



WPA MAY 2022 REPORT OF THE MISSIONAL MINISTRY TO MARGINALIZED PEOPLE GROUPS TASK FORCE

Our group has met several times over zoom. In our discussions, we wrestled with the question of “why.” Why does not every church take to heart the central tenet of the gospel to care for the poor and marginalized. Why do we not have the fire to leave the ninety-nine to find the one. So, we looked at who, in our experience, was doing it well and invited them to be part of our next zoom discussion to share with us their work and their thoughts on helping all our churches begin to see this calling as core to their ministry. Foremost, we recognized that the churches who were most effective at it, taught the importance of it from the pulpit. Topics such as mental health and brokenness in all its forms was preached about on a regular basis. Missions and ministry to the marginalized was a central part of the budget and not an afterthought. Those with the gifts of apostleship, missions and evangelism were lifted and encouraged to develop leadership skills to build teams of involved congregants. We determined that churches that were invested in reaching marginalized people groups were building relationships with agencies/schools, within their communities that serve them, walking alongside those agencies/schools to fill in the gaps, using their time, talents, and resources to meet the needs and giving others the hope that we have found in Jesus.

We began to lay a way forward in equipping all churches to do the same. Short- and long-term goals were set, prior to the delay of General Conference, which involved kick starting at the May meeting. We recognize that the May meeting will take on broader work due to the delay and the May 1st formation of the GMC but will begin to put in place the following:

Short Term Goal:

- **Presentation to talk about the work of this committee and to provide opportunities for others to join.**

Long Term Goals:

Provide opportunities for churches to begin to find their passion by:

- **ASSET/OPPORTUNITY INVENTORY: People have varied interests and callings. Catalog what churches are currently doing in these areas; ask what are you doing?**
- **EDUCATE: Small events designed to educate about marginalized populations, effective ways to serve them, the lingo, laws, cultural differences... that will help us to care for them and welcome them into a life with Christ.**
- **NETWORK: Connectional work is vital in this area. Those on the frontline of this work in our community need support. Do not duplicate what they are doing well but define the gaps and come alongside. The church, is once again, seen as a vital part of the community.**

We will continue to meet and develop a plan of implementation as the current season permits.

Respectfully submitted,

**Nancy Fassnacht, Chair
Pastor Mark Ongley
Pastor Sharon Hamley**