



CAJM is hiring!

CAJM is hiring our first-ever Communications Director! Join our growing team and help us to bring justice to the Lowcountry. We are looking for passionate, driven candidates with exceptional verbal and written communications skills to develop and implement CAJM's comprehensive communication strategy. The role will include: building a strong social, visual, and print media presence; developing relationships with the media to help amplify CAJM's message and brand and spread it to a larger audience; and create communications materials to help CAJM leaders energize, inform, and motivate their congregations and communities. [Click here for the full job description.](#)

Interested? Email a cover letter and resume to cajm.hiring@gmail.com. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until April 12, so get yours in ASAP!

Nehemiah Action Recap

Did you miss this year's Nehemiah Action? If so, you missed a powerful night of progress being made on the important issues we are

working toward in our community! We kicked off the night being welcomed into the event by our wonderful CAJM Choir under the direction of Rev. Rossilind Daniels of Charity Missionary Baptist Church. We thank her immensely for her talented direction and leadership.

We were then reminded by Rabbi Stephani Alexander of Kahal Kadosh Beth Elohim of our call to be holy and to do justice. She reflected,

"How do we become holy? By caring for the less fortunate. By sharing our privileges and blessings. By removing obstacles and creating opportunity. By protecting others' dignity. By demonstrating respect for one another and dealing with one another with honesty and integrity. We become holy through acts of righteousness, through acts of love and kindness, through acts of justice. We become holy by acts of repair in a broken world."



With that reminder, we then went into our negotiations!

Our healthcare committee was the first to give us an update on the progress being made toward getting two mobile healthcare units into our underserved community. Dr. Moxley of Roper St. Francis was in attendance to share with us the mobile unit they are funding is scheduled to be in operation by MLK Day of 2024! There will be many more features than in a basic mobile health unit, and they are excited

by the partnership with Fetter Healthcare Network to serve the community in this necessary capacity.

Next, we heard from our housing committee. Charleston County has just released the very first comprehensive housing plan to address the housing crisis. The Housing Our Future Plan is significant not just because it is a step in the right direction for attacking high housing costs and the deficit in the amount of available housing, but it also includes as a top priority the establishment of an affordable housing trust fund! This is what CAJM has been pushing for since 2017! Councilman Rob Wehrman joined us to reaffirm his commitment to affordable housing. He agreed to vote to approve the Housing Our Future Plan and assure it includes the establishment of a recurring funded affordable housing trust fund, and champion the trust fund being established within a year of the HOF Plan's adoption.

Then, we heard from our environmental justice committee which is working to save Gadsden Creek. Gadsden Creek is situated right beside the community of Gadsden Green on the Westside. This community has been continually harmed by the decisions of the City of Charleston through such actions as creating a city dump on top of an existing waterway and seizing many black owned homes in the 1930s.

CAJM is fighting to restore Gadsden Creek back to its original beauty and function, and to revitalize the area as has been done in other affluent areas of Charleston. City Councilmen Keith Waring and Stephen Bowden were in attendance to answer three questions:

Will you commit to stopping the filling of Gadsden Creek and championing its restoration, commit to restore and beautify Gadsden Creek in a way that prevents further tidal flooding, especially as it impacts the community Gadsden Green and the Westside, work with the community to design a pedestrian greenway along the creek to the Ashley River, to reconnect the Gadsden Green community to the water?

Councilman Waring answered YES, and Councilman Bowden said that he would be open to hearing about an alternate plan for restoring and revitalizing Gadsden Creek. But that doesn't mean the work is done. We still need to get the majority of City Council and the Mayor on board! Stay tuned for upcoming meetings and ways to get involved in our continuing fight.

We then had our policing committee for the City of Charleston and North Charleston. This issue is challenging the results of the racial bias audits lack of implementation progress. Unfortunately, due to a health emergency Chief Reynolds of the Charleston Police Department was unable to attend. However, Councilmen Waring and Bowden were there and committed to holding Chief Reynolds accountable to share accurate data from the audit with the community via stakeholder meetings every 6 months and to engage with the community in a meaningful way.

North Charleston's Chief of Police Reggie Burgess was also in attendance with Councilmembers Mike Brown and Rhonda Jerome. They all committed to holding and participating in community meetings every six months, implementing the recommendations to overhaul the police department's complaint process, and develop a co-response model to ensure other appropriate professionals are responding to mental health crises!

Last but not least, was our education campaign. We have been engaging with the Charleston County School District for years to combat the high suspension and expulsion rates of black and brown kids. The research at that time showed that black and brown kids were 8-10x more likely to be suspended or expelled from school than their white classmates. Our research led us to Restorative Practices, and the results have been stellar so far! RP is a research-based approach to building positive relationships to prevent disciplinary issues before they can start. And where there is an issue, with RP there is an appropriate consequence and a focus on repairing and restoring relationships. Superintendent Kennedy joined us to share how well the implementation of RP has been going. As of now 800 CCSD staff have

been trained in RP and there are systems and trainers in place to continue this progress. Superintendent Kennedy continued to support the 3 year implementation plan, sharing the data on the suspension rates, and along with CAJM hosting a stakeholder meeting over the summer to share progress on the program.

It was an amazing night with a lot of progress and commitments, but the work of justice does not end there! We will gather again on May 15 at the Hanahan Amphitheater to celebrate our wins, and continue to plan for the future.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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 a research committee, and/or use the links below to sign up to attend.



Research Meeting with Charleston County Councilman Rev. Kylon Middleton

What: To discuss HOF Plan

When: Thursday, April 13th @ 1pm

Where: TBD

RSVP: [Click here to RSVP](#)

It's not too early to get started on your 2023 CAJM investment!

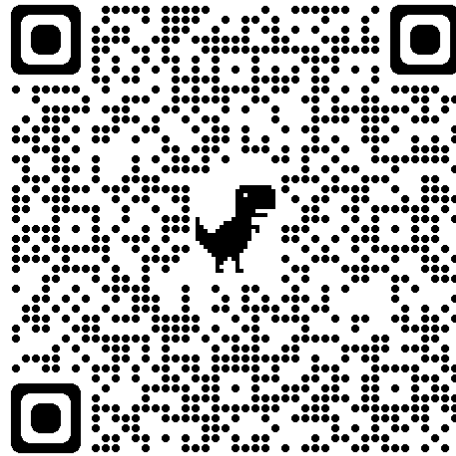


[Click here to invest!](#)

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.



Community Board

Metanoia is hiring!

Metanoia is hiring! They have three opportunities for college students that wish to make the difference in the lives of children by using culturally responsive techniques, rooted in the 1960s Freedom School Movement.

They are looking for approximately three changemakers willing to commit to a summer of service through the Metanoia Freedom School Servant Leader Intern position! This paid internship (\$17/hr) is perfect for a college student that is interested in advocacy and/or education as well as engaged and active in the campus or greater Charleston community!

Dynamic, life-changing 4-day professional development opportunity for national training with the Ella Baker Child Policy Institute in Tennessee (May 31-June 4) provided by Metanoia.

[Click here for the job listing.](#)

**Watch the world premiere of a play
about Charleston native and civil rights activist
Septima P. Clark**

Click the flier below for more information.

SEPTIMA

BY PATRICIA WILLIAMS DOCKERY



**"WE NEED TO BE
TAUGHT TO STUDY
RATHER THAN
BELIEVE, TO INQUIRE
RATHER THAN
TO AFFIRM."**

SEPTIMA
POINSETTE
CLARK

WORLD PREMIERE
OF A NEW PLAY ABOUT THE MOTHER OF
THE AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

DIRECTED BY SHARON GRACI

PURETHEATRE.ORG

MARCH 10-APRIL 1, 2023

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