

Social Justice Resources and Actions

***please note this is not an exhaustive list, but rather a few places to start. If you have suggestions to add to the list, please send them to gbcfwpg@outlook.com*

Readings and Resources

To gain further understanding on a Christian and biblical perspective on social justice

- *The Very Good Gospel: How Everything Wrong Can be Made Right* - by Sharon Lisa Harper
- *Shalom and the Community of Creation: An Indigenous Vision* - by Randy S. Woodley
- *Rescuing the Gospel from the Cowboys: A Native American Expression of the Jesus Way* - by Richard Twiss
- *God of the Oppressed* – by James H. Cone
- MCC Indigenous Neighbours program <https://mcccanada.ca/learn/what/categories/indigenous-neighbours>

To gain further understanding of experiences of Black and Indigenous peoples

- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: 94 calls to action (#48, 49, 58-61 pertaining to churches/religious groups specifically) http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf
 - *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* – by Bob Joseph
 - *Braiding Sweetgrass* - by Robin Wall Kimmerer
 - *The Skin We're In* – by Desmond Cole
 - *Just Mercy* – by Brian Stevenson
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Individual Actions

- Donate and volunteer
 - o Ma Mawi <https://www.mamawi.com/>
 - o Indian Residential Schools Survivor Society <https://www.irsss.ca/>
 - o Mama Bear Clan <https://www.npdwc.org/get-involved.html>
 - Attend protests, vigils, and rallies
 - Sign petitions and write to elected officials
 - Support Black and Indigenous businesses and artists
 - As you learn, engage your friends, family, and coworkers in discussions on how to be a better ally and neighbour.
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Scriptures

Psalm 82 (MSG)

God calls the judges into his courtroom,
he puts all the judges in the dock.

2-4 “Enough! You’ve corrupted justice long enough,

you've let the wicked get away with murder.
You're here to defend the defenseless,
to make sure that underdogs get a fair break;
Your job is to stand up for the powerless,
and prosecute all those who exploit them."
5 Ignorant judges! Head-in-the-sand judges!
They haven't a clue to what's going on.
And now everything's falling apart,
the world's coming unglued.
6-7 "I appointed you judges, each one of you,
deputies of the High God,
But you've betrayed your commission
and now you're stripped of your rank, busted."
8 O God, give them what they've got coming!
You've got the whole world in your hands!

Psalm 82 (NIV)

God presides in the great assembly;
he renders judgment among the "gods":
2 "How long will you[a] defend the unjust
and show partiality to the wicked?[b]
3 Defend the weak and the fatherless;
uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.
4 Rescue the weak and the needy;
deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
5 "The 'gods' know nothing, they understand nothing.
They walk about in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
6 "I said, 'You are "gods";
you are all sons of the Most High.'
7 But you will die like mere mortals;
you will fall like every other ruler."
8 Rise up, O God, judge the earth,
for all the nations are your inheritance.

1 John 3:11-18

11 For this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another.
12 Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own actions were evil and his brothers were righteous.
13 Do not be surprised, my brothers and sisters, if the world hates you. 14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love each other. Anyone who does not love remains in death. 15 Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him.
16 This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 17 If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?
18 Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.

Micah 6:8 (CEB)

He has told you, human one, what is good and what the Lord requires from you: to do justice, embrace faithful love, and walk humbly with your God.

Quotes

- "I have come to believe that healing is always a political act – a process required and shaped by the larger context of our lives in society and steeped in power relations between those who participate in the work of healing and those who seek healing [...] And if we are healers, nothing can separate us from the love of God because, healed and healing, calling one another to life, together we are embodying that which is fully divine – and with and through us, fully human or creaturely. God all rolled up in us and we in God. In this co-inherence we become more fully ourselves". - Carter Heyward
- "What people think about God, Jesus Christ, and the Church cannot be separated from their own social and political status in a given society." - James Cone
- "If you are neutral in situations of injustice you have chosen the side of the oppressor" - Desmond Tutu
- "In the end we will remember not the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends" - Martin Luther King Jr.
- "Kindness matters.
But kindness does not equal justice

Civility counts

But calling for civility is not the humane response to injustice.
Justice is.

Love is essential.

But love is not a passive, weeping bystander

Love puts in work" – Bernice King (via twitter @berniceking)

- "We can collectively regain our faith in the transformative power of love by cultivating courage, the strength to stand up for what we believe in. To be accountable both in word and deed". - bell hooks