



THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU
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The Common Ministry at WSU

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2018 Common Ministry Council Members

Jonathan Bliss
Nicholas Cerruti
Emi Dickens, President
Sue Durrant, St. James Episcopal Church
Roy Johnson, American Baptist
Nancy Nydegger, Vice President, Community
Congregational United Church of Christ



THE COMMON MINISTRY AT WSU

A Safe Space for Spiritual Development

Fall 2018

Fall Greetings



from the Common Ministry

It's hard to believe it is September already and another school year has started. This happens every year, but the beginning of the new school year is always exciting. Students inject enormous energy into our town.

The Common Ministry (CM) has established a new way to support students at WSU. We have started awarding outreach grants to students and/or student groups who are taking part in various service projects and seeking financial support. The outreach grants will be awarded three times during the academic year with a maximum of \$1000 per award. Detailed information is provided in this newsletter. We gave a \$1000 grant to students with the Wesley Foundation in March. The group of eleven students led by Pastor Shane Moore participated in Sierra Service Project in San Diego. The students gained invaluable experience through this project.

The Roger Williams Symposium (RWS) Committee has been hard at work. Thanks to the committee's efforts, The CM has invited Dr. Rev. Miguel De La Torre, Professor of Social Ethics and Latinx studies at the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado as a symposium speaker. The Symposium schedule is included in this newsletter. The RWS is free and open to public.

The CM maintains an office in the Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Pullman. The office is not staffed regularly. If you need to communicate with the council members, please send an email to office@interfaith-house.com.

We greatly appreciate your continuing support!!

The Common Ministry Council

From Last year...

Roger Williams Symposium

Report on last year's symposium

The 37th Annual Roger Williams Symposium was held October 1-2, 2017. Dr. Angela Sims was the speaker. Dr. Sims is an academic dean, Robert B. and Kathleen Rogers Associate Professor in Church and Society, and associate professor of Ethics and Black Church Studies at the St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, KS.

She presented a talk on Sunday evening at Gladish Community Center titled "Freedom: A Stratified Fabrication". This talk drew on Ava DuVernay's documentary, 13th, to examine a notion of freedom premised on the commodification and criminalization of black bodies. This examination invited us to challenge unquestioned claims of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" in light of evidence that suggests that slavery, in the form of mass incarceration, infers that freedom is a perennial question for the 21st century.

On Monday morning, Dr. Sims presented a workshop at St. James Episcopal Church, to continue the dialog on "Freedom, A Stratified Fabrication", followed by lunch. On Monday afternoon, as part of the Thomas Foley Institute Series at WSU, she presented a talk titled "Ignorance is not Bliss: Power of Memory in the Trump Era". This talk was based on her book *Lynched: The Power of Memory in a Culture of Terror*. This book was informed by oral histories of African American elders who came of age during an era in the United States when lynching or the threat of lynching was a present and constant reality.

This symposium was supported financially by the Evergreen Baptist Association, the Common Ministry at WSU, the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane and other donors.

– Tim Paulitz, The RWS Committee Chair

Outreach Grants



The Common Ministry Council has discussed extensively how the Common Ministry can support students and student groups without a dedicated employee. Our full-time director left in 2016, and our part-time program director left in December, 2017. The Council decided to offer outreach grants to students and student groups at WSU who are committed to service projects but lack funding.

The outreach grants are available to all WSU student organizations, regardless of faith or religious affiliation. Outreach programs that the Common Ministry supports include, but are not limited to mission trips; projects that serve women, minorities, children, elderly or low income; and leadership/team building events. The funds may be used for travel, food and supplies, but not for salaries. The grants are limited to \$1000 maximum. The Common Ministry will be accepting grant applications three times per academic year: September 5th, December 5th and March 5th. Applicants will be notified six weeks after the deadline. The call for application requirements and application form can be found on our web site, <https://interfaith-house.com/outreach-grants/> Please share this information with students who may be interested.

Our first grant was awarded to the Wesley Foundation for their mission trip during WSU's spring break in March, 2018. Here is a report from project lead, Pastor Shane Moore, and a couple of quotes from student participants. The Common Ministry is pleased to help students who participated in this project.



"The group's work with Sierra Service Project (SSP) included learning about the intersection of immigration and environmental issues and how they impact the larger communities surrounding San Diego including Tijuana. We spent time worshiping on the US and Mexican border with one of the only churches in the country that straddles an international border. We worked with the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve helping to plant native plants. We spent time helping clean up the Imperial Beach Sports Park and painting the Imperial Beach Senior Center."



One of the participants, Brianna, reflected "Over Spring break this year I was blessed enough to go to San Diego and listen and learn so much more than I could have ever hoped. Working in the borderlands of Southern California and



Northern Mexico opened my eyes to a new way of looking at the world. The conversations and work that this group of young adults did will forever impact me. It has made me look at the world through a lens of conversation Talking with others and not about them or for them."



Save the Date

The 38th Roger Williams Symposium

speaker

Miguel De La Torre



Miguel De La Torre is a professor of Social Ethics and Latinx Studies at Iliff School of Theology, Denver, CO. He is an author, scholar-activist, and an ordained Southern Baptist minister.

The Death of U.S. Christianity

Saturday, October 13, 2018

7 - 8 p.m. Ensminger Pavilion, 455 Lincoln Dr. across from the WSU Alumni Center, Pullman.

Was Jesus a Racist?

Sunday, October 14, 2018, 10:30 a.m. guest sermon at Community Congregational United Church of Christ, 525 NE Campus St., Pullman

Trails of Hope and Terror:

Film by Dr. De La Torre and Workshop on Immigration

Sunday, October 14, 2018, 2 - 4 p.m.

St. James Episcopal Church, 1410 NE Stadium Way, Pullman

Why They Come:

Lecture on immigration sponsored by the Thomas Foley Institute at WSU

Monday, October 15, 2018, noon.

Room 316 Bryan Hall, WSU

All events are free

