

Desert Southwest Conference United Methodist Women

Living the Charter for Racial Justice 2021



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

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.*

How to Live the Charter for Racial Justice

In order for a local organization to live the Charter for Racial Justice, they must, initially, complete during a calendar year, ONE activity from each section I, II, & III. 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 by completing TWO activities similar to those listed. 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: Conference Social Action Coordinator : Maria Hase 480 636 0963 mariaRMDhase@gmail.com



Desert Southwest Conference 2021 Charter for Racial Justice Committee

Alberta Farnsworth – Conference President; Maria Hase– Social Action Coordinator; Cheryl Reed-Chair, Committee on Nominations;
Karen Dallatore– North District President; Suvasini McCormick-Leadership Team Member;
Alma Crenshaw-Leadership Team Member; Margarita Monjaraz, member;
Kathy Schock – Ex officio-Program Advisory Group Member

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Living the Charter for Racial Justice: In the first year your local organization must complete ONE activity under each of the section below. Thereafter, the local organization must complete at least ONE activity such as those that are suggested below.

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 on racial justice such as those from the Reading Program with a special emphases on books related to minority groups and persons.
 - c. ...study groups using one of the current [racial justice] study themes or webinars.
 - d. ...ecumenical resources on social justice,

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
- General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) resources at new.gbgm-umc.org
- Tools for Leaders: Resources for Racial Justice (2018) <http://www.umwmissionresources.org>
- General Commission on Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church GCORR www.gcorr.org
- UMW Program Book
- Response Magazines
- Books from the Reading Program

