



Invest in CAJM Today!

WHY I INVEST IN CAJM: Member Testimony

"My name is Richard Hayes, a member of the Unitarian Church in Charleston. Why do I personally invest in CAJM? I have been a member of CAJM from the very beginning. CAJM is a dream come true - a local organization of churches that supports my fundamental vision of doing justice work, making our Public Officials accountable, and realizing our Beloved Community. Unitarians Universalists pledge to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. CAJM strives to this end; bringing justice to our local public governance, making a real difference. And we have made a difference in the past 15 years, accomplishing more than I ever expected. Our achievements show what we can do together, and that is why I invest in CAJM every year. Together we are bending the ARC of the moral universe toward justice!"

— Richard Hayes, Unitarian Church of Charleston

What Is a CAJM Investment — and Why Does It Matter?

At CAJM, we use the word "investment" deliberately. A donation is given and forgotten. An investment is made with expectation — the expectation that something real will come back: justice won, power built, community strengthened.

When you make a personal investment in CAJM, you are not writing a check to an organization. You are joining a coalition of 41 congregations, 715 network members, and decades of accumulated trust and power. You are saying: I believe this work is worth sustaining. I believe Charleston can be more just. I believe we can do it together.

Your investment funds the work that makes justice possible:

Trained, professional organizers who build relationships year-round across 41 congregations

Research teams that dig into policy, attend public meetings, and hold officials accountable

Leadership development so more people — especially those most affected, develop skills to use their voice

Campaigns like Gadsden Creek protection, Restorative Practices in schools, and more

The infrastructure that connects congregations across lines of race, class, and denomination

We are funded by people, network members, and congregations which is exactly what keeps us free to speak truth to power.

Like Richard, many of our longest-tenured members invest every year, not because they are asked to, but because they have seen what this coalition can accomplish when it is resourced and ready. The wins of the past 15 years were possible because people chose to invest. The wins of the next 15 years depend on the same choice.

Please send in your 2026 investments before December 31st.

To make your investment: [click here](#)

Request for Proposals: Food Council Facilitator

In our research, we learned that a professional facilitator is essential for a successful and sustainable Food Council.

The facilitator's purpose is to provide structure, guidance, and neutral support to help the group move from shared concern to organized action, through helping the group establish their priorities and process, and creating space for all voices to be heard.

The Council needs the best possible candidate!

[Please review and share this request for proposals with anyone you think would be a good fit.](#) **The submission deadline is August 17!**

Once we have proposals back, the selection of the facilitator will be in the hands of the organizations that will make up the Council. We are excited to find the right facilitator for our local needs.

Gadsden Creek Updates

Gadsden Creek is back in the news!

Gadsden Creek is back in the news and the fight to protect it is more urgent than ever.

This past July, a Dominion contractor applied powerful herbicides to large swathes of Gadsden Creek. Our environmental community mounted a robust response, and the city stepped up as well. The incident is a stark reminder of how vulnerable this irreplaceable salt marsh remains and why we cannot let up.

See [the full story on TV 5 by reporter Maya Brown](#).



In March, we showed up to the Project 3500 charette and saw plans to build directly on top of the creek. We pushed back, engaged the architect, and he revised his drawings. But we are not there yet. We continue our postcard campaign: please write to Mayor Cogswell about why you don't want to see development on Gadsden Creek!

Please write a postcard, if you live and vote in the City of Charleston, and ESPECIALLY if you live on the peninsula.

[Print the postcard!](#)

[Here are talking points for your message.](#)

Two ways to take action right now:

1. Write a postcard to Mayor Cogswell.

Mail to: Mayor Cogswell, P.O. Box 652, Charleston, SC 29402

2. Show up to the Open Studio Events.

The City is hosting a series of Charleston Peninsula Plan Open Studio Events at the Civic Design Center, 85 Calhoun Street, on Thursdays this fall. These sessions give the public a chance to engage directly with the City's emerging plans for peninsula residents, plans that could positively or negatively impact Gadsden Creek and our public housing neighbors. We need a committed cohort to attend, ask questions, and report back to the committee.

FIRST EVENT — Don't Miss It!

Thursday, August 13, 2026 | 5:00 PM
Civic Design Center, 85 Calhoun Street, Charleston
Topic: The Just Ecological Corridor — with Tamika Gadsden

Let's show up in a big, creative way. If you love making art, bring something that celebrates the value of our salt marsh — its animals, its plants, and the life it sustains for all of us.

Please email CAJM.staff@gmail.com to RSVP for August 13th at 5 PM!

Upcoming Events

Food Insecurity Calendar:



First of all, **Charleston County Council** will be voting on our funding request at their committee meetings on **Thursday, August 20**, which begin at 5:00pm. **We need a visible CAJM presence in the room!** Please attend (ideally in a CAJM shirt) and arrive at 4:30pm for a pre-meeting huddle. The address is 4045 Bridge View Dr.

Secondly, we will be meeting with Charleston City Councilmember Leslie Skardon on Wednesday, August 26, at 10:45am via Zoom. [Click here to register.](#)

Then, we are going to have a Full Committee meeting on Thursday, September 10, at 6pm via Zoom. Please attend to hear a full report on our progress and next steps. [Click here to register.](#)

9/1 Listening Process Kickoff



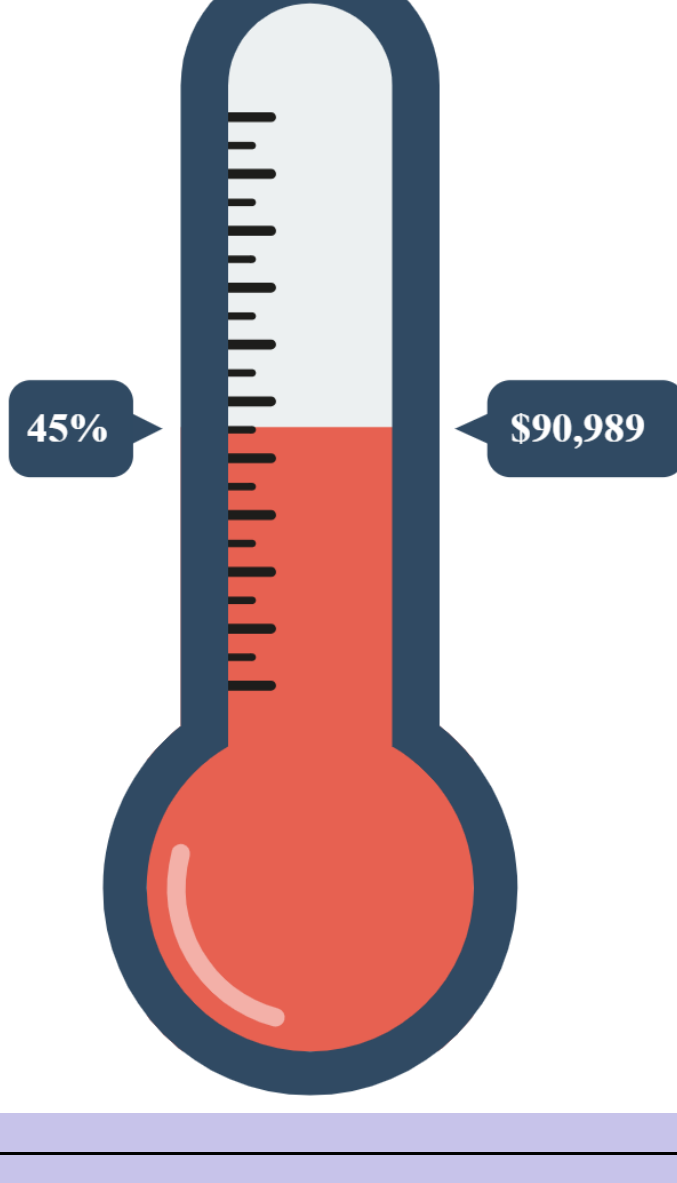
Team Leaders and Clergy should all plan to attend our Listening Process Kickoff! This is where you receive the House Meeting script and start planning for the listening season. Come get encouraged, inspired, and equipped for effective House Meetings this year.

Tuesday, September 1st
6:30pm to 8:00pm
Location TBD

[Register here!](#)

House Meetings should take place between September 27 and October 25.

GOAL: \$200,000



We've received a total of **\$90,989** 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!](#)

In the Community

LOWCOUNTRY RAPID TRANSIT: Your Voice is Needed

The Lowcountry Rapid Transit (LCRT) Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) planning process is underway, and it's designed to address affordability needs for residents and small businesses along the corridor. Survey results will directly shape the housing and business strategies included in the TOD Planning Study. That means your participation matters.

We're asking two things of you:

Take the survey if it applies to you.

Share it with people in your life who live or work along the LCRT corridor. The planning team needs our help to reach and uplift the voices of those most directly impacted.

Take the surveys at: bcdcoconnects.com/todplanning

[LCRT TOD Small Business Survey](#)

[LCRT TOD Housing Survey](#)



Transit Oriented
Development Planning

Housing + Business Surveys Now Live!

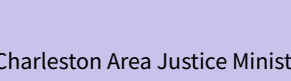
THIS TOD PLANNING PROCESS IS
DESIGNED TO ADDRESS AFFORDABILITY
NEEDS FOR RESIDENTS AND SMALL
BUSINESSES. TAKE THE SURVEY NOW TO
MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT.

[BCDCOGCONNECTS.COM/TODPLANNING](https://bcdcoconnects.com/todplanning)



Want to receive updates from CAJM issue committees?

Let us know [here](#).



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