

## **Hyde Park Community UMC Justice Ministry News for April, 2021**

Greetings. Here is an update on things happening with the Justice Ministry and organizations around Cincinnati that we are supporting.

### **Over 200 Take Lenten Justice Challenge**

We commend the many of you who have joined in and are wrapping up our first Lenten Justice Challenge, *Lent 2021: Leaning Into Justice*. We hope this has been informative, troubling and inspiring. Kudos to Rev. Kate Smith, of the Hyde Park Community UMC ministerial staff, and Janice Kummer for their countless hours of identifying, culling, writing, organizing and presenting the materials in the Challenge. For those of you among the 200+ participants, keep leaning these last few days!

### **Greater Cincinnati Foundation Presents Racial Equity Training Sessions; Next Date April 28 and 29**

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation, parent organization to All-In Cincinnati, has been sponsoring a series of training events under the title “Racial Equity Matters”. The events have been held periodically beginning in 2019 and consist of multiple parts. The introduction session is a 3.5 hour Groundwater session which is complemented by Phase I and Phase II sessions, deeper dives which take place over two days each. A calendar of virtual sessions has been scheduled for the remainder of 2021 and all fees have been waived due to generous gifts from Foundation donors. The session coming up on April 28 and 29 is a Phase I. The next Groundwater session is scheduled for June 18.

[\*Racial Equity Matters Info and Registration\*](#)

### **Upcoming Events Regarding Ohio Death Penalty**

In concert with the Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center of Cincinnati (IJPC), the Justice Ministry is ramping up and promoting several activities designed to raise awareness and action toward abolishing Ohio’s death penalty.

## ***Good Friday (April 2) Pilgrimage***



# **WAY OF THE CROSS FOR JUSTICE**

No more death penalty

Join in this **self-guided Good Friday pilgrimage** connecting the suffering of Jesus with the suffering brought about by injustice in our day.

**Friday April 2, anytime between 12:00-2:00 PM**  
**St. Francis Seraph Church**  
**1615 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202**

Beginning at St. Francis Seraph Church and continuing at nine stops along the Cincinnati Bell Connector streetcar route, read reflections on your smartphone or printed materials.

This self-guided pilgrimage can be done at any time of the day that is convenient for you, via bike, walking, car, or streetcar, and can be done individually or in small groups. The streetcar arrives at every station at 12-15 minute intervals.

**Contributions support IJPC's work to end Ohio's death penalty.**

### **Thank you to our partners:**

**Bellarmino Chapel**  
**Christ Church Cathedral**  
**Clifton United Methodist Church**  
**Congregation of Divine Providence**  
**God Space Community**  
**Intercommunity Justice and Peace Center (IJPC)**  
**St. Francis Seraph Church**



Scan this image to access the  
2021 Program. Available 3/26

Questions? [Allison@IJPCcincinnati.org](mailto:Allison@IJPCcincinnati.org) or 513-864-5784

## ***April 26 and May 3: JM Book Study and Death Penalty Presentation by IJPC***

The Justice Ministry will sponsor a study and Zoom discussion of Anthony Ray Hinton's *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row*. Wrongly accused of multiple murders in 1985, Hinton was freed from a death sentence in an Alabama prison in 2015 with help from Bryan Stevenson's Equal Justice Initiative. After serving his first three years in silence and despair on Death Row he transformed his spirit and

those of many fellow inmates. His story was highlighted among several modern day “Holy Troublemakers”, in a recent Lenten virtual retreat held by HPCUMC. Sadly, Hinton’s story is one of many regarding wrongly convicted people on Death Row.

Source and read Hinton’s book now and then join in the discussion to be held on Monday evening, April 26, 7:00-8:30 via Zoom.

[\*Get More Info and Register for Book Study\*](#)

A week following the Zoom book discussion the Justice Ministry will host a Zoom presentation by IJPC highlighting their longstanding advocacy for abolishing the death penalty in Ohio. Hear from IJPC’s executive director and others actively engaged in campaigns to abolish the death penalty and learn how you can get involved in supporting this effort.

[\*Register for the IJPC Presentation\*](#)

## **Support MARCC in Campaign for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Charter Amendment**

The Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati (MARCC) is a key advocate of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Charter Amendment. The campaign to pass this charter amendment has been, and continues to be, a grassroots and community-driven initiative. This means that everyone involved is local, and that the money to pay for campaign activities is also local. It is a campaign almost exclusively facilitated by volunteers. Over 200 community members helped with collecting the 9500+ signatures, either on the frontlines with the clipboard and petition forms, or behind the scenes making phone calls, photocopies, and training videos. More effort is needed to turn supportive voters out to the polls on May 4.

### ***Volunteer Opportunities Through April 4***

Immediate volunteer needs are for door-to-door voter registration in Walnut Hills, the West End and Avondale through Sunday, April 4. The deadline for new registrations is Monday, April 5. Volunteers will be paired with another person to drop literature and identify supportive voters. We will focus on the neighborhoods of Hyde Park, Northside, Oakley, Westwood, Clifton, Avondale, Walnut Hills, the West End, and Over the Rhine. Training will be provided.

To sign up as a volunteer, go to the website: [www.actionforhousing.com/volunteer](http://www.actionforhousing.com/volunteer)

When you get to this website, you will see short descriptions for the two volunteer teams. You will also see green buttons below the short description of both teams. Click this button. It will open another window into a Google Form. Complete the Google Form. This form sends an email to the Volunteer Engagement Coordinator, Laura Kresslein. She will get back to you over either telephone or email to follow up with a quick conversation.

### **AMOS Zoom Discussion on Affordable Housing Amendment - April 13**

Want to hear additional perspectives about Issue 3, the Cincinnati Charter amendment regarding affordable housing? The AMOS Project has added its voice in support of Issue 3. Join AMOS members from Greater Cincinnati on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00PM for a discussion of the issues and the proposed solutions. Register for the info session [HERE](#). Pledge your support to the AMOS efforts [HERE](#).

### **Anderson Organizations to Hold April 13 Zoom Event on Anti-Semitism**

The Greater Anderson Peace Project and Anderson Churches for Racial Unity announce their latest program to be held via Zoom on Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00PM. *Hate at Home: Anti-Semitism and Why it Matters Today* explains how Anti-Semitism has changed over time. Justin Kirschner from the Jewish Community Relations Council and Jodi Elowitz from the Holocaust and Humanities Center will be guest speakers. Justin and Jodi have put this program together as a way to inspire their listeners in combatting Anti-Semitism and other forms of extremism in their own communities. Please join this discussion on a topic of interest in the local, as well as the national, community. Register at <https://hateathome.eventbrite.com> This is a virtual event and the link will be sent out the day before the program.

Peace and Justice to you,  
HPCUMC Justice Ministry