

Christian Church of Mid-America Contract Position

Mid-America Region Annual Racial Justice Conference Organizing Specialist/Team Leader

Developer of Sustaining Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racism activism training (PR/AR 2.0) workshops for 2019.

Regional Resource Person on Activism Education and Strategies

Background:

“Someday your children will ask, “Why are these rocks here?” Then you can tell them how the water stopped flowing.... These rocks will always remind our people of what happened here today.”

Joshua 4:6-7 CEV

Following the fatal shooting of Michael Brown in 2014, several Disciples clergy and laypersons joined many others in protests and movements for justice in Ferguson and beyond. The Disciples [National Benevolent Association](#) (NBA) — in cooperation with [Reconciliation Ministries](#), the [Office of the General Minister & President](#), [Week of Compassion](#), and [Higher Education & Leadership Ministries](#) — supports these Disciples efforts for justice and racial reconciliation by promoting and facilitating conversation, gathering, advocacy, and healing.

Sadly, headlines reflecting new injustices and old oppressive systems still plague the St. Louis area. Situations in localities across the Region from Columbia, to Lake Ozark, to travelers across the state reflect a continued urgency. Many clergy and people of faith are meeting to determine ongoing local actions and wider church response. These actions include: a documentary promoting justice work through the testimony of activist clergy, laity, and residents; a protocol for the wider church for addressing other justice crises; a peer group of Disciple activists for racial justice; and a town hall gathering of local Disciples to promote racial reconciliation, justice, and mental health.

The core team works closely with the [Mid-America PR/AR Team](#) which educates and advocates for clergy and congregations to be proactive in addressing systemic racism. This regional contract staff person will help organize and plan a yearly conference and develop a leadership structure and curriculum so the work will be sustained as an anti-racism training option beginning in 2019. The successful candidate may be a resource for workshops, presentations and consultations when called upon by the Region.

Status: Contract Position - December 1, 2017-October 31, 2018

Compensation: \$2,000 over 10 month period @ \$200/month. \$1000 additional monies are set aside for professional and conference expenses.

Email resume and cover to Paul Koch: paul.ccma@sbcglobal.net (preferred) or mail to P.O. Box 164, Washington, MO 63090

Deadline – ~~November 15, 2017~~ **Extended to November 30th!**

Description:

- Planner and organizer for Mid-America Justice event to be held in St. Louis, September 2018
- Communicate with PR/AR's STL Racial Justice Group and wider PR/AR body
- Drive turnout by not just arranging logistics but organizing key pastors, leaders, and congregations around racial justice issues in the Mid-America Region. Price workshop accordingly, or seek additional grants to meet the seminar and contract staff complete expenses.
- Arrange event logistics: location, food, A/V, registration, etc.
- Create and send invitations to local Disciples, communicating as necessary in order to encourage attendance
- Regular reports and communication with project partners in the NBA and beyond.
- Assist with harvesting information for following up and any necessary after-event communication with participants
- Build upon success of the above to present to the PR/AR team and the [Regional Commission on Ministry](#) an annual PR/AR 2.0 activism education, awareness and training workshop that will be sustained annually by volunteers and workshop registration revenues – beginning in 2019.
- Be in working relationship with the African American Regional Convocation Co-Coordinator/s for exploration how objectives might be accomplished mutually.
- If called upon, lead workshops or presentations at the Regional General Assembly, CYF Winter Conference in January 2018 and Christian Regional Youth Leadership Encounter in July 2018.

Qualifications

- Experienced organizer with strong administrative and event planning skills.
- A thorough understanding of the current advocacy/justice work happening in Mid-America, especially as it relates to racism and justice
- Familiar with Mid-America Disciples of Christ congregations, communities and individuals as well as Disciples structures locally and church-wide. Possess a theological grounding on biblical teachings regarding community, family, inclusion and justice.
- Strong communication skills—written, spoken, and interpersonal.
- Familiarity and facility with various social media platforms.
- Knowledge of and commitment to the mission, values, and goals of the Reconciliation Ministry
- Be in contact with leaders around the Region and engage justice leaders.

Applicants are expected to abide by Mid-America Employee Guidelines. Professional expenses and travel costs will be reimbursed according to Regional policy.