



# Church Women United in Madison, Wisconsin

[www.churchwomenunited-madison.net](http://www.churchwomenunited-madison.net)

C.W.U. Newsletter December, 2014 No. 4

**Saturday, January 10, 2015**

## *Human Rights Celebration Journey Toward Peace*

**Cora White**

**Human Rights Award Recipient**

**9:00 am Brunch**

**9:30 am Welcome and announcements**

**10:00 am Program**

**Trinity United Methodist Church  
1123 Vilas Avenue**

## **January Celebration of Human Rights**

Once again our January meeting is a celebration of human rights. Trinity United Methodist Church, 1123 Vilas Avenue, will welcome us on Saturday morning, January 10, 2015, with a nine am brunch. After fellowship and announcements, we will worship together on the theme, Journey Toward Peace.

Our Madison recipient of the CWU Human Rights Award is Cora White. She will be speaking to us from her wealth of experience involving human rights. Her biography follows in this newsletter.

Come, let us join together as we welcome the new year and consider the challenges that face us as church women in promoting human rights and seeking peace on earth.

December Forum

Christ Presbyterian Church welcomed CWU with treats and conversation in their gathering space before a warming fire and with a broad view of Lake Mendota. Announcements of musical events emphasized that

we are in the Christmas season, and handouts from Gloria Carter, Ecumenical Action, reminded us of ways that we can live out our theme of being God's hands in this world. She handed out sheets of information, including 35 Ways You Can Impact Poverty in Your Community, prepared by Beverly A. Doll, Grant County UW Extension. Gloria gets numerous newsletters and bulletins by email, and gladly shares them online. If you would like to get computer bulletins from her, contact her at [carter53597@tds.net](mailto:carter53597@tds.net).

We adjourned to the chapel for a presentation on Fair Trade History--Explanation, Effects & SERRV, presented by Amanda Bickel, Manager of the SERRV store on Monroe Street, one of two stores in Madison maintained by Madison SERRV International.

Fair Trade is a movement to help producers in developing countries get fair prices for their products. It is much more than just coffee. There are both profit and nonprofit producers working to this end. The history goes back to England in the 1700's, with the theme of the common well-being of everyone. In the 1800's in the U.S., Quakers in Pennsylvania started a free produce movement, boycotting products produced by slave labor. The American Free Produce Association in 1838 focused on non-slave, distribution channels, and marketing.

During the time of President Benjamin Harrison, America started to pass labor laws affecting child labor, number of hours worked, and overtime (1889-1893). Fair Trade movements exist in other countries, but many do not have such legal protections of workers.

Fair Trade has taken off post WWII. The Mennonite Central Committee morphed into 10 Thousand Villages; SERRV grew out of Church of the Breth-

ren. These organizations go to countries, buy directly from producers. These organizations are independent non-profits. Fair Trade is not a charity. Fair Trade is more important than aid.

We got a look at the economics of big box merchants who buy overseas clothing. Breaking down costs, a \$14 tee shirt results in the person making it received 12 cents. Big box profit, \$5.

What matters is that workers receive a living wage. Minimum wage and living wage are not the same. In Haiti, the minimum wage is \$5. But can they live on that?

### **Fair Trade Principles**

- Creating opportunity for disadvantage producers using culture to make products.
- Transparency and Accountability, cutting out the middle man. An example, Divine Chocolate. This German company buys directly from producers in Ghana, where they have a cooperative, share profits, and give equal pay to men and women.
- Fair Trading Practices, paying up front, full price, directly with producers.
- Paying a fair price. There is a minimum coffee price. It can go higher with the market, but not lower.
- No child labor, not forces labor.
- No discrimination by gender, women's economic importance, freedom of association.
- Good working conditions
- Reaching out to universities all over. Students at UW are demanding fair practices
- Capacity building. SERRV brings producers to Madison for a week so they can learn the market.
- Promote Fair Trade. Starbucks is aiming in this direction. Is including in advertising to get the concept out there.
- Respect for the Environment. Conserve in India is using trash to make products.

The impact of fair trade includes a 94% positive economic effect, with 66% of workers seeing improvement. But there is a long way to go. In 2013, tea workers still earned less than 1% of the price of a tea bag. We need to unlock the power of campaigners, consumers, and producers to drive fair trade. And fair trade is not the same as free trade.

2012 saw growth in consumer sales in key European markets. Germany, 30%; Netherlands, 26%; Sweden, 28%; Switzerland, 15%; United Kingdom 16%. Food purity laws are much stricter in European countries.

SERRV International. In the 1940's, they worked as a nonprofit to eradicate poverty by providing opportunity and support to artisans and farmers world wide. Their nonprofit status means that profits go to self preservation and programs. SERRV works both as a retailer and nonprofit organization.

CWU is actually responsible for bringing fair trade to Madison, as a CWU member informed Amanda. We established a fair trade store that moved from a church location to the train at the West Washington Station. It closed after a rent increase, but with the knowledge that other stores made fair trade a permanent part of our city.

You can reach our speaker at  
Amanda.bickel@serrv.org  
Biography of Cora E White

Cora E. White's paid employment is the Director of the Resilience Neighborhood Center. In the past, she was a single foster parent licensed by Dane County for 30 years to care for adolescents. She cared for approximately 200 children during that time. She has three biological adult children, Kim, Patt and Martha. She served as a consultant to foster parents in Dane County.

Twenty-four years ago, Cora founded Partners in Foster Care, Inc. to fill the gap between needed services and services provided by the social service agencies. She serves as President and Chief Officer. This 501(c)(3) charity provides real services and programs to foster children and youth and their foster parents. The charity acts as a referral service to the foster and adoptive community.

She served as President of the National Foster Parent Association of America from 1992 to 1996. As a board member of the NFPA, Cora challenged the current president and won the election. She was the first woman and only person of color in the history of the organization to be elected as its chief officer. She settled a large lawsuit personally (without having to pay any money), and brought the company out

of bankruptcy before her first two months as its chief officer. Cora is a Life Member of the NFPA.

She served as Secretary General of the International Foster Care Organization's Board for 10 years.

Cora has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work and dedication to foster parents, youth in care, and the business community. We will add the CWU Human Rights Award to her accomplishments in January.

## **ECUMENICAL ACTION**

The national Church Women United continues to lift up the issue of a "living wage." In a recent email, this helpful information was included.

What is a living wage?

Dictionary Definition:

"An amount of money you are paid for a job that is large enough to provide you with the basic things (such as food and shelter) needed to live an acceptable life" – Merriam-Webster

The seven factors in calculating the basic cost of a safe and decent standard of living are:

1. Housing
2. Food
3. Childcare
4. Transportation
5. Healthcare
6. Taxes
7. Other Basic Necessities

To what extent is minimum wage able to meet the criteria above for a living wage? It depends on where you live, but the minimum wage for the majority of Americans is un-liveable.

Statistics about Minimum-wage Workers

- Minimum-wage workers are older than they used to be. Their average age is 35, and 88% are at least 20 years old. Half are older than 30, and about one third are at least 40.
- Many have kids. About one-quarter (27%) of these low-wage workers are parents, compared with 34% of all workers.
- Most are women. Women make up 48% of the work force yet 55% of the would-be beneficiaries of the increase in the minimum wage.

- Most are white, but minorities are overrepresented.

- Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/10/upshot/minimum-wage.html>

How do we respond to these facts?

## **Biblical Inspiration**

"Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice; who makes his neighbors work for nothing, and does not give them their wages." —Jeremiah 22:13

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it..." —1 Corinthians 12:26

## **Action**

- Know what the living wage is in your area. The Living Wage Calculator online is a great resource for this: <http://livingwage.mit.edu/>
- Connect with the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin, one of the groups CWU-Madison partners with. Visit their website for more information on their campaign to raise the minimum wage.

Gloria Carter, Ecumenical Action chair  
[carter53597@tds.net](mailto:carter53597@tds.net)  
849-7589

## **Faith Community Handout (re October Newsletter)**

If you need help implementing the guidelines, contact Kathy Andrusz

Public Health Madison & Dane County  
608-243-0315  
[kandrusz@publichealthmdc.com](mailto:kandrusz@publichealthmdc.com)

If you go to the Madison & Dane County website and type in "Healthy Recommendations for Faith Communities" in the search box, the pdf version of the document will come up

Public Health Madison & Dane County  
210 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd,  
Room 507  
Madison, WI 53703

## **Community Events**

A Celebration of Carols, by Joseph M. Martin, Saturday, December 20, 7:30--8:30 pm in the newly

remodeled Orpheum Theatre on State Street. A Sacred Music Experience presented by a 150-member choir accompanied by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, sponsored by First United Methodist Church, Downtown for Good Music.

Mt. Zion Baptist Church Gospel Carol Concert December 20

The Mt Zion Gospel Choir and other musicians will be giving a Gospel Carol Concert at 6 PM, Saturday, December 20 at City Church, 4909 Buckeye Road. Tickets can be ordered online

@ eventbrite.com for \$12 or purchased at the door for \$15. Leatha Stanley, a well-known church musician, has arranged many of the carols you will hear at the program. He can be reached at 658-8877 for more details.

## **Changes to 2014-2015 Church Women United Directory as of 12/8/2014**

Pg. 2 Wisconsin Office: President Delete Barbara Brockman and insert President: Gloria Higgins 127 W. Spaulding St., Watertown WI 53098-1826 higginsgloria@charter.net ;  
Phone: 920-261-6835

Pg. 5 Nominating Committee Chair: Shirley Alexander has new e-mail shirleyalexander7@aol.com

Pg. 10 St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Pastors: Delete Rev. Flint & Rev. Strode and insert Rev. Joseph B. Baring, Sr.

Change Shirley Alexander's e-mail to shirleyalexander7@aol.com

Pg. 11 Christian Missionary Alliance  
"New Beginnings"  
Add Key Woman: Kathryn Bowen 314 N. Baldwin St. Unit #C, Madison WI 53707  
Phone: 608-255-1260 kbgetitdone@gmail.com

Pg. 12 St. Stephen's Lutheran  
Key Woman: Delete Jane Dohler.  
New Key Woman: Sandy Knesting  
4001 Monona Drive, Monona WI 53716

Phone: 608-222-7486 sanburn@aol.com

Pg. 13 Dale Heights Presbyterian Add Co-Key Woman: Kathleen Dooley  
6209 Mineral Point Rd., Apt. #1007  
Madison WI 53705  
608-351-3610 irish2lucky@yahoo.com

Westminster Presbyterian  
Add Co-Key Woman: Ruth Hein  
1001 Greenwich Drive, Madison WI 53711  
608-347-4724 rich4parse@charter.net

Pg. 15 Wellspring UMC  
Key Woman: Nedra Ebsen  
Add her contact information  
6443 Bridge Road #103, Madison WI, 53713  
608-441-0664 nedraevsen@yahoo.com

## **Take Joy!**

I salute you! There is nothing I can give you which you have not;  
but there is much, that, while I cannot give, you can take.

No heaven can come to us unless our hearts find rest in it today.

Take Heaven.

No peace lies in the future which is not hidden in this present instant.

Take Peace.

The gloom of the world is but a shadow; behind it, yet, within our reach, is joy.

Take Joy.

And so, at this Christmas time, I greet you, with the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away.

fra Giovanni; A.D. 1513