



**Clarendon United Methodist Church
Outreach Committee**

Social justice action and advocacy resources (Draft Summary)

How can we take action on the issues that maintain systematic racism?

Description: Outreach proposes to identify some of the key issues related to system racism, educate ourselves on the issues and then look at opportunities for service around those issues, through volunteering and advocacy. We have organized it around Poverty and Economic Inequality, Education, Criminal Justice System, Voting rights and Environmental Justice.

Alternatively, we could organize this around the issues identified on the UMCJustice.org website - for General Board of Church and Society – outlines four major areas: Poverty, Climate, Health and Peace.

We would like to leverage the current relationships we have with organizations such as OAR, Bridges to Independence and AFAC.

1. First step: Educate ourselves systemic racism:

SEE: The Methodist Church's stand on systemic racism: Racism and Economic Injustice Against People of Color in the US [read text here](#)

2016 Book of Resolutions, #3378

Video by Phil Vischer on
[Race in America](#)

Book: Racism: America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis
<https://americasoriginalsin.com>

Video by Jim Wallis on Racism and White Privilege
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaMChrhgEk'>
"While it is systemic I think it has to become personal"

Videos from Oprah: Where do we go from here:

Part One: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09ysfL2SIHo>

Part Two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1jy6LpivqIM> (listen to minute 11)

In addition we propose finding ways to collaborate with Black Churches:



Calloway
Mount Zion AME
Macedonia
Mt Salvation

2. Identify Key Issues and find ways to get involved:

a. Poverty and Economic inequality –

UMC on economic justice

<https://www.umcjustice.org/what-we-care-about/economic-justice>

Listen: Shift the narrative around poverty

https://www.ted.com/talks/rev_william_barber_and_rev_liz_theoharis_a_call_for_a_moral_revival

Take Action:

Living wage – United Methodist Women

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/living-wages/tools-and-resources>

Bridges to Independence - explore additional volunteer activities (emails out to the volunteer coordinators)

AFAC for Food Security

Arlington Thrive - <https://arlingtonthrive.org> –

United Methodist Family Services

b. Education

Work to close the minority achievement gap in education, including in Arlington VA.

Who can we team with:

Arlington Black Parents

Challenging Racism –<https://www.challengingracism.org>



tutoring programs

College Bound mentoring program - <https://www.collegebound.org>

Arlington Housing Corporation – looks for tutoring in apartment complexes

<https://www.ahcinc.org/get-involved/>

Adopt a school

mentoring young parents

Fathers – learn more here <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/sites/default/files/youngfathers-introtoolkit.pdf>

c. Criminal Justice System

What the UMC has to say: [Criminal Justice Reform](#)

“A justice system that reflects God’s desires for the world is one that is healing and restorative.”
([Book of Resolutions, 5031](#))

The church supports “measures designed to remove social conditions that lead to crime, and we encourage continued positive interaction between law enforcement officials and members of the community at large.” ([Social Principles, ¶164.H](#))

The United Methodist Church calls on government and society to “stop criminalizing communities of color in the United States” by dismantling unjust, racist policies and practices, including racial profiling, mass incarceration and communal disenfranchisement. ([Book of Resolutions, 3379](#))

“In the love of Christ, who came to save those who are lost and vulnerable, we urge the creation of a genuinely new system for the care and restoration of victims, offenders, criminal justice officials, and the community as a whole.” ([Social Principles, ¶164.H](#))

Learn more about the criminal justice system at the Equal Justice initiative <https://eji.org>

Listen: Bryan Stevenson Ted Talk [We need to talk about an injustice](#)

Advocacy:

Specific Priorities for Virginia include mandatory minimum sentencing, bail reform, indigent defense [2020 Legislative Priorities](#)

<https://justiceforwardva.com> -

School to Prison pipeline: UMC Resources: <https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racial-justice/school-to-prison-pipeline>

Who We can Team with to Take Action:



OAR

Contact: Stephanie Ku. 703 228 7030 – t: 7132

OAR Racial Justice/Anti-Racism 3-Month Virtual Cohort info & application:

<https://www.oaronline.org/racialjusticecohort>

“Cohort participants will engage in formal learnings and conversations to analyze, confront, and address the racial patterns that are embedded in our lives and that are all too readily accepted as the norm. Topics will include the history of racism; the impact of vocabulary and language; racial superiority/inferiority; white fragility; white energy; the conditioning of People of Color; and the weathering that the latter experience as they face racism on a daily basis or raise their voices to challenge white supremacy. The cohorts will be a place where individuals will explore their beliefs and day to day behaviors. Cohort groups will likely meet virtually once or twice a week for 2-to-4-hour sessions over the three months of the program

First one September to November

Second in January to March of 2021

Will limit to 20-25 people

Application form – there is a cost of \$750 – larger groups can receive a discount \$500/person of 10 or more. There will be scholarships

OAR Volunteer opportunities

Sign up for a free 1-hour Virtual Tour of OAR’s Mission (for individuals who are looking to volunteer, they must attend a virtual tour as the first step): <https://www.oaronline.org/news-events/tour-registration>

More information about volunteering at OAR: <https://www.oaronline.org/volunteer/volunteer-at-oar>

d. Voting Rights

“As United Methodists we “hold governments responsible for the protection of the rights of the people to free and fair elections” believing that “the form and the leaders of all governments should be determined by exercise of the right to vote guaranteed to all adult citizens.” (2016 Book of Discipline, ¶164A)”



UMC resources: <https://www.umcjustice.org>

NAACP of Arlington – for voter suppression

League of Women Voters – postcards to people to confirm they are properly registered

e. Environmental justice

<https://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org/toxic-injustice-ecological-crisis-in-marginalized-communities-by-robert-dilday/>

Team with EcoArlington?

From Susan P: Under Climate – we could take Clean Water and look at what has happened in Flint Michigan or take Climate Justice and look at issues involving environmental discrimination [before COVID I had been exploring having CUMC host a screening of Revisioning Recovery -this is a series of 5 short documentaries illustrating the disparate impact of climate change on minority communities. Info about RR can be found at <https://www.workingfilms.org/revisioning-recovery/#:~:text=Revisioning%20Recovery%3A%20Uncovering%20the%20Roots,are%20exacerbated%20when%20disasters%20hit.>

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Poverty – Faithful Finance, Global Hunger and Poverty, Hunger and Poverty in the U.S., Worker Justice

Climate – Clean Water, Climate Justice, Food Justice, Sustainability

Health – Addictions, Global Health, Health Care in the U.S., HIV and AIDS, Mental Health

Peace – Multilateralism, Nonproliferation/Disarmament, Peacebuilding, Gun Violence Prevention, Ongoing Conflicts

Under Health – Health Care in the U.S. would likely be a platform for looking at health disparities among minority populations, impact of COVID, etc

Under Peace – Gun Violence could lend itself to exploring the impact of this on minority communities