

Brown Chapel AME Church

COMMITTEE on SOCIAL ACTION (CSA)

This Committee was organized on July 15, 2021.

WHY SOCIAL ACTION?

IT IS FOUNDATIONAL TO MINISTRY IN THE AME CHURCH

The AME Christian Social Action Commission is the social justice arm of the AME Church. Its work is representative of the ongoing fight for Civil Rights and Social Justice in the world, and ongoing efforts to uplift and educate throughout all of our endeavors.

OUR HISTORY: The African Methodist Episcopal Church has a unique and glorious history. It was unique in that it is the first major religious denomination in the Western World that had its origin over sociological and theological beliefs and differences. It rejected the negative theological interpretations which rendered persons of African descent second class citizens. There was a theological declaration that God is God all the time and for everybody. The church was born in protest against slavery – against dehumanization of African people, brought to the American continent as labor.

OUR MISSION: The Mission of the African Methodist Episcopal Church is to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, and environmental needs of all people by spreading Christ's liberating gospel through word and deed. At every level of the Connection and in every local church, the African Methodist Episcopal Church shall engage in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society, out of which the AME Church evolved: that is, to seek out and save the lost, and serve the needy.

Bishop Frank M. Reid, III – Chairperson , Commission Chair
Mrs. Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Consultant Director
Mrs. Ora Easley, International Administrator, CFIC

**NOT ONLY IS SOCIAL ACTION FOUNDATIONAL TO MINISTRY
IN AFRICAN METHODISM,**

it is inherent in the most important and the
greatest commandments in the Christian religion.

"Of all the commandments, which is the most important? Jesus replied, The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD. And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these'" (Mark 12:28b-31).

Brown Chapel AMEC Committee on Social Action Mission Statement:

To fight the good fight, the necessary fight, because of our love
For civil rights and for justice and equity for ourselves, and love for our neighbors,
who suffer from social, economic, political (especially voter), education, health, environmental, policing
and criminal injustices.

Given our history, our mission, and the first and second commandment,
we have chosen Micah 6:7-8 for our Theme Scripture...

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
Ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression,
The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man, what *is* good;
And what does the LORD require of you
But to do justly,
To love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?

WHAT IS SOCIAL ACTION?

Social Action is what we do, the action we take, to advocate on behalf of the best interests of self, individual or a group of people.

That action is designed to bring changes to those institutional policies (written or unwritten), laws or rules, that will positively impact the lives of those who have been negatively impacted.

In the context of Christianity, Social Action is what we do out of love, the action we take, to advocate (to fight the good fight, the necessary fight) on behalf of the best interests of self, or neighbors. That act, that action, is designed to bring changes to those institutional policies (written or unwritten), laws or rules, that will positively impact the lives of ourselves and neighbors, who have been negatively impacted.

- ❖ Social Action is an **ACT OF SERVICE** that encourages and fosters fellowship with one another, builds bonds, builds community, and strengthens relationships.
- ❖ Social Action is an **ACT OF LOVE**.
- ❖ Social Action is an **ACT OF LIBERATION** that sets the captives free.
- ❖ Social Action is **FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT, THE NECESSARY FIGHT**.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- ❑ **Establish** contact/relationships and collaborate with local and connectional AME Social Action Commissions.
Objectives: Email, call, text those contact persons.
- ❑ ***Collaborate and support** where we can, community, community organizations and politicians.
Objectives: Make email/text/verbal contact with organizations, ask them to do presentations, attend their Events/presentations/meetings.
Build Relationships.
Give Input on 1.99M Recovery Act Fund for Ypsilanti.
- ❑ **Disseminate** information to the group and church on local and national social action initiatives and events in which we may want to engage, as needed and when issues arise.
Objectives: Create a social action tab on our website and FB.
Utilize communication ministry to disseminate information.
- ❑ **Become better informed** of injustices on which we plan to focus, in particular Redistricting/Gerrymandering for this season
Objectives: Share research and understanding.
Attend presentations, webinars, meetings, etc.
- ❑ **Develop plan for overcoming voting restrictions** that will likely be passed by state legislature.
Objectives: Get a list of proposed voting restrictions.
Implement three ways to overcome.



**Members in attendance at the first virtual meeting of the Brown Chapel
AME Church Committee on Social Action on July 15, 2021**

Rev. Maymette Dolberry, Chair

Janice Austin

Michelle Barney

Sandy Kamuyu

Regina Mason

Melvin Roper joined the committee later.