

May 7, 2017

Mission Moment

The month of May is *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month*, a time when we honor the history and contributions of members of this fastest-growing population in the United States. This is a diverse group of people with origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands.

As we celebrate the gifts of being a community with these brothers and sisters, we also must acknowledge some difficult moments in our history, including Japanese internment camps, the difficult working conditions for Chinese laborers instrumental in completing the Transcontinental Railroad, and the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy.

Even though our history was not always kind, it did not stop our Asian and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters from contributing to the arts, technology and education. This way of life reminds us of Jesus' call to live an abundant life together.

In the United Methodist Church, we have an opportunity for a richer experience of worship and life as the people of God when we celebrate the voices of our Asian American and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters among us. It's a life made better when we believe in God's provision for us, and that how we care for one another is a part of God's provision.