

**Mission Celebration 2017**  
**“Concerns of God’s Heart”**  
**Saturday, October 14, 2017--9:00 am - 1:15pm**  
**Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, MN**

The Mission and Witness Committee invites you to an inspiring morning of thoughtful worship, learning and interaction. This year the focus of the Mission Celebration is on the missions in our congregations that reach to the community. The **goals** for the celebration are EDUCATION and NETWORKING with other PTCA churches and agencies who are also concerned with these aspects of God’s work in the community.

After a wonderful time of worship, participants can choose to attend two workshops out of the 5 offered. Details are listed below for the one-hour sessions. A free-will offering boxed lunch and closing worship will end the full morning and leave you time for the rest of the day.

**A. “Housing Instability: Hope and Help”**

Two of the presbytery’s ecumenical partners are addressing homelessness issues in creative and effective ways. Come and hear more about Project Home, an emergency shelter for Ramsey county families with children, and MICAHA which is advocating for decent, safe, accessible and affordable housing for everyone in Minnesota. Find out how your congregation can participate in these programs or similar ones in your area, and share other activities with which your congregation is involved to address housing instability.

Key Speakers:

**Sara Liegl:** Director of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul’s Project Home family homeless shelter.

**Sue Watlov Phillips:** Executive Director of MICAHA (Metro. Council on Affordable Housing.)

Displays from Holy Hammers, Beacon Housing, Project Home, MICAHA, etc.

**B. “Radical Inclusivity: How the Cognitively Disabled Can Help the Church Grow and Thrive”**

We live in a time where church attendance for mainstream Protestant congregations is on a steep decline. And the same time, there is a marked increase in the number of children that are being diagnosed with autism—the most recent CDC numbers report 1 out of 63 children to be exact. There is an important opportunity here. Join us in this workshop to learn how and why our churches thrive.

Key Speaker: **Rev. Leslie Nugent**, Assoc. Pastor of Wayzata UCC

Displays from St. David’s, NAMI, Society for the Blind

**C. “Detangling the Immigration Web”**

Our immigration system is complex. With recent Executive Orders and government policies, it’s only getting harder to understand. Do you want to untangle the immigration web and see how your congregation can respond to the immigration crisis happening in our own communities. Come to this session for a brief immigration 101 tutorial by an immigration specialist, followed by a panel of community members affected by our immigration system.

Immigration speaker: **Stephanie Gil**, Patient Family Advocate, Children’s Hosp/Clinics of MN.

Panelists: Member of ISAIAH’s immigration team, a PTCA sanctuary church representative, an Immigrant participant

Displays from ISAIAH, MIRAC, Sanctuary Churches in PTCA

#### **D. “Creation Care: Optimizing the Shift to a Low-Carbon World”**

With the growing concerns about climate change, come to hear how to leverage your individual and congregation’s commitment for creation care. Various possibilities for engagement (non-partisan) will be explored so to move to a more just and livable world. You will be offered respect, appreciation, optimism and love as key elements of climate change work.

Key Speaker: **Tomie Evans** – Cherokee Park United Ch. and a national speaker for the Citizen’s Climate Lobby.

Displays: Cherokee Park, New Life, Mac-Plymouth, FPC, Hudson

#### **E. Faithfully Engaging Racism in Church & Society”**

**Conversation I (10:15-11:15am)** Using the critical conversation model, discussions in small groups will center around brief personal storytelling and exploration of themes including prejudice, systematic inequality, power dynamics and transformation. A good place to start for those newer to conversations around race and faith.

**Conversation II (11:30-12:30pm)** Networking in-depth conversations around next-level “how to” topics of action within the church culture. Topics may include how to get race conversations started in your church or how to be a faithful ally.

Both conversations facilitated by:

**Rev. Sarah Bigwood**, Moderator of the PTCA Anti-Racism Task Force

**Rev. Anna Kendig**, Chair, Committee on Ethics of PTCA

**Presbytery Partnership Displays include:** MN Resource Center, Houses of Hospitality, Transforming Next Generation, Liberty Church – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy and the Women’s Center.

Please register using the following link: <http://bit.ly/2eM1o7k>

Please list the names of church members and staff attending. There is no cost for the celebration with a free-will boxed lunch from Panera. Registration is most helpful to make sure there is sufficient food and materials. Hope to see you there!!