

CAG Annual Report for the MMSC Peace and Justice Witness Covenanted Ministry

May 15, 2019

Since our 2018 CAG we have reorganized under new leadership with Rev. Andrea Asselmeier, (Chaplain - Emmaus Homes), and Rev. Rob Van Ess, (Pastor – Holy Trinity, Memphis). We have distributed 3 issues of our new Stretching the Body newsletter that has highlighted the issues of the death penalty, immigration, and the O and A Movement in the UCC. Our desire with the newsletter is to provide a resource to “get the conversation started” on various issues, and to give members of the conference actively involved in specific issues a way by which to share information about various peace and justice issues. Our next issue will be on faith organizations and a living wage. We plan on having 4 issues of the newsletter distributed throughout the conference by email for the 2019/2020 year.

In addition to the newsletter we approved \$4000.00 from our funds to pay for Crossroads Antiracism Training for the MMS Annual COM retreat.

We are also trying to restart our Sacred Conversations on Race in the MMSC. We have reached out to previous facilitators and are discussing how best to support Sacred Conversations on Racial Equity throughout the Conference.

Finally, we will be hosting a table at our CAG that will sell 2’x3’ Be the Church yard signs with metal stands as a fundraiser for the Justice and Witness Covenanted Ministry. Signs will be \$20 each or 2 for \$35. We will also be offering a social justice and the UCC quiz that people will be invited to fill out. Out of these entries we will be drawing to give away 3 free signs. Our hope is that the quiz will raise awareness about the UCC’s history with various peace and justice issues.

The mission of the Peace and Justice Witness Ministry of the MMSC is to raise awareness, educate and advocate for issues of social justice that are of a concern for our local congregations in the MMSC as well as those of the wider church. We are grateful for the small handful of volunteers who meet with us monthly via Zoom and support our newsletter, our sponsorship of the Antiracism Training for our annual COM retreat, and our efforts to reestablish our Sacred Conversations on Racial Equity.

Our goals for the upcoming year are to attract new committee members, to designate a new co-chair, to take a survey of local congregations in the MMSC and their peace and justice work, and to continue distributing the newsletter and our reemergence of our Sacred Conversations on Racial Equity.