



## When We Show Up, We Win! CAJM Education Update

Hey CAJM folks,

Big thanks to all who came out to the Nehemiah Action on May 5th! Y'all really showed up, and it made a huge difference for our school governance work. When Board Member Darlene Roberson calls us "the 5th board member," she isn't just paying us a compliment – she is recognizing our real power when we show up together.

This is what happens when we fill those board meetings, when we speak during public comments, when we email our concerns, and when we stand together like we did on May 5th. The board sees us, hears us, and knows they have to respond to us.

Every time you've shown up to a meeting, even if you didn't speak – it mattered. Every email sent, every phone call made – it added to our collective voice. This is how change happens. Not overnight, but through consistent pressure and presence.

Let's keep this momentum going. The more we show up, the more they know we're watching, and the more accountable our school system becomes for ALL our kids.

### What's Happening Now

Our school governance committee is busy reaching out to all the CCSD board members, following up with who said "yes" and who said "no," as well as those who couldn't be at the Action. We're also continuing to dig into what makes for effective school governance elsewhere, so we can shape something that's right for Charleston, that works for all of us, and that creates the accountability we need!

### What Does "Showing Up" Look Like for You Now?

BE PRESENT: We need you to keep coming out! You can back up the commitments you made to **Do Justice** by **attending our school governance committee meeting tonight!**

[Click here to get the Zoom link.](#) We will start at 6:30pm and go over our next steps in more detail. We need you to be active in our issue work! **We are a grassroots organization - that means that your input makes a direct impact on what we do next and how effective we can be.**

And, don't forget to join us for the **CAJM Celebration on June 2nd at Greater St. Luke AME.** This is partially where we raise the money we need to keep pushing for better schools and the fairer Charleston we all deserve. Show up and bring others with you ready to invest in our continued work! The Celebration is also our time to CELEBRATE together, and really enjoy each other's company. Relationship-building is a foundational part of our strength and stability, too!

**If you missed the Action or just want to see it again, click below to watch.**



## A Special Message for Clergy: The Power of Connection

Clergy Friends,

We need you at our next Clergy Connect at Morris Brown AME, led by Rev. James Keeton.

Your presence strengthens all of us. When you show up, your people notice. When you speak up, those in power listen.

This work is hard. You need time together to recharge, share a meal, and remember why we started this journey.

When clergy show up, our entire movement grows stronger. Your leadership inspires your congregations and amplifies our collective voice for justice.

Register below to confirm your attendance. Together, we will continue to show up and win for a more fair and just Charleston.

**When:** Thursday, May 22

11:30am to 1:00pm

**Where:** Morris Brown AME Church

**RSVP:** [Click here to RSVP](#)

## Upcoming Events



**What:** Charleston AND North Charleston Policing Full Committees!  
**When:** Tuesday, May 20  
5:00pm  
**Where:** Zoom  
**RSVP:** [Click here to register for the Zoom](#)



**What:** School Governance Full Committee  
**When:** Tuesday, May 20  
6:30pm  
**Where:** Zoom  
**RSVP:** [Click here to register for the Zoom](#)



**What:** Clergy Connect - all justice-minded clergy are invited to gather for fellowship, a text study, and lunch!  
**When:** Thursday, May 22  
11:30am to 1:00pm  
**Where:** Morris Brown AME Church  
**RSVP:** [Click here to RSVP](#)



**What:** THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION!  
**When:** Monday, June 2  
6:30 pm  
**Where:** Greater St. Luke AME Church (78 Gordon Street)  
**RSVP:** [Click here to RSVP](#)

## COMMUNITY CALL FOR DONATIONS!



# SUMMER FREE STORE MUTUAL AID STOCK-UP

We're collecting essential items from the list below for the Gadsden Green community now through June 8th!

- Toilet Paper (individually wrapped or packs of 4 or 6)
- Trash Bags (13-30 gal.)
- Bars of Soap
- Dish Soap
- Bleach
- All-Purpose Cleaner
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Dish Rags
- Sponges/Scouring pads
- PLUS:** Any School Supplies Are Welcome!

For questions or drop-off info, email us at [friendsofgadsdencreek@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgadsdencreek@gmail.com)



## Next Up - The Celebration!



# Celebration



**MONDAY  
JUNE 2ND  
6:30PM**

**GREAT ST. LUKE  
78 GORDON ST.**



Let's have some fun!

**What:** THE ANNUAL CELEBRATION!  
**When:** Monday, June 2, 6:30pm **\*\* arrive at 6:00pm to get your food and hang out!**

**Where:** Greater St. Luke AME Church (78 Gordon Street)

**RSVP:** [Click here to RSVP](#)

Coming together as a joyful, united, diverse community so that we can refresh and rejuvenate? **That's a powerful act.**

This is our time to CELEBRATE! We will have food, music, activities, and awards. Will you be there?? [Click here to register!](#)

**We will be outside, and will have tents for shade. Bring chairs or picnic blankets if you'd like to spread out!**

[Click here for a PDF version of the flyer.](#)

This also an opportunity to win the JUSTICE CUP, our newest annual tradition! Last year, Parkside Church took the prize. Who will rise to the occasion this year?

The Justice Cup is based on (1) what percentage of your Network Members come to the Celebration, and (2) what percentage of your 2025 investment drive goal is raised by the Celebration!

The winning congregation or organization will be announced the following week.

**Don't forget to register!**

**GOAL: \$250,000**



27% → \$66,775

We've already raised **\$66,775** this year in congregational investments. We look forward to your continued support this year as we reach our goal of \$250,000!

[Click here to invest](#)

**Want to receive updates from our issue committees? Let us know [here](#).**



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