UCC Church Wide Event: Juneteenth 2020 Event Description

Juneteenth marks the official end of slavery in the U.S. The original legal declaration was signed into law by Abraham Lincoln which instituted Emancipation Proclamation.  The African American community has been devastated by COVID-19.  The disparities are intersectional and overwhelming. Communities of African descent have experienced the highest number of deaths in the U.S., as well as the least resourced and cared for by the current administration.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration honoring the **end of slavery** in the United States. On June 19, 1865, Union General Gordon Granger led thousands of federal troops to Galveston, Texas to announce that the Civil War had ended, and slaves had been freed.

Also called:    Freedom Day or Emancipation Day

Observances: Exploration and celebration of African-American history and heritage

Next time:      June 19, 2020

Observed by: Residents of the United States, especially African Americans, and Mascogos

Significance: Emancipation of the last remaining enslaved African Americans in the Confederacy

Frequency:      Annual

Juneteenth has yet to be recognized as a national holiday.

For more information visit the links below:

* [Juneteenth History](https://www.history.com/news/what-is-juneteenth)
* [Modern Juneteenth Movement](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Clovev%5CDocuments%5CAfrican%20American%20%26%20Black%20History%20Resources%5CJuneteenth%20Celebration%202020%5CModern%20Juneteenth%20Movement)

We are being charged with a monumental yet important work that will evolve into a movement for years to come in the life of the United Church of Christ. I believe God is calling us to journey back (Sankofa), live into our present realities, and then plan and move forward with keeping our African diaspora descendants in the forefront as a global priority.

We are sacred African descendants and our work is calling us to:

* Remembering our ancestors
* Honoring our elders
* Lamenting and surviving the Middle Passage.
* Grieving generations eliminated and held in bondage, and dehumanized due to enforced and subservient labor
* Celebrating our resilience, resistance, and rebellions
* Healing
* Re-educating the world and reminding them of our current brilliance and importance to the survival of the planet
* Educating others about our history as architects of great civilizations

The planning team will develop new and exciting pieces to the journey that includes all of the intersectional aspects of sustainability—economic growth and reparations.

National Staff Planning Team

Velda Love, Coordinator Minister for Racial Justice –JLCM

Sekinah Hamlin Minister for Economic Justice – JLCM

Renee Jackson Minister for Ministerial Formation MESA/JLCM

Bentley deBardelaben-Phillips Executive Associate JLCM

Taylor Russell Research Specialist CARDD

Phyllis Richards Humanitarian and Development Ministries WCM

Trayce Potter Minister for Youth and Young Adult Engagement