

Sharing from the Mission Coordination Committee

Matthew 25: “And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you? And the king will answer them: “Truly, I will tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Fellow sojourners in the faith, today the Mission Coordination Committee wishes to share with you information related to the challenges put before us as a Matthew 25 Presbytery.

Hunger is the first challenge. This is the reason we want to encourage you to make use of the website FBEM of the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. This website enables you to access both Food Bank of Eastern Michigan resources useful for your hunger mission and experts prepared to address any questions you may have on this significant challenge.

Getting to know our non-white neighbors is the second challenge. Here we are calling your attention to the Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the Native Americans who have since the 1855 Treaty of Detroit held title to and lived on 216 square miles of land in Mt. Pleasant. Yesterday, Linda Langrill and I took advantage of the opportunity we had to attend the Day of Honoring, Healing, and Remembering held each year on June 6th by the Saginaw-Chippewa Indian Tribe. This date marks the date in 1934uS when date in 1934 the Mt. Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School was closed. We began with a Sunrise Ceremony at the Mission Creek Cemetery where there are both marked and unmarked Indian graves. We also heard from Sec. of the Interior Deb Haaland, a Native American enrolled in the Laguna Pueblo Tribe in New Mexico.

The third challenge brings a different tone, for here we are drawing attention to those gut-wrenching expressions of white supremacy known as hate crimes. Yes, here, my sisters and brothers in Christ, we are putting ourselves into the skins of the people who have experienced the traumas of hate crime shootings in the Geneva Presbyterian Church-Laguana Woods Taiwanese Presbyterian church in California and the Buffalo, New York TOPS market area.

Hate crimes are based on race, color, and religion, as well as sexual orientation, gender, and gender identity. Such crimes include not only the perpetrator's intended target, but others like them-family, community, at times the entire nation.

My brothers and sisters in faith, with this report it is our hope that we will use the FEBM website for information and will involve ourselves in learning more about our Saginaw-Chippewa Indian tribe neighbors ; my fellow sojourners in the faith, with this report it is our prayer that we will open ourselves to learning about the realities of white supremacy ideology/hate crimes, as we make clear to every one that such prejudice/hate will not be tolerated in a nation whose Pledge of Allegiance ends with the words "with liberty and justice for all."

- Website FBEM for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan
- Nij.ojp/topics/overview-hate-crime
- www.themarshallproject.org/reco...
- www.tandfonline.com/doi/epub/...

Moderator, Rev. Karen Blatt