



Welcome our new organizer, Niki



We are excited to welcome to the CAJM staff organizer Niki Van Aller. Niki has spent most of their time in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and is joining CAJM from a background in peace and racial justice advocacy. Niki attended Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia, graduating in 2017 with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science & English. Since then, Niki got to work on a range of issues, such as environmental protection, voting rights, police accountability, and advancing diplomacy ahead of unnecessary war. Niki has experience collaborating with faith-based groups, helping everyday people learn how to engage in power-building, and strengthening bonds between a variety of organizations and leaders in pursuit of a common cause. Niki looks forward to connecting with the people of Charleston and working together to build a more just community for all. Nikki's first day with CAJM is Monday. Reach to them at niki@thedartcenter.com and extend a warm welcome!

Uncovering self-interests: Reflections from Rickey Dennis on the annual Justice Ministry Conference

What are your self-interests?



CAJM staff and members recently attended the annual Justice Ministry Conference in Hebron, Kentucky, where organizations within the Direct Action Research and Training Center engaged in sessions that offered necessary tools for building relationships, raising investments, and tackling community issues. We also learned how to better uncover people's self-interests.

Self-interests refers to the concerns that motivates people to act. We all have self-interests based upon our personal values, such as fairness, equity, diversity, fulfilling biblical mandates. Other self-interests are survival-based, such as the desire to live in a safe neighborhood, or to make a living wage.

In one training session at the conference - I did a mock one-on-one with an South Carolina Baptist pastor who asked questions about why I had entered the field of justice - I learned more about my own self-interests. I recalled the anger I first felt when

I learned how Jesus had been co-opted by the institutional church in our nation to promote slavery, sexism, etc. This anger has created a self-interest that motivates me to be involved in a justice ministry that sees congregations as a tool of liberation rather than sources of oppression.

What are your self-interests? What motivates you to pursue justice? Your self interests might be based on your own religious convictions from your respective faith traditions - Judaism, Islam, Agnosticism, Atheism, etc. You probably also have self-interests that are survival based, such as the desire for people to afford a home. When we act on our self-interests, they help us live out the call of the Divine to love one another.

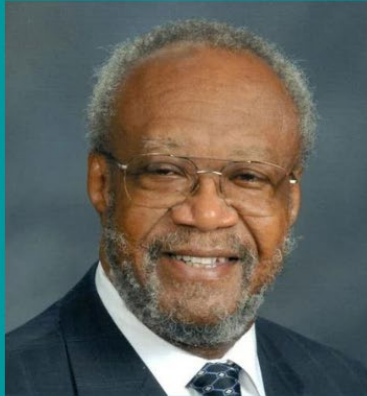
Support CAJM with your 2023 investment!

[**Click here to invest!**](#)

Investing in CAJM

Charleston Area Justice Ministry

Why I Invest

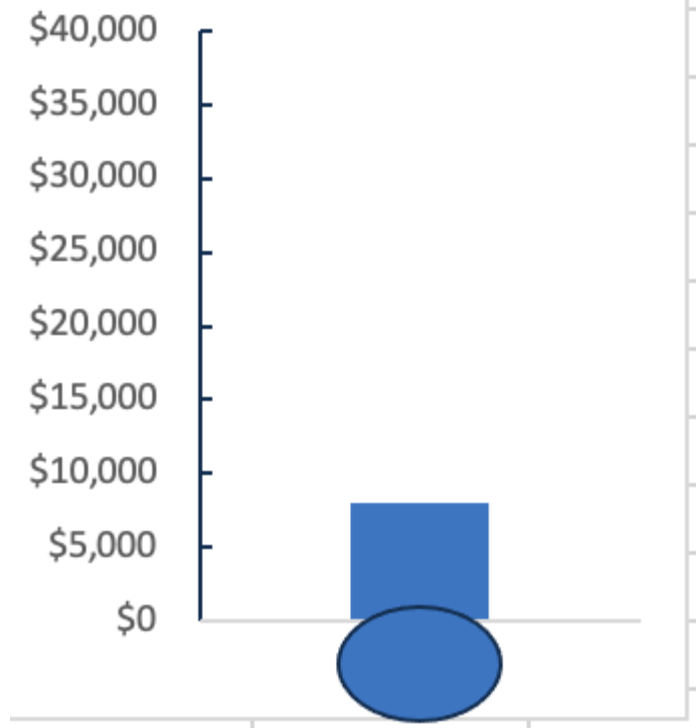


If you're going to (talk about helping people who have been marginalized), then at some point you have to put your money where your mouth is. I think CAJM is a good place to put your money where your mouth is.

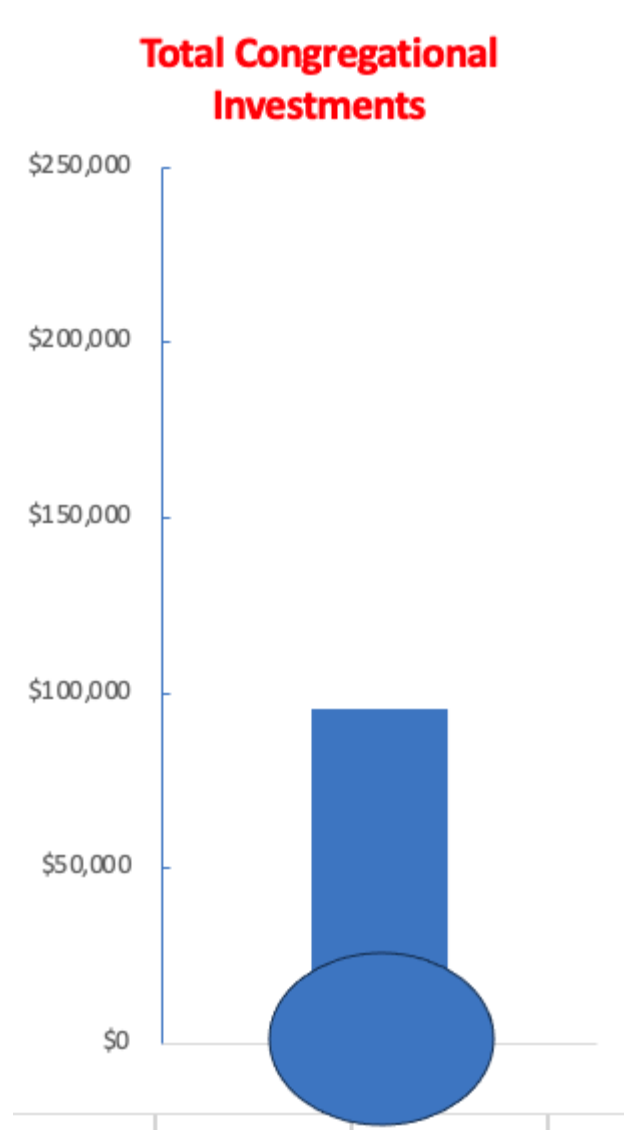
Rev. Joseph A. Darby



Congregational Investments



We're making progress. So far, we've raised \$8,051.63 **towards our Sept. 5 goal** of \$35,000 of congregational investments. This amounts to about \$7,000 raised in the last two weeks. Whoop, whoop! Keep up the good work. Remember, we invest in CAJM that we might be investing in ourselves and our communities!



We've raised \$95,487 towards our overall goal of \$250,000 in investments.

Featured Issue: Policing



CAJM's full Policing Committee recently met with North Charleston's new police chief Greg Gomes to discuss the racial bias audit, the disparities among African Americans regarding use of force, and Gomes' commitment to see through implementations of the audit. [See notes from the entire meeting by clicking here.](#)



The Charleston Police Department and the Citizen Police Advisory Council have put out a survey for the community to understand the community's perception of police. Follow this [link](#) to fill out the survey.

Upcoming Research Visits

We encourage all CAJM members to join us for research visits and full committee meetings! Email dorightcajm@gmail.com to be connected with our research committees, and/or use the links below to sign up to attend.

CAJM and Charleston Police Department to co-host Community Meeting

What: CPD will present racial bias data on stops, as well as department changes that have taken place since the racial bias audit.

When: Sept. 18 @6:30p.m.

Location: TBA

Open to the entire community

[Sign up for this meeting here](#)



Meeting with Charleston Mayoral Candidate Peter Shahid

When: Aug. 8

Pre-meeting: 1 p.m.

Meeting: 2 p.m.

Where: Sign up [here](#)

Full Flooding Committee Meeting



When: Aug 22, 5 p.m.
Where: Zoom
RSVP: Sign up [here](#).



Full Policing Committee Meeting

When: Aug 22, 6 p.m.
Where: Zoom
RSVP: Sign up [here](#).



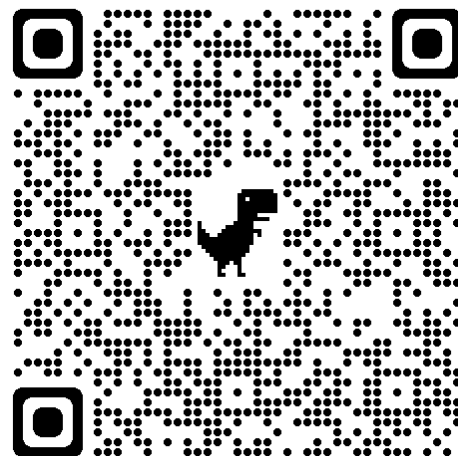
Do you want to lead a corporate visit?

If you'd like to be a spokesperson for an upcoming corporate visit, reach out to Raynique Syas at raynique@thedartcenter.org.

New to CAJM and want more information?

We are so glad you are here, and we'd love to connect you with a CAJM Team Leader!

Use the QR code to the right, or follow [this link](#), to fill out a short survey so that we can match you with the Team Leader who best fits your needs.



NETWORK
MEMBER

CALLS TO ACTION

ATTEND **FOUR** ORGANIZATION-WIDE EVENTS

4

Community Problems Assembly | October 30 @ 7pm

Rally | March 18 @ 7 p.m.

Nehemiah Action | April 15 @ 7pm

Celebration | May 20 @ 6:30pm

**Your congregation will also have a congregational Network Meeting in January or February before the Rally, date TBD*

3

bRING **THREE** PEOPLE TO THE NEHEMIAH ACTION

2

INVEST **\$200** IN THE WORK (OR AN AMOUNT THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU)

1

SO WE CAN COME TOGETHER AS **ONE** UNIFIED VOICE FOR JUSTICE IN THE LOWCOUNTRY

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