

2016 Michigan Conference Annual Meeting ~ Reaffirmations and Calls to Action

Water Justice for All

Fifteen years ago, delegates to the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference adopted a ***Resolution in Regard to the Stewardship of Water***. It called for laity and clergy in Local Churches, Associations and Conference Boards to be responsible stewards of the precious resource of water and work to keep it from being contaminated in any way.

In 2014, delegates affirmed water as a basic human right, and endorsed a resolution calling for ***Fresh, Potable, Life Sustaining Water for All***. This resolution called upon the Michigan Conference to support efforts ensuring access to fresh water through a system that is priced fairly for all people; restoring service for those whose water was disconnected due to inability to pay; establishing fair due-process on delinquent accounts; creating programs to assist with special financial needs; holding accountable corporations and other high volume users to pay their fair share; ensuring that water departments not be privatized; and advocating for water education and access.

Since the summer of 2015, Michigan Conference staff, local churches, and the Board of Directors have supported Woodside Church's efforts to be a safe-water site, and advocated for a remediation of the water delivery source and system that caused the lead poisoning of Flint residents.

In the spirit of those two resolutions, and subsequent action and advocacy, the Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team encourages this reaffirmation:

- Stop Water Shutoffs – declare a moratorium on water shutoffs in Detroit, and a reimbursement of Flint water bills that were paid for poisoned water.
- Restore Water Service – to those who have been shut off, especially the elderly, those with young children, and patients recovering from illness or injury.
- Fully implement the 2005 Detroit Water Affordability Plan and the recommendations of the Flint Water Task Force.
- Support Water as a Human Right Legislation
- Protect Water from Privatization – water for people, not profit.
- Advocate for ongoing remediation of the lead service lines in Flint and the funding of long-term medical care and social services for all residents poisoned by the drinking water.

Anti-Racism

The Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team invites a reaffirmation of the Resolution from 1999, ***Becoming an Anti-Racism Conference***.

- Confront and work toward the elimination of systemic racism, including the structures existing within the Michigan Conference;
- Attempt to build multiracial, multicultural community;
- Organize teams equipped to transform our racist culture;
- Pursue institutional behavior that is consistent with the General Synod Nineteen Pronouncement on Calling the UCC to be a Multiracial Multicultural Church.
- Continue the program of anti-racism training for all current and future representatives and employees of the Michigan Conference.

In addition, Prophetic Integrity urges the participation of all local churches in the “Pathway for the Beloved Community” program being jointly developed with Rev. Dr. Nicholas Hood III, Senior Minister of the Plymouth United Church of Christ, Detroit, which will be a dinner/discussion program with an intentional mix of individuals from different racial, social and ethnic backgrounds.

*Reaffirming Solidarity with Our Brothers and Sisters in the
United Church of Christ in the Philippines*

In keeping with the 1990 Michigan Conference resolution: “Affirming Solidarity with our Brothers and Sisters in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), we urge delegates to joyfully reaffirm our solidarity with our UCCP brothers and sisters, and to support these calls to action:

Call on the United Church of Christ, particularly Wider Church Ministries and Global Ministries, to:

- Express our grave concerns about human rights abuses and the diminishment of the rule of law in the Philippines;
- Express our support for the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), especially as NCCP shares its concerns regarding the campaign against illegal drugs.

2) Call on Michigan Conference churches, members and leaders to:

- Express their concerns about extrajudicial killings in the Philippines to their elected representatives in the United States Congress.