

A MORE JUST FUTURE

EDGEWOOD UNITED CHURCH: THREADS OF JUSTICE, COMPASSION AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

In the rich tapestry of Edgewood United Church's history, the threads of justice, compassion, and community intricately weave together, creating a compelling narrative of impact and change. Since its inception in 1953 as an offshoot of The People's Church, Edgewood has stood as a beacon of social justice, consistently striving for positive transformation in our community of East Lansing, Michigan, and beyond.



Throughout our journey, UCF has stood as a crucial financial stewardship partner for Edgewood. Our church has strategically chosen UCF, driven by the alignment of UCF's responsible investing principles with our deeply rooted values. The decision to entrust UCF with our endowment has proven instrumental in advancing our mission of promoting racial, social and environmental justice. Through judicious investments at UCF, Edgewood has not only grown our financial resources but has also leveraged them to contribute meaningfully to the church's broader goals.

One noteworthy initiative is our dedication to faith-based reparations. The Racial Justice Task Force, established in 2016, played a pivotal role in fostering understanding within our predominantly white congregation about institutional and systemic racism. This groundwork helped the work of the Justice League of Greater Lansing Michigan (JLGL). Formed in 2021 to facilitate reparations between houses of worship and collaborative partners, it quickly gained traction. In a momentous meeting in June 2023, Edgewood's congregational members unanimously voted to contribute \$100,000 from our church endowment funds to JLGL's reparation efforts. Edgewood's members and friends added \$73,000, bringing the total to \$173,000.

In addition to racial and social justice, environmental and climate justice are key cornerstones of our theology. We aspire to become a carbon-neutral, net-zero-energy institution and serve as an inspiring example for others. We manifested this aspiration by installing 70 solar panels and playing an instrumental role in the growth of the

Amy Dalton, Edgewood moderator (center), delivers the congregations' check to Prince Jerold Solace (left), president of JLGL, and Willye Bryan, founder and vice president of JLGL (right).

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Michigan Interfaith Power and Light to promote renewable and energy conservation throughout churches in Michigan and nationally.

Meanwhile, the Louise Sternberg Impact Fund exemplifies our commitment to significantly impacting an organization or project above and beyond their regular programs. Established in 2021 following a bequest from Louise Sternberg, a devoted church member, the fund awarded its inaugural grant of \$30,000 to the Salus Center, serving Lansing's LGBTQIA+ communities, to aid in board development and strategic planning.

Our work brought our congregants closer and fostered awareness of the needs around us, the interconnectedness and the role we've played. We aim to continue to promote social, racial and climate justice and to refuse engagement with unjust business practices. Selecting UCF as our investment partner is essential because of their rigorous screening processes and shareholder activism. It gives us peace of mind that, as a congregation, we invest responsibly and are helping to create a just world.