



## VISION AND MISSION

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*“But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”*  
- Amos 5:24

### The FaithJustice Vision

The FaithJustice Foundation, Inc. is a new nonprofit organization formed to equip and empower faith communities to take action for social justice in cities, states, and on the national level. Our goal is to provide education, training, resources, and eventually grantmaking to churches and faith-based organizations engaged in grassroots, social justice ministry, action, and advocacy.

FaithJustice reflects a belief in the power of pastoral and prophetic ministry, in discipleship and social justice to change lives and transform communities in ways that lead to peace, love, and justice.

### The FaithJustice Story

The FaithJustice Forum was started by Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver in 2016 at Annandale United Methodist Church, offering vibrant, faith-based speakers and discussions on important social justice issues. In 2017, in response to a growing desire among many people of faith to “do something” about the growing climate of injustice and intolerance in our national discourse and policies, our vision expanded to equip and empower numerous faith communities for social justice ministry.

The FaithJustice Foundation is a nonstock corporation in Virginia with tax-exempt status pending. The FaithJustice Foundation has received grants from the United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Board of Church and Society.

### What We Do

Social Justice Summer 2018, our first major initiative, was a national call to action for faith communities to have a dedicated time of social justice-themed worship, study, small group discussion, and action. Using the church-wide study discipleship model, SJS 2018 included a book study of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, a sermon series, a small group discussion guide, and weekly inspirational conference calls. We also invited participating churches to take at least one social justice action during the summer on such issue areas as Criminal Justice Reform, Immigration Reform, Voting Rights, and Economic Equality. The Social Justice Summer pilot attracted 20 participating churches and organizations in 7 states, along with over 2,000 Facebook video views of forums and trainings.

Social Justice Summer 2020 plans are currently underway and will be a national event, inviting faith communities across the country to participate in grassroots social justice ministry and action. Our goal is to have 100 churches across 15 states pre-registered for Social Justice Summer 2020.

FaithJustice Forums, Trainings, and Webinars The forums have offered interactive discussions covering such social justice topics as “Race and Poverty in America: 50 Years After MLK,” “Losing our Religion: Millennials, Social Justice, and the Church,” and “Race, Religion and Election 2016.” We have increased our reach by broadcasting the forums on Facebook Live. We plan to expand in 2019 to offer in-person trainings and online webinars to help churches start social justice ministries.

## **Our Team**

Rev. Cynthia Johnson-Oliver, JD, a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and Yale Law School, is the founder and president of the FaithJustice Foundation. She is an ordained elder in the CME Church who served for 10 years on loan to the Virginia Conference as an associate pastor at Annandale UMC. She has served as National Organizer for Health Care Justice for the General Board of Church and Society and in numerous other clergy and advocacy roles. She is joined by Program Manager: Rev. Chenda Innis Lee, along with Board Members: Harry Day, PhD and Amy Page, DSW, and numerous volunteers and supporters. Read more about our team at [www.faithjusticefoundation.org](http://www.faithjusticefoundation.org).

We are delighted to partner with Annandale UMC, Just Neighbors, and the CME Church Seventh Episcopal District. We are grateful for funding from the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Board of Church and Society.

## **Get Involved!**

*We're building our organization at every level.*

### **Participant**

- Interested in initiating conversation about social justice in your congregation
- Interested in starting a social justice ministry and wondering where to begin
- Attend a FaithJustice Forum or watch online; Consult with us to plan an event at your church
- Register for upcoming training: "From Mercy to Justice: How to Start a Social Justice Ministry"
- Submit feedback if you would like to request a particular training or event

### **Supporter**

- Interested in supporting the work of the FaithJustice Foundation
- Follow us on social media and invite friends to do the same; share our content on your page
- Donate through our website when we receive tax-exempt status
- Pray for us as we continue to develop this work of ministry

### **Team Member**

- Interested in joining our team as we build our organization for Social Justice Summer 2020
- Volunteer to contribute your unique gifts and skills to this ministry
- Join our leadership team to help identify potential partners, sponsors, board members
- We'll be hiring soon! Apply for contract positions: communications coordinator; training coordinator