



Hosting a Mission u Action Table and Briefing

**Living Wage for All: Paid Family and Medical Leave — Support the FAMILY Act!
#PaidLeave #LivingWage4All**

United Methodist Women is partnering with *Family Values at Work* [familyvaluesatwork.org] to advocate for Paid Family and Medical Leave as part of the Living Wage for All Campaign. This is our 2019 Mission u Action, linking all three mission studies.

Setting up an Action Table:

1. Work with the Conference Social Action Coordinator or a volunteer to organize the table.
2. Be sure to order a table and chair(s) at the Mission u venue. Ensure there is Wi-Fi access at the table, and have signs on how to connect to Wi-Fi.
3. If possible, have an electronic tablet available, as participants will be sending letters to Congress digitally.
4. Sign up volunteers to staff the table during break times.
5. Announce the action, the table, and the briefing during Mission u plenary.
6. All of the resources for the action are available at: unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave
These include (choose which items to print as handouts):
 - Overview of Paid Family Leave in the United States
 - What you Can do to Help Win Paid Leave for All
 - Link to download banners to be used at Mission u action tables (see below).
Download floor or table banners for your action table at Mission u or other events!
 - How to organize a Mission u action table (attached PDF)
 - Talking Points for Congress
 - “Zero Weeks” documentary video flyer
 - **response** magazine article by Ellen Bravo
7. The volunteers should read all of these materials and view the “Zero Weeks” trailer to familiarize themselves with: a) how is this a living wage issue? b) how is this a racial justice issue? c) how does the issue impact women, youth and children? d) what is the FAMILY Act? and e) what are we asking them to do?



8. Download two banners from the United Methodist Women paid family leave website. These can be sent to a copy store to print floor banners, table signs or 11x17 copies for posting on the wall. unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave
9. Share the Living Wage infographic as a handout:
<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/Media/PDF/4CampaignsLIVING-WAGE.pdf>

What to do at the table:

1. Invite people in—encourage them to stop at the table and discover why Family Leave is a critical concern.
2. Ask people if they have stories to tell about the need for paid family leave for themselves or a loved one, including a newborn, a partner or a seriously ill parent.
3. Let them know that there is a bi-partisan effort to pass state legislation for paid family leave, and a federal bill in the House and Senate, the FAMILY Act.
4. Invite them to go to unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave on their phones or the tablets to send a letter to their Senators, encouraging them to sign on to the FAMILY Act Senate bill. There is a sample letter online which people can click and send directly to their Senators. This will also enable them to get further information from United Methodist Women on how to take action as the bill move forward. [You may want to have this URL printed in large print at the table. It is also on the handouts.]
5. Let participants know that there will be a 50-minute documentary “Zero Weeks,” which discusses the need for paid family and medical leave through people’s stories and the voices of faith leaders. This will be available to United Methodist Women in Fall 2019. Members are encouraged to host unit/church/house screenings of the video and encourage people to go to the link above and contact their members of Congress. Participants who share contact information at the link above will be notified when the video is available and how to access it.
6. If members would like to post their own story in a 1-3 minute YouTube clip on Facebook, they can get a friend to help them while at Mission u, or you can have a volunteer help them to do this, using a smartphone. They can post to United Methodist Women Economic Inequality Initiative [facebook.com/UMWEconomicInequality/]. By posting, they give permission for the video to be viewed by the public. They are also invited to submit their stories to the Family Values at Work Storybank: familyvaluesatwork.org/shareyourstory?utm_source=umwemail&utm_medium=various&utm_campaign=UMW. This helps others to understand the importance of advocating for paid leave!
7. United Methodist Women’s Living Wage for All Campaign will continue to work on this issue through 2020 and will alert members to opportunities for legislative action in their state and at the federal level.

Hosting a 30-minute briefing

Set up:

1. Work with Deans to schedule a time for the briefing and get it into the program. Have it announced in the plenary and at the Action Table.
2. Arrange to have video and sound equipment in the room (likely, a study classroom that is already set up).
3. Have a sign-up sheet—name, address, email, local church, district. The Conference United Methodist Women Social Action Coordinator can use this to follow up with those who are present about coordinated action in the future.
4. Have handouts for participants. These are available at unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave. Work with Deans to estimate how many might be needed.

Process:

1. Welcome participants. Ask them to think of a time that they, or someone in their family, needed time off for work for a newborn, to attend to their own health, or to care for others. Did their employer pay for the time off? For how long? If not, what arrangements did they make? Note that this is an issue that affects most families at some point in their lifetime, and disproportionately affects low-income workers, many of them women and people of color, who are less likely to have jobs that pay for leave time. Mention why this is a living wage issue. If there is no paid leave, a worker has zero wages when they have to take time off, affecting their jobs, their savings and their retirement plans. (10 minutes)
2. Show the “Zero Weeks” trailer. Invite a few comments—what surprised you? What did you not know? Mention that this documentary will be available through United Methodist Women national office for Fall 2019 and we are inviting members to host screenings to get people involved. They can sign up at the webpage to get details on the video and on future action opportunities. (10 minutes)
3. Encourage members to work with Deans to set up Action Tables at Mission u events (Conference, District, Local). Instructions to do this are on the web page above. Pull up the web page on the screen and walk participants through the resources on the page. unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave (5 minutes)
4. Ask them to pull out their phones, go to the web page, and right then, send a letter to their Senators asking them to support the FAMILY Act. This is the Mission u action, and also enrolls them for updates on the campaign. unitedmethodistwomen.org/paid-family-leave (5 minutes)
5. Thank them, and wish them good-bye!