



United
Methodist
Women

FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

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www.unitedmethodistwomen.org

June 8, 2015

TO: United Methodists in the Chicago Area
FROM: United Methodist Women National Office
RE: Invitation to Education and Action at United Methodist Women's National Seminar, July 31 and Aug. 1, 2015

United Methodist Women from across the country will gather at the University of Illinois-Chicago in late July for National Seminar, an in-depth experience of worship, Bible study, education and action for social justice. National Seminar is a leadership development experience for United Methodist Women members to draw on faith and biblical tradition to discern and respond to justice priorities through service and advocacy.

United Methodists in the Chicago area are encouraged to be part of National Seminar through three events:

- **Mass Incarceration Town Hall Meeting, Friday, July 31, 7-9 p.m.**
- **Advocating for Low Wage Workers' Rights, Saturday, Aug. 1, 9:45-noon**
- **Public Witness on Criminal Justice, Saturday, Aug. 1, 1:30 – 3:30pm**

1. Mass Incarceration Town Hall Meeting, Friday, July 31, 7-9 pm
LOCATION: University of Illinois, Chicago (UIC), 750 South Halsted, Chicago, IL 60607, Student Center East, Illinois AB Hall

Join us at a Town Hall meeting where local Chicago organizers will address this reality and community responses. We will view a brief video presentation by Michelle Alexander recorded at Union Theological Seminary. **Bishop Sally Dyck** will explore Wesleyan perspectives on incarceration and current conference priorities. We will hear from youth involved in the Village Leadership Academy/We Charge Genocide; Charlene Caruthers, Black Youth Project 100 and Lissette Castillo Vizcarra, Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Latin America on organizing efforts in Chicago.

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2. Advocating for Low Wage Workers' Rights, Saturday, Aug. 1, 9:45am-noon:
LOCATION: UE Union Hall, 37 South Ashland Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60607

Come meet with members of ARISE-Chicago and the Chicago Coalition of Household Workers, both members of the National Domestic Workers Alliance and the Restaurant Opportunities Centers United, ROC–United/Chicago (tipped workers) to explore how low-wage workers are taking leadership in advocating for dignity, sick days and higher wages. Hear about how and why faith groups are allied with workers' organizations to support their advocacy efforts-- from challenging wage-theft to advocating for a living wage. Learn how you can get involved in Chicago.

3. Public Witness on Criminal Justice, Saturday, Aug. 1, 1:30-3:30 pm:
LOCATION: To be determined.

The Community Renewal Society, United Methodist Women, United Methodists of the Northern Illinois conference and community organizations come together in a large public witness to address current concerns regarding community policing and jails in Chicago. Save the Date! Site and details to be confirmed. The Community Renewal Society (CRS) is a faith-based organization that works with people and communities to address racism and poverty.

We encourage your participation in these events. For participation, please RSVP (not required but suggested for keeping count) to Jene Colvin at jenecolvin@go.mccormick.edu. For more information on National Seminar, visit the United Methodist Women website at <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/national-seminar>.