

Exploring Social Justice

....An Invitation

The workshop will be led by ICPM Pastoral Associate Jim Gurnett, who has a background over several decades of involvement in social justice within faith communities and the broader community. Issues of focus for him have included immigration/refugees, poverty/homelessness, and the environment.

Possible follow-ups to a workshop such as this that ICPM can make available include:

- *Consultations* about a social justice idea you have, and further support in developing a plan;
- *Exploring* the possibility of becoming a Pastoral Ministry Volunteer with ICPM; and
- *Learning* more about truth and reconciliation issues with ICPM Indigenous helper Michelle Nieviadomy.

If you are interested in this idea, the first step is to discuss in more detail what a workshop might involve to meet your wishes, and explore a possible date if you want to move forward. We invite you to be in touch with us.

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The world is changed by your example,
not your opinions.

Mahatma Gandhi

Inner City Pastoral Ministry could not serve people as it does without the **loving and generous participation** of faith communities, and the individuals who are part of these churches and synagogues. We are deeply grateful for the meals you provide for people each Sunday, the long hours of work, and, even more, for the warmth of your interactions with people when you come to be a part of Community of Emmanuel on Sunday.

Meals provided on Sundays answer, with loving care, the call of Jesus to support people who are less fortunate.

Sometimes Sunday volunteers muse about the reasons some people struggle to have a decent life. What are the "upstream" issues that create inequality and contribute to the difficult lives some people experience? What systemic or social situations are at work, beyond the individual choices of people?

As a *next step* for faith communities and individuals who have demonstrated commitment to the importance of compassion expressed in social service, ICPM invites you to have us join you for a social justice workshop.

Jesus made clear we are to be generous in acts of service and giving to those who are struggling.

And the Gospel also calls us to *take action* to move the world towards the goodness that marked it at creation. Actions of social justice are a necessary part of our obedience to the Gospel. Just as we follow Jesus in social service and actions of human care, we do so when we work to transform social structures and systems that marginalize certain groups of people and hold them in poverty.

We invite you to think about having a workshop on doing social justice as a way of extending the experience of providing a Sunday lunch at ICPM.



We can *tailor a workshop* to a length that works best for you (from two to four hours is ideal) and on a day and time you prefer. We encourage you to invite not only the volunteers who helped with the lunch you provided, but others in your community as well.

The workshop will cover:

- how to do social analysis of an issue
- how to develop a plan for an appropriate action that will make a difference
- and how to evaluate your action.

You will try out the skills involved in a simulated way. And it will leave you with resources to learn more.