

OUTREACH & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Billie Fidlin, Director of Outreach & Justice Ministries

First and foremost, you all continue to be in our prayers during these difficult days of pandemic. This has been hard on our churches and our constituents. But so much has happened that we see evidence of God's greatness among us.

This year the entire Conference staff pulled together to make sure that our churches were able to hold worship. Worship is not a building. We celebrate all that you have done. Outreach and Justice teams continued to hold events throughout the past year - we are now all Zoom experts - right?! Book studies, panel discussions, guest speakers to the Conference - we did it all!

All Outreach & Justice teams continued to function during this time, meetings & events via Zoom, writing for Conference communication pieces. We placed a good deal of emphasis on increasing our social media presence for the many teams that comprise the area I staff. Over 2,800 people follow the many Justice and Outreach sites on Facebook. We publish everything from events in the news to what you want to share. Thank you. If you are not a part of groups that interest you, please let me know.

Several new teams were birthed or began ministry in earnest during this time. The DSC RACE Coalition (as well as its support Action Team) co-chaired by Revs. Javier Olivares and Khalif Smith; Veterans Ministry chaired by Bryan Ruth; a revived Asylum/Refugee Ministry chaired by Rev. Stephen Govett; Clergy Wellness team chaired by Pastor Kimber Govett. Multiple teams would like to have additional members: Children & Poverty / Anti-Human Trafficking, Veterans Ministry, Economic Inequality, Prison Reform, Health & Caring, Gun Violence Awareness, RACE Action Team and Status & Role of Women. We are looking to revive the interfaith arm of our conference - Churches United in Interreligious Relations. If you have interest in any of these, please contact me at bfidlin@dscumc.org. Blessings and peace! Stay healthy!