

Tallahassee Friends Partner with Capital Area Justice Ministry

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

The Tallahassee Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) unanimously discerned at its Meeting for Business on July 15, 2021 to form a partnership with the Capital Area Justice Meeting (CAJM) to combat systemic racism. CAJM is presently composed of 24 Catholic and Protestant churches, Temple Israel, and the Unitarian Universalist Church in the Tallahassee area, spanning races, theologies, and economic levels. It operates according to well-researched and practiced methods based on the nationally known DART Model, which focuses on direct action at the community level.

The stated mission of the CAJM is for these faith-based organizations to work together to build a powerful community-wide organization that will disrupt the status quo to advance justice and opportunity for all to dismantle the oppressive local systems that have produced inequity, segregation, and the wealth gap between privileged and marginalized communities.

The specific goal of the CAJM is for the collective body each year *to prioritize two pressing issues in the local communities* that are identified as among the worst of racist policies inflicted upon African Americans and other marginalized people in our communities. After research and study, CAJM will take these issues to the appropriate local authorities seeking to come to joint agreement on how best to remedy them. At an annual CAJM assembly the authorities are asked to make a public commitment as to their part of the agreement.

The **Nehemiah Action** assembly on April 5, 2022 will have approximately 2000 attendees present. Thereafter, volunteer teams of members from participating congregations, trained in the skills of direct action that DART has found to be effective, will consistently follow the commitments of the authorities and monitor what they have attained.

Financial commitment: TMM has committed 1% of our annual budget for the first year. Future commitments to CAJM will be discerned annually. TMM has made a \$200 donation for team leaders.

Team Leaders: Phoebe Andersen and Toni Fuss Kirkwood Tucker.

Schedule for Capital Area Justice Ministry Action Plan 2021

Friends Zoom Meeting: Thursday August 26--6:30pm

Friends share racist discriminatory practices they experienced or directly observed with others

Friends Zoom Meeting: Thursday September 23--6:30pm

Friends discern two pressing issues to be brought before CAJM

CAJM Teams Assembly (Zoom/In-Person TBD): Tuesday October 19--6pm

Team leaders present the two pressing issues that represent their congregation's house meetings

CAJM Covenant Assembly (Zoom/In-Person TBD): Wednesday November 3--6:00 pm

Team leaders, clergy, and network members from each congregation vote on their top two issues; the top two issues overall will be what CAJM congregations focus on for research and action in the coming year.

Schedule for Capital Area Justice Ministry Action Plan 2022

Friends Zoom Meeting: Date/time TBD

Friends organize who they will each invite to attend the Nehemiah Action

CAJM Teams Assembly (Zoom/In-Person TBD): Tues, February 22--6:00 PM

Team leaders gather to make Nehemiah Action turnout commitments and hear preliminary reports from research committees

CAJM Pep Rally (Zoom/In-Person TBD): March 15--6:00 PM

Our research committees report the solutions we will bring to our officials at the Nehemiah Action.

CAJM Nehemiah Action (Zoom/In-Person TBD): April 5--6:00 PM

2000 people from our congregations and the community gather to hold our public officials accountable and push for specific policy changes around two issues.

CAJM Celebration (Zoom/In-Person TBD): May 24--6:00 PM

We will celebrate what we won at the Nehemiah Action and begin our fundraising efforts.

Friends will be informed one week prior to meetings and provided a link for the meeting.

Any questions: contact Phoebe at phoebequaker@gmail.com or toni at

tonifusskirkwoodtucker@gmail.com

Coordinator, Antiracism Action Group of the

Peace & Social Concerns Committee of the Religious Society of Friends.

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