



The Justice & Witness Insider

Issue 35

October 2010

Monthly Snapshot

The JWM Insider offers a monthly glimpse into the world of Justice and Witness Ministries. Learn more about our mission, staff, exciting projects, upcoming events and more. Get to know our ministry on a more personal level.

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• Loey Powell 10/2

UCC Hosts Global Ecumenical Race Talks



by Karen Georgia Thompson

Thirty people representing fifteen countries gathered in Cleveland at the UCC offices to be a part of the global conference "Racism today and the rationale for continued ecumenical engagement." The conference was called by the World Council of Churches in partnership with the UCC and Kerk (church) in Actie (action) the programme for missionary and diaconal work of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands.

The primary concern was to discuss furthering ecumenical involvement in addressing the

global issues of racism, caste based discrimination, xenophobia and all related forms of discrimination. The presentations and discussion named many concerns including racism in the U.S. and other parts of the world, anti-Muslim and anti-Roma discrimination, caste discrimination against the Dalits, as well as the plight of indigenous people across the globe.

Global partners at the table represented congregations and social organizations working to combat these injustices which are interrelated. The group composed two theological statements to communicate its intent to see the World Council of Churches and the ecumenical community continue to strive for racial justice and equality for all.

The first document spoke to the need for continued engagement on racial justice issues. Racism, prejudice and all related forms of discrimination continues to stand in opposition to the heart

of the commitment to ecumenism and unity in the Church. The second document places racial injustice and all related forms of discrimination in context of the just peace initiative and the upcoming [International Ecumenical Peace Convocation](#) which will take place in Kingston, Jamaica May 2011, recognizing that racism, caste discrimination and discrimination contribute to violence around the world.

Five UCC staff persons were present: Rev. Linda Jaramillo – Executive Minister for JWM, NaKeisha Sylver Blount – UCC/NCC Joint Washington Advocacy Officer, Rev. James Vijayakumar – Area Executive for Southeast Asia with WCM and Mr. Derek Duncan, Program Associate for Global Advocacy and Education with WCM.

For more information, email Karen Georgia Thompson at thompsonk@ucc.org

Criminal Justice Systems Overhaul-SB 714

by Sala Nolan

Legislation is pending in the Senate that would establish a commission of expert researchers, policy-makers and justice workers to examine every aspect of the criminal justice system to see how it can be repaired. This important legislation was passed by the House on July 27, and is now coming up for vote in the Senate. Introduced by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) and colleagues, the bill has received broad bipar-

tisan support. We have worked hard for many months with our ecumenical partners, both secular and faith-based, to support this important legislation. Watch for news on Senate Bill 714, the National Criminal Corrections Commission Act.

YouTube presentation by Senator Webb: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4-4pJutiek>
<http://webb.senate.gov/>

[issuesandlegislation/criminaljusticeandlawenforcement/index.cfm](#)

<http://virginia-dem.wordpress.com/2009/04/02/senator-webbs-national-criminal-justice-commission-act-of-2009-gathers-support/>

<http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s714/show>

For more information, email Sala Nolan at nolans@ucc.org

JWM Promotes Reverse Trick-or-Treating



by Edie Rasell

Kids love to get chocolate Halloween treats. But for children in cocoa-growing countries in Africa, chocolate too often means poverty and child labor. Equal Exchange, our partner in the UCC Coffee Project, and Global Exchange have developed a Halloween program to help end the problems of poverty, child labor, and environmental destruction in the cocoa industry.

Participate in Reverse Trick-or-Treating. When children go trick-or-treating, the adult who accompanies them gives to the adult at

the door a small, fairly-traded chocolate bar attached to a card explaining the problems in the cocoa industry and how fair trade presents a solution to them. Sunday school classes and youth groups can get group-size reverse trick-or-treat kits from Equal Exchange. Individual families can request a kit from Global Exchange. **Give fairly-traded chocolate for Halloween treats.** Mini-bars are available in stores and online.

<http://www.globalexchangestore.org/Fair-Trade-Organic-Dark-Chocolate-Minis-p/fd5315.htm>

<http://www.equalexchange.coop/rtt/index.html>

https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/703/t/9669/shop/custom.jsp?donate_age_KEY=6515

For more information, contact Edie Rasell at raselle@ucc.org

"An elementary school in Yamasá, Dominican Republic, one of dozens serving the 10,000 families of the Fair Trade cocoa co-operative CONACADO"

"The Black Church in a Multi-cultural World"

by Karen Georgia Thompson

The theme for the Perceal Alston Institute at Franklinton Center at Bricks on November 19-20, 2010 is "The Black Church in a Multi-cultural World." The conference will feature speakers and workshop presenters from the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Among the topics for the event: "Challenges Facing the Black

Church in a Multicultural World," "What Does it Mean to be a 'Black Church' in an era of Ecumenism," and "Where does the work of racial justice fit in the strides to reflect this multi-cultural world?"

All are invited. Register for the conference at <http://www.ucc.org/franklinton-center/percel-alston-institute.html> or call 252-437-1723.

"Created in God's Image" Adult Sexuality Program



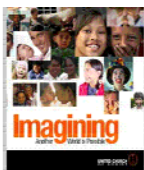
by Ann Hanson

Published in 1993, "Created in God's Image" is a sexuality learning program written for adults. Since its publication, it has been widely used by UCC and other faith communities and

is now being sold for \$2.00 per book. In order to offer this program, two adult facilitators each need a copy of the *Leader's Manual* and each participant needs a copy of the *Participant's Manual*.

For further information, visit: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/sexuality-education/created-in-gods-image-adult.html> or contact Ann Hanson at hanson@ucc.org

"Neighbors in Need" Offering



by Bentley de Bardelaben

UCC congregations will receive the **NIN offering on October 3, 2010** as part of their World Communion Sunday observance. Yet, some local churches select an alternate date.

This special mission offering of the UCC supports ministries that address national and international systemic injustices. Your

gifts help to provide grants to congregations and organizations which aid in combating such inequities.

Members of the UCC are encouraged to give to this offering through local UCC congregations. However, donations can be made online at <http://www.ucc.org/nin/>

Please support this worthy cause and together let's help to "Imagine Another World is Possible."

Gathering of New England Justice Leaders

by Edie Rasell

New England justice leaders will meet on **Saturday, November 13, from 10am to 3pm**. We will worship together; share about the justice work we are doing as congregations, associations, and conferences; strategize about building a justice movement within the UCC in New England; and discuss the possibility of joint, regional justice activities. **Location:** northeastern

Massachusetts, exact site is still being determined. **Who is invited:** Everyone who is passionate about justice; willing to provide leadership around justice issues within their conference, the UCC, and the larger community; and who wants to work to strengthen the movement for a more just society. For more information, contact Edie Rasell at raselle@ucc.org

