



Western Methodist Justice Movement

Providing a venue where progressive persons of faith work together on significant issues of justice and peace both within and beyond The United Methodist Church.

December 5, 2016

Dear Justice Seekers:

Grace and peace during this Advent season of preparation and hope.

We are writing to invite you to join us at *Rise Up: Uniting to Act for a More Just World*. This important conference will be held in Portland, Oregon over Presidents Day weekend (February 17-20, 2017).

Rise Up! is being sponsored by the Western Methodist Justice Movement. It will gather Justice Seekers from across the United Methodist connection and beyond to form a powerful movement for justice, wholeness and peace within the church and the wider society. At this conference, we will do more than merely explore the gospel imperative to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. We will actually organize ourselves in ways that will enable us to act boldly, creatively and compassionately in the face of very real threats that are coming from the principalities and powers that currently dominate our world's political, social, economic, and religious institutions.

During *Rise Up!* we will be motivated by the creative and bold wisdom of our newly elected United Methodist Bishop, Karen Oliveto. The work of forming ourselves into a powerful and effective movement will be guided by Beth Zemsky, a well-known practitioner and trainer in the field of intersectional movement building. Along the way, we will join together in inspiring worship led by a creative team of progressive worship planners and talented musicians.

Rise Up! will come together February 17-20 at the Sheraton Airport Hotel in Portland, Oregon. You can register and find out more information about *Rise Up* online by visiting wmjm.org and following the *Rise Up!* links. There is scholarship assistance available for young adults, racial ethnic persons, and others in need of assistance.

If you are serious about working in and through Christ's church to bring about God's reign of justice, wholeness, and peace, then *Rise Up!* is for you. We look forward to seeing you there.

May the grace of God be with you now and always,

The Rev. Frank D. Wulf
WMJM Convener

The Rev. Richard Bentley
WMJM Co-Convener