

Justice and Witness Team

Our Penn West Conference Justice & Witness Team had an outstanding year of ministry in which we teamed up with our Association Presidents to lead an inspiring All Association Spring Meeting on issues of justice and witness in our world. The meeting was held on March 18 at St. John's United Church of Christ in Larimer, and the feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive. Here are some of the issues that we focused on in the breakout groups at our meeting.

- The Middle East
- Hunger & Homelessness
- Economic Justice
- Creation Care
- Open and Affirming
- Widening the Welcome/Mental Illness
- Racial Justice/White Privilege

If you visit our website at <http://www.pennwest.org/content/justice-wellness.html>, you will see links and attachments from these breakout groups. We want to make these available to everyone since many said that their big regret of the day was that they could only participate in one of the groups and they were interested in what the others were discussing.

The largest breakout group of the meeting was the "Hunger and Homelessness" group. Given this year's Annual Gathering & Meeting theme of "Feed My Sheep," we are hopeful that the conversations from this year's All Association Spring Meeting might flow into our Annual Gathering & Meeting and provide us with a clearer sense of where God is calling us to direct our Justice and Witness energies as we move forward into the future as a Conference.

Our Justice & Witness Team is planning on reaching out to those who came to our All Association Spring Meeting, because we hope to connect people with a passion for these issues and find ways that we might most faithfully move forward together. If you'd like to become a part of this team, please contact me at david@pennwest.org. Thank you for your prayerful support of our efforts for justice & peace in our world.

Respectfully submitted,

David Ackerman