

***Our keynote speaker for the Friday evening BOLD DREAMS service is Leymah Gbowee.***

**Leymah Gbowee** received the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 2011 for her work in leading a women's peace movement that brought an end to a 14 year Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. She won this award along with Liberia's President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf who spoke at the Methodist General Conference in 2008. Ms. Gbowee is the founder and president of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa based in Liberia. Her foundation provides educational and leadership opportunities to girls, women and youth in West Africa.

***Leymah will be joined by our own Regional Missionaries at the end thanking them for their service to grow women leaders around the globe!***

**Michelle Alexander**, is a lawyer and author of the critically acclaimed "The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness," a stunning account of millions of African Americans imprisoned and then relegated to a permanent second-class citizenship and legally denied enfranchisements won in the Civil Rights Movement. She was a professor at

Stanford Law, Ohio State University and now is connecting to the religious community as a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary. She has been featured on numerous radio and television outlets and was featured on the Academy Award winning documentary “13<sup>th</sup>”.

***Joining Michelle for a dialogue on Saturday morning’s program is Marian Wright Edelman***, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund, the agency that coined the phrase “School to Prison Pipeline” on which UMW has committed to working. A graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, Edelman was the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar and directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. She has received over a hundred honorary degrees and many awards the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings which include: *Prayers for Our Children; I Can Make a Difference: A Treasury to Inspire Our Children; and many more...*

***Where else can you find these two powerhouse women leaders on the stage at the same time?? Only at Assembly!***

***Michelle Alexander is also doing a Town Hall meeting where members can ask their own questions of her.***

***Friday's Town Hall meeting and a short presentation***

***Saturday evening will include Katherine Hayhoe.*** Katharine Hayhoe wrote *A Climate for Change: Global Warming Facts for Faith-Based Decisions*, a book that untangles the complex science and tackles many long-held misconceptions about global warming. She is also an evangelical Christian. Her work as a climate change evangelist has been featured on the Emmy award-winning documentary series "Years of Living Dangerously" and "The Secret Life of Scientists and Engineers." In 2012, she was named by Christianity Today as one of their "50 Women to Watch."

**Saturday evenings' BOLD ACTION service will host a panel of "Young Women Who Mobilize". Leaders will include:**

**Tamika Mallory**, formerly was the Executive Director of the National Action Network, advised Joe Biden on gun control legislation and is currently on the Board of Gathering for Justice that works on mass incarceration. She is Women's Rights Activist

who has mobilized some of the largest groups of women ever to that cause.

**Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner is a United Methodist pastor and** is the Director of the Wesley Foundation of Tucson, serving the University of Arizona. Her first curriculum, published by Abingdon Press in 2016, is entitled “The Shout: Finding the Prophetic Voice in Unexpected Places.” Dedicated to amplifying the voices of young women, she has produced two short film series, “The Impact of Sandra Bland” and “Facing Christmas”, as well as a documentary released in 2017, “Awaken the Voice.”

***Remember Glory Dhamaraj’s study on “Creating Interfaith Community” done at Regional Schools after 9/11? UMW has been learning together with and supporting Jewish and Muslim women leaders since that time. Perhaps you all remember our riveting Muslim women speaker from the 2010 Assembly – Tayyibah Taylor. Or our 2012 campaign against hate speech where we joined 30 other interfaith organizations. Our brilliant Communications Director Yvette Moore, came up with the message for the campaign – “Hate speech is not civilized, Support peace in word and deed”. This message spread across large transportation outlets . to***

***launch, Harriett stood on the steps of City Hall and spoke with leaders of these other 30 religious partners. And she was joined that day by our third young women leader, Linda Sarsour.***

Linda is an award winning racial justice and civil rights activist, and former Executive Director of the Arab American Association of New York. She is a member of the Justice League NYC, a leading force of activists, artists, youth and formerly incarcerated individuals committed to criminal justice reform through direct action and policy advocacy. She has won numerous awards including Champion of Change from the Obama Administration. She was recognized as one of *Fortune's* 50 Greatest Leaders and featured as one of *Time Magazine's* 100 most influential people in the world in 2017. She is also a Women's Rights Activist who has mobilized large groups of women for change.