

Presbytery of New Brunswick
Concert for Social Justice Working Document 10/13/2020
Contact: mikemeduski@comcast.net

Why: Book of Order F-1.0304 "The great ends of the Church are:...the promotion of social righteousness;..." From Presbyterian Mission Agency: "Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. ...to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor."

What: A one hour concert focused on dismantling structural racism, eradicating systemic poverty, and opposing environmental injustice.

When: *Virtually:* Sunday, January 17, 2021, with encore Monday, January 18, 2021 Martin Luther King Day *Live:* On a date to be determined in 2021 when it is safe to congregate indoors for music performances.

Location: *Virtually:* On a web platform. *Live:* 1867 Sanctuary at Ewing

Who:

Planning Committee:

Cherry Oakley, Presbytery Moderator and Elder, Westminster PC
Sheena Phillips, Composer, Arranger, Choir Director, London, England
Michael Meduski, Concert Coordinator, Elder, FPC Hamilton Square
Rev. Rory Chambers, FPC Dutch Neck
Rev. Casey Aldridge, Pennington PC

Advisors:

Rev. Molly Dykstra, FPC Trenton and Presbytery Past Moderator
Rev. James Klotz, Slackwood PC and Ph.D. Student, Princeton Theological Seminary
Rev. Lukata Mjumbe, Witherspoon Street PC, Presbytery Urban Mission Network Committee
Rev. James Pruner, West Trenton PC, Chair, Grants Committee
Rev. James Brumm, New Brunswick PC, Dir. Reformed Church Center NBTS
Noel Werner, Director of Music, Nassau PC
Bob Kull, Chair, The 1867 Sanctuary Committee
Sal Lalama, Elder, Bound Brook PC, Commissioner NJ Presbyteries
Ted Settle, Elder, Bound Brook PC, Presbytery M&W Chair
Delaney McMahon, Senior, Princeton University, Presbytery RISE intern Summer 2020

How: YOU !! - OUR MEMBER CHURCHES AND WORSHIP COMMUNITIES

We are looking for 48 minutes of relevant Social Justice themed music to present in a live hosted format on Gather on Sunday January 17, 2021. Original music is encouraged! It can be from your official church music ensembles - choir or band - or members, or friends of members! Music will normally be supplied to a Presbytery shared google drive in a ready to air format. There may also be limited opportunity for live on-air performance. Alternative to original music is performing a song selected for the Social Justice Songbook! <https://www.justicechoir.org/songbook/> Or suggest to us a song you want to perform! You may even be able to use a song from Glory to God Hymnal!

Next Planning Meeting:

You are welcome to Join Us:

Topic: Social Justice Concert Planning Meeting
Friday October 16, 2020 - 2PM
Join Zoom Meeting
Michael Meduski is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Social Justice Concert Planning Meeting
Time: Oct 16, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81528622216>

Meeting ID: 815 2862 2216
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,81528622216# US (New York)
+13017158592,,81528622216# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 815 2862 2216
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81528622216>

Art Work: We are looking for a graphics person to develop a logo and poster so we can more effectively advertise the concert! Please contact anyone on planning!

Concert songwriting prompts from Delaney and the planning committee:

1. Write a song inspired by the following scripture:

"Though the fig tree does not blossom, and no fruit is on the vines; though the produce of the olive fails, and the fields yield no food; though the flock is cut off from the fold, and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the God of my salvation." (Habakkuk 3:17-18 NRSV)

2. Write an anti-racist anthem. What do we stand for and against?

3. Write to release your pain. If you have been oppressed by racism on a personal or systemic level, write about your experience. Your voice needs to be heard.

4. Write a song of hope. What is the future we are working toward? What will the joy of justice sound like?

5. Sing your prayers. What are you asking God for right now? Hope? Healing? Forgiveness?

Details and Attachments (the fine print):

Thursday November 5: Let Planning Committee know you want to perform a song and what song you have chosen.

Friday December 11: Submit performance video.

Attached:

Guidelines for Contributors

Social Justice Themes in Glory to God

Justice Choir How to Share

Glory to God Hymnal Permissions from Westminster John Knox Press

Presbytery of New Brunswick Concert for Social Justice

"I will sing of your love and justice;
to you, Lord, I will sing praise." —Psalm 101:1

Guidelines for Contributors

We are delighted that you are considering sharing your talents with us for this important event. It is our hope that this project will inspire creativity from across our area in the cause of justice, compassion, and reconciliation. We hope that all of us—the people of the churches of our presbytery, our neighbors, our friends, and our allies—will have a song on our heart as we engage in this important work.

To assist you in planning your contribution, we hope to share some sense of what we are looking for.

We plan on a **livestreamed, __60_-minute concert on January __17__, 2021**, near the celebration of the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Every submission will be reviewed, but due to time constraints, not every submission may be included in the final concert program. However, we also **hope that submissions will be of use to smaller churches in their online worship and education programs—though only with the express permission of composers and performers, of course.**

We do ask contributors to be **sensitive to the context** in which these pieces will be heard and seen. We will invite adults and children to watch the concert, and while this is intended as an event for people of any faith and of no faith, it will be played in churches. Music can be a powerful way to cope with and heal from trauma. Please remember that members of our audience will include those who have undergone traumas related to our subject matter.

Generally, we are hoping for **performances of about 4 minutes or less**. This will help us to include a wide range of offerings and provide helpful material for churches in the weeks ahead (again, with your permission). Within these broad guidelines, we hope to see a broad range of talents: vocal, instrumental, percussion, etc.!

Due to the byzantine nature of **copyright licensing** (and significant expense for our small churches and other non-profits), we ask that material submitted for this concert fall into the following categories:

Original music and text written by the musician making the contribution, with permission secured from the performers

Music and/or text from the public domain, with any arrangements or translations done by the musician making the contribution, with permission secured from the performers

Original music and/or text with proper permissions obtained from its creator (e.g., a Creative Commons license) and permission secured from the performers

Jesus said, "the laborer is worthy of [their] hire" (Luke 10:7), and we agree. We wish to honor the intellectual property rights of composers, authors, arrangers, and performers to the extent we can. To that end, we ask that you provide either a **no-cost licensing framework** (such as Creative Commons, <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/>), or a **well-crafted license text of your own choosing**.