Division – Closing Remarks

Hymn: "We Are Called to Act for Justice"

*Each of these representatives will say who they are, their organization and why they are here in 1-2 sentences, and will then read a case of an immigrant impacted by the immigration enforcement system. These have been collected by the National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and will be provided.

APPENDIX 6: SUGGESTED SONGS AND HYMNS

Sent Out in Jesus' Name/Enviado soy de Dios, The Faith We Sing #2184

We are Called, Words and Music, David Haas (Micah 6:8)

<http://artists.letssingit.com/david-haas-lyrics-we-are-called-lgqrc79>

This Little Light of Mine

O Young and Fearless Prophet, United Methodist Hymnal no. 444, Tune:
Lead on, O King Eternal

I am One Voice, by Don Eaton. For more information and to purchase CD,
contact Don Eaton/Small Change, 1164 NW Weybridge Way, Beaverton,
OR 97006; 503-645-6418; www.onevoiceusa.org/resources/song/index.html

APPENDIX 7: LIST OF POSSIBLE SLOGAN FOR SIGNS AND CHANTS

General

Because We Believe... We act for Immigrant Rights
Because We Believe... We act for Racial Justice
No Border Wall
Keep Families together
Put Children first—Keep families together
Family Unity—Keep families together
No human being is illegal!
Love your Neighbor as yourself
God is Love
Jesus was a refugee
We will not be divided
Immigrant ≠ criminal
We Want Just Immigration
“We will not be silent”-- UMC
Immigrant Rights = Human Rights
UMW for Just Immigration Policies
UMW for Human Rights
Justicia Para Todos: Justice for All
Civil liberties for all immigrants
Liberty and Justice for All!
Freedom from Fear, Freedom from Want -- Universal Human Rights
International Migrants Day -- Human Rights for all Immigrants
Due process for all immigrants-- documented and undocumented!
Obama, Congress: We want fair and just immigration reform
Don't criminalize immigrants
Keep the Police out of the business of immigration enforcement!

Detention and Deportation

No person should be in jail for being an immigrant!
Detaining America's Immigrants is not the Solution!
End I.C.E. Raids, Detentions and Deportations Now!
Obama, Napolitano -End detentions and Deportations!
Violation of immigration law is not a crime-- why are these immigrants in jail?
Immigrants in detention include sick, elderly, pregnant women, families, green card holders and people escaping torture abroad. This is wrong!
Immigrants are at risk when detained in jails with criminals
Melt the I. C. E. -- end raids, detentions and deportations now!
End neglect and abuse of immigrants in ICE detention centers!
Detention destroys families and communities
Immigrant detention lines the pockets of the private prison industry
84% of detained immigrants are not represented by a lawyer

APPENDIX 8: LITANIES

Remember the Immigrant –

A Prayer for Call-and-Response by Interfaith Worker Justice

Leader: We serve a God who directs us to care especially for those most vulnerable in society. Our scriptures tell us of God’s special concern for the “alien” or the “stranger,” or as more contemporary translations say—the immigrant.

All: For the Lord our God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. God defends the cause of the orphan and the widow and loves the immigrant, giving the immigrant food and clothing. And we are to love those who are immigrants, for God’s people were immigrants in Egypt. (Deuteronomy 10:17-19)

Leader: We ask God to open our eyes to the struggles of immigrant workers, for we know that . . .

All: We must not take advantage of a hired worker who is poor and needy, whether the worker is a resident or immigrant living in our town. We must pay the worker the wages promptly because the worker is poor and counting on it. (Deuteronomy 24:14)

Leader: God’s desire is that those who build houses may live in them,

All: And that those who plant may eat. (Isaiah 65:22)

Leader: And yet we know this is not possible for many in our midst.

All: We know of farm workers who cannot feed their families; construction workers who have no homes; nursing home workers who have no health care; restaurant workers who could not afford a meal in the restaurant.

Leader: We know that too many immigrant workers among us are not receiving the fruits of their labor, nor the justice required by the courts.

All: God charges our judges to hear disputes and judge fairly, whether the case involves citizens or immigrants. (Deuteronomy 1:16)

Leader: But our laws do not adequately protect immigrants. Our legal and social service programs exclude many immigrants. Our education programs undervalue immigrant children.

All: God tells us that the community is to have the same rules for citizens and for immigrants living among us. This is a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. Citizens and immigrants shall be the same before the Lord. (Numbers 15:15)

Leader: When an immigrant lives in our land,

All: We will not mistreat him or her. We will treat an immigrant as one of our native born. We will love an immigrant as ourselves, for God's people were once immigrants in Egypt. (Leviticus 19:33-34)

Leader: To those who employ immigrant workers, we lift up God's command:

All: Do not oppress an immigrant. God's people know how it feels to be immigrants because they were immigrants in Egypt. (Exodus 23:9)

Leader: And a special word to those who employ immigrant farm workers:

All: Make sure immigrants get a day of rest. (Exodus 23:12)

Leader: To those who craft our immigration laws and policies, we lift up God's command:

All: Do not deprive the immigrant or the orphan of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that God's people were slaves in Egypt and the Lord our God redeemed them from there. (Deuteronomy 24:17-18)

Leader: To all of us who seek to do God's will, help us to:

All: Love one another as God has loved us. Help us to treat immigrants with the justice and compassion that God shows to each of us.

(For You Were Once a Stranger: Immigration in the US Through the Lens of Faith, Interfaith Worker Justice, Chicago, 2007, p. 73-74. Used by permission.)

Litany for the Sojourner

Leader: Gracious One, who jealously guards the lives of those at every edge, we lift our heavy hearts to your mercy.

We live in a fretful land, anxious over the ebbing away of privilege, fearful that strangers are stealing our birthright.

Loud, insistent voices demand a return to "the rule of law."

Speak to us of the rule of your law, the terms of your reign. Incline our hearts to your command.

"Cursed be anyone who deprives the alien, the orphans, and the widow of justice." All the people shall say, "Amen!" (Deut. 27:19)

People: All the people shall say, "Amen!"

Leader: "You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Deut. 10:19)

People: All the people shall say, "Amen!"

Leader: "There shall be one law for the native and for the alien who resides among you (Exod. 12:49)

People: All the people shall say, "Amen!"

Leader: "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien" (Lev. 19:33)

People: All the people shall say, "Amen!"

Leader: "Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against . . . those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 3:5)

People: All the people shall say, "Amen!"

Leader: Speaking to those welcomed to paradise, Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Matt. 25:35)

People: All the people shall say, "Amen!"

Leader: For we, who were formerly illegal aliens and undocumented workers in creation's midst, "are no longer strangers and aliens, but with the

saints and also members of the household of God" (Eph. 2:19)

(Kenneth L. Sehested, in Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I. Tirabassi, eds., Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 2007), 209-210 The Rev. Ken Sehested is co-pastor of Circle of Mercy Congregation in Asheville, NC, and the author of In the Land of the Living: Prayers personal and public. For more information, visit prayerandpolitiks.org.)

APPENDIX 9: CHECKLIST AS I FACE A DIFFERENT CULTURE

- I respect the opinions of others, even if I don't agree with them.
- I interact well with people different from myself in age, race, economic status, and education.
- I do not have to understand everything going on around me.
- I can readily change my plans to adapt to a new situation.
- I can laugh at myself and at difficult situations.
- I can be flexible with my schedule or put it aside for someone else's needs.
- I do not get frustrated when I have to wait.
- I am curious about new people, places, and things. I'm always asking questions.
- I do not need to be entertained.
- I can "hang in there" even when things seem impossible.
- I can make mistakes and learn from them without feeling guilt or a sense of failure.
- In a strange situation, I watch and listen before acting.
- I am a good listener.
- I observe other people's reactions.
- I am open to new ideas and new ways of doing things; I am willing to try out new things.
- I do not have to see concrete achievements to feel that I am accomplishing something worthwhile.
- I am willing to see my idea proved wrong and another's idea accepted.
- I do not feel frustrated when we can't get to the point.
- I am willing to work with people who aren't like me.

From: " United Methodist Volunteers In Mission: Training Manual for Mission Volunteers"

by: Mission Volunteers Program Area, Copyright 2005 Revised 3rd Printing, Published by the General Board of Global Ministries, Mission Volunteers, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115

APPENDIX 10: MAY 1 PUBLIC WITNESS EVALUATION FORM

To be completed together by the planning team. Please use for your own evaluation. Please also send a copy of your completed form to: Carol Barton, 777 UN Plaza 11th floor, New York, NY 10017, cbarton@gbgm-umc.org

Name of local, district or conference unit: _____

Contact Person _____

e-mail _____ phone _____

1. What did and did not work in terms of
 - Planning /Outreach
 - Logistics
 - Locale
 - Collaboration with other groups
 - Media coverage
2. How effective was the collaboration within your mission team in planning this event? How did the event strengthen:
 - Membership
 - Spiritual Growth
 - Education & Interpretation
 - Social Action
3. What would you do differently next time?
4. What's the most significant learning or insight you got from the event?

5. How would you describe this day to a friend?

6. What was hard about taking a public stand for Immigrant Rights? How did you address the challenges?

7. What additional tools or resources would have been helpful in planning this event?

8. How can does your unit plan to do follow up? Both in terms of membership outreach and in terms of continued work on immigrant rights?

9. Other comments: