



# Nehemiah Action

**Tuesday, March 29, 2022**

**Catholic Church of the Incarnation**

**6:30pm Call to Order**

**Chair: Pr. Jim Bleakley, Co-President  
Charlottesville Vineyard Church**

<b>For Zoom Attendance</b>	<b>Sign-in via Google Form</b>
<p><b>Zoom Link:</b> <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89724094913?pwd=_YktKdm1RZFN6bG9sY3ZiVFZoSk9BQT09">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89724094913?pwd=_YktKdm1RZFN6bG9sY3ZiVFZoSk9BQT09</a></p> <p>Phone: <b>1 301 715 8592</b> Meeting ID: 897 2409 4913 Passcode: 259541</p>	<p><b>For Zoom Participants Only</b> Click the following link, and answer just a few questions</p> <p><a href="https://forms.gle/Rn939Bb26c6bPLuM9">https://forms.gle/Rn939Bb26c6bPLuM9</a></p> <p><b>*It is VERY important that everyone signs in to the meeting!</b></p>

## Members

*Catholic Church of the Incarnation*

*Charlottesville Friends Meeting- Quakers*

*Charlottesville Mennonite Church*

*Charlottesville Seventh Day Adventist Church*

*Charlottesville Vineyard Church*

*Chestnut Grove Baptist Church*

*Congregation Beth Israel*

*Crozet United Methodist Church*

*Faith Hope & Love Church*

*First United Methodist Church*

*Grace Church Red Hill*

*Hinton Avenue United Methodist Church*

*Holy Comforter Catholic Church*

*Islamic Society of Central Virginia*

*Insight Meditation Community of Charlottesville*

*Ivy Creek United Methodist Church*

*New Beginnings Christian Community*

*Olivet Presbyterian Church*

*Park Street Christian Church*

*Peace Lutheran Church*

*P'nai Yisrael Chavurah*

*St Paul's Memorial Episcopal Church*

*St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church*

*Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cville*

*Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church*

*Westminster Presbyterian Church*

## What is IMPACT?

IMPACT – Interfaith Movement Promoting Action by Congregations Together - is an organization made up of congregations from throughout Charlottesville and Albemarle County. Founded in 2006, we use the power of large numbers of organized people to solve critical community problems. We are not a direct service provider, rather we are a grassroots, direct action, multi-issue organization.

## How does IMPACT work?

IMPACT follows a yearly process that focuses on building and strengthening a Justice Ministry (Rodef Tzedek) Network at each member congregation. In the Fall, Team Leaders host House Meetings to discuss community problems and engage participants as Network Members. From November through March, Issue Committees are formed to conduct research into the problems, and ultimately come up with specific, winnable solutions. The Nehemiah Action is held at the end of March, where thousands gather to ask public officials to implement these solutions. After the Nehemiah Action, leaders follow up on the commitments made at the Action, and Network Members are invited to invest in IMPACT.

### ***Justice Ministry (Rodef Tzedek) Network Members Commit to:***

- 1) Attend the 4 IMPACT Assemblies of the year –**  
The Rally (March 15, 2022)  
The Nehemiah Action (March 29, 2022)  
The Justice Ministry Celebration (May 24, 2022)  
The Annual Assembly (October 25, 2022)
- 2) Bring at least 3 people with you to the NEHEMIAH ACTION**
- 3) Consider an investment of \$200 or more in justice ministry**

## Our Vision for Justice Ministry

Micah 6:8 provides a clear list of requirements for God's people: to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

We believe that doing justice is a core part of our faith traditions and yet one that is often overlooked. Our vision is to build up the Justice Ministries (Rodef Tzedek) within each congregation such that justice is an integral part of their culture.

In 2020 our Nehemiah Action had to be canceled due to the pandemic but in 2021 1,221 showed up on Zoom. This year we are aiming for a 1,250 people, with at least 700 to show up in-person. Through building the power of organized people, we believe we will transform greater Charlottesville, so that justice can and will be realized by all.

# **AGENDA**

**CLICK HERE TO SIGN-IN AND BE COUNTED:** <https://forms.gle/Rn939Bb26c6bPLuM9>

**Call to Order, Welcome and Purpose**

Pr. Jim Bleakley, Co-President  
Charlottesville Vineyard Church

**Ground Rules and Preparing for Action**

Apostle Sarah Kelley, Faith, Hope and Love Church  
Carissa Phillips, Treasurer, Charlottesville Vineyard Church

**Opening Song: *This Little Light of Mine***

*Led by* Apostle Sarah Kelley, Faith, Hope and Love Church

**Reflection and Opening Prayer**

Pr. Jim Bleakley, Co-President  
Charlottesville Vineyard Church

**Update on Early Childhood Education and Care**

Janie Pudhorodsky, Church of the Incarnation

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Problem Background**

Rev. Matt Seaton, Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

**Testimony**

Tom Eckman, Church of the Incarnation

**Our Solutions**

Pr. Elizabeth Emrey, New Beginnings Christian Community

**Commitment Seeking from City Officials**

Councilors Michael Payne and Sena Magill

John Frazee, St. Paul's Memorial Episcopal Church

Pr. Elizabeth Emrey, New Beginnings Christian Community

**Commitment Seeking from County Officials**

Supervisors Ned Gallaway and Ann Mallek

Vikki Bravo, Congregation Beth Israel

Tom Eckman, Church of the Incarnation

**Summary**

Rev. Matt Seaton, Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church

## **CARE FOR CREATION AND TRANSPORTATION**

**Problem Background**

Rabbi Dan Alexander, Congregation Beth Israel

**Testimonies**

Bob McAdams, Peace Lutheran Church

Peggy Scott, New Hope Baptist Church

**Our Solutions**

Rabbi Dan Alexander, Congregation Beth Israel

**Commitment Seeking from City Officials**

Rev. Sarah Wastella, Crozet United Methodist Church

Rabbi Dan Alexander, Congregation Beth Israel

**Commitment Seeking from Officials**

Councilor Michael Payne and Supervisor Ned Gallaway

**Summary and Next Steps**

Cantor Sharon McCord, Co-President, Congregation Beth Israel

**Closing Prayer**

Monsignor Timothy Keeney, Church of the Incarnation

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**8:05-8:45**

**EVALUTATION FOR BOARD, CLERGY, PRESENTERS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN CONFERENCE ROOM AND ZOOM**

# **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

## **WE ARE STLL IN A CRISIS**

**6,600 families are one paycheck away from homelessness because they pay more than half their income toward housing. This problem has grown since the start of the pandemic.** Four out of five of these families earn less than \$46,850 each year. Rents in the region have increased by 42% between 2011 and 2018, with residents experiencing a rent increase of 7% in 2017. In Albemarle County the affordability requirements for 445 units will expire within the next 10 years, leaving 445 families stranded. **Seniors and people of color are affected at disproportionate rates.** Zoning and land-use policies in Charlottesville with roots in the Jim Crow era, are pricing out lower income families. 1 in 4 Black homeowners have either moved or lost their homes between 2000 and 2018, while white homeownership has increased by 20%.

## **WHAT WE WANT IN THE CITY**

- **Ongoing allocation of \$3 million in the Charlottesville Affordable Housing Fund (CAHF) starting in the upcoming (FY23) budget:** The CAHF is the main tool for providing affordable homes in the City. Local experts estimate that \$3 million can build 100 homes each year. That's 600 families over 30 years! Council ought to set an annual funding goal that will never risk going unfunded. Currently \$925,000 is proposed for FY23
- **Conduct a study to identify and dedicate income sources for CAHF:** A recommended best practice from the national Affordable Housing Trust Fund project, will ensure that it never goes unfunded. The new Housing Policy created by the Cville Plans Together steering committee recommends that suggests 8-10 possible income sources

	<u><b>Payne</b></u>	<u><b>Magill</b></u>
1. <b>Will you push to get the CAHF to \$3mil for the upcoming budget year?</b>		
2. <b>Will you vote to direct staff to do a study of current revenue sources to maintain the CAHF annually with at least \$3mil for new developments?</b>		

## **WHAT WE WANT IN THE COUNTY**

- **Fully establish the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) with an ordinance:** A recommended best practice from the national Affordable Housing Trust Fund Project, an ordinance will provide transparency to tax payers and Supervisors for the following: 1) Who it will serve and what eligible projects it will fund 2) The process for oversight and annual reporting back to the board 3) Revenue sources and how funds are distributed 4) Length of affordability of projects. Staff currently doesn't plan to write an ordinance
- **Conduct a study to identify and dedicate additional income sources for AHTF of at least \$5 million:** Currently the only income source is developer proffers, voluntary payments to the County to mitigate the impact of their development. This is not enough and amounts are too variable. Local experts estimate that \$5 million can build 166 homes each year. That's 996 families over 30 years! We have secured commitments from 5 supervisors to support getting the fund to \$5mil for the upcoming budget.
- **Target 50% of funding for low income families:** 80% of the county's families struggling with their housing make less than \$46,850 (50% AMI for a family of 4) yet staff do not plan on using the AHTF for these families! We want the fund to build homes for those that need it the most!

	<u><b>Gallaway</b></u>	<u><b>Mallek</b></u>
1. <b>Will you direct staff to do a study of current revenue sources to maintain the AHTF annually with at least \$5mil?</b>		
2. <b>Will you vote to direct staff to establish an ordinance for the AHTF that directs 50% of the funding to families at or below 50%AMI?</b>		

# **CARE FOR CREATION – TRANSPORTATION**

## **THE CLIMATE CRISIS**

Climate change is a global problem that is already having many local effects such as worsening storms and heat waves in our area. Climate scientists have found that, to avoid the worst effects of climate change, we must cut carbon emissions in half by 2030. In our region, transportation is the single largest source of carbon emissions. Most of those emissions are caused by cars. For decades our leaders have deprioritized investments in public transit and have led us to a situation today where our community is now over reliant on cars. To meaningfully address climate change, improving our public transit system must be a priority.

Right now, public transit in our community is unreliable and inefficient for people to use. The average wait time for a bus is over half an hour, which means that people cannot rely on the bus to get to work, medical appointments, or run daily errands. Across the country, the bus systems that are most well-used are those with frequent and reliable service. Most people who currently use the bus are low income and already face systemic challenges like the lack of affordable housing and low wages; having unreliable transportation is yet another hurdle towards being able to secure stable jobs and live stable lives. Reducing wait times ensures that people who rely on the bus can get to work and appointments on time and will make it easier for people to reduce their reliance on cars so that we can address climate change.

In parts of the county, there is not regular transit. Those who live in more rural areas like Crozet, Scottsville and Esmont have to rely on scheduling JAUNT pick-ups a day in advance, or take a commuter bus that picks up once a day in the morning and returns in the evening. Many elderly and mobility impaired people are left with little options to get to midday appointments and need reliable transportation.

## **WHAT WE WANT IN THE CITY & COUNTY**

To make sure that transit is a safe and reliable option, the top priority is to bring down wait times, and to do that the solution is straightforward: we need more bus drivers. Right now, Charlottesville Area Transit (CAT) has 59 drivers, and needs AT LEAST 30 more bus drivers to be fully staffed for 30 minute wait times on all routes, and 40 more to get down to 15 minute wait times.

**We are seeking commitments to the following questions:**

	<b><u>Payne</u></b>	<b><u>Magill</u></b>
1. <b>Will you support CAT's FY2023 budget request that includes hiring 10 new drivers?</b>		
2. <b>Will you commit to a goal of 15 minute wait times on all CAT routes by FY2025?</b>		

In the County, we want to see a commitment to a rural needs assessment. This is the first step towards providing more regular transit services to communities like Crozet, Scottsville and Esmont, and doing this needs assessment could allow for state and federal funding to cover much of the cost.

**We are seeking a commitment to the following question:**

	<b><u>Payne</u></b>	<b><u>Gallaway</u></b>
1. <b>Will you vote for the proposed FY2023 Rural Transportation Planning Work Program when it is presented to the TJPDC at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting?</b>		


# **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION REPORT**

In Charlottesville and Albemarle County, the average cost of preschool is more than rent. Over 250 at-risk & low-income families are unable to get their children into preschool every year due to these high costs, lack of available slots, and lack of full-day care to accommodate working parents. This means that more children are coming to Kindergarten not equipped to learn, widening the achievement gaps in Charlottesville and Albemarle County that are already two of the worst in Virginia. If our community wants to seriously address these gaps in our education system, we need to work to make sure that every child is given the chance to have a quality preschool education. One important step we can take now is to make sure that there are afterschool care options for pre-K students available to low-income families so that working full time will not conflict with enrolling children into pre-K.

At our Nehemiah Action in March 2021, Albemarle School Board members committed to support an afterschool pilot program that began August 2021. This is an important step towards helping many families in our community. This year, we have now gotten commitments from the city schools to ensure that every incoming preschool family is asked about afterschool needs and that staff will work to meet the needs of every family. We are excited to have these commitments, and we will continue to follow up to make sure that afterschool care is no longer a barrier for families to access preschool.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

***Special thanks to our grant funders and Corporate Investors***

<b><u>Corporate Investors</u></b>	<b><u>Foundations</u></b>
	Catholic Campaign for Human Development Charlottesville Area Community Foundation Bama Works Fund Ben and Jerry's Foundation Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

***Special thanks to our supporters that helped today***

University of Virginia Policy Internship Program

Mitzvah Corp & Hebrew High of Congregation Beth Israel

Interpretative and Translated Services by Speak! Language Center

# WHAT'S NEXT:

## THE INVESTMENT DRIVE

### Why should you invest?

Because IMPACT works. Here's a few examples:

- ✓ Expanded Sunday bus service and the free Trolley which has served over 1400 people
- ✓ Got the regional jail to stop informing Immigration Customs and Enforcement of the release of non-violent undocumented offenders
- ✓ Increased staffing by UVA and Martha Jefferson that prevents over 1000 dental related ER visits every year

### What's the money used for?

Our goal is to raise over \$90,000 in 2022 from our individual Investment Drive. We also receive funding from local businesses, congregational membership dues, and grants from private / religious foundations. We use this money on the recruitment, training, and development of leaders and congregations, to effectively do justice and carry out the work of the organization together. \*For a copy of our 2022 Budget, please email [impact@impactville.com](mailto:impact@impactville.com)

## Ways to Invest in IMPACT

### Check

Send to  
1701 University Avenue  
Charlottesville, VA 22903  
Your congregation in the memo

1



2

### Auto-Deduction

Set up with your bank  
In-person or online.  
All you need is IMPACT's address



### PayPal

Use a credit or debit card  
Click the Donate button at  
[www.impactville.com](http://www.impactville.com)  
You can set up monthly too!

3



### Required Minimum

4

### Distribution

Invest a portion of your  
Individual Retirement  
Account (IRA), tax free after  
age 70.5



### Via Will or Life

### Insurance

List IMPACT as a beneficiary

5

**Come fellowship, learn more about how we make an \*IMPACT\* and invest at our last big Assembly:**

**The Justice Celebration, May 24, 2022 at 6:30pm!**