



Statement on Supreme Court Ruling on Affirmative Action

A statement from the General Secretaries of the General Board of Church and Society (GBCS), General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM), General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR), and General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW).

STATEMENT

"Today's Supreme Court decision ruling unconstitutional the use of affirmative action is antithetical to the social teachings of The United Methodist Church."



Today's Supreme Court decision ruling unconstitutional the use of affirmative action is antithetical to the social teachings of The United Methodist Church. As stated in the Book of Resolutions, The United Methodist Church sees "the most fundamental premise underlying the concept of affirmative action is both moral and spiritual ... According to biblical teaching, we are mandated, in the face of inhumane discrimination – whether that discrimination is intended or unintended – to do what we can to redress legitimate grievances and to create a society in which the lives of each and all will flourish." ([2016 Book of Resolutions, #3373: Affirmative Action](#)). The Supreme Court's ruling will make the struggle to redress past injustices and advance equity even more difficult in our institutions and society.

As agencies of The United Methodist Church, we remain committed to the Wesleyan value of social justice and the social teachings of the Gospel as expressed in the Social Principles and Book of Resolutions and will continue to pursue inclusive and equitable practices in our hiring, programming, and institutional witness. We continue to believe "given the tenacity of many forms of racism, sexism, and ableism – both blatant and subtle – the concept of affirmative action retains its relevance as part of an overall effort to create a more just and equitable social system." ([BOR 3373](#)) And we will continue to reflect in our own practices and champion to the wider world the kin-dom values that seek to ensure access to and effective participation in all sectors of society for people of color, women, and persons with disabilities.

In response to today's ruling, we will advocate for a legislative response that will rectify historic inequities and expand present opportunities in the face of continued obstacles based on race, sex, and ability. Furthermore, we will advocate for an active response by United Methodists and people of faith to support our constituents, educational institutions, and ecumenical partners who will be negatively impacted by today's ruling and to recommit to our own practices of justice, inclusion, and equity in the church and society.

John Hill

Interim General Secretary

[General Board of Church and Society](#)

Rev. Greg Bergquist

General Secretary

[General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](#)

Rev. Dr. Giovanni Arroyo

General Secretary

[General Commission on Race and Religion](#)

Dawn Wiggins Hare

General Secretary

[General Commission on the Status and Role of Women](#)



Special Prayers for these Wesley Family, Friends, and Others...

Joan Hirst, Jim & Judy Hoffman, Don Johnson (Phil's brother), Bill Zoldak, Al D'Ambra, Charles (friend of David Potts), Joseph Boateng, Anne Burrows, Dot Ellis, Barbara Fletcher, Charles & Samira Kiefer, Bill Kilmer, Donald McLaren, Dorothy Norcross, David O'Driscoll, David Samanen, Alicia Simoneau, Donald Tremblay; Barbara, Frank & the Vietze Family; Bill Wong, Laura Zoldak, Kelly (friend of David Potts), Malika Gujarati (family of Jim & Judy Hoffman), Margie (Linda Keister's sister), Page (Allison Hansen's sister), Ralph (friend of Dorothy Adams).

Those who struggle with depression, anxiety, and alcoholism.

Prayers to Steve Boyns on the passing of his wife Polly on Thursday, June 29th. Cards can be sent to Steve at 3 Thayer Pond Road, #11, North Oxford, MA 01537.

Tower & Rose Window Lightings & Altar Flowers

The Tower lighting for July is given in loving memory of Mable & Luther Marsh, and Evelyn and Martin Samanen by Carol, Dave, Steve, and Jeff Samanen.

The Rose Window lighting for July is given in loving memory of Bill Woodring by Blair, Karl, John, and Mary Jett Woodring.

August Rose Window lighting is available. If you'd like to dedicate this lighting in memory/honor or celebration of a loved one, please call Debi in the office. The cost of the lighting is \$40.

Altar flowers... The 2023 calendar is available. If you'd like to place flowers on the altar on a particular Sunday, please stop at the welcome office and sign up in the book. Please be sure to fill your name in on the day, then take an order form and submit it to Debi in the office with a check.

Announcements

July Community Breakfast... There will be no breakfast on July 2, 2023, due to July 4th holiday weekend.

Upcoming Heralds: During the summer we generally have one Herald. However, we are going to try something a little different. The first Sunday of July and August, we will expand the Announcements to be a Herald. Please mark your calendars with the following deadline dates: June 23rd for the July 2nd Announcements, and July 28th for the August 6th Announcements. *Thank you, Debi*

Upcoming Mini-Harvests

It's that time of year again to prepare for our annual Harvest. The Women's Harvest will be on Sunday, July 30th, and the Children's Harvest will be August 26th. The main Harvest will be on Sunday, September 30th with the International Lunch to follow. Let us all pray about ways we plan to give to the Lord and know that is our little token of saying *Thank You* for all that He has done for us.

Hope for Housing card orders resume in August

The homelessness prevention program, Hope for Housing, creates a fund to help families on the verge of homelessness remain in their homes. Distributed by the Central Mass. Housing Alliance, these grants can cover back rent, a security deposit for a new home, utilities, even storage fees. A portion of gift card sales every Sunday is added to this fund.

For the month of July, we will have plenty of cards for sale, but new orders for larger quantities will not be placed until August. Email Allison Hansen at ACHis4788@aol.com by August 14 for delivery on August 20.

For summer birthdays or graduation gifts, consider a gift card that helps keep Worcester families in their homes! Look for the birdhouse near the stage in Brewer Hall after church.

Community Suppers at Wesley

We had another fantastic Community Supper on June 24th! 101 taco salad suppers were served to our guests and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Judy Hoffman, Edith Isaac, Cordelia Ferdinand and our youth for making it a success!

If you would like to help at the July 29th supper or lead the August 26th supper, please contact Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy at 508 954 8233 or gorsuchkennedy@hotmail.com.

Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy



2023 Thanksgiving at Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

We are changing with the times at the cupboard. Over the past couple of years more and more clients have said that they are not interested in cooking a turkey for Thanksgiving and are instead wanting to make other dishes that are special to their families or to their culture. In order to still be able to help them celebrate, we are no longer distributing the Turkey boxes but instead giving them gift cards to purchase the items they would like. We would like to give each family that signs up in advance at least \$30.00 in gift cards from Shaw's or Stop and Shop. Here's how you can help, when you see the Hope for Housing table on Sunday morning you can purchase a gift card and tell the person at the table that it is for Carty Cupboard Thanksgiving, and they will get it to us. Any denomination gift card will be helpful.

To Everyone who continues to donate to Carty Cupboard Food Pantry we thank you. *Nancy*

GOD MOMENTS

If you could share a story of seeing God's work in your life, please tell me or email it to me. The story can be anonymous or signed, and all are invited to participate. Betsy (betspenn35@hotmail.com)



A God Moment by Nancy Cook

I was in the parking lot of Lowe's at Lincoln Plaza one day when a young man came up to me and asked for money for food. I went to my car and got a \$10 gift card to Stop and Shop and gave him that instead of cash. He was thrilled and pretty surprised. I told him to get items that don't cost a lot, like bananas. He named a couple items he wanted, including a 2-liter bottle of soda. I guess soda was a real treat for someone with no money! He thanked me many times, then headed to Stop and Shop.

So I was able to support both Hope for Housing cards and a hungry young man.



Host Families Needed

Learn about another Culture without even leaving your home. Families are needed to host International Foreign Exchange Students from a wide variety of countries. Students are 15 - 18, all speak English, are fully insured medically, bring their own spending money, and would attend your local High School. Perfect matches are made with common interests between the exchange student and the family. Host families can be a single parent, a family with teenagers, a family with young children or a family where children are grown and no longer live at home. Host families provide meals and a bed which can be shared with another sibling, snacks, and guidance. The benefits of hosting a student are many, including making a friendship for a lifetime. Maybe even going to visit your new son or daughter in their country. We have two students that have specifically requested Massachusetts - a girl from Spain and a boy from Italy. For more information please contact.

Pat Darby - Area Coordinator for Northwest Services PEACE Program.

phone: 978-632-8270

email: patdarby6@yahoo.com

visit our website: nw-services.com

DID YOU KNOW?

As you travel this summer, you may be looking for a United Methodist church in which to worship, and one approach some people take is to keep an eye out as they are driving for the familiar Cross and Flame emblem which is the official insignia of the United Methodist Church. You probably also have noticed that this emblem also appears on the covers of both our *United Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We Sing*. Did you ever wonder about the symbolism of this emblem?


The United Methodist Church formed as a result of the union of two denominations in 1968: the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, and the Cross and Flame insignia was adopted soon thereafter. This emblem links the traditional Christian symbol of the cross with a flame consisting of two tongues of fire. It reminds us that the United Methodist Church is related to God through Christ (cross) and the Holy Spirit (flame). The flame itself has symbolism on several different levels. First and foremost, it is a symbol of the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost when witnesses were unified by the power of the Holy Spirit and saw “tongues, as of fire” (Acts 2:3). The flame also has a special significance for our denomination as a reminder of John Wesley’s Aldersgate experience, a transforming moment in his life, when he sensed God’s presence and felt his heart “strangely warmed.” Finally, the use of two tongues of fire to create a single flame is a reflection of the union of the two denominations that came together to form the United Methodist Church.

Submitted by Deborah O’Driscoll


*Top Producers
Worcester County*

Gibbs
REALTY INC.

A Smart Move



Jeffrey Gibbs
Broker/REALTOR®



Christy Gibbs
REALTOR®

*Your Wesley Family REALTORS®
Proudly Servicing All of Worcester County*

GibbsRealtyInc.com * 508-886-6100



WESLEY STAFF & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pastor	Rev. Byungmoo Lee	Church Council	Brent Drajesk
Organist & Choir Director	William Ness	Board of Trustees	Gary Robinson
Wesley Chancel Choir Director	David Potts	Carty Cupboard Food Pantry	Nancy Spencer
Ghanaian Choirmaster	Desmond Cheetham	Communion Stewards	Linda D’Acri
Director of Children’s Ministries	Cordelia Ferdinand	Finance & Stewardship Co-Chairs	William Wong
Music Assistant	Deborah O’Driscoll	Financial Secretary	Peter Hansen
Church Business Administrator	Matt Crane	Ghanaian Association	Earl Flagg
Church Secretary	Debi Reynolds	Hospitality Chair	Paul Hayfron
Building Superintendent	Tim Murphy	Medical Ministry	Linda D’Acri
Assistant Building Superintendent & Sunday Security	Phil Johnson	Mission Coordinator	Ron Ramsay
Custodians	April Dylewicz	Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs	Betsy Pennino
	Gerard Piscitelli	Youth Bible Study	Chris Flagg
Head Usher	David Dagle	United Methodist Women Co-Chairs	Judy Hoffman
Wesley Tech Team	Mark Muncey		Joseph Fletcher
			Barbara Ingrassia
			Allison Hansen