

**Poor People's Campaign Moral Fusion Summit:
Challenging the Racial/Economic Caste System in Washtenaw County**

Dear Friends,

With gratitude for your work, we would like to invite you to a Moral Fusion Summit hosted by the Washtenaw County Poor People's Campaign on Saturday, January 26th, 2019 from 9am-4:00pm at Brown Chapel, AME at 1043 West Michigan Avenue in Ypsilanti.

The Poor People's Campaign is a national movement that seeks to challenge the many systemic barriers that keep people trapped in poverty. This summer, the Poor People's Campaign engaged in 40 Days of Action with weekly demonstrations in state capitols around the country, including Lansing, where more than a hundred people risked arrest in actions of civil disobedience.

The Poor People's Campaign is creating an agenda for work in our county in 2019. To do this, we are inviting people who have been doing local justice work. We do not seek to replace your efforts, but rather, learn from your insights and expertise. We are inviting people who are active in a number of areas, including,

Session 1

- Criminal Justice
- Education (K-12)
- Employment/Wages
- Health, Healthcare, and Disability
- LGBTQ Justice

Session 2

- Environmental Justice
- Housing
- Immigration
- Policing
- Veterans Concerns

During the Summit, we will break into working groups to determine key, strategic actions to overcome the racial and economic barriers in each area that are keeping people trapped in poverty. Out of this work we hope to create a common agenda for the Poor People's Campaign, which will allow us to work together across our different concerns to create systemic change here in Washtenaw County.

It was the success of this kind of moral fusion agenda through the Moral Monday Movement in North Carolina that inspired the national Poor People's Campaign. We seek to build that kind of movement in Michigan and Washtenaw County. The strength of such a movement depends upon our ability to work together across our different concerns and see how they are inter-connected.

The more we can engage organizations, leaders, and people particularly impacted in each of these areas, the more successful the Summit will be. The creation of this common agenda will require all of us to very briefly share our concerns and ideas, listen to one another, and then come to some preliminary agreement on our short-term and long-term priorities. To participate in the

specific working groups of your choice, we ask you to bring with you three ideas for overcoming barriers and creating a more just redistribution of resources.

To register for the Summit, 1) please go to: <https://www.icpj.org/blog/2018/moral-fusion-summit/> or 2) call Lisa Bashert at 734-255-0592.

If you are able, we would ask that you contribute \$10 to help cover costs of food and the Summit, but this is not required.

This Summit is being sponsored by The Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice, the Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, and WeROC (The Washtenaw Regional Organizing Coalition). Please let us know if you would like your organization to be listed among our co-sponsors. Co-sponsors are committed to publicizing and bringing people to the event.

We invite you to redistribute this letter and share it with others. Let us come together to end the racial and economic segregation that still defines our lives here in Washtenaw County and throughout so much of our country.

Thank you,

James Anderson
WeROC
Strong Tower Ministry

Lisa Marshal Bashert
Washtenaw Poor People's Campaign

Krystle DuPree
Community Organizer
Washtenaw Poor People's Campaign

Spencer Ervin
Brown Chapel AME Church

Ron Gregg
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor

Su Hansen
Meta Peace Team Washtenaw Hub

Mary Ann Hergenrother, Ginny Preuss
Social Justice Council of the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor

Betsy McCabe
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Church of the Good Shepherd, United Church of Christ

Jim Mogensen
St. Aidan's Episcopal Church

Greg Olszta
Michigan Poor People's Campaign
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice

Renée Roederer
Michigan Nones and Dones
Community Chaplain, Northside Presbyterian Church

Sarah Rosenthal
Michigan for Single Payer Healthcare

Ayron Smith-Douglas
Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice
Washtenaw Poor People's Campaign

Joseph H. Summers
Pastor, Episcopal Church of the Incarnation

Laurie Wechter
Community Organizer
Visual Artist

La'Ron Williams
Washtenaw Faces Race

Tad Wysor
WeROC
American Federation of Government Employees Local 3907
First Congregational Church UCC