

Church Council News



INSIDE:

Sharehouse Rummage Sale	2
New VISTAS	2
Community Recognitions	2
Executive Director's Corner	3
Make Your Heart Glad	3
Meet Amanda	3
Family Homelessness	4

Geography of the Imagination

(Below is an excerpt from an uplifting message given at our Annual Assembly in March. Dr. Michael Reid Trice shared his thoughts on "Thinking Globally, Acting Locally: Gift and Challenge for the Ecumenical Community." Dr. Trice, a newly-elected member of the board, is Assistant Dean for Ecumenical and Interreligious Dialogue at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry.)

"The historian Stephen Ambrose reminds us that when Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery crossed the Continental Divide, they expected to drop quickly into a valley and slip onward to the Pacific Ocean. When instead they peered over a ridge and saw the hack-saw Bitterroot Mountains stretching out in seemingly



endless passes, the **geography of their expectation** was confronted by an immediate and new **geography of the imagination**.

Where is the geography of our imagination taking us as a church here in Seattle, our country and the world? Isn't it the case that the future of our course will take place in bodies such as this council of churches, designed specifically for this purpose?

Our Christian walk in the 21st Century will be the work of love turned into a call for renewal, a call for greater unity transformed into a global/local unity and an integrated voice in response to the challenge of our time. It takes courage of an undaunted kind."

You may read the entire address & our 2011 Annual Report on our website www.thechurchcouncil.org.

Holy Economies

Local congregations know the depths of the current economic crisis first hand: lost homes, jobs, retirements. Our members tell us the moment is ripe to significantly increase the number and diversity of people actively engaged in economic justice work. Following the guidance of our circle of Social

Justice Congregations, we have developed an **economic justice curriculum entitled "God & Money"** that we intend to bring to as many as 90 congregations in the next 3 years. The curriculum is flexible in scope, from 1-4 sessions.

Invite us to visit your congregation!

Contact David Bloom, Social Justice Organizer
DBloom@thechurchcouncil.org
(206) 525-1213, ext. 3950

Creation of the God & Money Curriculum is funded by The Church Council of Greater Seattle with advisory assistance from Faith Action Network.



Spring Rummage Sale May 19

The Sharehouse Spring Rummage Sale

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday May 19

5706 2nd Ave. South

Seattle 98108

Pick up a bargain and boost your blessings at the same time! The Sharehouse turns housing into homes. They partner with 60 agencies

that bring recently-homeless families to “shop” for furnishings at The Sharehouse’s warehouse of donated items. Funds raised from the rummage sale will support program operations.

Last year, The Sharehouse served 1,300 households. 82% were single parent

homes. 44% included a person with disabilities.

For more information on The Sharehouse, or to schedule a pick-up of donations, contact:

Laura Wirkman,
Program Director

(206) 767-5280

LWirkman@thesharehouse.org.

New VISTAs

Bryn always knew she wanted to make a difference. “When I got out of college I tried desperately to get a social justice job, but couldn’t get in the door. Then I heard about AmeriCorps-VISTA.” Bryn joined our SoundYouth VISTA program 2.5 months ago, and was placed with Hepatitis Education Project. She works with youth – often low-income drug users. “Did you know hepatitis is now killing more people

than HIV? And there are almost no education programs about it.” Bryn found the path of involvement she wanted. “Now I understand how to do community organizing. I see we really can make a difference on significant problems. I understand where poverty comes from. I am thrilled to be here.”

Bryn found this yearlong service position through a program of the Church

Council, that provides service opportunities for young adults and boosts the organizational capacity of non-profits serving low-income youth in the region.

There’s still a bit of time for non-profits to apply to host a VISTA. The deadline is May 1. Contact:

Eden Lord,

Program Director

ELord@thechurchcouncil.org

(206) 525-1213 ext 3933.



Community Recognitions

Roberto Felipe Maestas is a legendary figure in Seattle, a fearless advocate for Latino peoples and founder of El Centro de la Raza. It was an honor indeed when El Centro announced that Michael Ramos, the Church Council’s Executive Director would receive their **Inaugural Roberto Felipe Maestas Legacy Award**, for activists who honored

the legacy of their founder. Ramos received the award in October 2011. *Mil gracias!*

In February 2012 the A. Philip Randolph Institute Seattle Chapter (APRI) honored the Church Council of Greater Seattle with their **Coalition Partner of the Year Award**. Verlene Jones, APRI President said, “The Church Council has

partnered with APRI as we advocate for those in our community who are in need, and as we fight for the social and economic justice our communities deserve. Michael Ramos and I have partnered as advocates in the community since 1998. I look forward to many more years ahead working to build strong communities.”

Executive Director's Corner: Racism diminishes us all

Let me share with you from our statement to the broad community:

"The Church Council of Greater Seattle expresses its profound concern and outrage over the killing of Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. In addition to sharing our grief with his family and friends, we denounce the taking of an innocent life on the presumption that because of dress and race a person would be considered threatening. Every human being is a child of God with a fundamental dignity that must be honored and

respected." The message sent by the circumstances in Trayvon Martin's violent death in Sanford, Florida, is all too similar to the killing of John T. Williams in Seattle: "people of color are naturally suspicious, and violent crimes against people of color are more acceptable."

The Department of Justice recently released a report that found the Seattle Police Department administers its work inequitably, especially with regard to use of force toward people of color. The Church Council worked with local pas-

tors in convening a broad, multiracial table to sit down with Mayor McGinn to insist on adequate and prompt follow up to that report.

More work is being planned to "let justice roll" in our community, confronting and overcoming the systemic racism that dehumanizes us all. If you would like to join with us, contact me.



(206) 525-1213 ext. 3911
MRamos@thechurchcouncil.org

"Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Read the Church Council's entire statement regarding the Trayvon Martin killing on our website, or download a version ready for insertion in your Sunday bulletin.

Does This Work Make Your Heart Glad?

Simple acts make a great difference in our ability to convene this council of churches and together pursue the kingdom of God. Join us:

- **Stay in touch:** sign up for our e-newsletters and action alerts.
- **Invest an hour** to seal envelopes or share a talent or speak up.
- **Fertilize this work** with a financial pledge or gift. May 2 is GiveBIG. Make a gift to the Church Council through Seattle Foundation's website and they'll stretch it further.
- **Pray** for and with us.

Do all this on our website: www.thechurchcouncil.org or call (206) 525-1213.

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity. Corinthians 9:11

Meet Amanda

The next time you spy a spritely 90-year-old lady making friends at the corner market, you may be lucky enough to meet Amanda Franz. Amanda retired after a career as a teacher, counselor and curriculum designer.

Originally of Amish background, she finds God present in every church, which is why she began supporting the Church Council with annual gifts over 30 years ago. "We're all doing God's work," she says, "Somebody has to get

us all working together." Amanda enjoys trips to Uwajimaya, spending time with family, and exploring other cultures. "His love is boundless. We are all one. I just try to remember that in my life."





Grounded in Faith.
Working for Justice.

2701 First Avenue
Suite 240
Seattle, WA 98121
Phone (206) 525-1213
Fax (206) 525-1218
info@thechurchcouncil.org
www.thechurchcouncil.org

Through the Church Council of Greater Seattle, followers of Christ come together to give voice to their faith in unified witness. We embrace M.L. King's beloved community of justice and peace, inviting and involving individuals and communities of faith.

We offer three arms of programming:

- Hosting service programs and ministries that walk with marginalized people.
- Sustaining a crossroads for understanding and unity among people of diverse faiths.
- Equipping our members to advocate for a just society.

During 2012, our activities will serve 11,000 people directly and 350,000 people indirectly through advocacy, leveraging the passions of our 350 member churches.



Give your Giving a Boost
by donating through
www.seattlefoundation.org
on May 2

New Project Tackles Family Homelessness

What will it take to end family homelessness?

A new coalition brings together academic research, local activism, philanthropic dollars, and spiritual communities to tackle the crisis. Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry (STM) is at the helm, as they launch the Faith & Family Homelessness Project, which will involve 14 congregations in 3 Puget Sound counties.

Six King County faith communities were selected to receive high-quality leadership and support through the creation of new relationships, platforms, and models for successful faith-based advocacy. Congrats to the congregations who were selected in a hotly competitive process:

Alki United Church of Christ; Islamic Center, Shoreline; Masjid Al-Karim; New Life Church, Renton;

Peoples Institutional Baptist Church; Temple De Hirsch-Sinai, Seattle/Bellevue.

The Church Council is honored to serve as a regional partner, supporting the King County sites. The two year project of the School is funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information, visit the STM website:

www.seattleu.edu/stm/faithandfamilyhomelessness