

Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith The Right to Human Dignity February 14, 2012

Join us at Topeka First United Methodist Church, 600 SW Topeka Blvd., for a day devoted to issues of human dignity. The day begins with registration and a continental breakfast at 7:45. Throughout the day participants will have many opportunities to learn about the issues:

- Visit displays to learn more about advocacy.
- Hear keynote speaker Kristy Childs, founder of Veronica's Voice, address commercial sexual exploitation and how her organization is connecting with its victims of all ages, educating and empowering them to make lifestyle changes that lead to recovery of mind, body, and spirit.
- Get updated on legislative issues before the Kansas Legislature this session.
- Attend workshops for more insight into issues related to advocacy and human dignity.

Invite your legislators to join you for lunch and a chance to discuss issues of concern.

Scholarship Available

For youth and young adults ages 15-21 interested in making changes in the political world through faith advocacy, the scholarship covers registration, meals, workshops, and a travel stipend. Each applicant must submit a short essay expressing why he/she wishes to attend LEAF and what the participant will do with the knowledge obtained. Send applications to Carrie Tholstrup, 204 W. Ash, Bison, KS 67520, or clarkcb@yahoo.com by January 14, 2012.

If you have any questions about LEAF or the scholarship available, please contact Carrie Tholstrup, co-chair of the LEAF planning committee, by calling (785) 356-2503 or e-mailing her at clarkcb@yahoo.com.

LEAF is co-sponsored by Kansas East and West United Methodist Women and Church Women United in Kansas.

Workshop Descriptions

(Descriptions were not complete at the time of printing. Check the Kansas East UMW Website at kecumw.org for more accurate descriptions in December.)

1. **Advocacy at the Capitol**—This session is based at the Capitol. It starts with fundamental, practical information on advocacy with public policy makers. Following that input, participants will be able to choose from a variety of committee hearings and/or House/Senate session (depends on timing of the legislative schedule that day). This workshop is limited to the first 12 registrants (please do not register if you have participated in this group in the last five years). **2 hour workshop—1:00-3:15**
2. **Youthville**—Youthville will conduct a workshop about dealing with young people who have experienced trauma. Youthville is a leader in providing care. We will also discuss the impact of human trafficking on some of the clients we serve. You will learn how you can get involved to change the lives of young people. **1 hour workshop**
3. **Flint Hills Job Corps**—Evelyne Salay and Flint Hills Job Corps students will share stories of what the Flint Hills Job Corps offers in job training that improves lives of Kansans. **1 hour workshop**

4. **A Vision to End Poverty, One Family at a Time**--Explore with us as we look at what poverty is and what it is not and learn about the hidden rules of economic class. We will talk about how we can begin to change the mindset of our church members and communities so that we can come together to end poverty in Kansas . Learn what the national Circles® Campaign is all about and how it is being implemented in McPherson County. Presenters: Pastor Karen Rice Ratzlaff and Neisha Dahlstrom, McPherson First United Methodist Church. **1 hour workshop**
5. **Advocacy and You: How to be the best advocate for health care in Kansas**—Join the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition as we learn about advocating for healthcare access in the state of Kansas. We'll explore Advocacy 101, building relationships with legislators, and moving legislators to action through a variety of persuasive techniques. This session is for anyone who's passionate about healthcare access or interested in being a citizen advocate! Presenter: Elise Higgins, Grassroots Outreach Coordinator, Kansas Health Consumer Coalition **1 hour workshop**
6. **Affordable Care Act and Kansas: Health reform and what it means for our state**—Join the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition in an informative workshop about the Affordable Care Act, the health reform law passed last year. You will learn about key parts of the law and other trends in health policy, and hear about what Kansas is doing to implement the law in our state. Get informed! Presenter: Anna Lambertson, Executive Director, Kansas Health Consumer Coalition **1 hour workshop**
7. **The Hows and Whys of Domestic Violence**—Learn about the dynamics of partnership violence, barriers to victims in finding safety, and information on ways to assist people if they find out friends or family are involved in an abusive relationship. There will be ample time for questions. Presented by Becky Dickinson, interim director of the Center for Safety and Empowerment at Topeka's YWCA. **1 hour workshop**
8. **Volunteer Power**—Strong communities are made up of engaged residents working to address critical community issues. Deciding to volunteer your time is a great way to serve your community but how do you find opportunities? Come discover the many ways to identify or create your ultimate volunteer experience. Kansas Volunteer Commission staff will share resources and tools that will empower you to make the most of your time and energy! **1 hour workshop**
9. **Silver Haired Legislature**—Learn about past accomplishments of the Silver Haired Legislature which provides an educational experience in the political process and an opportunity to identify priority concerns of Kansas senior citizens. Find out what bills and resolutions the SHL is developing to present to the Kansas Legislature and the Governor as recommendations for state policy. **1 hour**
10. **Education Funding**—Learn more about education funding issues in Kansas including what the Governor and Legislature are considering. Presenter Veryl Peter is a former educator and served as Director of School Finance of the Kansas State Department of Education for 28 years; he is currently overseeing Recovery Act monies received by Kansas schools two years ago. **1 hour workshop**
11. **FACT Johnson County Mental Illness**
12. **Immigration Laws and Reform**

**Legislative Event for Advocacy in Faith
The Right to Human Dignity
Tuesday, February 14, 2012**

Registration Form

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Home Church _____ First-Time Attendee: Yes ___ No ___

Member of: ___ United Methodist Women (District: _____)

___ Church Women United ___ Kansas Ecumenical Ministries ___ Other

State Senator or Senate District Number: _____

State Representative or House District Number: _____

Send personal invitations asking your legislators to lunch.

You can locate your Senate or House District by calling the county Election Commission or by going to the following website: <http://www.ku.edu/pri/ksdata/vote/>

List in order your preferences for workshops. We will do our best to place you in your first two choices (or first choice if you select a two-hour workshop).

See Workshop descriptions on previous pages

Workshop preference: 1 # _____ 2 # _____ 3 # _____ 4 # _____

Special Physical Needs _____

Children Attending Name(s) _____ Age(s) _____

Childcare by reservation ONLY and *must* be received by January 14, 2012

No Walk-In childcare will be available ---- *No* exceptions

Registration Fee: \$20.00 _____ must be postmarked by January 14, 2012

Guaranteed: Continental breakfast, lunch, program and workshop materials

Late Registration Fee: \$25.00 _____ no guarantees

Make checks payable to KECUMW

**Mail to: Nancy Clark
517 New York
Holton, KS 66436**

**To reduce
waste please
bring your
own cup for
beverages.**