How to Live the Charter for Racial Justice

In order for a local organization to live the Charter for Racial Justice, they must complete ONE activity from each section I, II, & III during a calendar year. Thereafter, the organization must complete ONE activity annually from any of the sections. If membership in Living the Charter for Racial Justice lapses, the local organization must begin again AND COMPLETE TWO activities.

Local organizations will work with and report to their District Social Action Coordinator.

The Racial Justice Committee will meet for consideration of the revision of criteria annually.

Questions? Contact: Nancy Jamison, Conference Social Action Coordinator

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Desert Southwest Conference 2018 Charter for Racial Justice Committee

Alberta Farnsworth – Conference President
Nancy Jamison – Social Action Coordinator
Gracie Campbell- Chair, Committee on Nominations
Eileen Guillermo – North District President
Allie Lakey-Leadership Team Member
Jeannine Reynolds-Leadership Team Member
Deborah Williams – Ex officio-Program Advisory Group Member

Updated 9/20/2017

PURPOSE

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.

Desert Southwest Conference
United Methodist Women

Living the Charter for Racial Justice-2018

This symbol represents a world of racially and ethnically diverse peoples working together side-by-side to create a world in which every person has a voice, rights and opportunity for abundant life. Within the image are two hands joined together to work for justice for all God’s children.

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God – Ephesians 2:19
Living the Charter for Racial Justice: In the first year your local organization must complete ONE activity under each section: I) Local Organization Programming, II) Local Organization Enrichment, III) Beyond the Local Organization. Thereafter, the local organization must complete at least ONE activity from any of the sections.

I) Local Organization Programming

1.) Devote a meeting or several circle meetings to studying and discussing the Charter. Report the topic and resource** used; indicate name and qualifications of presenter; share some of the things learned.

(**Presenters might include international students, a representative from a community church or a church of another ethnic group and/or religion, an immigrant rights advocate, a member of your UMW district or conference team, etc).

2.) Regularly share local newspaper articles print & electronic media & books relating to racism (both positive and negative). Forward those articles with a short report to your District Social Action Coordinator. We may use them for display at either a Mission u or the Conference Annual Celebration.

3.) Hold a letter-writing or postcard-writing party supporting or lobbying for racial justice legislation or policy or immigrant rights.

II) Local Organization Enrichment

1.) As a group, attend a worship service of a church, synagogue or temple with a majority ethnic background different from your own. Be certain to inform the leadership of your intended visit

2.) Plan and present a worship experience for your local organization or church with an emphasis on racial justice or immigration.

3.) Present a program on equal education, housing, employment or medical care exploring how race or immigration status may have been a factor in the area.

4.) Plan jointly with a group of a different racial/ethnic background:
   a. ...programs from the UMW Program Resource Book at one or more meetings.
   b. ...book reviews using books from the Reading Program with special emphases on books related to minority groups and persons.
   c. ...study groups using one of the current [racial justice] study themes.
   d. ...ecumenical resources on social justice, including immigrant rights.

III) Beyond the Local Organization

1.) Host an international tasting party, cultural fair or other event. Be certain to integrate a racial justice element into the programming.

2.) Sponsor a refugee family.

3.) Provide a space or childcare for English Language Learners.

4.) Have a pulpit exchange with a pastor of another race or ethnic group.

5.) For one month scan the daily news media (TV/newspaper...advertising, pictures, and/or children's literature) to ascertain the degree of ethnic/racial/minority stereotyping is portrayed. Use the information in one of the following ways:
   a. Design and present programs
   b. Share information with administrative body of your church
   c. Share with Sunday School classes
   d. Share with youth group
   e. Publish results of survey in local, church news media.

Tools / References*

• A Charter for Racial Justice.
• Resources for Racial Justice Handbook
  Updated in 2012 – download at http://www.umwmissonresources.org
• General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church-
  GCORR www.gcorr.org
• Books from the Reading Program
• UMW Program Resource Book
• General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) resources at new.gbgm-umc.org
• Response and New World Outlook, Magazines
• Southern Poverty Law Center
  www.splcenter.org