



WE DID IT — AND WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED!

There Is Enough for All of Us. That is not just a slogan — it is a declaration. And last Monday, over 1,000 community members packed Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church and proved it. If you were there, THANK YOU. You showed up, you stood up, and you made history with us.



Can you volunteer to help with data entry?

We need to type up Action attendance from the paper tickets, and it takes many helping hands! **If you can bring a computer and join us at the CAJM office on Friday, May 8th, at 10:30am, please let us know by replying to this email.** Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS, BISHOP SHOEMAKER!

Before we go any further, we want to celebrate one of our own. Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker, former Co-President of CAJM, has been elected the 9th Bishop of Long Island. Bishop Shoemaker has been a faithful leader and champion of this community for years. We are so proud of him and send him off with our full love and support as he steps into this extraordinary new calling. Congratulations, Bishop Shoemaker — you carry Charleston with you!

NEW LEADERSHIP IS RISING — AND WE ARE HERE FOR IT

One of the most exciting things about this Nehemiah Action was who was in it. Six of the people on our action agenda were brand new to CAJM. Six. That is not a small thing — that is the future of this organization showing up and showing out.

We especially want to shout out our brand new negotiators: The Honorable Mignon Clyburn of Morris Brown AME Church and Janet Northen of St. Stephens Episcopal Church. These two women stepped into one of the most visible and high-stakes roles in our entire organizing cycle — for the very first time — and they were extraordinary. Thank you to every first-timer on that stage. We see you and we are grateful.

HERE IS WHAT WE WON

In front of more than 1,000 community members, elected officials from the City of North Charleston, the City of Charleston, and Charleston County went on record in support of two things:

- Seeding funding for a facilitator to convene a Charleston Regional Food Council
- Setting aside funding so that once the Council is formed and a plan is produced, it can be put into action

This is a real commitment, made publicly, and we will hold them to it. There is enough for all of us — and now we have elected officials on record saying so. Stay tuned for opportunities to continue advocating for this necessary Food Council, including making public comments at an upcoming North Charleston City Council meeting.

WHAT ELSE HAPPENED AT THE ACTION

CCSD School Board Member Darlene Dunmeyer-Roberson stood before that room as an elected official, a retired educator, and someone trained in school board governance — and she did not mince words. She told us plainly that right now in the Charleston County School District, we are seeing a failure of governance, a lack of oversight, and a deliberate effort to concentrate power in the hands of a few. And she connected it directly to our children: when a school board is consumed with conflict and politics, decisions that impact classrooms get delayed. Reading interventions don't happen fast enough. Children who are already behind fall even further behind.

Andy Massey of St. Matthew's Lutheran and Evette Campbell from St. Paul Missionary Baptist connected the dots on why all of this matters right now — with elections coming on June 9th and in November. The power of the vote is more important than ever with the Voting Rights Act being taken apart by the Supreme Court.

We need to be prepared and paying attention. Here is what you can do:

SCHOOL BOARD GOVERNANCE — YOUR CALL TO ACTION

Five school board seats are up for election on November 3rd, and there is a special election on June 9th. The margins in these races can be razor thin — last time District 4 was on the ballot, it was decided by just 564 votes. We have the people power to shift the tides.

FIND OUT YOUR DISTRICT. [Go to SCVotes.gov](https://scvotes.gov), enter your information, and look for your [School District number](#).

Districts 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 vote in November. District 4 has a special election on June 9th.

KNOW WHO IS RUNNING. Research candidates who stand for community engagement, transparency, and working on behalf of ALL children. The filing deadline for November candidates is August 17th — pay attention as names are announced.

SPREAD THE WORD. Ask everyone you know if they know who their school board member is. Help them find out. If your district is not in an election this year, adopt a candidate in a district that is — these votes affect the whole district.

STAY CONNECTED. [Sign up for school governance committee updates](#) (scroll down to check the box under "Interests.") We will keep you informed on candidates, their stances, and key dates.

KEEP PRESSING FOR GADSDEN CREEK

Jackie Winston and Angela Washington reminded us why we cannot stop pushing for the Just Ecological Corridor and the restoration of Gadsden Creek. Here are three things you can do right now:

ACTION #1 — STAY VIGILANT

The City of Charleston is quietly making decisions about land use that could determine the future of Gadsden Creek and Gadsden Green. We need people to help us track information being released about Project 3500 and when key meetings are taking place. Can you help us watch?

ACTION #2 — SHOW UP AND SPEAK OUT

Attend a city meeting in person or submit public comment online. If you are a member of a CAJM congregation on the Charleston peninsula and want to be part of our actions, [click here to sign up](#). [Enter your email and you will receive real-time alerts about when and how to use your voice.](#)

ACTION #3 — TEACH THE FACTS

Fill-and-build development on our salt marshes increases flood risk for Gadsden Green and ALL of our public housing communities on the East Side. Share this. Talk about it at your congregation. Help your neighbors understand what is at stake.

IMPORTANT DATES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 | 5:30–6:30 PM

Arthur Christopher Community Center | 265 Fishburne St

The City of Charleston and the Charleston Housing Authority are hosting a meeting for West Side residents. Mayor Cogswell will be there to talk about his Project 3500 plans for the area. Are you a West Side resident? We need people in that room.

THURSDAY, MAY 28 | 6:30 PM

Burke High School Auditorium

The Burke Community Forum is hosting another Project 3500 meeting — and Mayor Cogswell will be there again. Let's be ready.

Upcoming Events

REGISTER FOR THE CELEBRATION ON MAY 18!



CAJM's Annual Celebration!!

Join us for our annual Celebration! We'll come together to INVEST in our important work, CELEBRATE our wins, and HAVE FUN!

People in positions of power use tactics (we call them the 7 D's) to DELAY, DENY, DISTRACT, DEFLECT, DECEIVE, DIVIDE, and DISCREDIT... but it didn't work in the 1970s civil rights era, and we won't let it work now! **Come out in your best 70's attire**, and celebrate the wins we've achieved through our organized people power. We're gonna have some fun, and strengthen our resolve to keep carrying this legacy forward!

Monday, May 18
6:30pm
Zion Olivet Presbyterian Church
[REGISTER HERE!](#)

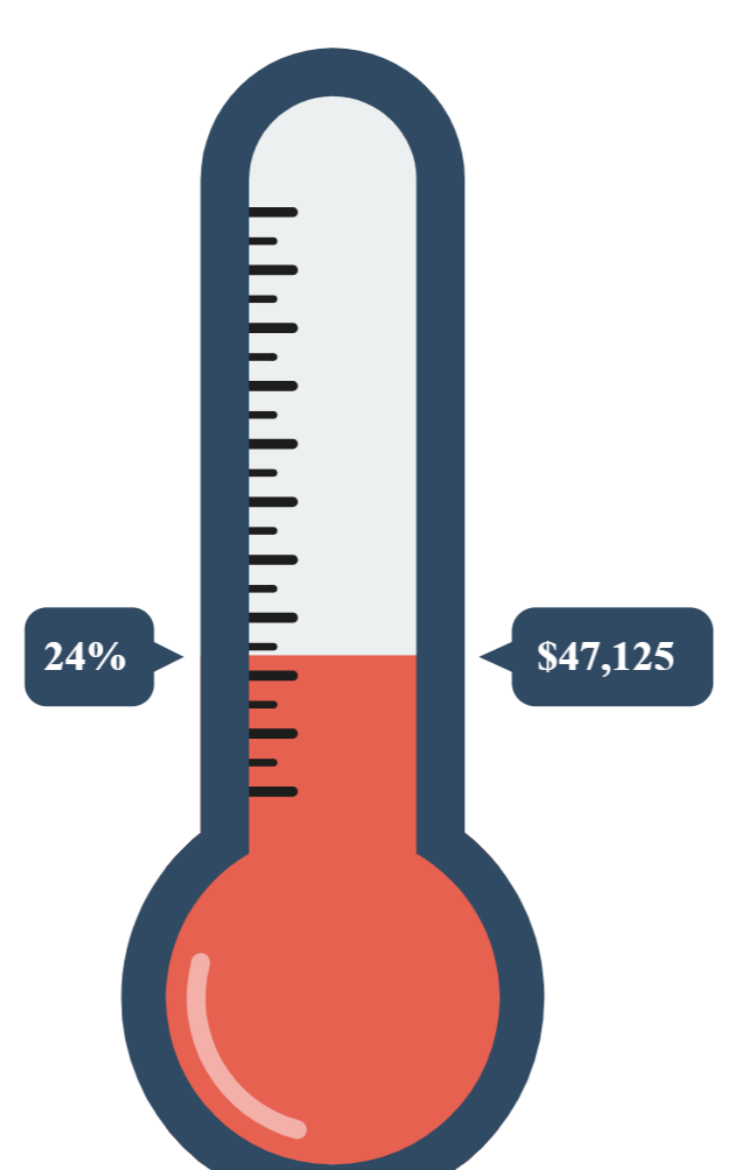


Competition for the **2026 Justice Cup** starts now! This award is for the congregation who gets closest to meeting their investment drive goal by the Celebration, and brings the highest percentage of their Network Members to the event!

Here's how you can contribute to your congregation's victory:

- turn in your 2026 investment by May 18th
- bring three people with you to the Celebration!

GOAL: \$200,000



We've received a total of \$47,125 so far in 2026 toward our \$200,000 individual investment drive goal! We look forward to your continued support this year.

[Click Here](#)
Invest in CAJM Today!

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



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