

December 2017 Newsletter

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Get involved, get informed, act together!



May 2017 Celebration. Clergy, Team Leaders, and Network Members came together to celebrate another amazing year by sharing a meal, playing games, telling our own story, and investing in the Justice Ministry. Over \$37,000 dollars were turned in as of that night - great job guys!!

CAJM is a growing network of faith-based congregations who come together with one goal: to make the Charleston area more just. We are culturally, economically, geographically, and religiously, diverse. Together, we speak with one powerful voice for justice for our community.

2017 Investment Drive
Goal: to exceed \$95,000
Received so far: ~\$87,000

Please consider a year-end donation *today!*



Mail checks to:

CAJM
PO BOX 71416
North Charleston, SC 29415

*To donate online,
click the link:*

[Givelify](#)

CAJM now accepts stocks!

Please contact our treasurer, LuAnn Rosenzweig, at LuAnnRosen@gmail.com for more information or with any questions.

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Issues Updates

Housing (CAJM's newest issue!)

During our 2017 Listening Process, hundreds shared personal experiences of

problems with housing. On November 13th, over 600 members of CAJM gathered and voted for housing as the most pressing problem that CAJM will tackle for the year. On December 19th, the Housing Full Committee voted unanimously to narrow down the housing research to **affordability** and **gentrification**. Our research in housing is ongoing. We will continue to narrow our focus to fully understand the problems that exist and work to identify best practices in solving these problems.

Racial Discrimination in Policing Practices



Over 50 people came out on November 28, 2017 all the way to Daniel Island for the Charleston City Council vote on a new contract for a police racial bias audit - and CAJM made history again as it passed **UNANIMOUSLY!**

Need more of an illustration of people power than this awesome photo? Just this past June 20th the vote for the new Request for Proposal (RFP) failed 5-7. But the vote changed in November because so many people continued to press City Council. The dedication of all who have pursued this issue for 2+ years is incredible! Thank you everyone!

A committee has been assembled that will meet in the new year to finalize the scope of work for the police audit then send out a new RFP. We'll keep following up to make sure the scope is sufficient so the RFP can be sent out ASAP for firms to start bidding, and hopefully finally get this audit started spring of 2018! Last month's vote by Charleston City Council was the first step toward addressing racial bias in police practices. We must continue to be persistent to see this audit through and begin to take the steps necessary to push North Charleston in the right direction as well.

Education

At the 2016 Nehemiah Action we gained commitments from the Charleston County School District (CCSD) School Board to implement 2 programs: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and Restorative Practices. CCSD committed to implementing these programs district wide over a five-year period. Both of these programs help schools move away from a punitive disciplinary atmosphere to one of positive, respectful relationships between students, staff, and administration. During the 2016-17 school year, all elementary and middle schools were trained in PBIS; during the current school year, all the high schools received training. The school district has 8 coaches assisting with the implementation of PBIS. A full-time Restorative Practices Coordinator was hired and trained to initiate Restorative Practices in 5 pilot schools this year. Additional staff will receive training in January 2018 for a total of 11 staff fully trained in Restorative Practices. CAJM is working closely with the school district to continue rolling out this program to additional schools next year.

CAJM and CCSD are planning a family-friendly, community-wide event in March 2018. *“Believe, Empower, Transform: Benefits of Restorative Practices”* will include information and demonstrations of Restorative Practice Circles and other techniques. Join us and other families to learn about restorative practices and to contribute ideas in the early stages of implementation. Stay tuned for more details!

In the meantime, click [here](#) to watch a 5-minute video on Restorative Practices in schools. For more videos and information on Restorative Practices from the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), click [here](#).

*“Another world is not only possible; she is on her way.
On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.” -- Arundhati Roy*

CAJM Organizer Spotlight



Kayla Gilchrist left CAJM in January to become the lead organizer with [MORE Justice: Midlands Organized Response for Equity and Justice](#) in Columbia. They're off to an amazing start. How lucky we are to know someone who makes saying goodbye so hard.



[Brandon Chapman](#) joined CAJM in January and is doing a fantastic job as CAJM's newest Associate Organizer. A Mt. Pleasant native, Brandon graduated cum laude from the College of Charleston with double majors in Political Science and African American Studies.

CAJM is supported by the following corporate investors:



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