

# **Western Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church**

## **Mission Statement Team**

**8/31/21 / Updated 10/1/2021**

### **Members of the Team**

Bishop Karen Oliveto (Mt. Sky), Rev. Dr. Angela Brown (CalNev), Amy Go (Mt. Sky), Matthew Harris (DSW), Erin Hawkins (CalPac), Rev. Carlo Rapanut (Alaska/GNW)

### **Purpose of Mission Team**

To write and propose a new Mission Statement for the Western Jurisdiction that clearly expresses not only what we want to be in the denomination but, more importantly, what we are called to be in the world

### **The Team's process**

The team reviewed pertinent documents to inform our work:

- Past and present WJ Mission statements
- The WJ Theological Statement
- The Team of Ten Report
- The Theological Task and Mission Statement in the Book of Discipline

The team sought regular input from WJ constituents to refine our work and to ensure that there was a constant feedback loop

- Sent out several polls to gain insights into key constituents' views of WJ Values that undergird our work, our witness in the WJ, and our witness in the world and to refine our understanding of the results of previous polls.
- Found the top five values for each category were:
  - Inclusion, Love, Justice, Faith, Connect (our work)
  - Inclusion, Justice, Diversity, Faith, Hope (our witness in the WJ)
  - Love, Inclusion, Justice, Compassion, Faith (our witness in the world)

- Found that the top five values overall were: Inclusion, Love, Justice, Faith and Diversity
  - Crafted a mission statement, receiving feedback from all WJ constituents.
- The team received and discussed feedback from the WJ Special called session of jurisdictional conference in July, 2021

### **Summary of learnings**

- We learned that it took a LONG time (since 2008) for the WJ to fully live into its current mission statement (to be a *home for all people*).
- We learned that we had really crafted a mission AND vision statement that needed further work.
- We needed to remind ourselves that a mission statement provides us with a clear guide for making decisions, while the vision statement ensures that decisions are properly aligned to reach the future we seek. We needed to clarify that this is a statement for our (WJ) use, to direct our resources, time and energy towards our future (vision).
- The mission and vision statements answer the question of “why” we come together and engage in the work of ministry throughout the Jurisdiction. The other four teams build upon this foundation by initiating deeper conversation about the “how”, especially as we look to an uncertain future where new ways of being the church are needed.
- We listened to feedback about what was missing as well as concerns.
  - Missing language about environmental stewardship was noted and we agree that this is critical in our jurisdictional context and our world. We have added language to the mission statement that reflects this.
  - We received concerns about the word “conspire”. We believe this word, which means, “To breathe in together (with), or in unison or accord, as in singing” reminds us of the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding us.
  - We received feedback about the relationship between love and justice and the theological implications of intersecting the two. The team believes that love without justice defaults to sentimentality. Justice without love defaults to faceless discipline. Jesus, through his life, death and resurrection, connected the two.

### **WJ Mission Statement**

With a heart for all God's people and creation, the WJ faithfully leads at the intersections of love and justice.

### **WJ Vision Statement**

The WJ is where love lives.

We strive to be on the leading edge of ministries that fully embrace people, meet them where they are, and create a just and equitable world through God's grace-filled love. In this way, we connect and empower UMs to impact communities and the world as followers of Jesus Christ.