

CIVIL RIGHTS PILGRIMAGE

www.umcnic.org

2023

"Educate to Advocate"

The United Methodist Church is committed to challenging the unjust power structures that support oppression and working for equality in all areas of life.

RACISM IS A SIN

Because God created all human beings and loves all of His creations equally.

Strategic Priorities of the Northern Illinois Conference UMC - 2019

- 1) To Grow and Reach New Disciples of Jesus Christ
- 2) To Live Out the Conviction that Racism is Incompatible with Christian Teaching
- 3) To increase the number of highly vital congregations

Northern Illinois Conference establishes Anti-Racism Task Force



Separate programs and initiatives have been created to help NIC United Methodists learn about the complexities of race, injustice and to take action to build a more just church and society.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage

A journey to help us lament,
reconcile, and strengthen our
resolve to fight racism.

And to bring others into
our efforts.

Pilgrimage Connections

Northern Illinois Conference Anti-racism Task Force Civil Rights Planning Team worked with and received funding and/or support from the following:

General Commission on Religion & Race

General Board of Church & Society

Discipleship Ministries

North Central Jurisdiction United Methodist Volunteers in Mission

General Commission on Archives & History

Naperville: Grace UMC

McKendree UMC, Nashville, TN

North Alabama Annual Conference

New Beginnings UMC, Birmingham, AL

First UMC, Montgomery, AL

Metropolitan UMC, Montgomery, AL

Interfaith Montgomery, Montgomery, AL

What are Civil Rights?

Civil rights are the rights of individuals to be protected against unfair treatment or discriminatory policies/systems based on race/color, gender, age, or disability.

Civil rights laws are necessary to protect people from discrimination.



- Founded in 1989
- Works with marginalized communities
- Mission statement: “We are committed to changing the narrative about race in America”

THE LEGACY MUSEUM

FROM
ENSLAVEMENT
TO MASS
INCARCERATION





National Memorial for Peace & Justice

“Say their names”
Remembering the
terror of thousands
of victims of
lynching



LYNCHING IN AMERICA

Between 1865 to 1950, thousands of African Americans were victims of mob violence and lynching across the United States. Following the Civil War, fierce resistance to equal rights for African Americans and an ideology of white supremacy led to fatal violence against Black women, men, and children. Lynching emerged as the most public and notorious form of racial terrorism, intended to intimidate Black people and reinforce racial hierarchy and segregation. Many African Americans were lynched for exercising economic freedoms, perceived violations of social customs, and accusations of crimes. White people's allegations against Black people were rarely subject to scrutiny and often sparked violent reprisal, even when there was no evidence tying the accused to any offense. White mobs regularly displayed complete disregard for the legal system, seizing their victims from jails, prisons, courtrooms, or out of police hands without fear of legal repercussions for the lynchings that followed. Over 6500 Black victims of lynching have been documented in the United States and thousands more have been lynched with no documentation possible. Local community organizations with this history and this marker symbolizes hope for a better future.



The Civil Rights Movement emerged to change centuries of oppression and terror and to claim justice and equality.

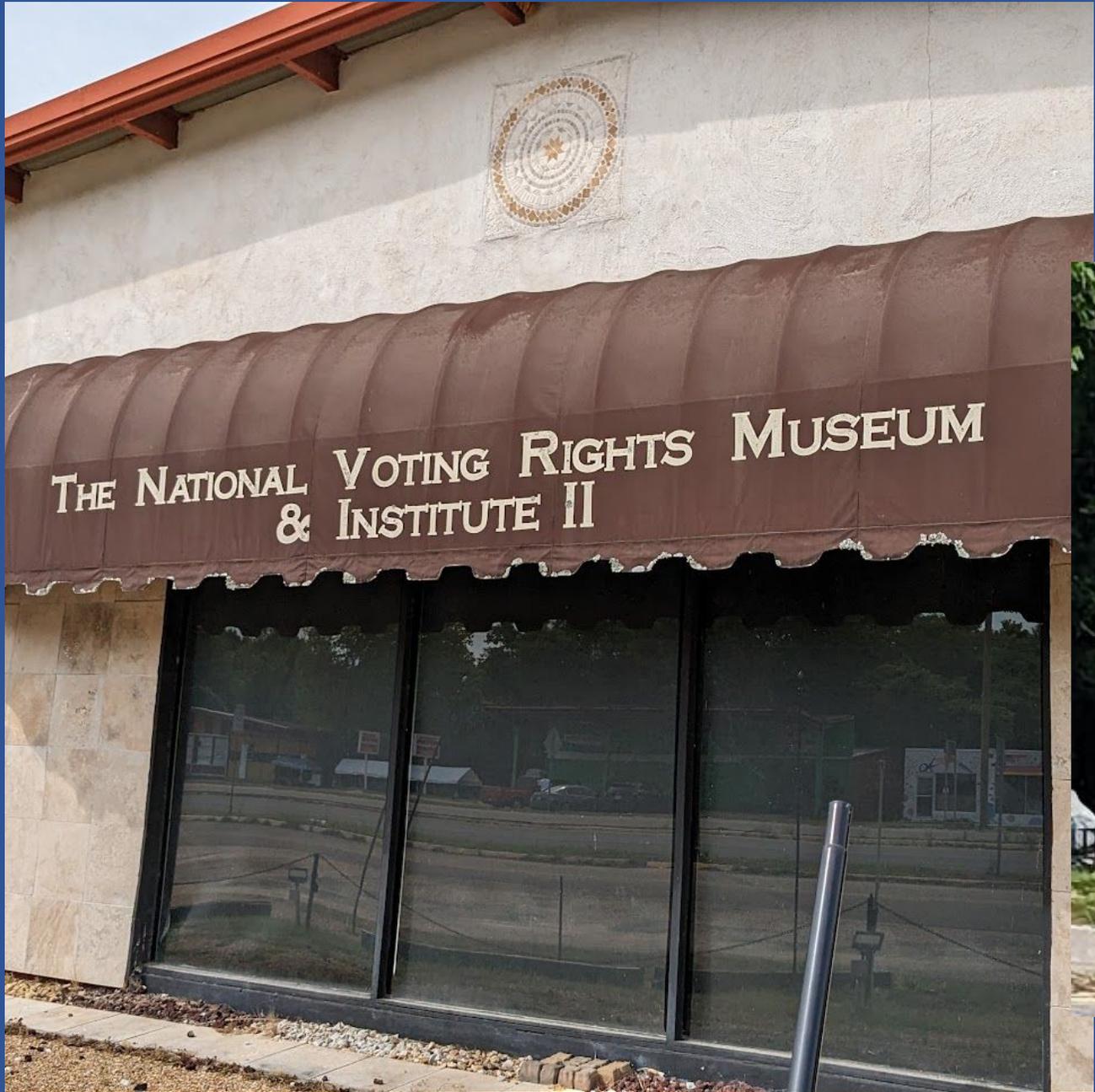
Laws began to change,

Leaders began to emerge.

Demonstrations made a difference.







Voting rights became one of the many freedoms sought by the Civil Rights movement.

After the Civil War, the 15th Amendment, ratified in 1870, prohibited states from denying a male citizen the right to vote based on “race, color or previous condition of servitude.”

But, various discriminatory practices were used to prevent African Americans, particularly those in the South, from exercising their right to vote.

In Alabama – in 1965, there were 17 million black people who could vote, but because of voter suppression only 300 were registered.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference organized a march from Selma to Montgomery, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge – the first time, marchers were beaten by local police – the carnage known as “Bloody Sunday.”

But eventually the March happened, and led to a new Voting Rights Act in 1965.

1965



2023



Methodists have always been part
of important change:

THEN and NOW!

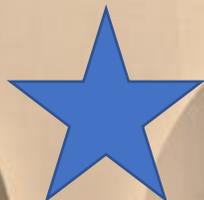
Icons of the Civil Rights Movement



LEOLA BROWN
MONTGOMERY



DELORES HUERTA



REV. ED KING



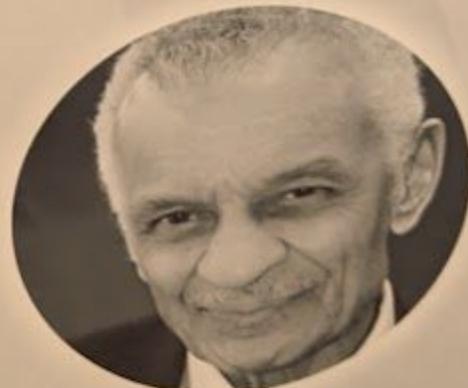
REV. SAMUEL KYLES



REV. JAMES LAWSON



JOHN SEIGENTHALER



REV. C. T. VIVIAN



“The Church is
a place to be
transformed.”

Rev. Dr. John Baldwin
New Beginnings UMC
Birmingham, AL



“How can we consider ourselves as the church, if we don’t reach out and serve our community?”

Rev. Richard Williams,
Metropolitan UMC
& Beacon Center,
Montgomery, AL

UNITED METHODISTS STAND AGAINST RACISM



Where do you see yourself
learning more, changing
the world and fighting
against racism?

How will you stand up?