

Kirkwood United Church of Christ (“KUCC”), Atlanta, Georgia

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place. – Jeremiah 22:3

What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8.

Following in the footsteps of countless Christians who have come before us, we at Kirkwood United Church of Christ (“KUCC”) recognize a moral obligation to be advocates for justice. To that end, KUCC declares its intention to make a difference in the lives of the systematically marginalized and oppressed by seeking, advocating, and demanding a more just economic system.

We believe that we are all called to this mission by God and that in a city with ever increasing inequality such as Atlanta that that call is especially clear. Still, we have participated and benefited from an unjust economic system that traps many in a cycle of poverty. We ask God’s forgiveness for the many ways in which our negligence and selfishness help to create and sustain such an unfair system.

However, we also believe that through God, all things are possible and that we can create true change in our community. With the tremendous growth and expansion of Atlanta comes the opportunity to make our community a more just and equitable place.

Therefore, we the congregation of Kirkwood United Church of Christ in Atlanta, Georgia, covenant with God and one another to:

1. Work to understand the root causes of economic injustice and its connection to other issues faced by our community including racial, reproductive, and environmental justice.
2. Challenge ourselves to think radically about the economic systems in which we live and operate and to be creative in our actions.
3. Acknowledge that this is a difficult process and a complicated system and create a safe place for our members to question and doubt and to be uncomfortable.
4. Passionately live out this covenant and create a committee for the implementation and continuity of this plan.
5. Work to counter rules, regulations, and practices - both official and unofficial - that promulgate economic injustice.
6. Advocate for new policies that encourage economic justice.
7. Do all of these things while continuing to meet the immediate need of our surrounding community.
8. Educate and support one another in the complex task of creating a just economy.
9. Learn more about how our economy works and its ties to such problems as poverty, inequity, unemployment, and other relevant national and global issues.
10. Share our knowledge and insights with one another and our wider communities.
11. Strive for personal economic decisions supporting a more just local, national, and global economy. Specifically work to encourage intentional and mindful harnessing of our individual and collective purchasing powers.
12. Join and support organizations, including those of our denomination, that share our commitment to greater economic and political justice.

We pray for strength, courage, vision, humility, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit to help us fulfill this commitment.