



Sowers of Justice Network Louisville, Kentucky

Our Purpose

Shaped in the light of the Gospel teachings of Jesus, we are a broad coalition of churches and individuals working for social justice through nonviolent action. Through networking, organizing, education, and advocacy we seek to engage local, national, and global issues of economic justice, human rights for all, racial justice, environmental integrity, and peace.

Our statement of purpose is intentionally broad. We know that specific issues, actions, and work will emerge. Our strong yearning is a life in solidarity with those most victimized by systemic disregard. We intend for our network to support the building of new relationships, vital community, a collective voice, and effective action.

Our Work Is:

Networking – supporting the ongoing work of our network members around the city by connecting members to each other

Organizing – inviting individuals, churches, and faith related groups to join and support Sowers

Education – educating through statements, speakers, articles, special events, and workshops

Advocacy and Direct Action – engaging in nonviolent actions that promote social justice

Building Community – gathering as a community that nourishes and encourages each other in the work

Spiritual Practice – connecting our faith experience and spiritual practice to the work of peace and justice

Our Working Groups

What is a Sowers of Justice Working Group?

Sowers of Justice Working Groups are people working together on a particular passion or mission relating to social justice, with a focus for people of faith, progressive faith communities and individuals.

The Working Groups will use these pages on our website to list actions, attract others, network with others on related topics, or to launch a project connected to the issue.

For some issues Sowers of Justice Working Groups may be a central point for assessment, information, networking, ideas and support for people interested in a specific justice issue. Gun violence and nonviolence are such areas. For other issues, our Working Groups are gateways to connect to a broader network of groups already working on issues such as Faith and Food and Immigrant Rights.

What can this look like: initiating, convening, program/project-making, networking/relationship building, informing, editorializing, watch-dogging, questioning, direct action, reminding/attention getting, supporting, blessing, conversation starting, spiritual practice/discipline, clarifying the voice of progressive faith communities.

We invite the community to name actions, suggest ideas and projects, seek collaboration, ask for resources, and share responsibility for the work.

What is working group is NOT:

With many issues, where there is substantial and varied work already being done by others, our working groups will work with and honor existing community leadership. Our network will always attempt to intersect and collaborate with ongoing local work and acknowledge and value existing energies.

Currently Sowers of Justice Network has three working groups (see our website for current activities and events):

Nonviolence and Gun Violence

Description: This working group combines a focus on the broader issues of practical and engaged nonviolence, in the spirit of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, and Aung San Suu Kyi. A Gun Violence group is in the process of gathering individuals and representatives from local organizations to engage with us in

planning our strategy and presence leading up to and during the 2016 National Rifle Association which will meet in Louisville in 2016. We want to show our community that people of faith can and do support sensible gun laws and want to provide opportunities to engage the public on this topic.

Projects have included; a series of events, Nonviolence in the City, held at various churches, mosques and faith communities. They have typically included a speaker and prayerful rituals relating to nonviolence. Also, a series of films with discussion have been held at during the spring and summer of 2014, and continuing with film showing at the Frankfort Avenue Trolley Hops, on the last Friday's of the Month—hosted by Sowers of Justice and the 1741 Collaborative (1741 Frankfort Avenue)

Conveners/Contacts: For more information about the Nonviolence and Gun Violence Working Group, contact Mary Abrams, maryjanabrams@gmail.com or Michael Whiting zygobeek1@gmail.com

Other local connectors: Interfaith Paths to Peace

Working Group: Immigrant Rights

Description: The Sowers of Justice **Immigrant Rights Working Group**, has continued to develop connections and collaborations with other community organizations involved with immigration reform and immigrant rights.

Conveners/Contacts: For more information about the Immigrant Rights Working Group, contact David Horvath, dhorvath@fastmail.fm

Other local connectors: Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean (KITLAC), May Day Coalition, Kentucky Dream Coalition, KDC Fighting for Immigrant Rights and Equity (FIRE)
Other: Not One More Deportation; Detention Watch Network, Define American

Food and Faith

Description: The **Food and Faith Working Group** collaborates with individuals and interested faith communities working toward food justice in neighborhoods. The working group invites faith communities to projects that utilize community properties and resources to create conditions for sustainable, abundant, healthy food, and to pursue both practical and contemplative "nonviolent growing", for the human and more-than-human world.

Conveners/Contacts: For more information about the Food and Faith Working Group, contact Doug Lowry, googlemeplease@aol.com

Other local connectors: 15Thousand Farmers

Other Sowers of Justice Connections:

Antiracism education and action with Louisville Showing up for Racial Justice (LSURJ);
Supporters of campaigns with Kentucky Jobs with Justice (Minimum Wage, Ban the Box);

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