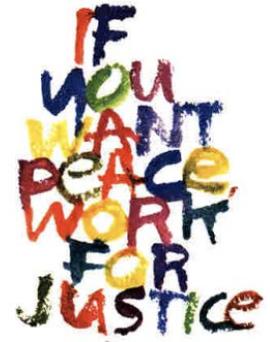


Justice and Peace Work at Edgewood

The *Justice and Peace Task Force* meets regularly to continue the church's 60 year tradition of working for social justice and peace, following the specific goals and working groups to implement Edgewood's [*Just Peace Covenant*](#).

The Task Force collaborates with other faith communities and human rights groups working on these issues locally and across the state and nation. Our focus is on advocacy for change in the laws and regulations that support injustice and inequality. Current working groups organized within the Task Force are:



Racism and Islamophobia – works to support civil and human rights for all and a redressing of racial injustice in cooperation with groups such as *Black Lives Matter Lansing* and groups organizing against racism in the white community. *Contact Persons:* Ada Kidd, 351-7510, (adkidds@gmail.com) and Chris Root 332-0333, (rootc@msu.edu).

Immigration - focuses on (1) just, humane, and comprehensive immigration policy reform; (2) self-education, leading to responsive action as needed locally and nationally to challenge injustice and advocate for the dignity and rights of all immigrants. *Contact persons:* Carolyn Ojala, 351-5980, (ojalac@sbcglobal.net) with Beth and Al Cafagna , 351-6480, (cafagna@msu.edu).

Demilitarization and the United Nations - seeks to (1) reduce the militarization of our nation, our foreign policy, and the world, as well as the annual U.S. military budget of almost \$1 trillion, (2) strengthen the UN and the U.S. commitment to UN peace-keeping and sustainable development activities with more financial support to encourage global peace and to improve human lives. *Contact persons:* David Wiley, 332-0333, (wiley@msu.edu), Jim Anderson, 337-0241, (anders90@msu.edu).

Prison Concerns - (1) follows developments in criminal justice, from arrest to reentry of prisoners, (2) supports organizations and actions that reduce crime and recidivism, (3) assists prisoners in re-entry, and (4) seeks legislative changes to reduce incarceration. Has joined a coalition of individuals and organizations that are active in these areas. *Contact person:* Frank Dennis, 332-5181, (fgdennis@msu.edu).

Economic Justice - deals with unfair trade policies of the U.S. and other governments, unfair labor practices, undermining the economies of developing countries, human trafficking, forced labor, and abusive child labor, etc. *Contact person:* Ada Kidd, 351-7510, (adkidds@gmail.com).

Facilitating sustainability in the developing world—concentrates on those non-governmental agencies (NGOs) that train and advise local entrepreneurs and farmers to improve their market reach, not only to improve their own lot, but also to become able to create jobs for others in their community. We urge Edgewood folk to donate to such organizations and also to lobby for U.S. foreign aid in support of sustainable development. *Contact person:* Carol Myers-Scotton, 333-0334, (cmsbingwa@gmail.com).

Other Justice & Peace Concerns: The Task Force also engages other issues as they arise, such as the Michigan Emergency Manager Law, the water crises in Flint and Detroit. We sponsor sales of fair trade coffee and other products. We recommend individual giving to organizations that advocate for justice and peace. (Other Edgewood committees deal with Environmental, Hunger, and Global Mission issues, as well as campaigns for Bread for the World, Heifer Project, Crop Walk, UNICEF card sales, etc.)

Individual Giving by Edgewood members: Annually in November, the *Justice & Peace Task Force* distributes a leaflet, "[*To whom shall we give this year?*](#)" The leaflet suggests particular organizations, emphasizing those who work across the state, nationally, and internationally to change the government policies and social situations that create poverty, ill health, and dire human need that require charity.