



Shining Light on an Overcast Path: Singing the Praises of the Methodist Justice Ministry

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.”

Isaiah 1:17

“Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. The Lord will guide you continually, giving you water when you are dry and restoring your strength. You will be like a well-watered garden, like an ever-flowing spring.”

Isaiah 58:10-11

By Sid Johnston

Last year in February of 2016, the Foundation established the Methodist Justice Ministry Endowment through a generous donation from an anonymous patron. It occurred to me upon receiving a second significant donation in February of this year that there are many who believe in the Methodist Justice Ministry and are willing to give kindly to see it flourish. However, there is so much more that can be done to spread the word and shine some light on this ministry that continues to help those in need and contribute to God’s work in the community.

What is the Methodist Justice Ministry? And how does it help the community? Basically, how would your donation make a direct impact? Great questions... Throughout scripture, God calls upon us to help the less fortunate; to take up arms in protection of the defenseless. The Methodist Justice Ministry is the epitome of this principle.

Led by attorney and ordained Methodist minister, Brooks Harrington, the Justice Ministry team is comprised of attorneys and paralegals with the knowledge and tools to assist the community in legal matters and spiritual counseling. They operate under the following mission statement which concisely guides them to fulfill the principle to help those in need:

“First, to obtain legal protections through court orders for abused women, and abused, neglected, at-risk children, whose household incomes are no more than 125% of the federal poverty line. Second, to provide the financial and material support, professional counseling and case work, mutual prayer, and personal encouragement and friendship to empower them to new lives, free of danger and neglect and full of self-esteem and faith in God.”

The Justice Ministry takes their mission to heart by partnering with several resources and non-profits throughout Tarrant County to carry each case through from start of the legal process to the end which coincidentally is the start of a new life for most of their clients. Receiving 20 – 30 new clients calling each week, the cases are assessed and added to the caseload on a “greatest risk” taken first basis. Unfortunately, not all the calls can be taken due to limitations on resources such as staff and budgeting. Despite limited resources, the Methodist Justice Ministry has steadily grown by 35% each year since inception in 2006.

The Methodist Justice Ministry Endowment, created in 2016, spearheads the collected efforts from patrons within the Church who want to pour life into the Justice Ministry and grow its resources. The Endowment ensures that the Justice Ministry has funding that is invested and continually providing for years to come to preserve the ministry’s work within the community. Needing both immediate funding to expand limited resources and to preserve the future of Justice Ministry’s work in helping those in need, the ministry is itself in need from the Church community that serves amongst.

How can you help? Providing immediate assistance is easy and can be sent directly to the Justice Ministry via mail or online through their website by [clicking here](#). The Justice Ministry staff can also be reached at 817-339-2407 for more information on immediate giving methods.

The other opportunity to help those in need through the Methodist Justice Ministry Endowment was created to maintain the efforts of this ministry for years to come much like the First Methodist Church of Fort Worth Foundation, Inc. was established 52 years ago to ensure that the First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth would remain a sanctuary within downtown Fort Worth for hundreds of years to come. The Endowment is held within the Foundation accounts and invested wisely along with the Foundation multi-millions. Keeping in line with the Church endowments, the Methodist Justice Ministry receives a yearly stipend from the income earned on the endowment investments. If you would like to contribute to prolonging the lifespan of the ministry through the endowment, donations can be received through the FMC Foundation which will then be attributed to the Justice Ministry’s endowment investment.



For more information on how the Methodist Justice Ministry Endowment benefits the Justice Ministry’s efforts and community at large, please contact the Foundation at 817-336-5698 or e-mail your questions to fmc@fmcfoundation.org. God calls upon all of his children to help those who are unable to help themselves and in need. No one fits that description more deservingly than the clients of the Methodist Justice Ministry. Each donation, great or small, helps further their mission and spread the word of God through the defense and empowerment of the helpless.