

Lexington steps up during the polar vortex

by Margaret Gabriel

The Catholic Action Center (CAC), the shelter in Lexington that provides a community for people experiencing homelessness, began preparing for winter back in October 2020, according to director Ginny Ramsey.

The ongoing pandemic requires that CAC house only ongoing residents but they knew they needed to begin planning for winter months in advance.

In past years, when the weather dipped dangerously below freezing, the center opened its doors to anyone and everyone who needed shelter, whether they had reserved a bed or not. Ginny knew that such a policy would not be possible in the COVID era in the winter of 2021.

In order to increase the number of available beds, CAC created new sleeping rooms when a large office space in the building on Industry Drive became available. During the fall workers re-tooled the new space, and the Mother Teresa COVID shelter opened on Nov. 7.

With the Mother Teresa expansion, CAC now has 140 beds, but on bitterly cold nights last winter, the CAC hosted nearly 250 people. Those without a bed would sleep sitting up on couches and chairs in the lobby and gathering area. Those were difficult times,

Ginny said, and during most winters they were mercifully brief.

In late January 2021, when the polar vortex was predicted, CAC volunteers and others who serve the Lexington community began doing “the COVID dance,” Ginny said. Volunteers who serve lunch at St. Paul Catholic Church

would be taken to the CAC or provided with other shelter.

When the people arrived at St. Paul, they received a COVID test and were transported by core volunteers Thomas Caudill and Jessie Acosta to several motels in Lexington. “All the motels gave us great rates,” Ginny said.

The few people who tested positive for the virus were required to quarantine in their rooms and they were also required to respect each other and the regulations of the motels. Of the 109 people who received shelter in area motels, only two had to be ejected for bad behavior.

Food boxes were provided for every person every day, and the motels supplied breakfast from their breakfast buffets. One of the motels accepts animals, so people didn’t have to be separated from their pets. In the past, Ginny said, she has known people who would choose to stay out in sub-freezing temperatures rather than leave a dog.

“We were able to bring in two families who were living in cars,” Ginny said.

“When we started we just wanted to fill the gap. We didn’t realize that the gap was so large,” she said.

Despite the size of the gap, Ginny reports that when they stepped out in faith, the community matched that step with donations that have covered the majority of the cost of providing safe shelter.

The CAC Facebook page reported on Feb. 19 that \$38,000 had been donated in only 10 days.

“Between COVID and the weather, it’s really been a one-two punch,” Ginny said, “but because of the community we’ve been able to protect our folks.”



in Lexington told her that many of their people had no housing and asked if CAC could do anything to help them in the coming dangerous weather.

Because all the CAC beds were full and the pandemic prevented the “open door” policy that had served the community in the past, “we stepped out in faith,” Ginny said.

Because they were unable to open up to anyone and everyone, Ginny decided to provide hotel rooms during the polar vortex for those who had nowhere to stay.

CAC workers created flyers inviting people to come to St. Paul Church on Short Street on Jan. 29. They were told that after being tested for COVID-19, they

Gun Violence In America as of 2-24-21 2021 (year to date)	
Killed	2,760
Suicide	2,760
Wounded	3,630
2020 (annual)	
Killed	19,335
Wounded	39,424
Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org	

KCC Prayer in Action

During the 2021 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, the Kentucky Council of Churches (KCC) held weekly Prayer in Action sessions *via* Zoom. At each 45-minute session, the group highlighted a social justice issue from the KCC's policy statement

"We will pray for our governor and legislators and call them to a higher moral agenda that puts the well-being of Kentucky's people first." said the Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, KCC executive director.

Each event included prayer, education on issues, and a call to action. "We want to engage religious leaders and their congregants in direct justice advocacy." Rev. Gillett said.

The action was inspired by "Moral Mondays" in North Carolina, when religious leaders created significant changes in policies that oppressed the poor and people of color.

In February, the KCC focused on criminal justice; healthcare and disabilities; and fair housing. They chose these issues based on policy statements approved by all 11 of the Council's denominational members.

You may view the policy statements on the KCC website (kycouncilofchurches.org). Statements are located under the "Resources" tab and are labeled "Council Statements."

KCC membership includes Protestant and Roman Catholic congregations. The council works with other state advocacy groups and coalitions on issues, and many of them have committed to support the Prayer in Action Days. No Kentucky Quaker Meeting is a KCC member, but Berea and Lexington Meetings are "observing participants."

Before the General Assembly concludes on March 30, Prayer in Action will address voting rights March 2 and the death penalty March 9. All Prayer in Action events are interfaith and open to the public and media. For more information contact the KCC at KCC@kycouncilofchurches.org, (859) 269-7715. Each session begins at 9:30 a.m.

Access the Zoom call *via*: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85395443871> Meeting ID: 853 9544 3871 Or join audio from any phone (you do not need a smart phone) by calling: +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC).

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

Board of Directors: Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, Rick Clewett, Bilal El-Amin, Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Heather Hadi, Randolph Hollingsworth, Rahul Karanth, Steven Lee Katz (treasurer), Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Craig Wilkie.

Peaceways Staff: Margaret Gabriel (editor); Penny Christian, Mary Ann Ghosal, Gail Koehler, Betsy Neale, Jim Trammel (proofreaders). The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CKCPJ.

Member Organizations: ACLU-Central Kentucky Chapter; Ahava Center for Spiritual Living; Amnesty International, UK Chapter; Bahá'ís of Lexington; Berea Friends Meeting; Bluegrass Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program; Bluegrass United Church of Christ; Catholic Action Center; Central Christian Church; Commission for Peace and Justice, Catholic Diocese of Lexington; Gay and Lesbian Services Organization; Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky; Hunter Presbyterian Church; Islamic Society of Central Kentucky; Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass; Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Central Kentucky Chapter; Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; Kentucky Resources Council; Lexington Fair Housing Council; Lexington Fairness; Lexington Friends Meeting; Lexington Hispanic Association (Asociación de Hispanos Unidos); Lexington Labor Council, Jobs with Justice Committee; Lexington Living Wage Campaign; Lexington Socialist Student Union; Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church; Newman Center at UK; North East Lexington Initiative; One World Film Festival; Students for Peace and Earth Justice (Bluegrass Community and Technical College); Peacecraft; The Plantory; Progress (student group at Transylvania University); Second Presbyterian Church; Shambhala Center; Sustainable Communities Network; Union Church at Berea; Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington; United Nations Association, Bluegrass Chapter.

Support for House Bill 148

Although the General Assembly missed meeting for a few days because of the recent inclement weather, discussion of House Bill 148, which would abolish use of the death penalty against people with severe mental illness, has been on the agenda for a hearing, according to the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (KCADP).

To support this bill, call (800) 373-7181 and ask to leave a message for your state representative. Co-sponsors

for the bill are. C. McCoy, K. Banta, T. Bojanowski, R. Dotson, D. Elliott, S. Heavrin, T. Huff, J. Miller, P. Minter, K. Moser, M. Prunty, N. Tate, K. Timoney, J. Tipton, S. Westrom, B. Wheatley, L. Willner.

"This is a really an exciting development for our working together to abolish the death penalty in Kentucky," a KCADP spokesperson said. "Please call this legislative hotline as soon as possible."

CKCPJ on Facebook

At the February steering committee meeting, Richard Mitchell reported that CKCPJ generally receives an equal number of likes and dislikes. If you have "Liked" the CKCPJ Facebook page, thank you. You've seen posts that are both informational and inspirational from a variety of people focused on local, national and international issues. If you haven't, check it out!

Items from local and national publications and websites routinely

appear on the CKCPJ Facebook page, so you can expect varied and enlightening posts. Check them out and be sure to share.

Recent posts include stories about the celebration of Black History Month in Lexington; a Yale University study that reports that Medicare for all would save the U.S. \$450 billion and prevent 700,000 deaths a year; and the effect of the border wall on the environment.



Peaceways is published 10 times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138, Lexington KY 40511. The next issue of *Peaceways* will appear in April, 2021. Deadline for calendar items is March 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Calendar for Peace & Justice

The council seeks to promote dialogue as a path to peace and justice. Consequently, we announce events that we do not necessarily endorse.

Tues., Mar. 2

Kentucky Council of Churches, Prayer in Action, 9:30 a.m. The ongoing series will address voting rights. See the story on page 2, *Peaceways*, for the Zoom link.

Tues., Mar. 2

CKCPJ peace action committee, 4:30 - 6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to attend the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

Thurs., Mar. 4

Rank the Vote meeting to discuss ongoing organization of a grassroots campaign for ranked-choice voting in Kentucky. For information about attending, email peacewayeditor@gmail.com.

Tues., Mar. 9

CKCPJ health care action team, 4:30-6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to attend the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

Tues., Mar. 9

Kentucky Council of Churches, Prayer in Action, 9:30 a.m. The ongoing series will address the death penalty. See the story on page 2, *Peaceways*, for the Zoom link.

Tues., Mar. 9

PFLAG Central Kentucky, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. At this month's meeting, we will expand our understanding of those who identify as non-binary. What have been the challenges and rewards in their own journeys in relationships with peers and family members? Is our culture catching on or catching up? Please go to the PFLAG Central Kentucky Facebook page before the meeting and register to join and receive the Zoom link.

Wed., Mar. 10

Newman Foundation, Inc. 7 p.m. Distinguished Speakers will feature a panel discussion of *Laudato Si*, "Caring for Our Common Home." Request the Zoom link at peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Mon., Mar. 15

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 5 - 6:30 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to participate in the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

Tues., Apr. 6

CKCPJ peace action committee, 4:30 - 6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

Tues., Apr. 13

CKCPJ health care action team, 4:30-6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to attend the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

Afflict the comfortable; comfort the afflicted.

CKCPJ supports BLM protesters

The following letter was sent to Fayette County Attorney Larry Roberts and Elizabeth Bancroft by Richard Mitchell in the name of CKCPJ.

Dear Mr. Roberts and Ms. Bancroft,

I am writing on behalf of the Steering Committee of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice (CKCPJ). We ask you to drop all charges against the leaders of Lexington's Black Lives Matter (BLM) protests that occurred during the summer of 2020. CKCPJ is a 37-year-old Lexington-based nonprofit organization that advocates and educates for international peace and social justice in Kentucky. Our first founding principle is "nonviolent solutions to conflict." Our fifth founding principle is "human rights for all people regardless of race." We strongly support Lexington's BLM protests. We know and respect April Taylor, Sarah Williams, and other leaders of Lexington's BLM protests. We believe they are committed to nonviolent social change. We understand their anger: no

one, not Breonna Taylor, not George Floyd, should die as a result of an encounter with law enforcement.

The Lexington protests are part of hundreds of similar protests across the nation. The leaders of these protests deserve credit for helping change the minds of a majority of Americans about use of deadly force in law enforcement. Recognizing the pivotal importance of these protests, prosecutors across the nation have dismissed charges against those who were arrested.

This past November, Pulitzer Prize-winning correspondent Neil MacFarquhar reported on why prosecutors dropped the charges. His article in *The New York Times* was headlined "Why Charges Against Protesters Are Being Dismissed by the Thousands." The major reason for dismissal was that prosecutors had concluded the protesters "were exercising their basic civil rights." Other charges were dropped in "recognition that law enforcement officers often use mass arrest as a technique to help clear the

street, not to confront illegal behavior." MacFarquhar also noted "protest leaders and defense attorneys accuse the police of piling on charges to try to halt the demonstrations."

When the history of our era is written, we believe these charges will put Fayette County on the wrong side of history. The leaders of the Lexington BLM protests will be seen as heroes. Not only is the protest itself a fundamental civil right, but protests seek to end 150 years of law enforcement practices that have afflicted African-Americans since the beginning of the Jim Crow era. In the short-term, if these charges go forward, these leaders could suffer disproportionate harm, in some cases affecting their ability to earn an income. We ask that you join prosecutors across the United States in dropping the charges against protesters, who this summer realigned our nation with the better part of its history. Specifically, we ask you to drop all charges against the leaders of Lexington's BLM protests.

You can cope with a polarized political system

Why We're Polarized. By Ezra Klein. Published Jan. 28, 2020 by Avid Reader Press / Simon & Schuster, New York. 269 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

If you think America's political system is broken because it's so polarized, Ezra Klein wants to rotate your view 90 degrees. Polarization is not a sign of the system being broken — it's a sign that the system is working exactly as it was designed. The opposite of polarization is not unity but suppression, says the left-wing blogger and Vox blogsite co-founder.

Recall the 1950s that the MAGA horde thinks was so golden. Civil rights were routinely suppressed and not discussed, there were no significant women's or gay rights, LGBTQ issues went undiscussed, and white men supplied the first and last significant words on any issue. ("Good times," sighs Cletus.) Dissenters were shunned, beaten, imprisoned, or killed. The present day is at least somewhat better for discussion of opposing viewpoints.

The first nine chapters of Klein's 10-chapter book summarize the political-social tectonics from the pre-Civil Rights 1960s to the present day. Most of us know intuitively what happened; Lyndon Johnson enacted the Civil Rights Act, which turned the Dixiecrat Democrats into Republicans. Through successive steps, Republicans followed a series of more radical populist and authoritarian philosophies.

Then a paranoid threat to the white

White supremacy won't die until white people see it as a white issue they need to solve rather than a black issue they need to empathize with.

partriarchy's primary status was crystallized by the election of Barack Obama, coalescing a scared bunch of Bubbas into expressing unified political power by electing Donald Trump, who perhaps instinctively seized on the tide

of discontent and rode it into the Presidency. In this latest chapter, the MAGA crowd tried to seize power under false pretenses on Jan. 6. I think we all agree on that basic outline.

Preferring to offer solutions rather than bring problems, I focus here on Chapter 10, wherein Klein offers solutions concerning how we can at least personally manage polarization. He is cynical about his solutions, to a degree: He warns against writers who offer snap solutions to the complex problems about which they have filled books.

We could "bomb-proof" our society by eliminating do-or-die flashpoints such as the debt ceiling, which focuses both sides on an all-in confrontation that threatens the world's economy. Implementing automatic corrections to such benchmarks as Medicaid costs, food stamp expenditures, and Social Security checks, to keep Congressional standoffs from becoming personally and budgetarily tragic.

He mentions ranked-choice voting and ending the Senate filibuster among other democratizing alternatives he admits have scant chance of adoption.

And he spirals into the stratosphere by suggesting we re-make the Supreme Court with 15 justices. His mechanics for this are fairer than right-wing critics would expect (or deserve, after the Garland and Barrett discontinuity). In a nutshell, Klein proposes that five liberal



Ezra Klein

and five conservative judges select five "independents." Clever, but we might as well discuss painting the sky purple.

On the personal level, we can at least resist polarization one-by-one, by being mindful of when we are responding to threats to our identity. (The California vegan of course touts mindfulness.) Psychologists and Fox News people know that we're more likely to accept news that reinforces our existing beliefs; we must strive to be aware of whether we're reacting to news as a progressive, a male, a feminist, a Christian, a sports fan, or whatever identity the news activates.

We have more of a chance of succeeding with his other personal anti-polarization alternative: Getting more involved in state and local issues, at the expense of spending time on national concerns. There are only 537 federal elected officials serving the U.S., who we are unlikely to influence. Meanwhile, over 500,000 elected state and local officials actively seek our input. We might even aspire to be one of these ourselves. So focusing on local issues, if we can't completely stop worrying, would at least give us a better chance of earning a return.

Reviewer Jim Trammel, newly retired, is consumed with the pressing issue of why they air "The Price Is Right" so early.

Submissions to *Peaceways*

Articles submitted to *Peaceways* should show an awareness of and sensitivity to the CKCPJ's mission and concerns.

Feature articles should be no longer than 500 words, unless you are willing to have the piece cut to fit one page of *Peaceways* text. Pieces will be edited for clarity.

Please include references in the text for all quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. End-notes or footnotes are not used.

Please query submissions to peacewayseditor@gmail.com before writing a feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

For all submissions, the author's name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text.

If you submit material that has been published or that you are also submitting to other publishers, be sure to indicate this.

Also include information about your relationship to any organization or issue mentioned in the article, for inclusion in a biographical reference at the end of the story.

Submissions should be made in Word format *via* email. Book reviews are usually solicited by the editor, but we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. *Peaceways* is published monthly except January.

Support CKCPJ by linking
your Kroger Plus card
to #16439 at
krogercommunityrewards.com.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Check with website for times when meetings are resumed

CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings, third Monday, 5 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. More info: (859) 488-1448 or peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace, every Thursday, 5:30 - 6 p.m. at Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main Street) in downtown Lexington. Contact Richard Mitchell, (859) 327-6277.

Migrant Network Coalition, first Monday, noon - 1:15 p.m., GLOBAL LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Lindsay Mattingly, lmatingly@lexpublib.org, (859) 231-5514.

PFLAG Central Kentucky, second Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. LGBTQ individuals of all ages, family members, friends and allies are welcome. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Visit info@pflagcentralky.org or (859) 338-4393. Speakers followed by confidential support group meeting.

Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky, second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, chair, (859) 951-8565 or info@lexfair.org.

Wednesday Night GLSO "Heart to Heart" discussion group, 7 p.m., Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave., Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky's only Pride Center, where they have quietly provided services to the GLBTQQA community for decades. More info, Pride Center hours, and other links at www.glsso.org.

Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky, first Thursday, 7 p.m., Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington. The Forum is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association. Meetings are open to people of all beliefs willing to express their opinions in a civil manner. Child care is provided. Contact President Staci Maney, staci@olliegee.com or (859) 797-2662.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Diocese Mission House at Fourth St. and MLK Blvd, Lexington. Contact Beth Howard, (859) 276-0563.

NAMI Lexington Support Groups, every Sunday, 2:30 - 4 p.m. Participation Station, 869 Sparta Ct., Lexington. Call (859) 272-7891 or visit www.namilex.org.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, call (859) 277-5126. The Christian-Muslim dialogue promotes understanding and mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. By exploring moral, cultural and political factors shaping the current context, the program promotes personal and collective responsibility to build a more just and peaceful world.

Dance Jam, every Tuesday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. Move to the extent you are able. Sponsored by Motion Matters, \$7 per session to cover space rental. Contact Pamela, info@motionmatters.org, (859) 351-3142.

Movies with Spirit, second Friday of every month. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road, Lexington. Potluck at 6 p.m., film at 7.

National Action Network, third Thursday each month, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Central Library, Lexington.

Showing Up for Racial Justice, second Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wild Fig Coffee and Books, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington.

To include a regular meeting of your organization in this space, contact Margaret Gabriel, peacewayseditor@gmail.com.



The Central Kentucky Council
for Peace and Justice
1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138
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*If you can't feed a hundred
people, then feed just one.*

— *Mother Teresa*

10 ways you can make a difference

Be energy efficient

During the summer months, close your curtains to block heat from the sun. During the winter, open your curtains during the day to allow the sun to warm your home. These simple steps can significantly reduce the need for air conditioning and heating, which are likely the most energy intensive aspects of your home.

Calculate your carbon footprint

Understanding which activities are carbon intensive allows you to know where you can take action. The EPA has a free carbon footprint calculator you can use.

Adjust the thermostat

Turning down your air conditioning or heating when you leave the house will further shrink your carbon footprint. A change of just 5 degrees is a good start.

Adjust your driving routine

By combining multiple errands into one trip, you reduce the amount of fossil fuel you use.

Go meatless on Fridays

Livestock production accounts for 4 percent of Americans' greenhouse gas, according to the EPA. By going meatless one day per week, you'll honor the earth and your commitment to caring for creation.

Recycle more

Recycling reduces your carbon footprint both because landfills emit greenhouse gases through decomposition, and because manufacturing from scratch is carbon intensive. Find where and how to recycle almost anything in your area by searching earth911.com

Use less water

Water-processing accounts for approximately 3 percent of energy use in the United States, according to the EPA. Saving water means saving energy. Post a "please conserve water" sign at sinks and showers, install low flow spigots, or select the "eco" setting on laundry machines and dishwashers.

Petition policy makers

Your elected officials have the power to take action on climate change. Write policy makers to tell them that you stand for the stewardship of creation. Write to your local newspaper. Writing a letter to the editor has effects beyond your local community.

Legislators assign their staffs to read letters to the editor as an important barometer of constituents' interests.

For tip sheets and templates, write to programs@catholicclimatecovenant.org

- Form a study or action group at church or in your neighborhood.
- We are all strengthened when we act together as a community.

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Showing Up for Racial Justice

From an email distribution from Showing Up For Racial Justice:

Many of us may be taking a deep breath now that we have transitioned to a new presidential administration, a breath that may be an expression of relief that we defeated a tyrant, a breath of grief for the costs in life and terror that the previous administration leaves in its wake, and even at the same time, a breath of preparation as we roll up our sleeves for the work to come.

We are still living in the aftermath of the white supremacist insurrection at the capitol on Jan. 6. One thing (among many things) has become even clearer since that day: the collusion between police and white nationalist militants to invade the Capitol, and the fact that so many of those militants were in fact off-duty police. This collusion should leave us with no doubt about the role of policing in the US: it exists to uphold white supremacy.

We may still be feeling many things in response to what happened: shock, rage, anger, heartbreak, confusion, dismay. These emotions, while they may not feel good, are signposts for us, clues that we can feel, in our bones, how wrong things are, how much we long for a different world where everyone is free from violence. These emotions can nourish our impulse towards shaping a different collective future.

As people of faith/spiritual people, one way we can contribute to shaping a different collective future is to work

with our congregations and spiritual communities to divest from policing in order to create communities of safety, care, and accountability.

Will you take action with us and move your congregation to divest from the police?

The Community Safety for All toolkit includes a 4-Movement model we have developed to support your congregation in moving to action. In it you'll find assessment tools, political education suggestions, action ideas for a variety of scenarios, theological reflection, and alternatives your congregation can utilize.

SURJ-Faith has been supporting congregations to divest for a few years now, and we've used that experience to compile a thorough tool kit to help you and your congregation take action towards divesting from police and investing in truly safe communities.

Now more than ever, the need to imagine and shape a future without policing is crucial. With prophetic calls across traditions that emphasize dismantling oppressive systems and investing in the health and well-being of communities, the role of faith/spiritual communities in this historic moment is vital to push back on state violence and rising white supremacist violence.

White congregations must do our part by withdrawing our consent from policing, and investing in building alternatives that truly provide community safety for all.