FAITH THAT HEALS MINISTRY
Rev. Merrilee Wineinger and Rev. Matt Kelly

“Every local church should have a justice ministry” - Bishop McAlilly

In the 2016-2017 annual conference year, Faith That Heals (FTH), a ministry of the Tennessee Conference United Methodist Church, advocated and supported programs, policies, and laws that remove barriers to abundant living.

FTH included the following committees and commissions:

- Comprehensive African American Strategic Team (CAAST)
- Christian Unity and Interreligious Relations
- Committee on Church and Society
- Council on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW)
- Creation Cares
- Disability Concerns
- Health and Welfare
- Religion and Race—Vital Conversations

In light of the conference’s adopted mission statement, the conference committees listed above equip local churches for fruitful ministry.

These ministry areas have grown by building relationships with local churches, small groups, and individuals. Incarnational relationships are built through educational opportunities—trainings, webinars, print articles, etc., and by bringing Christ into the world through advocacy actions—interreligious, immigration, healthcare, hunger, homelessness, and more.

Additionally, these ministries increased the capacity of the local church through education and training. Capacity grew when individuals returned to their congregations not only by sharing educational knowledge and tools, but also by sharing their stories of God’s justice that inspires others to reach outside the church walls. In this way, leaders were strengthened and born. Ministry cannot always be measured in numbers. When 850 people came together at Tennessee’s Capitol Hill to advocate for healthcare, we were witnesses to the transformation that took place. God’s love that moves through us, however, can be measured in a statement we hear often: “You Methodists are always here!”

Below is a sample of local churches that have come together through groups and individuals as God’s hands and feet in 2016-2017.

Engagements/Programs

- Advocacy Actions: education and awareness—write, call and visit our state and congressional elected officials—Leadership is Key campaign, task force meetings, panel presentations
- Vital Conversation—Religion and Race
- Justice for Our Neighbors board representative, clinics, etc.
- Distribute Love and Justice as well as disability grants
- Health clinics, conference calls and webinars
- Monthly newsletter, website, Facebook, Twitter
- Leadership training:
  - Immigration reform
  - Young Clergy Summit
  - Health Action Summit
  - International Communications Institute Workshop
  - Faith and Guns Seminar
- Bible studies and luncheons on healthcare: Clarksville and Nashville districts
- Faith-rooted organizing book study
- Various community training opportunities

Local Church Presentations and/or Trainings
- Belmont UMC
- Bellshire UMC
- Blakemore UMC
- Brentwood UMC
- Gallatin First—multiple congregation
- Hickman County UMCs
- Hillcrest UMC
- Hilldale UMC
- Sango UMC
- United Methodist Women
- West End UMC
- Wright’s Chapel
- Belmont Baptist Arlington (Memphis)
- Christ Church Memphis—ecumenical partner
- Memphis Congregational Health Network
- Memphis hospital
- Peace and Justice Ministry—Memphis Conference
- Selmer UMC—Memphis Conference
- Victory Church of Memphis—ecumenical partner
- Rosemark Church of God in Christ—ecumenical partner

Churches Represented by Active Conference Committee Members
Task Forces, Building Relationships, Trainings, Grants, etc.
- 61st Avenue UMC
- Antioch UMC
- Christ Church UMC, Franklin
- Cookeville Parish
- Cornerstone UMC
- Edgehill UMC
- Gordon Memorial UMC
- Hamilton UMC
- Homestead UMC
- Liberty UMC
- Madison Street UMC
- McKendree UMC
- McMinnville First UMC
- New Providence UMC
- Primera Iglesia UMC
- Riverside UMC
- Sango UMC
- Wesley Foundation Clarksville
Ministry Partners Include

- American Cancer Society
- American Heart Association
- Belmont University
- Compassion and Hope ministries—Crossville/McMinnville
- Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries
- Families USA
- Fisk University
- Great State Project: Tennesseans United for Health Care
- General Board of Church and Society
- General Commission on Religion and Race
- Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON)
- Immigration Rapid Response Team
- Martin Methodist College
- Mental Health Association of Middle Tennessee
- Nashville Students Organizing Committee—Fisk University
- Open Table
- Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)
- St. Thomas Hospital
- Tennessee Alternatives for the Death Penalty
- Tennessee Health Care Campaign
- Tennessee Interfaith Power & Light
- Tennessee Justice Center
- TNUMC extension ministry
- Vanderbilt Divinity School