

In partnership  
with WNY District  
of The Wesleyan  
Church

## Urban Advocacy

Buffalo, NY  
December, 2018



Thank you for  
your prayers:

- For Mission of Christ Church—for provision of mature leaders and unity of Spirit and vision.
- For Grace Community Church—for Pastor Barbara Farrow, and son, Michael, who have stepped into leadership there
- For staff and students at Houghton College Buffalo—at Symphony Circle, Hope House, and the future site on the East Side
- For the Spiritual Care team at Jericho Road Community Health Center—to demonstrate Jesus' love to our neighbors from Buffalo and around the world

*Opportunities  
for Service—  
please see  
back*

## Houghton College Buffalo: Shaping Ethical Leaders

Racism, violence, and gentrification are among the complex ethical issues faced by our city. Thoughtful leaders are needed to guide us into the future. This semester, Houghton College Buffalo students debated the effects of gentrification on urban neighborhoods, both helpful and harmful. They grappled with the reality that even the good we do to make neighborhoods safer and to bring economic renewal can be like a “water bottle in the desert” if we don’t make our cities better for everyone. This thought provoking and well-argued debate empowered students to engage as community change agents.

Julian Cook teaches the class, “Governing the City,” which set the stage for the debate. A graduate of



The “Great Debate” -Houghton College Buffalo at 1 Symphony Circle

Houghton College ('13), and Boston University ('18) Julian is initiating a third Houghton Buffalo program, Fall of 2019, on Buffalo's East Side to develop students as ethical leaders for civic engagement.

Hope Campus, Houghton's second site in Buffalo, serves the formerly incarcerated and has 14 students. Begun in 2017, Hope Campus, works in collaboration with Peaceprints of WNY, a non-profit organization offering comprehensive reentry services to men and women involved in the criminal justice system. Rebekah Kimble (H.C. grad, '15, Masters—U.B.), offers capable leadership at Hope Campus.

Since mid-September Steve has served as interim dean of Houghton College Buffalo with the support of its capable team of staff members.

## Following Jesus

Mission of Christ Wesleyan Church, under the leadership of Pastor Yoshua Bashizi, continues to influence and positively impact young lives. This last August, six young people chose to follow Jesus in baptism. Several of the young people have become

involved in the ministry of the church as choir members and Children's Church leaders.



To give online, please click here:

[wnydistrict.com](http://wnydistrict.com)

(mission—Urban Advocacy)

OR mail to:

The WNY District of the Wesleyan Church  
4669 Pinecrest Terrace  
Eden, NY 14057

*Thank you for your faithful prayers  
and giving*

Urban Advocacy  
363 14th St., upper  
Buffalo, NY 14213

Phone: 716-640-2238 (Steve)  
Email: strandsc@gmail.com

Phone: 716-640-5306 (Ruth)  
E-mail: rewoolseystrand@gmail.com

#### Ways for you to connect in Buffalo:

1. Join in the ministry at *House of Grace* through facility maintenance or sponsoring a game night for community young people.
2. Volunteer with *Jericho Road Community Health Center*—mentor an at risk mom as she prepares to welcome a new baby, become an English tutor, or support the work at *Vive* (housing for asylum seekers) through help with facility maintenance, offering childcare or leading a fitness class. ([www.jrchc.org](http://www.jrchc.org))
3. Be a coach in the *Work Readiness* program of 716 Ministries, coming alongside community members who are seeking stable employment. ([www.716ministries.org](http://www.716ministries.org))
4. Provide modeling and coaching support for young people at *Mission of Christ* who serve in the Children's Church program.

For more info on involvement, please contact us.



**Mission of Christ Children after reenactment of the story of Naomi and Ruth**

*Blessed Christmas and New Year to you, your families and communities! We are deeply grateful for your faithful prayers, partnership in ministry and generous giving.*

*Steve and Ruth Strand*