

Major initiatives fact sheet: the race conversation

So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. John 13:34 NLT



What is the initiative and its purpose?

- The Beloved Community: to build a Beloved Community of inclusivity within the Annual Conference that cultivates cultural competency among us
- To initiate and integrate discernment and discussion surrounding the pain, fears and hopes regarding race relations

Where are we now?

- An Office of Multi-Cultural Ministries has been established
- Ten critical success factors have been outlined to define this initiative's success.
- We have invested in capacity building by training Multi-Cultural Resource Facilitators (MRFs) to facilitate ongoing Beloved Community training throughout the Annual Conference
- The majority of the full-time appointed clergy have attended a minimum of one three-day inclusivity training workshop
- The majority of Conference staff have participated in a half-day training session on inclusivity
- Beloved Community training is being offered to the laity of each of the nine districts, and training options have been offered during annual district training events
- The South Central District is organizing a multi-cultural team to engage and mentor its constituents in race and cultural relations
- We produced a teaching video that models how church and community members can dialogue about justice issues, and it has been disseminated throughout the Conference
- We have distributed resources offered through general church boards and agencies to our Conference members

Where are we going?

- Cultivating an Annual Conference that understands and appreciates racial and cultural differences, with districts that foster open, honest and healthy dialogue regarding race relations
- Seeking to channel Beloved Community resources and guidelines conference-wide, including local churches
- Seeking to strengthen our voice as United Methodists in areas of economic vulnerability and racial tension and in statewide conversations about mass incarceration
- Assuring that every person (clergy and lay) has access to the training that will better position him/her to serve with others with respect, equitable access and full participation in the work and ministry of the Annual Conference

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There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 NIV

Next Fact Sheet Topic: Teaching Churches