

## **Social Advocacy, Justice and Ethnic Ministry Team**

### **Purpose**

The Social Advocacy, Justice and Ethnic Ministry Team is responsible (in part or whole) for the following areas of ministry: Church and Society; Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns; Religion and Race; Status and Role of Women; Ethnic Local Church; and Disability Concerns. Our goal is to foster the making of 'disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world' by equipping congregations to engage in ministries of social justice, and promoting justice and equality within our annual conference.

### **2009-2010 Accomplishments**

In order to organize our work for the new annual conference, we have:

1. Launched three ministry networks. A network is a voluntary association of representatives from local churches engaged in similar types of ministries, and is a forum for sharing information and developing strategies for advocacy and education which will be shared with the annual conference, along with information and recommendations from the team. The three networks and coordinators are:
  - a. Creation Care -- Dennis Shock
  - b. Native American Ministries -- John Adams
  - c. Disability Concerns -- Beth DeHoff
2. Formed a monitoring committee. The committee's goal will be to foster inclusivity in the conference in regards to gender, race, ethnicity and disabilities. The committee will:
  - a. monitor the annual conference session, boards, and agencies
  - b. develop a conference policy for diverse/minority vendors and contractors
  - c. review the conference's hiring and employment policies/practices
3. Sent two young clergy persons to the General Board of Church and Society's conference for young clergy.

### **Goals for 2011**

Over the next twelve months we hope to:

- Expand the three networks and support advocacy efforts based on their work
- Create three new networks
- Establish grants for social justice from the Peace with Justice Offering, and for disability concerns
- Explore opportunities in Indiana to support advocacy efforts of the General Board of Church and Society
- Finalize the process and policies for monitoring the annual conference in regards to inclusivity
- Support the efforts of women in ordained ministry
- Create opportunities for racial inclusion and support for ethnic local churches

Darren Cushman Wood, Chair