

To whom shall we give in 2016-2017?

In this Christmas and holiday season, when many of us decide where to make donations for the year, what does it mean to follow these words from Micah: "... to act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?"

Surely this calls us not only to provide balm for the wounds of people suffering from injustice but also to change the conditions that create injustice.



What can we do?

Frances Moore Lappe has said, "We must demonstrate how government can be reclaimed as a vehicle through which we can act on our deepest values..." We should expect our national, state, and local governments to provide stability, security, and safety nets for the poor, the weak, the sick, the needy, the jobless, the handicapped, and the victims of disasters.

Thus, our first task is to vigorously lobby our government and to strengthen those religious and citizens' organizations that every day monitor, research, and organize to affect government policy. We need to support advocacy organizations that often struggle for funding – groups that are seeking justice and peace by changing the structures of life that are shaped by governments, corporations, and the interests of the rich and the powerful.

Who can we support to organize this advocacy for policy change?

The Edgewood United Church *Justice and Peace Task Force* suggests that you consider supporting these organizations that advocate for justice locally, nationally, and globally. Edgewood has set a priority this year on racial justice, so we begin there.

Racial Justice

Black Lives Matter Lansing – Part of national network. Make checks to *One Love Global, Inc.* with note: "BLML." Mail to: 913 W. Holmes, Suite 175, 48910. <https://www.facebook.com/blmlansing/?fref=ts>

Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI) - Educates and builds campaigns with African American and black immigrant communities to organize and advocate for racial and socio-economic justice in Arkansas, California, Georgia, and New York. <http://www.blackalliance.org/>

SpiritHouse Project – A national intergenerational network of diverse people who work for racial and social justice. <http://www.spirithouseproject.org/>

Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) – Working for equal justice for all and education about the legacy of racism in the U.S. <https://eji.org/>

Michigan Council on Crime and Delinquency (MCCD) – Promoting equal treatment in a fair, effective, and affordable justice system. <http://miccd.org/>

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe DAPL Donation Fund – A historic gathering of tribes and allies in solidarity to halt the Dakota Access Pipeline and protect the water. <http://standingrock.org>

National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) - Fights for a livable wage for domestic workers: 95% women, 46% immigrants, and 23% are below minimum wage. <http://www.domesticworkers.org/>

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ABC) - Defends the rights of people of Arab descent and promoting their rich cultural heritage. <http://www.adc.org/>

JUSTICE, PEACE AND ECOLOGY



State and local justice and peace issues

Michigan League for Public Policy - Action on poverty in Michigan. www.milhs.org
Peace Education Center (PEC) - Organizing in Lansing area. www.peacecenter.org
Michigan United - An alliance for immigrant rights and reform. www.miunited.org
Equality Michigan (EQMI) – *LGBTQ political advocacy* www.equalitymi.org
Meta Peace Team (MPT) - Nonviolent peace-keeping. www.metapeaceteam.org
Farmworker Legal Services of Michigan (FLS) www.farmworkerlaw.org

Advocacy on national issues

Friends Committee for National Legislation (FCNL) - Effective lobbying on war, nuclear, arms control, Native American and immigration issues disarmament, military spending, environment. www.fcnl.org
United Church of Christ Justice and Peace Network - Many justice & peace causes www.ucc.org/justice
Oxfam America Action Fund (OAAF) - Challenges laws that keep people in poverty, seeks reform for food aid & control of oil, gas, & mining firms on poor people's farmlands. www.oaaf.org (not tax deductible)
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) – Defending the individual rights and liberties in the US law and Constitution for *Dreamers*, Muslims, Planned Parenthood, transgender people, etc. www.aclu.org
Climate Justice Alliance (CJA) – Supporting ca. 35+ community-based frontline organizations, including Detroit, to forge the *Our Power Campaign*. www.ourpowercampaign.org/
Move to Amend (MTA) - Lobbies to reject *Citizens United* Supreme Court decision that “corporations are citizens.” <https://movetoamend.org/> (not tax deductible)

International solutions for problems of all humankind and disasters

We should demand that our government actively support the international agencies of cooperation - and especially the United Nations - to address global poverty, climate change, conflict, and peace.

Greater Lansing-UN Association-USA - Advocates to secure US funding for the UN, UN peacekeeping, ratifying UN treaties, & seeks donations for a UNHCR refugee school in Kenya. <http://www.glna.org/>
United Nations agencies, such as UNHCR, UNICEF, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, FAO –working with refugee and migrant children from Syria, Africa, and the world. www.unicefusa.org/help/donate or www.unhcr.org
Amnesty International - Monitors and lobbies for human rights for all. www.amnestyusa.org
Doctors without Borders – Frontline medical care in 60 countries <https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org>
Polaris Project - Serves victims of human trafficking and slavery. www.polarisproject.org

Advocacy and charity for sustainable change in the developing world

Edgewood-related Projects:

Solar Circle - Women's capacity-building in Tanzania with solar lamps and ovens and a “green” school.
(For details see Judy Martin <judymartin10@gmail.com>.) <http://solar-circle.org>
Edgewood Nicaragua Project CEPAD USA - For leadership development and community organizing.
(For details see Kris Wisniewski <zkw319@gmail.com>.) www.cepadusa.org

Others:

Bread for the World - Advocating in Congress for people in the U.S. and abroad to feed their families and to move out of poverty. <http://www.bread.org/make-donation>
U.S. Africa Network (USAN) – Works with African “Stop the Bleeding Campaign” to curb tax cheating and illicit capital flows of billions of dollars from Africa annually. Visit <http://usafrikanetwork.org/donate/>
Church World Service (CWS) - Advocacy and emergency relief. www.churchworldservice.org
Women for Women International - Helps women entrepreneurs. www.womenforwomen.org
Via Campesina - Helps poor peasants to resist land grabs by foreign corporations and to lobby on climate change and peasant rights. <http://viacampesina.org/en/>
Technoserve - Works to end global poverty by creating jobs by teaching small business owners how to compete in the global market. www.technoserve.org