



Missional Justice

A Newsletter of the Social Justice & Mission Ministry

THE **SUMMER** EDITION

Volume 3, Issue 6

June/July 2011



WEIGHING THE ISSUE

naomi sea young wittstruck leadership development minister

"We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world. We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it."

~ Wendell Berry

Summer has arrived! There are a number of ways you can continue to be involved with the areas of social justice and mission in your community throughout the warmer months, whether you stay at home or travel to other communities for vacation.

One great opportunity for mission this summer is volunteering at one of our Iowa United Methodist Church camps for a few days or a week. There will be some exciting justice and mission oriented camping opportunities for the summer season in the eastern part of the state.

To live out social justice and mission this summer, consider taking a vacation geared towards justice work or service-learning. Look for the websites and organizations listed on pages two and three with which you can connect to have a unique and alternative vacation experience.

Another outstanding way to be intentional about social justice and mission this June, July, and August is to organize a group of laity and clergy from your area to meet with your U.S. Congressional legislators during their recesses the next couple of months. Talk with them about issues impacting your church and community based on our United Methodist Church stances on social issues from the Social Principles and *The Book of Resolutions, 2008*. Equally as important is participating in town hall and face to face meetings with your Iowa elected officials serving in the state legislature. Look on page four for important dates relating to the Iowa Legislature.

For information, resources, and materials on our Conference priority areas of immigration, poverty/economic justice, restorative and criminal justice, and environmental justice, please see the Advocacy web page: <http://www.iaumc.org/pages/detail/972>.



**Iowa Annual Conference of
The United Methodist Church**

2301 Rittenhouse Street
Des Moines, Iowa 50321

Naomi Sea Young Wittstruck

Leadership Development Minister

Social Justice & Mission

P: 515.974.8908

C: 515.783.4381

F: 515.974.8958

nsy.wittstruck@iaumc.org

Kristin Clark Nolan

Administrative Support

Social Justice & Mission

P: 515.974.8911

F: 515.974.8961

kristin.clarknolan@iaumc.org





Several camping opportunities are available this summer. Want to volunteer at one of our three United Methodist Church camps? Or perhaps you would like to send campers or junior staff on an exciting adventure? If so, visit <http://www.iaumc.org/pages/detail/971> and contact the camp director of the site in which you're interested.

Through a joint initiative between the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa and the Iowa Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church, as well as the leadership of the Restorative Justice Committee of our Conference Board of Church & Society, Pictured Rocks Camp will be hosting the inaugural program of CAMP HOPE the week of July 11-15. CAMP HOPE is a special camping experience that supports prison ministries around the state. It is specifically geared towards children ages 8-12 who have family members or loved ones currently incarcerated. To learn more about CAMP HOPE and get connected to volunteer opportunities, or to provide financial support for this camp, please contact Gary Wilson, Camp Site Director at Pictured Rocks UMC Camp (319.465.4194 | gary.wilson@iaumc.org), or Lydia Kelsey Bucklin, Youth Missioner for the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa (515.277.6165 x202 | lbucklin@iowaepiscopal.org).

In past years, Matthew 25 Ministry Hub in Cedar Rapids has offered social justice and service camps for youth and young adults from local churches. If you are interested in learning more about ways you can be involved with the ministries of the Matthew 25 Hub and the Block by Block program, or to see what summer opportunities might be available for volunteering, outreach, and justice work, please visit www.hub25.org or contact Co-Executive Directors Rev. Clint Twedt-Ball (clint@hub25.org) and Courtney Ball (courtney@hub25.org).

If you are planning to take a vacation some-time this summer, there

are several ways to get involved with mission and social justice in the places you visit. You may also consider shaping your vacation time around some outstanding organizations that provide the opportunity for you to give back to community in new ways.

Summer Vacation

Service and Volunteer Vacation Opportunities

The **General Board of Global Ministries** offers a list of volunteer sites and opportunities: <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/connections/volunteers/> and <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/about/us/mv/volunteer-opportunities/>.

For 16 years, **Global Volunteers** has provided communities throughout the world with volunteers who assist in such projects as working with at-risk children in Romania, improving healthcare in Jamaica, sharing business experience in the Cook Islands, teaching English in Vietnam, and restoring historic buildings in Ireland. All projects are requested by the host community, and volunteers work together with local people. (375 E. Little Canada Rd, St. Paul, MN 55117-1628; 800.487.1074, fax 651.482.0915; email@globalvolunteers.org; www.globalvolunteers.org)

Amizade is dedicated to promoting volunteerism, providing community service, encouraging collaborations, and improving cultural awareness in locations throughout the world, including Bolivia,

Brazil, Australia, and in Navaho country. (Volunteer@amizade.org; www.amizade.org)

Volunteers for Peace promotes International Voluntary Service by connecting adult volunteers of all ages to over 2,400 low-cost programs set up by local communities in over 90 countries around the globe. Volunteers live simply and work together with teams from a variety of nations as well as local people. Projects include such things as construction of community buildings, organic farming, and working with children, the elderly, and refugees, doing AIDS education, historic preservation, and archeological digs. (1034 Tiffany Rd, Belmont, VT 05730-0202; 802.259.2759, fax 802.259.2922; vfp@vfp.org; www.vfp.org)

Global Citizens Network sends teams of volunteers to rural communities to learn about becoming a "Global Citizen" while helping to honor, preserve, and assist developing communities in Guatemala, Kenya, Nepal, Belize, St. Vincent, and the Yucatan as well as several Indian reservations within the U.S. (130 N. Howell St, St. Paul, MN 55104; 651.644.0960 or 800.644.9292; gcn@mtn.org; www.globalcitizens.org)

The Global Classroom offers a variety of opportunities within the U.S. as well as in Mexico and Costa Rica. In recent years their volunteers have built composting toilets near the Sea of Cortez in Mexico's new national park and assisted sea turtle hatchlings as they began their lives in the ocean. (39 Glasheen Rd, Petersham, MA 01366; 978.724.3530; globalcr@crocker.com; www.ravenadventures.com)

Social Justice and Mission Vacation Opportunities

(Many of these are listed through the Earth Island Institute Network, which provides programs and projects that support the environment and the human rights of people around the world)

The Borneo Project works with indigenous groups in Borneo to promote human rights, ecological justice, and self-determination through citizen diplomacy, mapping workshops, educational exchanges, and legal support. (1916A Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, CA 94703; 510.705.8987; borneo@earthisland.org; www.earthisland.org/borneo)

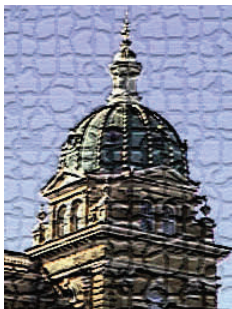
Global Service Corps volunteers work on village-based environmental and social justice projects in Cambodia, Tanzanian, and Thailand. (www.globalservicecorps.org)

Japan Environmental Exchange coordinates citizen exchanges of environmentalists to work on protection and restoration projects. (www.jeeeco.org/indexE.html)

To learn about other **Earth Island Institute** projects: 415.788.3666, fax 415.788.7324; earthisland@earthisland.org; www.earthisland.org.

The Resource for Nonviolence has worked for years to support movements for positive political change through nonviolence in hot spots throughout the world. They recently sent an international team of nonviolence trainers to Aceh, a province in the Republic of Indonesia on the Island of Sumatra, at a particularly tense time in their history. (515 Broadway, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; 831.423.1626, fax 831.423.8716; rcnv@rcnv.org; www.rcnv.org)

The Center for Global Education offers educational programs for teachers, students, and interested citizens in locations throughout the world. They often organize opportunities for North Americans to join independent international election observers to support free and democratic elections. Recent trips have been to Guatemala and Mexico to observe and learn about the political, social, and economic issues faced by the local people. (Augsburg College, 2211 Riverside Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55454; 800.299.8889; gloaled@augsborg.edu; www.augsburg.edu/global)



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

Another invaluable way to stay connected and involved with advocacy ministries this summer is to organize a group of leaders (lay and clergy) from your local church, ecumenical group, or district to participate in small group legislative advocacy in face to face meetings with congressional and state leaders. Prepare to discuss social issues addressed by our Social Principles or within our four social justice ministry areas within the Annual Conference (immigration, poverty/economic justice, restorative and criminal justice, and environmental justice).

The U.S. House of Representatives will be in recess June 17-25, July 18-24, and August 8-September 5. The U.S. Senate will be in recess July 4-10 and August 8-September 5.

To schedule appointments with the Iowa offices for our Congressional Representatives, visit <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> and search by name. To schedule appointments with the Iowa offices for our U.S. Senators, please visit http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm. The summer recess is an excellent time to meet with congressional leaders regarding local concerns like unemployment, poverty, healthcare, tax cuts for corporations, environmental conservation and care, and so on. It is always good to share personal stories and the direct impact you have observed in your community, connecting that to legislation and leadership that our U.S. Senators and Representatives can offer within federal legislation. Also, if you can't get a meeting scheduled, consider a group conference call, letter writing campaign, or email dialogue with legislators. To receive updates on federal legislation from the General United Methodist Church, visit http://www.umc-gbcs.org/site/c.frLJK2PKLqF/b.2798473/k.6463/Legislative_Priorities.htm.

To schedule appointments with our state and county elected officials, please see <http://www.legis.iowa.gov/Legislators/find.aspx>. There you can find your Representatives and Senators by zip code or your home address. Watch your local paper for town hall meetings. The summer and fall are excellent times to coordinate church or district groups to participate in asking questions of legislators, sharing your concerns about specific social issues, and urging them to commit to specific actions when the Iowa state legislature is in session. Emails, letters, and calls with a group are also an effective way to connect with legislators. Visit <http://www.iaumc.org/pages/detail/972> for resources and information on some of our Conference priority areas for advocacy.

