



# Cokesbury United Methodist Church

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## **Our Mission**

*To be a transformed and transforming community in Christ.*

## **Our Vision**

Change lives, ours and others'.

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Through Cokesbury Windows

March 27, 2017



## **RELIGION & RACE**

General Commission on Religion and Race

The United Methodist Church

Statement on Compassion and Justice for Immigrants and Refugees

General Commission on Religion and Race

Board of Directors

March 16, 2017

*When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.* Leviticus 19:33-34(NIV)

We, the Board of Directors and staff of the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) recently journeyed to the border dividing U.S. and Mexico to see and experience firsthand the realities of migration, an issue of global relevance. We heard stories of mothers separated from their children without warning. We saw the militarized presence at the border. We experienced the massive wall extending farther than the eye could see and felt the pain of division that walls cause between members of families, churches, and communities.

GCORR's mission is to build the capacity of The United Methodist Church to be contextually relevant and to reach more people, younger people and more diverse people in making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We are tasked with the responsibility to be present, engaged and supportive of efforts to tear down the physical and relational walls that separate humanity, thus our concern for immigrants and refugees. As a result of this journey, the biblical call to love and serve the stranger among us has been forged upon our hearts and minds, and leads us to step forth in solidarity with immigrant and refugee people.

As United Methodists, we know well and affirm the positions of The United Methodist Church on matters of immigration as stated in our Books of Discipline and Resolutions respectively. (1) These positions denounce all forms of inhospitality, exclusion and violence toward immigrant and refugee people and encourage education, advocacy and relationship building among all cultures. We also affirm that the time for just and comprehensive immigration reform legislation in every place where immigration is a pressing issue is long overdue.

Therefore, on behalf of the General Commission on Religion and Race we commit to:

- Model in our local ministry contexts what it means to extend ourselves in love and to promote justice for the immigrants and refugees in our communities;
- Continue to educate ourselves and others on the plight of immigrants and refugees who leave their homelands in search of a better life for themselves and their families;
- Create space for the mothers, fathers and children who risk and at times lose their lives crossing deserts and oceans to escape poverty, violence, and oppression to be heard, valued and treated justly; and
- Support GCORR in the development of resources to assist churches in relating to and serving our immigrant neighbors in more compassionate and culturally competent ways.

And, we prayerfully call on the people of The United Methodist Church at every level to:

- Welcome the immigrant and refugee in your midst;
- Consider becoming a sanctuary church or providing for the needs of immigrants and refugees in some other way;
- Seek opportunities to quell the fear and hate speech aimed at immigrant and refugee communities by rejecting all attempts to polarize, stereotype and discriminate against them; and
- Participate in legislative, humanitarian and community actions that honor the humanity of all people including immigrants and refugees and that provide a clear and just path to legal citizenship and/or work status.

As Christians we are called to be peacemakers and bridge builders. We believe that now is the time for the church of Jesus Christ to serve the world as peacemakers and bridge builders. We do this in faithfulness to the one who through an act of unconditional love and sacrifice, abolished oppressive laws and tore down the dividing wall of hostility that existed between members of the human family so that there might be unity and reconciliation with God (Ephesians 2:14-16). As board members of GCORR, we are committed to this work and seek to be in partnership with others who are as well. We continue to pray for the welfare and safety of immigrants and refugees around the world. We also continue to pray for The United Methodist Church whose mission to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” must include acts of compassionate care and justice for immigrants and refugees.

[1] Resolutions #3281 and 6029, 2016 *Book of Resolutions*; and Social Principles ¶162H, 2016 *Book of Discipline*.



– Dan & Kay Dumas gave a gift to the UMCOR Fund in honor of the **Prime Timers**.



*Betsy Taylor would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, gifts, phone calls, and food she received from everyone while recuperating from her injury. It was all greatly appreciated as was all the help and support from her husband.*

## Annual Lenten Food Drive ro Crisis Assistance and Starfish

By Bill Coulter

Goal: 1,000 pounds  
6 week during Lent



Easter Egg Hunt

By Sara Joines

**Saturday, April 15** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. Cokesbury will have their annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children ages 3 years to 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to come for an afternoon of hunting eggs and making crafts. There will also be a snack and a visit from a very special guest.



By Sara Joines

The UMYF will meet every Wednesday in April at 6:00 p.m. except on April 12.

The Confirmation and Baptism class will meet on April 5 and go on a retreat to Lake Junaluska on April 10 & 11. Confirmation Sunday will be on Easter Sunday. I hope everyone will be here to support our confirmands.



By Sara Joines

If you have a child or children in the Children's Sunday School Class, please remember to sign them in and out when you drop them off or pick them up. If you do not see the clipboard, please ask the teacher for it.



**Music at Cokesbury Presents:  
The Flowers Family Band  
Thursday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.  
Hot Dog Supper at 6:00 p.m.**

By Kay Dumas

Once again, we have outstanding talent scheduled for Music at Cokesbury. Enjoy an evening with old and new friends and be entertained by the Flowers Family Band. *Remember our objective is to spend an evening with church friends and reach out to our neighbors and invite them to Cokesbury.*

**Come and enjoy the Hot Dogs and Music!**  
Donations will be accepted – we'll pass the hat. Refreshments will be served.

### **Prime Timers**

**Third Thursday - April 20 at 11:00 a.m.**

By Kay Dumas

Due to our very busy UMW Attic Sale week, we are moving the Prime Timers to the third Thursday which will be April 20 at 11:00 a.m. Our program will be the one we had planned for March. We will spend time reminiscing, sharing favorite Cokesbury memories, and enjoying our photo albums and scrapbooks. Join us and enjoy the food and fellowship. No reservations necessary and lunch is only \$6.

### **UMM and Charlotte Rescue Mission**

By Ed Bolster

The UMM are partnering again with the Charlotte Rescue Mission to help with Dove's Nest which is the women's part of the mission. We will be collecting ladies razors, regular size body wash, and regular size lotion. Your help will be greatly appreciated. There will be a bin located at the front of the church for your donations.

### **We Love UMAR**

By Kay Dumas and Bill Coulter

On **Sunday, April 2**, we will have our annual UMAR luncheon when our UMAR class members, their teachers and families will be our guests. They will also participate in the worship service. We would also like to donate a variety of paper products to our two group homes, including:

Paper Towels

Toilet Tissue

Kleenex

Plates

Napkins

A box will be available in the narthex for all donations. Thank you!

### **Urban Promise**

By Bobbi Abele

You have been hearing this name for some time now. It is the after school and summer camp program that has asked us to consider being their eastside location. The children benefiting from this holistic and Christian ministry would come from Idlewild Elementary School – approximately 60 children from low income families. After much consideration, research, and listening to Cokesbury members, our GO Team voted unanimously to house the Urban Promise eastside location that will start in late summer with the new school year. What a wonderful ministry for Cokesbury to be a part of! There will be joyful noise in our hallways!!