



JUST SANCTUARY

In 2019, five members of our church met to form a social justice team. The goal was to bring racial awareness to our congregation and our own personal growth. FPC's mission statement names our church as the "sanctuary in the city," so we named our group Just Sanctuary. Over the next several years, we read and discussed book, offered studies, invited guest speakers, adapted a Just Sanctuary purpose statement, and began placing social justice quotes in the FPC weekly bulletin. Several members have participated in a variety of community events and organizations such as ISAAC, Just Faith Ministries, NAACP, Kalamazoo Civil Rights Board, Kalamazoo Defenders Court Watchers, Urban Exposure, Arcus Center for Social Justice Leadership and the Northside Ministerial Alliance.

In the fall of 2023, we decided to become even more intentional in our work. Members have attended and participated in an apology to the African American Community for slavery and its aftermath in Lansing MI sponsored by the Justice League of Greater Lansing. The apology was formally adopted by PCUSA at its 225th General Assembly. This led to initiating the Justice League of Greater Kalamazoo MI in collaboration with Westminster Presbyterian Church and other area churches in 2025. The JLGKM was registered with the state and has a licensing agreement with the JLGLM. In 2026, Just Sanctuary provided presentation about our work, the history of white people in system racism and the JLGKM pilot reparations program.

Please consider becoming involved as we learn and grow in the effort to make Kalamazoo a place where racism cannot exist.

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