

Justice Ministry Update - January 2021

Happy New Year from the Justice Ministry of Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church! As we look forward to a brighter year in 2021 we'd like to bring your attention to a couple of opportunities to engage for justice this month.

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC)

Here is an opportunity to take some tangible action. Cincinnati Action for Housing Now, a collaborative effort between MARCC, the Affordable Housing Advocates, and the Homeless Coalition, is still going strong on its ballot initiative to dedicate \$50 million each year into a citywide housing trust fund. After attending nearly 100 community events since initiating the petitioning cycle in June, the campaign now has 6200 signatures and will continue collecting signatures through February. MARCC has received a small grant to support a paid petition collector, and this person canvassed at various congregation-sponsored food and toy drive events through the holiday season.

The affordable housing crisis is the leading cause of homelessness. Show your support for this campaign! During January, one can sign the petition at the Homeless Coalition office, 117 E 12th Street in Over-the-Rhine. You can also follow the campaign on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter although a quick check of Facebook at this writing shows information has yet to be updated since the holidays.

Enhance Your Ability to Conduct Inter-racial Conversations

Here is an informational opportunity recommended by one of our leadership team, albeit it on a short fuse. Dr. Amanda Kemp, founder of Racial Justice from the Heart, is leading a webinar entitled:

HOW WHITE WOMEN CAN TALK WITH WOMEN OF COLOR ABOUT RACE

The webinar requests a voluntary registration fee of your own choosing. The short fuse comment relates to the fact that the webinars end tomorrow evening, Monday, January 4. There are several time slots on Monday.

[Register Here](#)

For a shorter time commitment at no cost, we can recommend Dr. Kemp's TED talk at this link.

[Amand Kern TEDx talk](#)

The talk dates from 2017 and serves to remind us that our challenges to racial justice are persistent and enduring.

Community Partnerships

Forging into the new year, the Justice Ministry will continue allying itself with and supporting a subset of the many community organizations whose missions promote justice in the Cincinnati area. As with the MARCC activity mentioned above, we hope to point out ways for you to be informed and supportive. That list with links to the respective websites is:

[Interfaith Justice and Peace Center of Cincinnati](#) - IJPC educates and advocates for peace, challenges unjust local, national, and global systems, and promotes the creation of a non-violent society.

[Amos Project](#) - Amos is a coalition of religious organizations and individuals organizing and advocating for the disadvantaged in our community.

[YWCA of Greater Cincinnati](#) - The YW advocates on public policy that directly advances its mission and vision and clearly promotes three signature platforms: **Health & Safety of Women and Girls, Empowerment & Economic Advancement of Women & Girls, and Racial Justice & Civil Rights.**

[All-In Cincinnati](#) - Organized through the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, All-In Cincinnati aims to deepen, amplify, and multiply local and regional efforts to build equitable, thriving neighborhoods.

[Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati](#) - Entering its 53rd year, MARCC provides a way for the religious community to speak in one voice to make compassion and reconciliation felt through constructive community action and the development of a community conscience.

[Urban League of Greater Southwest Ohio](#) - The Urban League has served the region's underserved populations since 1948. The League is recognized as the oldest and largest community-based organization devoted to empowering African American individuals and families. It is currently focused on workforce development, training, youth and financial services.

Stay tuned for more information on opportunities to be supportive of these organizations and their missions.

We take a hopeful look forward into the coming year envisioning a time when we will, once again, be able to gather for enlightenment and action in the cause of justice and equity.

Best wishes for a healthy and just 2021,
HPCUMC Justice Ministry