



Call to Justice



Disciples Justice Action Network

Christmas 2019

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’”

Matthew 1:23

A Christmas Calling



La Sagrada Familia by Kelly Latimore

It’s been a long year. As activists and empathetic people of faith, it is difficult to watch as catastrophic climate disasters ravage vulnerable communities, unprecedented numbers of refugees are displaced, and the rise of alt-right extremism breeds hatred and violence in our own communities. Even as we advocate for change and peace, solutions are slow paced and face opposition. Despair can cloud the miraculous nature of Christmas, that God gifted us with **God’s** only son – a **Prince of Peace** born in a humble manger. In the face of our distress and frustration, we may struggle to stand up, declaring with confidence, “God is with us” to celebrate this joyous season. But these troubled times are when we need Christmas the most. Jesus’ birth is the manifestation of God’s deep and abiding love for us. In our communion with Christ, that love lives in each of our hearts, giving our actions purpose and meaning.

So let us get into the Christmas Spirit! Let us renew our Call to Justice. Let every nativity scene, Christmas tree and carol be a reminder of our agency to bring God’s love in this world. Let us rededicate our lives to the peace and justice of Christ in actions big and small. Let us care for our families and share with our neighbors. Let us gather as a network of activists to pray for the courage to speak truth to power and the fortitude to let no act of hatefulness go unchecked. Let us recognize our privilege where it exists and come together to dismantle the systems that perpetuate that privilege. Let us lift up the voices of the oppressed. Let us make the Earth ring with the message “God is with us” so that all can hear.

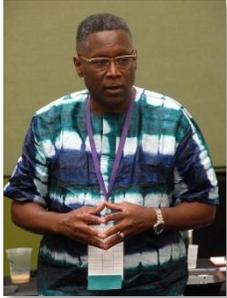


DJAN at The General Assembly



DJAN was busy this year in Des Moines, IA at the General Assembly 2019! It was truly inspiring to see everyone who participated in our events nurturing the passion for justice in our denomination. We also offer our sincere gratitude to all our partners in these events. Here is a little overview of what we did:

DJAN President **Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.**, joined **Dr. Rita Nakashima Brock** and Rev. **Dr.**



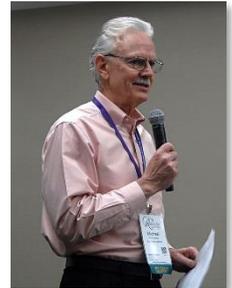
Donald Gillett as a speaker at an Assembly workshop entitled, “Unique and United: Struggling together for Justice for All.” The workshop, co-sponsored by DJAN and Reconciliation Ministry, was moderated by DJAN Vice-President **Tanya Tyler**.



Dr. Michael Kinnamon, former General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, joined with **Christine Stonebraker-Martinez**, Co-coordinator of InterReligious Task Force on Central America located in Cleveland, OH, and **Rev. Yvonne Delk**, Associate Dean of the Disciples Divinity House at the University of Chicago, to talk with workshop participants about “The Prophetic and the Pragmatic: Navigating the Tensions.” All three speakers are part of the DJAN Leadership Team; and the workshop was moderated again by Tanya Tyler. The workshop was opened in prayer by DJAN President Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr., Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches.



Immediately after this workshop, DJAN President Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr. and DJAN Director **Dr. Ken Brooker Langston** (Executive Director of the Disciples Center for Public Witness) participated in a workshop that included leaders and representatives from a broad variety of justice organizations, networks, and coalitions. The focus of the workshop was to begin to find ways for diverse justice groups better to communicate, cooperate, and, when possible, collaborate on shared issues and concerns.



Our activists also participated in an event from the coalition known as Disciples Justice Ministries, of which we are a part: the after-Assembly rally “The Church Confesses and Repents” at the Iowa State Capitol. DJAN also tabled with the other Justice Ministries in the exhibit hall. We are so proud to support the transformative work of the other members of our coalition.



DJAN was also blessed to be a supporter of and participant in a vigil near the Iowa Events Center sponsored by Disciples Refugee and Immigration Ministries (RIM) and led by director **Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea**. Vigil participants, around 200 in number, sang, chanted, and prayed as photos were displayed of children who died because of our inhumane immigration policies.



Thank you to everyone who helped organize or participated!

Network News



Rev. Tanya Tyler, DJAN's own Vice President, has accepted the call to serve as Minister of First Christian Church in Ruidoso, NM! We wish her and her new congregation blessings as they embark on this wonderful journey together.

The rest of the DJAN team has been holding down the fort while Director Ken Brooker Langston is on sabbatical until the end of the year. Let us pray that he will come back to this justice ministry with even greater strength and clearer vision after this time of relaxation, reflection, and renewal.

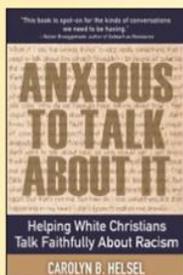


DJAN President Dr. Jack Sullivan Jr. has been a tireless advocate, working with DJAN and as the Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches. Pictured here (left) at Ohio University's Black Alumni Reunion with fellow alumnus and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, Clarence Page of the Chicago Tribune and the McLaughlin Group.

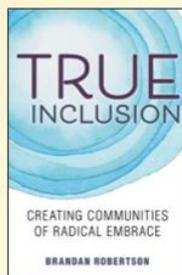


YOU WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD. SO DO WE.

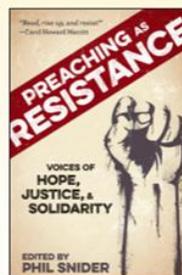
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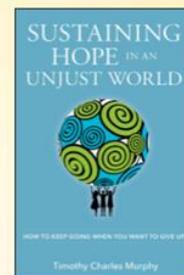
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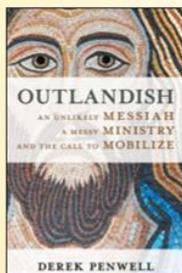
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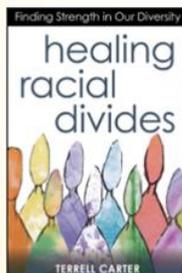
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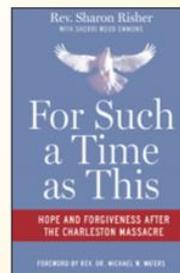
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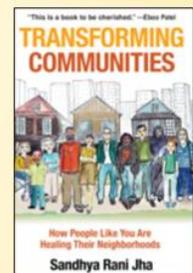
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Our Justice Community



We are proud to be national partners of the **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival**. DJAN has continued to participate in PPC events including their Moral Witness Wednesday (pictures to the right and below) where hundreds of religious leaders from across the nation gathered across from the White House with one shared purpose: to call President Trump to account for his immoral and unjust policies. Led by Disciples minister, the Rev. Dr. William Barber II, faith leaders from diverse religious backgrounds spoke about the many areas of our national life where the destructive power of the current President can be felt: economic violence against the poor, environmental devastation, the war on immigrants and Muslims, the dismantling of health care, voter suppression, the increased militarization of our society, the violation of our Constitution, and the promotion of white nationalism. According to Dr. Barber, "President Trump has violated two covenants: the covenant based on the shared values of our many faith traditions and the covenant based on the national values enshrined in our Constitution."

PPC has local chapters and events around the country, so if you haven't already, please consider participating with us! Currently they are conducting a 22 state "We Must do M.O.R.E." tour which will culminate in the Mass Poor People's Assembly and Moral March on Washington on June 20, 2020. More details on to come on attending the March as it gets closer!



We want to lift up the work of **Disciples Home Missions**, particularly the **Refugee and Immigration Ministries**. Over 70 million people have been displaced due to persecution and violence, with 30 million refugees worldwide and 3.5 million asylum seekers. The U.S. is failing as a world leader on these issues; the current administration has reduced the number of refugees resettled and is actively working to dismantle the asylum system while they separate families and hold nearly 70,000 children in custody.

Following the lead of RIM, with Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea at the helm, our activists have been protesting these heinous human rights policies. Public outcry works and we will continue to demand more refugees welcomed, a functioning asylum process and a path to citizenship for everyone already living and contributing to society here.



Support our Young Adult Activists!

As we are learning from the climate justice movement from activists like Greta Thunberg, XiuhTexcatl Martinez and Irsa Hirsi, youth are the future. At DJAN we support Young Adult and Seminarian Activists through our Charles Harvey and May Sweet Lord Justice Action Fund.

The fund is named after the Lords as a way of remembering Harvey and May for all they did for DJAN as two main founders, as well as their many years of work on behalf of the larger movement for justice, peace, and diversity.

Financial gifts to the Lords Justice Action Fund will be used to promote the work of DJAN and its coalition partners among seminarians and young adults, primarily by providing resources for seminarians and young adults – especially women and persons of color – to participate in justice-oriented events and gatherings.

Donate at

www.djan.net/lordsfund.htm





EAD National Gathering 2020

DJAN will be at **Ecumenical Advocacy Day's** 2020 National Gathering and Lobbying Day! This year's theme is "Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored" from EAD: "Around the world, the most marginalized communities disproportionately affected by hunger, poverty, and the structural history of colonialism and racism are experiencing the impacts of the climate crisis most profoundly ... EAD 2020 will explore the intersection of climate change and economic injustice. This will galvanize our advocacy on behalf of policies and programs to chip away at the systems of oppression that keep people in poverty and push all life on earth to the brink of destruction."

There is no more time left on the climate crisis. Every moment we waste harms vulnerable people around the world and endangers our whole future. DJAN is committed to building sustainable communities, climate resilience and economic vitality. It is imperative that in our actions we center the voices of youth, indigenous communities, climate displaced people, and others most impacted by climate change. EAD will be a wonderful opportunity to collaborate and harness our collective power on this issue, so we hope you can join us on April 24-27, 2020 in Washington, D.C.

Visit <http://www.advocacydays.org> for more information

Advent Reflections

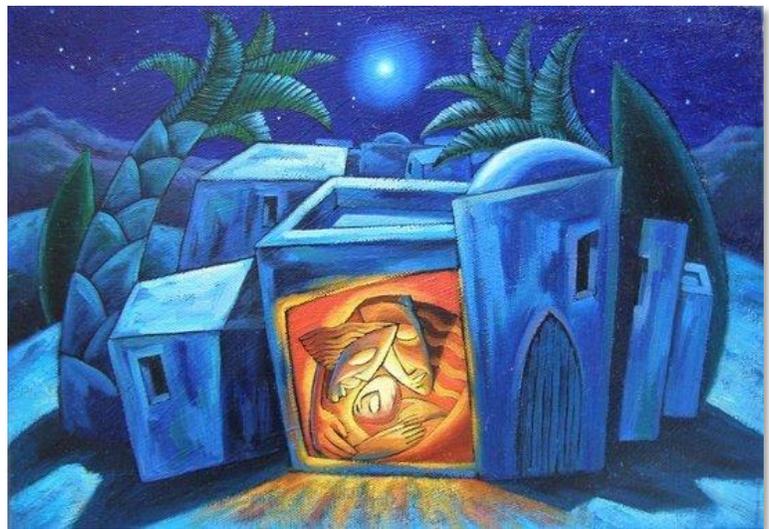
Into the Darkest Hour

by Madeleine L'Engle

It was a time like this,
war & tumult of war,
a horror in the air.
Hungry yawned the abyss –
and yet there came the star
and the child most wonderfully there.

It was a time like this
of fear & lust for power,
license & greed and blight –
and yet the Prince of bliss came into the
darkest hour
in quiet & silent light.

And in a time like this
how celebrate his birth
when all things fall apart?
Ah! Wonderful it is
with no room on the earth
the stable is our heart.



Nativity by Nicholas Mynheer

DJAN in 2020

We have worked hard in 2019. As a network of justice activists and advocates who work to deepen and extend the historic peace and justice witness of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada, DJAN's leaders have been seen at rallies and protests against gun violence, systemic racism, and the decimation of our planet. Our voices have cried out for living wages, immigration justice, voting rights and healthcare for all.

But we need your help. 2020 will be a defining year for the United States and the whole world. It is a critically important election year, and we need to amplify voices of faith to stand for the common good of all. Disciples Justice Action Network is doing just that. In a world where injustice seems inescapable, DJAN maintains that through collaborative effort sparked by the Holy Spirit, justice is possible.

This election year, we know that it is more critical than ever that people of faith and goodwill be educated and registered to vote. We want to be on the front lines of that fight. But to do that, we need your help to support educators, congregations and organizers to work within our communities to educate our neighbors about what's at stake in this election.

Your support will enable us to widen our reach in churches around the US and Canada, bring Disciples leadership to our interfaith, ecumenical and secular justice coalitions, and continue our mission of collaboratively building the Beloved Community envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

DJAN relies on you!

Donate to support our unique
Justice Ministry

Online:

www.djan.net/support.htm

or

mail your contribution to

DJAN
PO Box 35887
Tulsa, OK 74153

Keep in Touch!

We need the voice every person of faith and conscience in 2020 to echo strongly. Make sure to stay tuned for ways to educate and get involved in the coming year.

Visit our website at disciplesjustice.net

Visit and like us on Facebook facebook.com/DisciplesJAN

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/DisciplesJAN

Contact us by email at djan@verizon.net

We appreciate all your support and dedication!

Merry Christmas!