

# Thoughts...???

- *When middle-class people in U.S. churches were asked to define poverty, they described a lack of food, clothing, and housing. When people living in poverty were asked the same question, they named lack of choice, isolation, shame, depression, and powerlessness.*
- ***Why do you think there is this difference in perception- and how might it affect efforts to do good?***
- *From book “Doing Good... says who?” By Connie Newton and Fran Early*



# Strive for Justice and Peace

Workshop Leader: Julia Frank, Lutheran Congregational Services

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## Micah 6:8

God requires people to "Act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God".

- Don't just say you love God, but act in a ways that God loves
- Taking actions in line with our believes
- Act justly, love mercy, walk humbly with your God

# Activity 1!

# Storytime

Share a story about a time you felt that you were part of something bigger/ making a difference/doing justice

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# What's Justice

Justice is best defined as the principle **of fairness**, the quality of being **morally right and impartial**, and the administration of law to uphold this principle by **giving individuals what is due to them**.

While a universal definition is complex, common interpretations emphasize **equal** treatment for all, **accountability** for actions, and the impartial resolution of conflicts to ensure a **rightful distribution of benefits, burdens, and punishments**.

# What is Peace

- a state of tranquility or quiet: such as freedom from civil disturbance or war

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# “No Justice, No Peace!”

- **Martin Luther King Jr.:** In the 1960s, King linked the two concepts, stating, "There can be no justice without peace, and there can be no peace without justice"
- **1992: The Los Angeles riots.** The chant became well known during the unrest that followed the acquittal of the police officers who beat Rodney King.
- **2014 onwards: The Black Lives Matter movement.** The chant became a central slogan for the movement following events like the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri. It was used to demand accountability for police violence against Black people.
- **2020: Protests following George Floyd's murder.** It was used widely during the international protests against police brutality following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

# Justice and Charity

**Charity** offers direct, immediate aid (like food or shelter) to people in need, while **justice** addresses the root causes of problems and aims to create systemic change to prevent such needs from arising in the first place.

**Charity** provides temporary solutions, whereas **justice** seeks long-term, structural remedies rooted in fairness, human rights, and creating opportunities so that charity is no longer necessary.

# Justice in Disaster Response From Buckets to...Beloved Community

## Charity

- Swinging hammers
- Rebuild homes
- Make flood buckets



## Justice

- Thoughtful Outreach
- Serving Renters *and* Homeowners
- Long term engagement



# Markers of Justice

- Reciprocity
- Mutual Aid
- Looking at root issues
- Enabling institutional mechanisms
- Decolonization
  - (Colonize: Divide, Control, Exploit  
Decolonize: Connect, Belong, Relate)
- Trust
- Fund in three buckets: some for relief, some for recovery, and some for mitigation and preparedness
- Promotes solidarity
- People's right to contribute



**Rev. Lydia Neshangwe**

Moderator of the Uniting Presbyterian Church  
in Southern Africa (UPCSA)

2023 – 2025

“The new paradigm that we’ve been encouraging is that we are not really there, for example, to teach the margins how to fish. You know, there’s a maxim that says: ‘Give a man a fish, and you give him a meal. Teach him how to fish and you give him many meals.’

What we are saying to our partners is that you need to come and fish with us. So that’s not a matter of you teaching us how to fish. Come and fish with me in the Zambise River. As we are fishing, you understand why I don’t catch as many fish as you think I should, because I have to watch out, one eye is in the water looking for fish, the other eye is looking for crocodiles and hippopotamus...

# Activity 2:

# Practice

## Winter Coat Collection

**Charity:** Collect winter coats and donate to women's shelter

How can we do justice?



How do we go from concept to concrete actions in our congregations?

How do we make decisions on service projects or what to advocate for?

How do we get funding, resources or volunteers?

Can we review ministries to evaluate where we can address more root causes, or more relational activities?

What other institutional policies do we need to put in place?

Who has the authority to represent our church in the community? How can that be given to folks?

# New territory: Helping renters

## Concept

“We mostly help people make repairs to homes that they own.

People who rent their homes often face damage to their residences too, **and** these families are often severely cost burdened, low income and led by single mothers.

We should help renters too”

## Concrete Actions

Challenge: Renters often don't have authority to make repairs to their property.

### Actions:

listened in on Low Income Housing Coalition Calls with Landlords

Build a relationship with tenants rights groups

Started engaging directly with renters

### Outcomes:

Grant requests included money for renters

Outlined a process for helping landlords make repairs

Voted to fund first and last months rent

Engaged Legal Aid of SEPA to help renters take legal action

# More Practice

**Pick a charity/ministry**

What three actions can bring us to more reciprocity, relationship, and belonging?



# No Justice, No Peace

## Know Justice, Know Peace

- Know justice, know peace
- What's the word for ***not*** getting what we deserve?
- We know mercy through Jesus
- We must persist, but our efforts aren't the last word

Julia Frank

[jfrank@libertylutheran.org](mailto:jfrank@libertylutheran.org)

215-430-1299