

Mission Networking Committee Report
February 25, 2017

Recent highlights of the Mission Networking Committee's work include:

- 1) Planning and publicizing the upcoming antiracism and justice training event that will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Albuquerque, April 30-May 1. ***“Racism, Power, and Dominance in the U.S. and Faith Communities”***, will be led by the Rev. Jessica Torres and Lori Adams, who both have years of experience in the field, and who have presented and led similar events at the invitation of our denomination. Information has been sent to your church and flyers are available for you to take and help promulgate the event.
- 2) Facilitating with Rabbi Arthur Flicker, a chaplain for the Albuquerque Police Department, and Abbas Akhil, from the Islamic Center of New Mexico, an interfaith brownbag lunch and conversation about how we might facilitate relationship building, dialogue, and partnership between our faith communities. Ideas that came from our lunch include:

Interfaith meals

Interfaith emergency response team

Practical vs. a theoretical approach to interfaith work

Newsletter contributions

Adult education classes

Pulpit exchanges

Attend each others services

Events to get to know each other, build relationships, and learn each others' practices

Storytelling

International food festival

Emphasize shared Abrahamic traditions

Clear misconceptions about our traditions

Encourage a museum exhibit featuring Islamic traditions

Expect to hear more about this in the near future.

- 3) Crafting and sending a proposed letter to the editor to the Coordinating Team lending support to marginalized folks, who feel heightened anxiety due being singled out in the words, conduct, and promises made by the new administration. The Coordinating Team voted to send the letter to several New Mexico publications, and Moderator Lorelei Kay agreed to sign it. The letter generated mostly positive response and appreciation but also some concern. The MNC and the Coordinating Team are currently reviewing how, when, and by whom public comment may or may not be made on behalf of the Presbytery.

- 4) Max Bartlett has a brief report on behalf of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry

- 5) Las Vegas United Church has participated in an extensive study of Israeli/Palestine issues and are willing to share this experience with others.

6) The committee continues to facilitate networking between and among churches whose outreach ministries are parallel. Please let us know what you are doing in mission and how we might assist with the connections.