



**World Student Christian Federation-NA
&
Student Christian Movement-USA**



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Concept Paper for our 5th Annual SCM-USA Leadership Training Program

*Resisting Empire
Exodus 32*

**March 23rd-26th, 2017
Berkeley, CA, USA**



Exodus 32

"Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

Resisting Empire through:

- Resources for glo-cal activism
- Movement building with fellow Christian leaders/activists
- Connecting with SCM Alumni and Senior Leaders
- Vocation and volunteering
- Entering the movement for Black & Indigenous Lives

Scholarships available upon request!

Abstract

This document is intended to provide an outline for the 5th SCM-USA National Leadership Training Program to be held on March 23rd – 26th 2017 in Berkeley, California at the Pacific School of Religion. This gathering will be an opportunity for students, young adults and senior friends to engage in conversations around movement building locally and nationally, to discuss glo-cal activism, and to reflect theologically upon the Christian faith and how it informs social and political engagement within the context of global grassroots organizing and movement building. This event will maintain an emphasis of movement building and sustaining SCM locally and nationally, while providing participants with concrete skills and tools to engage/mobilize their region in conversations on racial justice and the intersectionality of identity surrounding it, experience spiritual growth as they engage in this Kingdom work, and develop their next faithful steps individually and for their campus/region.

Introduction

The Student Christian Movement-USA is a nascent grassroots ecumenical student movement. Its commitment to social change and development of young people through critical theological reflection and social activism is most concisely found in its Mission Statement: “The Student Christian Movement of the United States of America (SCM-USA), a member of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), is a student-led, ecumenical, grassroots organization, that actively seeks justice and peace, speaks truth to power, and works to end oppression in communities on local, national, and global levels by empowering students and young people to claim their voice, exercise leadership skills, engage in innovative theological reflection, and build transformational networks of relationship in the Church and the wider world.”

The Student Christian Movement–USA provides a space for students and young adults to be formed ecumenically, to be trained as leaders to engage in critical thinking on social issues and to reflect theologically from a contextual perspective while affirming liberation and justice-affirming theologies.

The North American Region (NAR) of the World Student Christian Federation (WSCF) is one of six regions of the WSCF. The WSCF is a global ecumenical federation of 109 national Student Christian Movements spread all over the world whose primary mission is to encourage students to foster ecumenical dialogue, engaged in critical thinking and contextual biblical and theological reflection and put faith into action.

The WSCF provides opportunities for ecumenical leadership formation, peace and justice activism and interregional exchanges. The WSCF’s mission is to empower students to be agents in the constructive transformation of the world by providing a space for prayer and celebration, theological reflection, study and analysis of social and cultural processes, and solidarity and action across the boundaries of culture, gender and ethnicity.

SCM seeks to live out the vision of the Christian faith while supporting ecumenism and diversity in spiritual practices. The Student Christian Movement-USA is set to re-emerge as a vibrant, functioning national movement fully integrated with the work of the WSCF and to take its place

in the continuing struggle for liberation and justice for all peoples. We are non-dogmatic and are accepting of diverse spiritual backgrounds, ethnicities, sexual and gender identities and economic situations.

Purpose

For students and faith leaders across the U.S. to attain skills on movement building for campus-level engagement on faith-rooted organizing through SCM-USA through this leadership training program and connect with a global network and community provided by WSCF.

- To introduce the work of SCM to participants and provide resources for them to commit to bring an SCM chapter to their region
- To provide current SCM leaders with training on sustaining/re-igniting the movement on their campus and community
- To engage participants in discussion on the theme and analyzing its impact in their region
- To worship amongst a diverse family of God through musical worship and studying scripture
- To help participants develop their next “faithful step” post-LTP with resources and connections with the SCM/WSCF network of leaders and senior friends
- To share resources with participants on organizing and leading their community in discussions on racial justice
- To provide a time for participants to hear from God through individual reflection and communal engagement

Program Objectives & Indicators

Objective 1: For participants to commit to supporting the work of SCM and strategize on building the movement in their region

Indicator: Host 60-80 participants at the Leadership Training Program

- Desire to remain involved in SCM through committing to their local chapter, creating a chapter in their region, and sustaining the SCM chapter(s)
- Form regional group to strategize and be accountable to the commitment of movement building through SCM
- Willingness to provide follow-up on next steps with SCM leaders/senior friends and the national movement
- Commitment to engage in faith-rooted justice and organizing on campus and their church community

Objective 2: For participants to engage in the trainings provided by local organizers and their peers

Indicator: Participants will receive training through workshops

- Make connections with local leaders/organizers on best practices moving forward
- Share next faithful step (i.e. sharing the training received in their community, building SCM on their local campus, etc.)
- Learn new skills on organizing in a student-led, ecumenical organization

Objective 3: For participants to engage deeply with the theme of *Resisting Empire* through scriptural study, social analysis, and reflection

Indicator: Small groups will be created for participants to share their experience in this space

- Resources will be provided for planning and strategizing
- Small group leaders will help participants to reflect on the impact of the sessions in their personal lives and community
- Participants will have a framework for engaging with racial justice issues and intersectional issues in their faith community and campus

Objective 4: For participants to contribute their voice to the focus on racial justice

Indicator: Participants will form a strategy on how to utilize the SCM/WSCF network to build the movement in their region

- Commit to implementing an SCM Chapter in their region or craft a project surrounding the issues discussed
- Remain connected with SCM leadership for guidance and network to organize
- Connect with movements surrounding BLM and Native lives in their region

Objective 5: For participants to make a group commitment to building on theme discussed in their region

Indicator: Draft a public statement to be released by WSCF/SCM in regards to the commitment to advocacy work and faith-rooted organizing on behalf of the LTP 2017 Class. Letter will include intentional next steps in the regions represented.

Project Description

Title: *Resisting Empire*

Theme: *Racial Justice and Indigenous People's Rights*

Scriptural Focus: *Exodus 32*

"Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

The SCM-USA Leadership Training Program will continue its focus on Racial Justice and Indigenous People's Rights for is 50-80 participants. The attendees will reflect on the intersectional fight of Black Lives Matter and the Native/Indigenous Movement that has been unfolding worldwide for the past 4 years. From Ferguson to North Dakota, this fight is not new, but it has been digitized and propelled our youth to the forefront of our modern-day Civil Rights

movement. As the attendees hear about the issues facing us in this Kingdom movement for justice and righteousness to rain down, they will also examine how they can resist the empire in their vocation, studies, analysis, and move forward with the tools gained to engage in movement building through SCM-USA in their region. Militarism and capitalism are two of the underlying ills working against justice being realized for our Black and Native family. This training will be a time to hear from each other and leaders in the Bay Area, who will be presenting workshops on what resisting empire looks like on the ground, committing to doing same, and calling others to resist with us.

Components of the conference:

a) Plenary Sessions

The conference will keynote speakers who will hone in on our theme of *Resisting Empire* through glo-cal grassroots organizing, national movement building, and engaging with our scriptural text found in Exodus 32.

b) Thematic workshops

There will be several workshops taking place that will focus on aspects of grassroots organizing. They will be led by expert participants and local faith-rooted organizers who have engaged with the theme of resisting empire in their vocation and on campus. The workshops will be a starting point for participants to reflect on their next steps on what God is calling them to do in their community through SCM post-LTP. Participants will connect with local leaders to network and hear their experience on movement building.

c) Liturgy, music and prayer

The WSCF is a space to explore creative worship, read the Bible critically and learn new theological insights. Bible study and theological reflections are integral part of the life of the Federation. During this conference we will worship God, creating space for the Holy Spirit to speak and move, acknowledging our common belief in Christ, and confessing our need for God's presence and action in our community. Our times of worship also serve as exposure to the many denominations, cultures and traditions that we represent, and an opportunity to enter in the experience of our family facing injustices locally and globally.

e) Venue and Date

The conference will be held at Pacific School of Religion from March 23rd-26th 2017. Housing will be available at the Downtown Berkeley YMCA. Participants will arrive on March 23rd and depart on March 26th after 2 pm.

e) Participants

The leadership conference will be an intergenerational event where participants of various intersecting identities will interact with WSCF/SCM Senior Friends and other partners on issues surrounding global organizing and movement building.

Support Needed and Costs

The WSCF-NA will raise funds to allow as many people as possible to attend this conference. Students will also be encouraged to do their own fundraising, travel pooling, etc.

Contact Information and Registration

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To Register for the conference:

<http://www.scm-usa.org>

Location: Pacific School of Religion
1798 Scenic Ave, Berkeley, CA 94709

Housing Needed:

Current Students: \$250.00
Campus Ministers: \$280.00
Other individuals: \$295.00

No Housing Needed:

Current Students: \$125.00
Campus Ministers: \$150.00
Other individuals: \$200.00

Flat rate per day attendance of the Conference is \$35.00 (includes lunch/dinner)

Limited scholarships for students and young adults are available