

Recommendations for Restricted Endowment
Donations During the 2022 – 2023 Fiscal Year
BUUF Social Justice Committee
May 27, 2022

The Social Justice Committee recommends the following distribution of funds from BUUF’s restricted endowment during the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Based on the Endowment Committee estimate of endowment earnings, the Social Justice Committee proposes a total expenditure of \$3,300 to be contributed to social justice and service organizations or used by BUUF to initiate projects that will contribute to social justice, environmental justice, and social equity and inclusion.

Social Justice Organizations Recommended for Support During 2022 – 2023

Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network: \$100

The CARES Program, Benton Harbor, provides services for those affected by HIV/AIDS: \$250

The OutCenter, Benton Harbor, supports and advocates for LGBTQ+ persons: \$400

All God’s Children Youth Choir: \$0

Calling All Colors provides educational, multicultural experiences for children: \$0

The Race Relations Council awards scholarships to area students who are applying to or attending a college and who have demonstrated a commitment to “building positive race relations in their community.”

For the 2022 – 2023 fiscal year, the Social Justice Committee recommends that the funds usually distributed to the Calling All Colors multicultural educational program and All God’s Children Youth Choir be designated instead for the Race Relations Council scholarship fund: total award \$550.

We make this recommendation for two reasons. First, Race Relations scholarship recipients are having difficulty purchasing increasingly expensive course books, especially in the sciences. Money for the purchase of course books would be invaluable to these students. Some have deferred going to college, even with a scholarship, because they could not afford the books. Second, Calling All Colors and All God’s Children Youth Choir have sufficient funds for the coming academic year, because their programs have been curtailed during the pandemic. It is likely that in future fiscal years, the committee will again recommend distributing our contribution to all three programs.

Saint Augustine’s Episcopal Church Neighborhood Food Pantry distributes surplus and extremely low-priced food twice per month: \$100

The Fresh Start Children’s Garden, Benton Harbor is relaunching its program this year after Covid-19 restriction: \$400

Interfaith Action of Southwest Michigan is a collaboration of faith communities advocating for peace and justice: \$100

Neighbors Organizing Against Racism (NOAR) initiates social and educational programs that bring together residents of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor: \$500

Carol’s Hope, St. Joseph, provides support for individuals with substance use disorders: \$200

The Cora Lamping Center for Survivors of Domestic & Sexual Violence: \$300

Discretionary Fund for BUUF Social Justice Initiatives

In its report for the BUUF Five-Year Plan (May 2021) the Social Justice Committee observed that the pursuit of social justice has many facets. In addition to the Social Justice Committee, BUUF also has a Welcoming Congregation Committee and a Green Sanctuary Committee. The Social Justice Committee favors active consultation among these committees in order to address the intersecting issues of environmental justice, economic equity, the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ persons, and racial and multicultural relations.

To support collaboration on BUUF initiatives in these intersecting areas: \$400