



The Justice & Witness Insider

Issue 48

February 2012

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.

Inside this issue:

We've got MONEY!

Welcome Elizabeth Leung

Join Faith Advocates for Jobs

UCC Leaders Testify in Ohio on the so-called "Heartbeat Bill"

First UCC Environmental Justice Training Scheduled



February Birthdays:

- Edie Rasell 2/2
- Ann Hanson 2/6
- Jessie Palatucci 2/18
- Sala Nolan 2/21
- Jan Resseger 2/23



by Bentley de Bardelaben

It's that time again, friends! If you have funding needs for a special justice program in your community, then visit www.ucc.org/nin, download a Neighbors in Need (NIN) Grant application, complete it and submit it back to us before

We've got MONEY!

March 31st, 2012. Soon thereafter, we'll review it and inform you of your status. It's that simple!

Organizations/churches can be granted funding up to \$3,000 for three consecutive years, but then must skip a year. Further, they can only be granted funding four times over the lifetime of their charter.

Neighbors in Need is a *special mission offering* that supports works of justice and compassion in the United States and abroad. Two-thirds of NIN receipts support program

initiatives and direct grants offered through Justice and Witness Ministries.

Additionally, NIN grant recipients are listed online and some who have been funded are featured too. These stories of faith and transformation are powerful as they tell of achievements made in their neighborhoods. We are excited to share these with you and hope you find value in their witness too. For more information about Neighbors In Need or the grant process, visit our homepage or email nin@ucc.org.

Welcome Elizabeth Leung



by Linda Jaramillo

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Leung joined the staff of United Church of Christ in Justice and Witness Ministries serving in the position of Minister for Racial Justice in November 2011. Elizabeth brings a rich background of theological study and spiritual practice, social cultural analysis, program and resource development, and the ability to think and act strategically in response to emerging racial justice issues within the UCC and in society.

Elizabeth earned a Masters in Theological Studies at Lutheran Theological Seminary, in Saskatchewan, Canada; a Masters in Philosophy at the Chinese University in Hong Kong; and her Ph.D. at the Graduate Theological Union in 2006. Her ministry has called her to internships in the local church and hospital chaplaincy in addition to serving as an adjunct professor at Holy Names University (Oakland) and UCC related Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in Berkeley, California. Most recently, Elizabeth served as the Coordinating Minister of one of the Racial/Ethnic Roundtable projects at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion at PSR. While her

particular focus was on resources and research for Asian Pacific Islander faith communities, she expanded her inter-cultural exposure by working closely with African American and Latino and Latina colleagues in similar projects.

Elizabeth not only has professional knowledge, but her bicultural and transnational personal life experiences contribute to her understanding of the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, and other pressing justice issues.

I know that you will welcome Elizabeth Leung to the UCC National Offices in Justice and Witness Ministries.

2012 Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast



Last year, over 6000 people from 14 countries participated in the first Ecumenical Lenten Carbon Fast. This year, beginning Ash Wednesday, February 22, and throughout Lent until April 8, you can join thousands of other committed earth stewards and get a daily e-mail with a message that suggests a carbon-reducing activity.

Activities are simple and thoughtful, and they remind us that we all have a responsibility as people of faith to care for God's Creation. Sponsored by the Northeast Regional Environmental Ministries, the carbon fast embodies the spirit of Lent as we acknowledge our mortality, our limits, and our vulnerability so that we might be transformed to become the new persons God calls us to be.

To register visit <http://www.macucc.org/pages/detail/2410>

Join Faith Advocates for Jobs



by Edie Rasell

We are told the economy is recovering. Nonetheless there are still millions of people who are jobless or working part time when they want and need full-time hours. The faith community has responded to the economic crisis

by creating **Faith Advocates for Jobs**, an interfaith organization working for job creation in support of the unemployed.

Faith Advocates for Jobs' three goals are to: organize a large network of congregations to support the unemployed and their families, advocate for public policy initiatives to address the crisis, and develop educational programs in support of job creation and retention and a restored economy.

Engage your congregation, association, or conference. Propose joining Faith Advocates for Jobs. Seek and receive a commitment from your congregation, association, or conference to advocate for jobs and support the unemployed.

Learn more here: <http://www.ucc.org/justice/worker-justice/fafi.html>.

UCC Leaders Testify in Ohio on the so-called "Heartbeat Bill"

by Loey Powell

As the effort to outlaw access to abortion services moves into state legislatures around the country, the importance increases for people of faith who support women's reproductive justice to speak out. On December 13, 2011, 3 UCC leaders, including Ohio Conference Minister Rev. Bob Molsberry, testified in Columbus against a proposed

bill before the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee. For over 40 years, the UCC has advocated that religious liberty is impinged upon when a narrow religious perspective on matters related to reproduction and/or contraception determines policy in a multi-faith society. Visit: <http://www.ocucc.org/StaffPages/Testimony.htm>



Ecumenical Advocacy Days

For Global Peace
with Justice

Come to the 10th annual EAD, **March 23-26, 2012**, in Washington, DC, where we will explore Economy, Livelihood and Our National Priorities through the lens of Isaiah 58. Join other Christians in seeking a global economy and a national budget that break the yokes of injustice, poverty, hunger and unemployment throughout the world — heeding Isaiah's call to become "repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in."

Download brochure to register by mail. <http://advocacydays.org/docs/EAD%202012%20Brochure.pdf>

First UCC Environmental Justice Training Scheduled

by Jim Deming

The UCC Environmental Justice Center at Pilgrim Firs in Port Orchard, WA will hold its first training event April 20-22, 2012. Participants will focus on five basic EJ themes: gratitude, humility, responsibility, justice, and community. The weekend includes a local hands-on EJ immersion experience, conversations on how to maintain hope in the face of difficult choices, and strategies to bring environmental justice back to our home communities. Each participant will agree to and be given the tools to teach EJ at least twice when they

return. The \$160 cost for the weekend includes meals, lodging, and materials. The April 20-22 event is limited to 21 persons, but future events are being planned for Pilgrim Firs and other conference camp locations. For more information or to plan an event in your home conference, contact Jim Deming, UCC Minister for Environmental Justice at demingj@ucc.org

To register visit: <http://www.cvent.com/events/environmental-justice-training/event-summary-a39871a2cd334a4591a363a9cd2d4fd1.aspx>



**Pilgrim Firs
Conference Center
Port Orchard, WA**

