

What do we want? MORE Justice!



On December 3rd, more than 120 leaders gathered at Rehoboth UMC for the Research Kick-Off!

Leaders were trained on how to conduct research, we heard updates on open issue campaigns and we made decisions on next steps. We are committed to collectively discern where God is calling us to take action on our new campaign to address crime/gun violence and we reaffirmed our commitment to ongoing campaigns around education an affordable housing.

Our Crime/Gun Violence full committee had a strong start on that night and, since that time, has conducted more than 15 research visits with entities like the Richland County Coroner’s Office, Gifford’s Law Center, Moms Demand Action, and the Columbia Police Department. **If you have not yet been involved in the research, and wish to be, e-mail us at morejusticecolumbia@gmail.com to be added to the update list.**

DID YOU KNOW?

There were 90 gun-related deaths in Richland County in 2019. In the last five years, including 2019, there have been 419 gun-related deaths.

DID YOU KNOW?

Homicide by gun has doubled in Richland County in the last decade. Shooting incidents in the city of Columbia more than doubled in just one year (2018 to 2019).

DID YOU KNOW?

In the year 2017, homicides by gun increased by 25% in the state of South Carolina, compared to a national increase of 16%.

DID YOU KNOW?

Only around 5% of offenders commit 85-90% of all violent crime.

DID YOU KNOW?

Of the 25 homicides in the City of Columbia in 2019, 20 of them involved a gun.

DID YOU KNOW?

Gun violence costs the state of SC billions of dollars a year in EMS services and Emergency Room costs, court costs, lost productivity after a shooting, etc. Gun violence equates to a cost of \$915/year per SC resident.





AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MESSAGING TRAINING!

On Thursday, February 13th, more than 60 MORE Justice leaders came together for a messaging training conducted by our partners from the Center for Community Change. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn how to communicate a clear, concise and unified vision around the need for affordable housing in our community!

What is our call? HOUSING FOR ALL!



On February 20th, eighteen clergy from MORE Justice churches, synagogues and mosques came together in fellowship, to wrestle with our mandate to do justice and refocus on our call to build people power and raise up the Kingdom of God. It was time well spent and we are looking forward to our next Clergy Luncheon and Text Study in July.

Clergy Leaders, are you interested in attending? Write us at:
morejusticecolumbia@gmail.com



Important Upcoming Dates!

On **March 30th**, 600+ people will join together for the

MORE Justice Rally!

All Network Members commit to attend this very important event during the justice cycle in order to prepare for the Nehemiah Action, get briefed on the issue campaigns and understand the urgency to bring three or more to the Nehemiah Action!

Free Childcare and Spanish/ASL Interpretation Available



Join us: Monday, March 30th at 6:30pm at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral (1100 Sumter St.)

****CARPOOLING ENCOURAGED!****

The Nehemiah Action Assembly is Monday, April 27th!

All Network Members commit to bring 3+ people with them to the Nehemiah Action. Our people power is what makes all the difference, so start inviting your guests now! All Network Members are encouraged to have **at least** six committed guests to ensure that 3+ are in attendance with you!

