

# MICAH MESSENGER

Mission Newsletter  
July 1, 2019



White Bear Lake  
**UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

*Nourishing the Hungers of Life*

*He has told you,  
O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD  
require of you  
but to do justice,  
and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly  
with your God?*

*- Micah 6:8 -*

Greetings church family,

Welcome to the first edition of the new missions newsletter for WBL United Methodist Church, MICAH MESSENGER. I'm excited to take this opportunity to give you a brief update about what I have been doing from a MISSIONS perspective since I joined the church staff on September 1, 2018 as Missions and Faith Formation Minister.

Let me first say I have really been enjoying getting to know fellow staffers. There are kind, loving, compassionate, fun and funny people on staff here caring for and about the spiritual lives of the people in this congregation. I'm lucky to be able to join with them in ministry.

I have also been having a wonderful time getting to know the people in our congregation. So many folks have been so warm, welcoming and supportive of me while I've been getting myself acclimated to the ways of this church. Thank you!

As part of my settling in process, I've met with many of our small groups and committees so I can learn past history, current involvement and future plans or dreams relative to missions. I've discovered that over the years WBLUMC has engaged with a variety of local, national and international non-profits serving people in many ways. Some of these engagements emerged through a thoughtful process of discernment and planning; others emerged via invitation from individuals with a passion for a particular non-profit. All of the ways people have become involved in mission are terrific!

As I explored and learned about missions here it seemed to me that perhaps what was missing was a process for sharing information about who's doing what, where; and bringing focus to mission engagement that might allow for greater participation and maximizing of impact on the organizations we connect with from a congregational giving, serving and educational perspective.

So in February, 2019, a "Mission Summit" was held with twelve participants including Pastors Bill and John to discuss how we'll move forward with missions at WBLUMC and I'm happy to now report on the outcome of that gathering to you. I hope you'll read on.

*over please* →

The February Mission Summit agenda included devotions, a time of counting our blessings when each participant helped create an inventory of church mission efforts, and a review/discussion of a Mission Partnership Strategy which proposed that before engaging in mission work with an organization, it would be evaluated to make sure it followed three guiding principles:

1. **Shared Vision:** the organizations mission and vision would be consistent with and further the WBLUMC vision “to provide nourishment for the hungers of life.” Undergirding this point was that prospective partners would among other things embrace inclusivity of all persons and be socially and environmentally responsible.
2. **Partnership:** the proposed project would be undertaken on a long-term basis with a goal of participating together using everyone’s skills and resources. We would decline to be money donors alone, and, would take our direction for action from the needs expressed by the organization rather than making decisions for action on their behalf. A true partnership would be implemented to prevent dependency and foster self-sufficiency.
3. **Sustainability:** organizations should value and promote internal/external sustainability.

The participants in the Mission Summit fully supported this Strategy and agreed to moving it forward for sharing with our Ministry Leaders and Board of Directors, which happened this spring.

The final step was to gather with interested persons again to review current mission projects in the congregation and decide which would become part of our Mission Priority List for the remainder of 2019 and through 2020. This meeting took place on Saturday, June 8.

### “UP and OUT of POVERTY”

Following great discussion, a decision was made to focus our congregational mission initiatives on projects/programs that support people with basic life necessities while they are working to move themselves “up and out of poverty.”

Believing that food security, safe & stable housing, and educational opportunity are the foundation of rising above difficult circumstances, we agreed to supporting the following organizations with our hands-on service & monetary gifts:

- ♦ **SOLID GROUND:** providing emergency shelter for families facing homelessness along with support services which help achieve permanent housing stability.
- ♦ **BRIDGING:** providing basic home essentials to people transitioning out of homelessness.
- ♦ **SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND:** providing food to partner food shelves, schools, hospitals and clinics while advocating for programs and policies that support families being served.
- ♦ **MOBILE MARKET @ Century College:** a program of the White Bear Lake Emergency Food Shelf which provides food to students experiencing food insecurity and financial struggle while trying to complete their education.
- ♦ **WILLOW LANE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL “Read 5000”** book give-a-way for children in grades 1-3 who don’t have family financial resources to purchase books on their own. The Reading Buddy program will also be a mission focus.
- ♦ **COMMON HOPE:** a Twin Cities organization that partners with the people of Guatemala to improve their lives through education support, health care, housing and family development.
- ♦ **NUESTROS PEQUENOS HERMANOS (NPH):** providing secure housing in a loving environment, education and other support to children in South and Latin American countries including Mexico, Honduras, Haiti and Peru.

In future editions of the MICA H MESS ENGER you’ll learn more about these organizations and the how we are going to partner with them.

In the meantime, watch church publications for details of service opportunities where you can become involved in “doing justice” and “loving kindness” as you walk humbly with God in service of others.



Peace,

Lori McBride  
Missions and Faith Formation  
Minister

Questions? Don’t hesitate to contact me:  
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