**2019 COVENANT 5 Peace and Justice Advocacy Grants**

**TBLG CONCERNS – $1500**

Invest in Inclusive Justice’s “Together in Faith” Michigan. TBLG Concerns and Oasis will cosponsor Inclusive Justice’s spring conference in Lansing . . . help plan and facilitate the Inclusive Justice Program’s annual “Together in Faith” gathering . . . help raise funds for the Inclusive Justice Program.

The funds would be expended to support Inclusive Justice’s education and advocacy efforts *re* (1) opposing the adoption in Michigan of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA); (2) expanding Michigan’s nondiscriminatory policy (Elliott-Larsen Act) to include gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation as categories (“classes”) protected from discrimination; and (3) similarly expanding Michigan’s “hate crimes policy” (Ethnic Intimidation Act).

**BRIAN’S HOPE – $750**

“Continuing and advancing our partnership with Project Opiate in 2019 (several dates are confirmed with Francine Zysk, Project Opiate and Total Court Services) to provide more presentation/training workshops for the various deaneries, congregations and any other organizations that contact us. Our goal is 200 participants. We continue to support HB 5085 and any others that will reduce the human and social costs of addiction on our communities. We are largely responsible for advocacy that allowed PA 311-PA 314 of 2014.

Encourage continued relationship with Project Opiate and advocacy.

**ALL SAINTS EAST LANSING – Sanctuary Support – $650**

“Continue to work to impact political decision making by advocating for immigrants and lifting up immigration issues to our church and in the larger community. Work in conjunction with Action of Greater Lansing and with Michigan United (Detroit) as well as our supporting faith groups to assist and advocate for individual(s) in sanctuary.

Provide resources to continue to organize/offer spiritual and educational experiences at ASEC to increase awareness and understanding of immigration issues. Organize, promote, and/or attend area prayer vigils, rallies, marches, forums, etc. (at ASEC as well as throughout the greater-Lansing and Detroit areas) related to peace and justice, to specific immigrants in need, and to immigration issues in general. Prepare resource materials for these efforts.”

**GRACE IN ACTION – $2000**

Create radical spaces for critical thinking and action rooted in spiritual and political praxis -- Institute for Spiritual Leadership

**PROJECT OPIATE – $1250**

Supplies for training. Narcan RX for each event. X 4 events is 2500. Leader is qualified to provide educational leadership. See also Brian’s Hope.

**WORD & WORLD – $2000**

“Support for producing a book – Why is Grandpa in Jail? – that will be used with children and adults to honor our children’s beings and childhood while also encouraging a heart and imagination for peace and justice. It is a story that honors the legacy of civil disobedience as well summons kids to know their own conscience.”

**FRIDAY FILL UP -- TRINITY – BELLEVILLE -- $500**

This funding would help expand the program that provides weekend food for children whose families live below the “poverty line.”

We recommend using the amount to develop the program’s advocacy to help participants become more food secure. We encourage the group to apply for an EDoMI social service grant to support their direct service program.

**WHITAKER INSTITUTE -- $500**

Eating Together Faithfully: Food that LAUGHS – (Local, Affordable, Uncomplicated, Good, Healthy, Seasonal) – Support for training in food advocacy.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE (Episcopal Church of the Incarnation) --$1500**

Restorative justice program, organizing town meetings with this as its focus; train people to lead Victim Offender Conferences; publicize the findings of the court watching program FORJ did in Washtenaw County; work with *The Washtenaw County Sherriff’s Department* to move ahead with two major projects that will help divert people out of jail and help reduce recidivism for those who do; working with the Washtenaw County *Faith Leader's Forum on Policing and Racial Justice and the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice* to advocate for the practices recommended by the presidential commission that will help to reduce discrimination and harm against the poor, people of color, and those with mental illness; encourage members of *Citizens For Justice* to witness about the plight of those who have been labeled sex-offenders and their families; work with the Poor People’s Campaign to focus on the ways our criminal justice system helps to trap people in poverty and reproduce the racial/economic caste system in our county.

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE – $3600**

“Convene advocates, activists, academics and/or those most impacted to imagine a future where accountability, healing and transformation determine our collective future, not perpetual punishment.

“During the convening we will address and document issues related to the following:

What is working to address the front end—sentencing; what is working to address the back end—commutation and parole; best practices; address needs for establishment of programs that are specific to people returning to the free-world community after serving many years in prisons: housing, technology education, health relationships, professional development, trauma specific services, and other population specific needs; how do we move to eliminate life and long-term sentences across the country; messaging and narrative work around ending punitive language and responses to harm

Travel and professional facilitation support for the convening event.

**ST. PETER’S WATER ADVOCACY– $2000**

“We the People and St Peter’s are both members of the Peoples Water Board which is a coalition effort (including such as Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, Food and Water Watch, Eastern Michigan Environmental Action Committee, Sierra Club, etc.) with legislative, educational and direct action work.” Funding will support rent for the organization at St. Peter’s.

**CROSSROADS $1000**

“Support educational efforts, including trainings, workshops, and presentations, that deal with systemic poverty, relationship with impoverished people, the dignity of each person, human rights, and social justice.”

**ACTION of GREATER LANSING –$4500**

“Identify public policy/grass-roots efforts for social change that prioritize efforts for equity and inclusion to be implemented in 2019. These will include organizing or joining existing legislative advocacy efforts, sponsoring educational events in our congregations and wider community, and including action steps such as letter-writing campaigns in our events and outreach. These efforts will center around issues that will have greatest impact on families experiencing the harm of mass deportation and mass incarceration including the Licenses for All campaign, the Ingham County Sheriff’s Department’s creation of support services for mentally ill and underserved inmates and advocating for financial support of social programs for re-entering citizens.”

Funding will support the lead organizer’s salary.