

2012 MAI GRAY CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE CLUB

Become a member of "The Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice Club" by completing any four (4) of the following action steps and documenting how your unit fulfilled the requirements to your District President by December 31, 20112

1. Celebrate diversity by respecting the traditions of different groups, attending holiday festivities of a culture other than your own and/or recreating elements of such festivities in local meetings or events. Examples of traditional holidays are:

Kwanza (African American)	Tet (Vietnamese)
Cinco de Mayo (Mexican)	Sol Day (Korean)
Hanukah (Jewish)	Oktoberfest (German)
Kodomo-No-Hi (Japanese)	Polski (Polish)
Odwira (West Africa)	

2. View one of the videos listed below and have a group discussion of the video at a UMW unit or circle meeting. Determine some specifics of how you can advocate for an interracial/multicultural church, work to eliminate racism and/or to combat hate crimes. Include the following reflections/questions:

What is racism? What are the blessings and costs of differences?

What lessons have you learned about interacting with people who are different from you?

- A. **Not in Our Town**, video (1995, 30 minutes, Color). This is the inspiring story of the people of Billings, Montana who joined together to stand up for Jewish, Native American and African American neighbors who were under attack by white supremacists. In response to a series of hate crimes, the community is moved to action. This video may be ordered from the Video and Film Lending Library of the American Friends Service Committee. You may order the video online at www.afsc.org or email Paul Shannon at pshannon@afsc.org or call 617-497-5273. For persons leading/facilitating discussion of the Not in Our Town video, the mission resource "**When Hate Comes to Town: A Handbook of Effective Community Responses, 3rd Edition**" is an excellent companion guide for combating racism and intolerance with action plans (Order # 1412, Price \$10.00). Order from Community and Institutional Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, Room 1518, New York, NY 10115.

- B. **Communities of Shalom: Where, Why, How**, video (13 minutes, Order # 2960, Price \$12.00). An introduction to Communities of Shalom in the U.S. and Africa. The focus is on building a multicultural church and community partnerships. Also available from Community and Institutional Ministries. See address above.

3. Affirm and support each other's efforts to take advantage of books and information, training events, colleges and community activities and other educational opportunities on inclusiveness, justice, and social action. Report on such activities to the unit.

4. Select one of the following culture-specific books and identify members of your UMW unit who will commit to have it read by a specific date for a group discussion of the book at a UMW unit or circle meeting. These books are from the UMW Reading Program:

A. A CREDIBLE WITNESS, Brenda Salter McNeil, IVP Books 2008.

B. Can we Talk About Race?, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Beacon Press, 2008

C. GETTING TO THE HEART OF INTERFATITH, Ted Falcon, Don Mackenzie and Jamal Rahman, Skylight Paths Publishing, 2009.

D. SAME KIND OF DIFFERENT AS ME, Ron Hall and Denver Moore, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2008.

E. THE NEW JIM CROW, Michelle Alexander, The New Press, 2010.

F. COLOR-BLIND, Tim Wise, City Lights Books, 2010.

G. THE DEATH OF JOSSELINE, Margaret Regan, Beacon Press, 2010.

5. Plan a joint unit or circle meeting with a unit/circle of a different racial background and use the January 2006 **Response** magazine issue on "Working for Racial Justice" to plan follow-up spiritual growth and social action activities. Pre-order enough copies of the January issue to ensure all participants have their own copy.
6. Develop a cultural exchange for opportunities to increase our awareness of ethnic groups, gifts and graces.

One of the easiest ways to accomplish this is to use the Prayer Calendar. Pen pals may be found for members of your unit or choose one missionary to contact regu-

larly during the year, and study that country or area.

Choose a mission site in your area to visit or contact to see if you could do an ingathering of needs specific to the ethnicity of their clients.

Look for opportunities to visit other cultures in your area - an ethnic church, a festival or musical event by a culture other than your own.

7. Be involved in putting an end to unfair and abusive conditions of Mexican workers in Missouri poultry plants.

Participate in a letter writing campaign to state and national elected officials; to retailers across the state that sell products from these chicken packing plants; and to union officials. (Several plants are located in Monett, Missouri.)

Present an informational/action-orientated program in the local unit.

Contact our UMC, GBGM, and Missouri Conference Missionaries to the Hispanic Ministry, Fausto and Alma Villagrana, 310 Fourth Street, Monett, MO 65708, (417)236-0254 home, (417)235-7446 office, to advocate in the local community.

8. Hold a postcard-writing session within the local unit to contact Legislators with regard to issues as determined by the Social Action Coordinator of the Conference. Contact your District Social Action Coordinator for "how to's" and timely "issues."
9. Send one member of the local unit to attend the workshop on the Charter for Racial Justice at the Legislative Training Event and have her present a report to the local unit. Involve your unit in the activities at the workshop.
10. Present a program on equal education, housing, employment, and/or medical care. Have the group discuss how the issue is affected by race in your area.
11. Develop and/or implement a worship program to be used by the local unit promoting cultural worship style, music and praise.
12. Monitor the decision-making process, meetings and programs of your unit to ensure inclusiveness and to advocate for the needs and concerns of the racial and ethnic minority members.

Once your unit has met the requirements and become a member of the "Club", you must maintain your member-

ship by completing one additional requirement annually. This should also be reported to your District President.

If at any time there is a lapse in meeting an additional requirement annually, the unit must again complete four requirements to re-achieve membership.

CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED ASSISTANCE.

This club was established in 1998 by the Missouri West Conference United Methodist Women in an effort to promote the study of and implementation of the Charter for Racial Justice Policies. The Club was named to honor a prominent United Methodist Woman in the Missouri West Conference. With her permission and blessing, the club was called "The Mai Gray Charter for Racial Justice Club".

Mai Evelyn Hutson Gray, a native of Jackson, Tennessee, graduated from Merry High School and Lane College in Jackson, Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, and the University of Missouri at Kansas City. She was a member of the "Committee of 24" that proposed the organizational structure for United Methodist Women in 1972. She was elected a member of the Women's Division in 1972 and from 1976 to 1980 served as the Division's first black president. She was a trustee of Saint Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, MO, represented the United Methodist Church at the British Methodist Conference, was invited to the Consultation on Salt II for religious leaders at the White House and participated in a development-education study in China and India. She was a member of the Church Women United Executive Council (1980-84) and the World Methodist Council Executive Committee (1981-86), an alternate delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly in 1983, and a delegate to the 1984 United Methodist General Conference at which she presented a portion of the Lay Address.

Her honors include the establishment of the Mai Gray Education Grant to women and children in Zimbabwe, Namibia, and South Africa, a gift of the Women's Division in honor of her presidency; and the Centime Poinsettia Clark Award.

Mai Gray passed away soon after Assembly in May 2010.

