

Peace and Reconciliation.....hot compost piles of hope.

Who does not pray for Peace and Reconciliation (this month's theme)? We pray for peace and reconciliation in a World that cries out these words, in our relationships with the earth, and with and for one another. How do we pray for Peace and Reconciliation when the thawing of the global permafrost is tipping the World, our home, into a new way of being. Because of global warming vast regions are reaching irreversible thresholds. What is happening in the tundra regions of the World will create monsoons in West Africa and India. As we meet, wars and political strife bring peoples to unbearable pain, displacement, and anguish. All can feel hopeless, but I want to share words of wisdom from three women actively challenging that very feeling.

So, as this month we pray for the WWC meeting together in person, we pray heartedly for Provincial Presidents, and the Provinces they represent, that in the words of Mary Oliver "Keep some room in your heart for the unimaginable." *Poetry Collection:: Evidence.*

"So here we are (all of us), the ones who get to figure it out, that get to devote ourselves to creation of a possibility of a world that does not yet exist. The only way that it comes into being is by us carrying it into being ourselves **together.**" *Joanna Macy: Podcast: We are the great turning*

"Stay with the trouble" of living and dying with each other, particularly in troubled times, so that we can build up more liveable futures in which," we require of each other unexpected collaborations and combinations in hot compost piles" *Donna Haraway: Feminist ecologist University of California.*

You may, if gardening is not your thing, explore with someone who does, the art of compost and how it is the very essence of regeneration.

Worship and bible study will be at the heart of our gathering and we will blend cultures and traditions in prayer, singing and reflection as we come united in the hands of the Creator God who

desires all good and wholeness for each of our members and their communities, (**Gen2:15; Ps 24:1; Gen1:26-28; Rom 12:15; Ps34:18; Jn.16:20; Lk.13:34; Is.2:4**)

I hang these texts on an olive tree, ancient symbol of life, aware that life, even for these ancient creatures is changing. So, one image may be of members bringing their fruits, like the olives and nurturing them in new soil and in new surroundings, that the gift of their oil may continue to heal us. So it is, that the calling of the Mothers' Union is to unite, engage with change and to bring, through our lives and future, Projects yet unseen; a World, united in prayer, worship and praise, and active in the work of peace and reconciliation; in that together we nurture in the future transformed communities of hope. Let us pray for all members travelling to Durban, for safe travel and a blessed dialogue, fruitful conversations and joyful worship in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**



